

## PIGEON HOUSE MOUNTAIN TO MERRY BEACH

This is a classic “mountains to the sea” mountain bike ride. Like all such rides, while logically downhill, it also involves some tough uphill riding. The route uses well sign-posted gravel forest roads and fire-trails, on which you will see few vehicles, except in peak holiday times and weekends. Therefore, be properly prepared for a remote area adventure (see Introduction).

### kms

- 0.0 Leave *Pigeon House Mtn carpark*. Pit toilet, tank water, picnic tables, shelter, National Parks information board about the Budawang Wilderness. Steep down.
- 1.3 Swing **LEFT** – continue down, and then steep climb for 2 km.
- 4.7 Cross low-level bridge; 50 m on, turn **RIGHT** onto well-used track. Steep climb.
- 5.3 Turn **RIGHT** at T-junction. This is Clyde Ridge Rd. Still climbing.
- 5.6 **STRAIGHT THROUGH** on [CLYDE RIDGE RD]. Flat Rock Rd goes left.
- 8.8 **STRAIGHT THROUGH** on [CLYDE RIDGE RD]. Barren Ridge Rd on right.
- 10.8 Turn **LEFT** onto [CARISBROOK RD]. Excellent *rest stop* on right where low-level bridge crosses fast-flowing Clyde River. Steep, rough climb for 1 km.
- 14.4 Turn **RIGHT** [TO NELLIGEN]. Road surface, good gravel, undulating.
- 16.9 Turn **LEFT** [MIDDLE RIDGE RD]. Road now steep up and down, rough, rocky.
- 25.9 Turn **RIGHT** onto [THE OLD HIGHWAY]. Road surface improves. Now up.
- 26.9 Boardinghouse Rd on left – *Lookout* (see **Ride A28**).
- 28.6 Keep **LEFT** – 200 m on turn **LEFT** onto [THE SHEEPTRACK].
- 30.6 Turn **RIGHT** onto Princes Hwy. **Caution:** good sealed shoulder except for squeeze point on bridge 300 m after turning onto highway.
- 33.1 Turn hard **LEFT** onto [BUCKS RD] – rough gravel, steep climb for 1 km.
- 38.1 Turn **LEFT** – road now descends rapidly; some rough creek crossings.
- 42.4 Kioloa. Leave bush. Bitumen, houses start.
- 43.1 Turn **RIGHT** – [MERRY BEACH, PRETTY BEACH].
- 43.4 Turn **LEFT** – access to public beach, *Merry Beach Caravan Park*. End of Ride.

**Public Toilets:** Pigeon House carpark, Kioloa Recreation Reserve.

<b>Start Point:</b>	Pigeon House Mountain carpark, picnic area
<b>Map Ref:</b>	UD Q6
<b>Ride Finishes:</b>	Merry Beach, Kioloa
<b>Map Ref:</b>	UD Z11
<b>Total Distance:</b>	43.5 kms
<b>Degree of Difficulty:</b>	Medium Hard
<b>Bike Recommended:</b>	MTB
<b>Cautions:</b>	Squeeze point – bridge on Princes Hwy
<b>Allow:</b>	Five hours

**Shops/Facilities/Water:** Pigeon House (tank water only), Kioloa General Store.

**Bike Shops, emergency spares:** Closest Ulladulla (see p 6).

### Variations on this route/ alternative activities:

- For a really long, strenuous day, start very early, climb Pigeon House Mountain in the morning, and do this ride in the after-

noon. (You will need someone to transport you to the start point as riding back up from Merry Beach is definitely not recommended!).

- After completing this ride in one day, stay overnight in the Kioloa – Bawley Point area and explore further. All levels of accommodation available.

