

R14. MALDON - LEANGANOOK (MT ALEXANDER) - CASTLEMAINE LOOP

Difficulty: Hard

Total distance: 71.3 km

Elevation gain: 996 m

Type: Road

The approximate distance from the start to each point is shown in km as [3.0].

Brief Description:

The ride follows Fogartys Gap Rd and Harmony Way (old Calder Hwy) towards Harcourt before climbing Mt Alexander (12% gradient in places) and returning to Maldon via Golden Point, Expedition Pass Reservoir, Chewton and Castlemaine.



Detailed Route:

Start from Maldon Post Office on the corner of High and Francis Sts, proceed east along Francis St, turn right onto Templeton St, and then left onto Main St/Reef St/Hornsby St towards Bendigo. After passing the historic dragline and dredge on your left [3.0], turn right onto Fogartys Gap Rd [3.7] (CARE), through Walmer and down the steep hill to the intersection with Calder Hwy [16.3].

Cross Calder Hwy (CARE) into Harmony Way (C794) and follow for 1.5 km towards Harcourt. Turn left into McIvor Road [17.9] and continue for 5.5 km, passing Barkers Creek Reservoir on your left before turning right into Harcourt-Sutton Grange Rd [21.8]. The road climbs to a right turn into Joseph Young Drive [23.4] which is followed for 3.5 km, with some steep sections, to the summit (746 m) [26.9].

Descend for 5 km, with some steep gradients and tight bends (CARE) and turn right into Faraday-Sutton Grange Rd [31.9]. After 4.4 km, turn left into Harmony Way [35.2] and follow for 400 m, passing under the Calder Hwy, and turn right into Golden Point Rd [35.6]. Continue past [Expedition Pass reservoir](#) and the [Major Mitchell commemorative cairn](#) [37.5]

Continue on Golden Point Rd passing the diggers' [Monster Meeting site](#) on the right [40.7] before reaching the Pyrenees Hwy (B180) at Chewton [41.0]. Turn right and follow B180/Duke St/Forest St into Castlemaine and turn right into Barker St [46.2] at the lights. Follow for 1.2 km before turning left into Parker St [47.4] which crosses the railway line into Walker St. Passing the [Castlemaine Botanical Gardens](#) on your right and [The Mill](#) on your left, proceed uphill along Walker St which swings right into Richards Rd [48.2]. Continue for 1 km passing the KR /Don factory on the left before merging left into Daws Rd/Muckleford-Castlemaine Rd [49.2]. After approx. 6 km, turn right into Muckleford-Walmer Rd [55.5], and follow until Fogartys Gap Rd is reached [61.8].

Turn left and follow for 5.7 km before merging left into Bendigo-Maldon Rd (C283) [67.5] (CARE). Follow C283/Morris St/Hornsby St/Reef St for 3.6 km towards Maldon before turning right into Templeton St and then left into Francis St to reach Maldon PO [71.3].