TIANJARA FALLS – POINTER GAP – BENDALONG

Start Point: Tianjara Falls, Morton National Park
Map Ref: UD B8
Ride Finishes: Washerwoman’s Beach, Bendalong
Map Ref: UD J17
Total Distance: 54.3 kms
Degree of Difficulty: Hard
Bike Recommended: MTB
Cautions: Rough rocky tracks; Traffic on Porters Creek Dam, Bendalong Rds
Allow: Six hours

kms
0.0 Leave Tianjara Falls – back along Braidwood Rd towards the coast.
1.4 Turn RIGHT onto [TWELVE MILE FIRE TRAIL]. Rough, rocky track through low scrub and heathland.
8.7 Turn RIGHT at T-junction. [TIANJARA FIRE TRAIL]. Steep, rocky, rough.
14.0 High point near Mt Tianjara. Extensive views to the west. Track rough, steep.
19.0 Narrow Neck. Views west and to the coast.
21.7 The Ravines (straight, vertical gaps in the rock formation). Extensive views.
23.2 Swing LEFT. Mt Bushwalker walking track on right. Track surface improves.
27.2 Turn LEFT. (Porters Ck Dam Rd). Becomes formed gravel road.
28.8 Turn RIGHT – [POINTER GAP LOOKOUT]. Track to lookout steep up.
29.6 Pointer Gap Lookout – sweeping views to coast. Return to road – turn RIGHT.
30.5 Begin steep down for 2.5 km, some bitumen. Caution: watch for vehicles and hairpin bends.
35.9 Turn LEFT onto [GALAGAROO RD]. Rough fire trail, steep up and down.

41.7 Turn RIGHT onto [MARTINS RIDGE RD].
42.0 Princes Hwy. Turn RIGHT.
44.3 Turn LEFT into [MURRAYS RD]. Downhill, bitumen for 1.4 km.
43.7 Cross bridge, turn RIGHT, begin 2 km steep climb on narrow gravel road.
45.7 Turn RIGHT. Good bitumen road, some sealed shoulders, traffic.
53.7 Bendalong. Turn LEFT – [MAPLE ST]. General Store straight through 100 m.
54.3 Turn RIGHT. Washerwoman’s Beach. End of Ride.

Public Toilets: Bendalong only.
Shops/Facilities/Water: Bendalong only.
Bike Shops, emergency spares: Closest Ulladulla (see p 6).

Variations on this route/alternative activities:
1. Riding back to Tianjara Falls by any of the available routes is recommended only for the very fit and experienced cyclist.

Another classic (and challenging) full-day mountain bike ride from deep in Morton National Park to the beach at Bendalong. The first 23 km is very hard cycling, but the views and the geological formations on the Tianjara Fire Trail (closed to vehicles) are absolutely stunning. After Pointer’s Gap Lookout, you plunge deep into the bush (much of it rain forest) again, before a hard climb up to the bitumen and an easy run to the beach. Tianjara 8927-1-S (1:25 000 Topographical Map) is useful for detail.