

Little River Rail Trail 20th Anniversary

Itinerary Title

Christchurch to Little River Day Epic

Target Audience

Endurance cyclists, bikepackers, experienced riders.

Short Description

The complete journey from Christchurch to Little River using the connected rail trail network.

Why Do This Trip

- Ride from city to countryside.
- Full trail experience.
- Excellent endurance challenge.

Route Information

Ideal for: Endurance cyclists, confident e-bike riders and groups seeking the full rail trail experience

Distance: Approximately 46-50 km one way from Hornby to Little River, or up to 60-65 km from central Christchurch depending on start point

Duration: Full day

The Christchurch to Little River Day Epic is the full rail trail journey, linking city cycleways, rural Canterbury landscapes, wetlands, lakes and the village character of Little River into one rewarding long-distance ride. Starting in central Christchurch or Hornby, riders travel via Prebbleton, Lincoln and Motukarara before following the former railway corridor beside Te Waihora and Lake Forsyth / Wairewa. It is an excellent endurance ride for cyclists wanting a clear destination, varied scenery and food stops along the way, with Little River providing a memorable finish point and recovery stop.

Route

- Start in central Christchurch and connect to the southwest cycle network
- Ride through Hornby, Prebbleton and Lincoln
- Continue to Motukarara and follow the rail trail past Te Waihora and Lake Forsyth / Wairewa
- Finish in Little River for food, rest and a village stop

Highlights

- Complete city-to-village rail trail experience
- Urban, rural, wetland and lake landscapes in one ride
- Food and refreshment stops in Lincoln and Little River
- Strong endurance ride with a clear destination and sense of achievement



Add-ons

- Overnight stay at Little River for a more relaxed touring option
- Continue toward Banks Peninsula for an extended multi-day ride

Difficulty Level

Moderate

Practical Information

Access Points

Christchurch, Prebbleton, Lincoln, Motukārara, Little River

Toilet Locations

Township facilities and trail hubs

Parking Locations

Christchurch and Little River

Food & Refreshment Options

Lincoln cafés, Little River cafés and stores.

Accommodation Options

Little River accommodation providers.

Shuttle/Transport Options

Vehicle relocation recommended.

CELEBRATING
20
YEARS!

Smash the
GRAVEL



Ride in
either
direction



Refuel!