

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.

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

1. 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!).

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

