

G5. MALDON HISTORIC RESERVE - DONKEY FARM TRACK

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| Difficulty: | Harder |
| Distance: | 21.4 km |
| Vertical metres: | 260 m |
| Type: | Gravel road and tracks (91%). |

Short Description:

The ride initially follows the marked Castlemaine Maldon Trail towards Castlemaine, before entering Muckleford Forest. Some moderate climbs and exhilarating descents on Donkey Farm Track make this ride slightly more challenging. The return to Maldon passes former mine workings at Smiths Reef and the Maldon State Battery.



Detailed Route

Aggregate distances are shown in km as [0.6] and are approximate.

From Maldon Post Office, follow Francis St to the east. Turn right at Templeton St, and then hard left to Main Street, which becomes Reef Street. Follow to Maldon Railway Station car park [0.6] where Castlemaine Maldon Trail is joined. The trail turns left down Hornsby St and crosses Bendigo-Maldon Rd (C283) (CARE) beside the level crossing [2.1].

Continue along Maldon Tip Rd and then straight ahead onto Railway Trk [2.6], which carries vehicles occasionally. Proceed past Tatt Town Trk [3.1]. After a further 100 metres take the left fork to the track which runs parallel to the railway line. Proceed for about 2 km before re-joining Railway Trk (also signposted as Pipeline Track) [5.2].

Continue to follow Castlemaine Maldon Trail markers, past Gowar Rd on the right [6.1]. Turn right into Donkey Farm Trk [6.6].

Follow Donkey Farm Trk for 1.6 km uphill to the intersection with Spur Track [8.2]. Continue downhill on Donkey Farm Trk for 1.6 km to the intersection with Seelenmeyers Rd [9.8]. Turn right here and climb steadily for 1.1 km before descending steeply for 1 km to Gowar Rd [11.9]. Turn right here and follow Gowar Rd, crossing Clarrys Trk [12.6] until the intersection with Spur Trk is reached [13.9].

Turn left here and proceed along Spur Track* for 800 m, passing the derelict mine workings and dam on your left, until the junction with O'Connors Trk is reached [14.7]. Follow O'Connors Trk for 500 m, and turn right to Tatt Town Trk [15.2]. Continue past James Trk [15.8], and Pipeline Trk [16.4] to the junction with Railway Trk (Castlemaine Maldon Trail). Turn left and continue to Maldon Tip Rd [17.6].

Cross over Bendigo-Maldon Rd (C283) into Hornsby St (CARE). Turn right into Woodlocks Ln [19.1]. Cross the railway line (CARE!) and proceed north to a left turn into Adair St East [19.4], which is a rough track that heads along the southern fence-line of a large paddock. After 500 m, cross Tailings Ln [19.9], and continue for 200 m to [Maldon State Battery](#) (established 1915).

Turn left and follow the track south between the two buildings (low headroom) and past the site of the former Alliance Mine towards the railway station. Cross the railway tracks to the left of the engine shed (CARE) and proceed to Hornsby St [20.5]. Ride right along the gravel foot/bike path on the north side of Hornsby St for a short distance, then cross the road and continue on the formed track behind the houses into the Beehive Mine reserve, to the prominent [Beehive Chimney](#) [21.0]. Continue past the chimney to Reef St and return to your starting point via Templeton and Francis Sts [21.4].

NOTE: * At O'Connors Trk, the 800m track to the east is named as Smiths Reef Trk.



The Beehive Chimney