

## R12. MALDON–DAYLESFORD RETURN

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Difficulty:     | Harder  |
| Total distance: | 96 km   |
| Elevation gain: | 1,121 m |
| Type:           | Road    |

The approximate distance from the start to each point is shown in km as [7.8].

### Brief Description:

From Maldon the ride passes through Newstead and then climbs steadily through scenic grazing and bushland that shows remnants of gold exploration and Swiss-Italian settlement in the 1860s (Yandoit, Hepburn), before reaching the historic gold town of Daylesford. The return route includes a short side-trip to Mt Franklin, an extinct cinder cone volcanic crater.

### Detailed Route:

Starting from Maldon Post Office on the corner of High and Francis Street, proceed south along High St onto Maldon-Newstead Rd (C283), through Welshmans Reef [7.8] to Newstead [13.5]. Turn right onto Lyons St (B180) over Loddon River bridge [13.9], then turn left into Newstead-Daylesford Rd (C285) [14.2]. Continue for approx. 4 km to Strangways and take a right turn into Newstead-Hepburn Rd (C285) [18.6] towards Daylesford. Follow this road through Clydesdale and Yandoit to Frankford [30.8] and take the right fork towards Hepburn.

Continue along this road, passing through Shepherds Flat, home of Cricket Willow ([www.cricketwillow.com.au/](http://www.cricketwillow.com.au/)) [35.0]. The road climbs into Hepburn where Hepburn-Newstead Rd runs into Main Rd [39.1] which is followed to the intersection with Hepburn Rd (C185) [41.6]. Turn right and follow south through Hepburn Springs [42] towards Daylesford for approx. 1.5 km. Hepburn Rd becomes Vincent St North [43.3]. After another 1.2 km, take the second exit at the roundabout (CAUTION) and proceed into the main shopping area of Daylesford [44.8] for well-earned refreshments ([www.travelvictoria.com.au/daylesford/](http://www.travelvictoria.com.au/daylesford/)).

To return to Maldon, proceed back along Vincent St to the roundabout (CAUTION) and take the third exit onto Howe St (A300, Midland Highway) [45.0] and continue onto Raglan St [45.4] until a second roundabout is reached [46.2]. Take the first exit onto the Midland Highway (A300) and follow for nearly 10 km until the turnoff to Mt Franklin is reached [55.8]

Turn right here for a short (1.3 km) detour into the crater. There are excellent views of the surrounding countryside from the rim of the crater. ([vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/nthcenregn.nsf/pages/nc\\_eruption\\_points\\_franklin](http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/nthcenregn.nsf/pages/nc_eruption_points_franklin)).

Return to the A300 [59.3], turn right (CAUTION) and follow for 1.8 km to a left turn towards Newstead [61.1]. Follow this road to Frankford [64.1] and continue north on the Hepburn-Newstead Rd, back to Newstead [80.0] and Maldon [95.8].