

Everton to Beechworth Trail Description

Everton to Beechworth – 16 kilometres

Trail Description

The ride to Beechworth is one of the best sections of the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail, whilst the uphill ride will be a challenge to most - the downhill ride is quite exhilarating. The trail follows a spur line through the former Baarmutha Station site and users will appreciate the ambience and rural and native bushland setting away from roads and towns - it will be just you and the bush - this is of course this secret doesn't get out. Interestingly enough it is the 'baby boomer' generation or 'active retiree's that is most seen completing this particular section of the Murray to the Mountains. One rider observed recently riding downhill was 83 years of age.

As users travel this particular region, they should reflect on this being 'Ned Kelly Country' and how he must have ridden these parts in a bygone era.

Users should also take to time to inspect the brick arch work and culverts and marvel at the engineering that was required to construct this line. At its time of construction Beechworth was one of the largest inland towns in Victoria and a key destination on the Melbourne to Sydney route. It is for this reason along with the prosperous gold mining in the region, that Beechworth has so many stately buildings.

To answer a question posed by many why the bridges have been raised in height along this section of trail?

As the bridges were being reinstated to form a rail trail, they were raised in height to allow truck access, both for stock trucks and fire trucks.

Going

Up to Beechworth - moderate to hard (Average rider -one and a half to two hours). Down from Beechworth - Easy (Average Rider - 40 minutes, or less for users that don't wish to take in the scenery)

Suggestion

With a bit of planning and preparation, users of the trail could cycle one-way to the Everton General Store or Hotel, or the Milawa Gourmet Region for lunch and have alternate return travel arrangements. Many locals are now enjoying this as a way to spend a quality afternoon with their families. It is recommended you ring and make appointments to avoid disappointment.

Status

This section of trail is complete. Kilometre posts will be erected soon to provide users information of how far to go, whilst providing geographical orientation as to where they are should they need assistance.

Amenities

There are no toilets en route and riders are urged to use toilets at Beechworth and carry plenty of water, not so much for the trip down, but the trip up - especially on a hot day. A water station has been established at about the seven-kilometre mark for users to top up. A mobile phone would be of good assistance in an emergency as the trail is very remote, but users should also note there are many 'black spots' in this area.

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The tourist information centre in Beechworth is located in Ford Street (see map) and is open seven days a week between 9am and 5pm. 1300 366 321

Other Attractions

Beechworth Historical Precinct

Beechworth is already a popular tourist destination and offers something for everyone.

Whilst the Everton Station site was a key node along the Ovens Valley Railway, nothing remains apart from a few red bricks from the station platform, regrettably as the rails were lifted so too was much of the infrastructure. The committee recently developed a Rail Trail Shelter to provide toilets, water and shade making it a great rest up point prior to setting off to Beechworth and Myrtleford.

Those who explore the reserve will find concrete pads where goods sheds were located, and fairly significant trees that were planted around the three houses that were located on the site where the Station Master and his staff resided.

Going

Easy to moderate difficulty for most users.

Status

Trail is sealed throughout.

Amenities

Toilets, water and shelter are available both at the Tarrawingee and the Everton Railway Station Sites.

Users should note that there are no public toilets within the Everton Township.

Other Attractions

Everton Township

A relatively short ride three-kilometre ride from the station site is the Everton Township. A general store, hotel, caravan park and antique shop (weekends only) may be of interest to some. The caravan park (with cabins) is ideally situated as a central base location to explore the region. The best ways to get to the Township is along the Myrtleford line and then turn right into Diffey Road for 500m or so. Most users coming from Beechworth tend to bypass the Everton Station and travel directly to Everton Township along Diffey Road.

Markwood / Milawa / Oxley

A road ride worth considering by more accomplished and serious cyclists may be a detour to the Milawa Gourmet Region where wine, food, and appealing eateries are aplenty.

Beechworth / Myrtleford / Bright

Everton Station is where users need to decide whether they are going to travel to Beechworth (16km uphill) or to Myrtleford (26 km) and Bright (56km).

When in Beechworth, users are encouraged to visit the Tourist Information Centre located in Ford Street in the main CBD for information about the area. Lake Sambell, the Chinese gardens and the gorge ride are well worth exploring in addition to the renowned Beechworth Bakery – a just reward for an uphill ride.