

Thornbury Heathcote Loop

Distance: 20km (or 32km longer more challenging route)

Experience rating: Moderate to experienced, recreational ride



Thornbury Heathcote Long Loop

Thornbury Heathcote Short Loop

Legend: Grey = Kilometre count; Blue = Attractions & stops; Green = Recommended ride direction; Orange = Unpaved roads

Challenge yourself with modest hill climbs and descents (or walk-ups/downs) and transport back into another time or enjoy a smaller loop through welcoming communities filled with tasty food stops, galleries and opportunities to further explore the Beaver River. From Thornbury town centre follow Bruce St south to Clarksburg. Just before the river crossing and bridge turn right onto Hillcrest Dr, to strike out along Sideroad 30, a quiet country back road, passing orchards and farm fields along the way.

At the Blue Mountain Meaford Townline Rd, turn left to enjoy the shorter 20km loop or right to continue onto Side Rd 4, turning left towards Frogs Hollow hill. What may seem daunting at first, the hill climb is well worth the effort and provides stunning views of the Escarpment and out across Georgian Bay. Continue on Side Rd 4, before turning left onto Grey Rd 7 and a shorter hill to the four corners of Griersville. Here riders turn left and take the pleasant, unpaved Old Mail Rd south east, following what was once the

primary route for all travellers and goods, via slow moving stage coaches in the bygone era of late 1800's.

Once back into the valley, rejoin the shorter loop option, pedaling less than 1km south after turning right on Grey Rd 13 for a perfect stop in the hamlet of Heathcote. Not to be missed, the Blue Mountain Bakery is a fantastic place to sample tarts and grab some refreshments before heading back on the road. Or make it a peddle and paddle day by renting a canoe or kayak to explore the meandering flow of the upper Beaver River, before heading back north along Grey Rd 13. Follow the road 7km, passing farm stops where you can fill your paniers with seasonal produce. Approaching Clarksburg, pedal straight onto 10th Line, crossing the pedestrian bridge before passing into the Clendenan Conservation Area. At Clark St turn right, before heading north onto Marsh St and into the town of Clarksburg . Enjoy the galleries and art studios, before returning to Thornbury plenty of welcoming local businesses perfect to relax, recharge, refresh post ride.



Notes to riders: Some paved and unpaved roads. Caution on Grey Rd 7, Grey Rd 13 and roads through Clarksburg and Thornbury, limited paved shoulders, high speed traffic. Some steep hills to climb and descend, take shorter loop to avoid more challenging. Old Mail Road unpaved with some loose gravel, but very scenic, historic and quiet.

Start / Finish:

Thornbury town centre, Municipal Parking lot in town centre, located at Arthur & Bruce Street.

Information Links:

- Thornbury Heathcote Short Loop map: www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/316836471
- Thornbury Heathcote Long Loop map: www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/286875433
- Grey County Tourism: www.visitgrey.ca
- Bruce Grey Simcoe Tourism: www.brucegreysimcoe.com
- Welcome Cyclists Network: www.welcomecyclists.ca/greycounty



Directions - Thornbury Heathcote Short Loop:

0km **1** Start from Thornbury town centre, head south on Bruce St S, towards Clarksburg



1.75km  Turn right onto Hillcrest Dr

2.5km  Turn right onto Clark St / Side Rd 30

5.25km  Turn left onto The Blue Mountains Meaford Townline Rd

9km  Turn slight right and continue onto Grey Rd 13, continue south

9.75km  Heathcote village, Blue Mountain Bakery and paddle rentals at Free Spirit Tours

Return north on Grey Rd 13

13.5km  Farmers Pantry

16km  Continue straight onto 10th Line, near Clarksburg

16.5km  Clendenan Conservation Area, cross Beaver River on pedestrian/cyclists bridge, explore multi-use trails before returning to 10th Line

17km  Turn right on Clark St

17.5km  Turn left on Marsh St

17.5km  Clarksburg village

Continue north on Marsh St, continuing onto Bruce St S

20km  Finish - Thornbury town centre

Directions - Thornbury Heathcote Long Loop:

0km  Start from Thornbury town centre, head south on Bruce St S, towards Clarksburg

1.75km  Turn right onto Hillcrest Dr

2.5km  Turn right onto Clark St / Side Rd 30

5.25km  Turn right onto The Blue Mountains Meaford Townline Rd

7km  Turn left onto Side Rd 4 / Frogs Hollow Rd - Hill

12.5km  Turn left onto Grey Rd 7 - Hill

13.5km  Turn left onto Old Mail Rd

20km  Old Mail Road historic plaque

21.75km  Turn right onto Grey Rd 13

22km  Heathcote village, Blue Mountain Bakery and paddle rentals at Free Spirit Tours

Return north on Grey Rd 13

25.25km  Farmers Pantry

28km  Continue straight onto 10th Line, near Clarksburg

28.5km  Clendenan Conservation Area, cross Beaver River on pedestrian/cyclist bridge, explore multi-use trails before returning to 10th Line

29km  Turn right on Clark St

29.5km  Turn left on Marsh St

29.5km  Clarksburg village

Continue north on Marsh St, continuing onto Bruce St S

32km  Finish - Thornbury town centre

