

# THE GENTLE CYCLING COMPANY

## ROUTE INFORMATION: RAIL ROUTE & COASTAL ROUTE

The Great Taste Trail route is marked from the Nelson iSite. The trail follows the Old Railway Route from the city to Stoke. The Gentle Cycling Company is situated less than 1 km from the trail in Stoke, 9 km from the iSite. Just south of Stoke, the trail splits into the Rail Route (to travel south to Brightwater, Wakefield and Kohatu) and the Coastal Route (to travel west to Mapua, Motueka and Kaiteriteri). The Great Taste Trail surface includes asphalt, gravel and a little sand. In some areas the trail runs along the side of a road, separated by a grass verge. There is one short section where the trail runs along a wide road shoulder with no separation. The trail also uses shared cycle/walk ways. There are some sections where the trail is on road when traffic volumes are very low. Trail widths range between approximately 1.5 and 3 metres.

### THE 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. This continues to a point near the town centre of Richmond. After crossing a main road at traffic lights the trail carries on 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

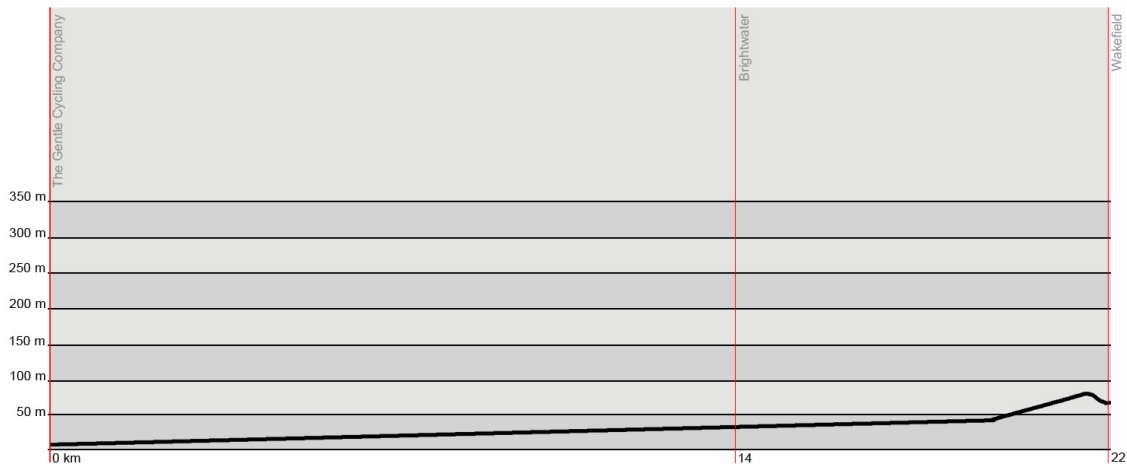
*Easy grade, flat terrain, gravel surface*

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, winery cafes. Heritage rural landscapes, hop gardens, farm buildings, houses, churches. Charming villages of Brightwater and Wakefield.

*Elevation profile: The Gentle Cycling Company to Wakefield*



## Wakefield to Kohatu

### > Wakefield to Belgrove 9.5 km

*Intermediate grade, gravel surface*

The section of trail from Wakefield to Belgrove is due to be completed for summer 2018 2019. Leaving Wakefield, the first part of this route is a gravel trail through farmland and beside a river. Next is a 1.6 km section from Hoult Valley Rd to the Wai-Iti Domain which runs along the edge of the State Highway. The road has been widened to allow this to occur. The final section to Belgrove is a pretty gravel trail which follows the Wai Iti river. This section meets the State Highway again at Belgrove, where the trail is well separated from the highway.

### > Belgrove to Norris Gully 8 km

*Intermediate grade, gravel surface*

Leaving Belgrove, the trail continues next to and separated from the highway. At around 1 km from Belgrove it leaves the road to follow the old railway line route up Spooners Hill to the disused rail tunnel. The tunnel is 1.4 km long and completely dark and lights are required. Norris Gully carpark is located next to the State Highway close to the southern end of the tunnel.

### > Norris Gully to Kohatu 7 km

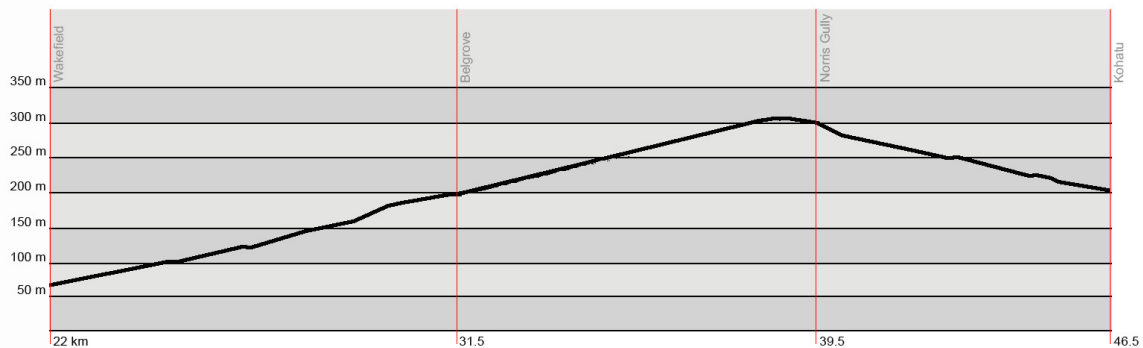
*Intermediate grade, gravel surface*

This section of trail follows a historic railway embankment in pine forest for most of the way to Kohatu.

### Highlights:

Scenic, heritage rural landscape from Wakefield to Belgrove. Historic tobacco kilns. Hop gardens. Spooners Tunnel. Pine forest trail.

*Elevation profile: Wakefield to Kohatu*



## THE GREAT TASTE TRAIL COASTAL ROUTE The Gentle Cycling Company to Mapua

### > The Gentle Cycling Company to Rabbit Island foreshore 17 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. There is a trail junction 2.5 km from The Gentle Cycling Company. Turn right for the Coastal Trail, which is a gravel trail following the edge of the estuary. There is a short section on a road with very infrequent traffic but otherwise the meandering route includes boardwalks, a stop bank section and a suspension bridge. The last section to the Rabbit Island beachfront is a trail which is well separated from the road on the edge of a pine plantation.

### > Rabbit Island foreshore to ferry landing 5 km

*Easy grade, flat terrain, gravel & sand surface*

This section follows the beachfront along the foreshore to the western tip of the island where the ferry landing is situated. The trail is gravel with a little sand in places. The ferry crosses to the Mapua Wharf once an hour and takes about 10 minutes. The ferry is occasionally cancelled during high winds.

#### **Highlights:**

Boardwalks, estuary birds (including spoonbills). Safe swimming at Rabbit Island. Ferry crossing

## Mapua to Motueka

### > Mapua to Tasman village 10 km

*Easy grade, flat & hilly terrain, asphalt & gravel surface*

From Mapua the trail starts on the wharf and follows the street, then a shared cycleway/walkway before taking a gravel trail through to the beachfront. The gravel trail continues along the beachfront to Ruby Bay. The next section again follows a street, a shared cycleway/walkway and then a road. There is a short hill climb here and a gravel section leads onto another road which meanders gently downhill, passing apple orchards and olive groves. The last section into Tasman village is a gravel trail.

### > Tasman village to Lower Moutere 11 km

*Intermediate grade, moderately hilly terrain, gravel surface*

After leaving Tasman village there is a steady uphill section of approximately 3 km where the trail runs along the side of a quiet road. The next section of 4.5 km of gravel trail has a few steep ups and downs while climbing to the high point of 100m above sea level from where there is a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside and mountain ranges. This section is exposed and can be hot. The last section is a gentle gravel road downhill through farmland and the Riverside Community.

### > Lower Moutere to Motueka 5 km

*Easy grade, flat terrain, asphalt & gravel surface*

From Lower Moutere, the first section of the trail runs along the wide shoulder of a secondary highway. The next section takes a shared cycleway/walkway to the outskirts of Motueka.

#### **Highlights:**

Great views. Rambling café gardens and tame eels. Craft galleries. Detour to Kina Peninsula. Apple orchards, vineyards, olive groves. Motueka coastal trail and sandspit with significant bird species.

## Motueka to Kaiteriteri

### > Motueka to Riwaka 10 km

*Easy grade, flat terrain, asphalt surface*

Entering Motueka township, the trail follows the footpath for a short distance. The next section is a gravel trail, then it is footpath again before reaching the estuary foreshore. The foreshore trail is a meandering gravel trail of approximately 5 km. The last section is sand, following the edge of the Motueka Sandspit and Raumanuka Scenic Reserve. From here the trail follows quiet roads and shared cycleway/walkways to Riwaka.

### > Riwaka to Kaiteriteri 7.5 km

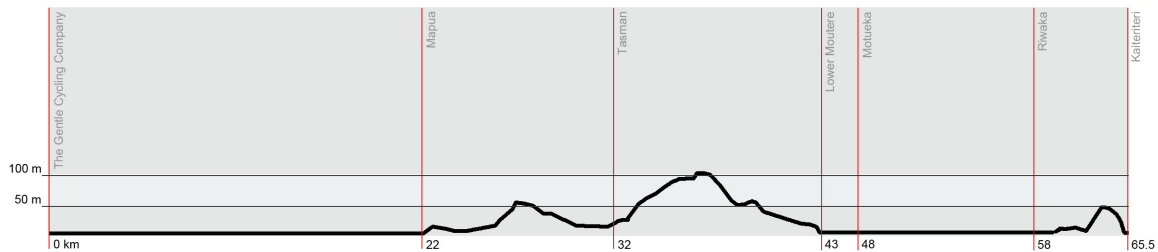
*Intermediate grade, flat & hilly terrain, gravel surface*

From Riwaka, the first section of the trail is well separated from the highway. There is then a short section on a gravel road before passing through a private kiwifruit orchard. After following the estuary edge on a gravel trail and boardwalks the route rises and falls on a trail along the edge of the road. An underpass provides access to the last section which uses an existing trail through the Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park. This 3.1 km section is surfaced with compacted sand and is at least one metre wide. It climbs and drops and there are some tight, banked corners where less experienced cyclists, tandem riders or those on bikes pulling trailers may need to dismount. Some prefer to walk through the mountain bike park. The last short section into Kaiteriteri is on the road and then on a path next to the road.

### Highlights:

Fruit orchards and interesting farm buildings. Coastal trail and boardwalks. Bush trail, views of golden sands at Kaiteriteri Beach and a swim when you get there!

*Elevation profile: The Gentle Cycling Company to Kaiteriteri*



## The Great Taste Trail - signage, surfaces & terrain



Signage at the start of the Coastal Route near Richmond



Trail with hidden driveways on the Coastal Route



Trail with barrier separation on the Coastal Route



On-road trail on the Rail Route





*On-road trail on the Coastal Route*



*Hill section on the Coastal Route, between Tasman village and Lower Moutere*



*Hill section on the Coastal Route, between Tasman village and Lower Moutere*



*View from the summit of the hill section on the Coastal Route, between Tasman village and Lower Moutere*

*Beach-front trail on the Coastal Route near Motueka*



*Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park section on the Coastal Route, near Kaiteriteri*



*Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park section on the Coastal Route, near Kaiteriteri*



*Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park section on the Coastal Route, near Kaiteriteri*

