

The 20k Challenge - Course Description

The 20k Challenge offers a taste of the Classic for off-road rookies, spectators, supporters, active families and keen kids.

This easier option is every bit as stunning as the full-blooded Classic, but at less than half the distance and only one hill it's the ideal introduction to the experience that is Karapoti.

Karapoti's Iconic Start



The 20k Challenge starts LeMans-style, bikes in hand, with a sprint across the Akatarawa River, followed by a kilometre on sealed road before heading west into the spectacular Karapoti Gorge.

Karapoti Gorge is 6k of single track cut out of the cliff walls created by the Akatarawa River West. The track climbs very gradually and is rough at times, but it's all rideable with brilliant views down into the Gorge itself.

At the end of Karapoti Gorge the course turns hard left over McGhie's Bridge and climbs away from the Akatarawa River, heading south into Valley View Forest.

Valley View Forest climbs for approx 1k, followed by 1k of flat riding that leads to a 'T' intersection that is the start of a big loop that will eventually bring you back to this point.

The loop starts by veering left and heading uphill for 2k. This hill is steep, but on a good gravel track through the recently replanted forest.

Big Smiles



Gorgeous Gorge



Making A Splash



The top of Valley View Forest ends in another "T" intersection where you can reward yourself with brilliant 360-degree views, with Upper Hutt to the south and the Akatarawa Ranges to the north.

The course turns right here, heading west along Valley View Road for approx 1.5k, and then turn right again onto Airstrip Drive, which climbs for a few hundred metres and then veers right into Woolshed Road for a 2k downhill back to the start of the loop.

Luv'n It



Finished !



Families That Play Together



The descent down Woolshed Road is a corker, heading north down a 4WD track through a mix of felled forest and native bush. The surface starts on rough gravel then turns into a bush track that can be slippery when wet. Watch out for the rut traps near the bottom!

Back at the bottom of Valley View Forest the course continues downhill back to McGhie's Bridge.

From McGhie's Bridge you turn right back into Karapoti Gorge for a fast final 6k. Then one final crossing of the Akatarawa River and its just 400m to the Karapoti Park finish line.

With the last 10k being all downhill and an average finishing time of around 1hr 30min, the Challenge beckons fit recreational riders of any age and ability.

The 20k Offers a Taste of the Classic

