

THE GENTLE CYCLING COMPANY

ROUTE INFORMATION: PIGEON VALLEY LOOP

The route described as the Pigeon Valley Loop on our website includes an on-road link route from Wakefield to Woodstock and on to rejoin the Great Taste Trail Coastal Route at Riwaka. This on-road link route is an official NZ Cycle Trails route and is recommended for confident, experienced cyclists with a good level of fitness as it includes a gravel section up and over the Pigeon Valley saddle (326 m.) The best direction to ride the Pigeon Valley Loop is to head south to Wakefield, as the Motueka Valley is a very gentle downhill all the way to Riwaka when riding in this direction.

The Great Taste Trail begins at the Nelson iSite. The trail follows the Old Railway Route from the city to Stoke. The Gentle Cycling Company is situated less than 1km from the trail in Stoke, 9 km from the iSite. Just south of Stoke, the trail splits into the Rail Route and Coastal Route.

GREAT TASTE TRAIL RAIL ROUTE

The Gentle Cycling Company to Wakefield

> The Gentle Cycling Company to Brightwater 14 km

Easy grade, flat terrain, asphalt & gravel surface

From The Gentle Cycling Company, you can take the Old Railway Route cycle trail to the Great Taste Trail, which is initially a separated asphalt trail running alongside the state highway. Just south of Stoke, the trail splits into the Rail Route and Coastal Route. The Rail Route soon passes through the edge of Richmond, where it crosses a main road at traffic lights before continuing along the back of the town following an old railway route. The surface then changes to gravel for the remainder of the ride to Brightwater. There are two short sections on very quiet roads. Near Brightwater, a suspension bridge crosses the Wairoa River. The last section follows a gravel road and then an asphalt road and a small alleyway into the village.

> Brightwater to Wakefield 8 km

Easy grade, flat terrain, gravel surface

From Brightwater the route to Wakefield is straight almost all the way. For most of the route, the gravel trail runs alongside and separated from the road. A short section dips and climbs through farmland and native bush before emerging onto the road into the village.

Highlights:

Wineries, cafes. Heritage rural landscapes. Historic architecture: farm buildings, houses, churches. Charming villages of Brightwater and Wakefield.

PIGEON VALLEY LINK ROUTE

Wakefield to Riwaka

> Wakefield to Woodstock 31 km

Moderate grade. One hill climb. Gravel and sealed asphalt surface

The section from Wakefield to Motueka via Pigeon Valley and Woodstock is on roads. This section includes 14 km of gravel over the Pigeon Valley Saddle (325 m). The road can be very dusty in summer and while it is generally quiet, it does get used by logging trucks at times. There are no shops or cafes between Wakefield and Riwaka.

> Woodstock to Riwaka 33 km

Easy grade, sealed road surface

At Woodstock, the route crosses the Motueka River to follow the west bank on a road that is generally quiet. It is a sealed road surface and a gentle downhill virtually all the way to Riwaka. The route meets the Great Taste Trail Coastal Route on the western side of Riwaka.

GREAT TASTE TRAIL COASTAL ROUTE

Riwaka to Motueka

> Riwaka to Motueka 4 km

Easy grade, sealed road and trail surface

This flat section is on the Great Taste Trail Coastal Route follows the edge of a sealed road.

Highlights:

Soft, lush farming landscapes. Sheltered valleys, old hop kilns and interesting farm buildings. Beautiful river with swimming.

Elevation profile: The Gentle Cycling Company to Motueka via Pigeon Valley

