



CYCLING FACT SHEET No. 78

Kep Track is a golden ride

Kep is a Noongar word for water and it makes a great choice for the name of an off-road bike route that shadows part of the historic goldfields pipeline from Mundaring Weir to Northam.

Following the completion of some recent work, the well-signposted Kep Track now begins opposite the Mundaring Weir Hotel and concludes some 75km later at Poole Street footbridge in Northam.

Open to cyclists, horse riders and walkers, the Kep Track consists largely of compacted gravel so is best suited to hybrid or mountain bikes with their wider tyres.

Because much of the route follows the old Eastern railway alignment, the gradients are remarkably gentle and you certainly don't need to be a professional hill climber to negotiate them.

Signage along the thickly-forested first Kep stage from the weir to the Mundaring townsite reflects the fact that this 8km initial section is shared with the Munda Biddi Trail and the Kattamorda Heritage Trail.

From Sculpture Park in Mundaring, the Track uses its own route that winds eastwards through the scarp, visiting settlements such as Sawyers Valley, Mt Helena, Chidlow, Wooroloo and Wundowie along the way.

The town of Wundowie being of particular interest, having originally been established to house workers at the State's first iron and steel plant.

Further on and the tiny siding of Bakers Hill provides a welcome stop if you are hungry - the local pie shop has become famous for the quality of its pastries.



The final Kep stage from the once important rail junction of Clackline, to Northam, uses a mix of pipeline maintenance access lanes and quiet back roads.

Allowing for a couple of rest stops, the entire ride to Northam can be comfortably completed in about eight hours by the average person.

If the thought of a return ride proves too daunting, you can catch a regular Transwa coach service back to the city, or you can just park the car and ride particular sections if you prefer.

A detailed map of the Kep Track is available from the National Trust of Australia office at 4 Havelock Street in West Perth. This map can also be viewed or downloaded in pdf format on the Bikewest website.

This fact sheet is one of a series dealing with the use of bicycles for recreation and transport in Western Australia. The series looks at a range of cycling-related topics including ride routes, touring tips, maintenance, safety, road rules, insurance and product reviews. It is not to be construed as the provision of legal advice or advice about insurance products.

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