

# CLUTHA GOLD Trail



Jimmy's Pies, Roxburgh © Tourism Central Otago

## LAKE ROXBURGH DAM to LAWRENCE

2 days | 73km

A journey of discovery, the Clutha Gold Trail leads you alongside the **fast-flowing and brilliantly turquoise Clutha Mata-au River** from Lake Roxburgh Dam to Lawrence.

### look out for...

#### Lawrence: Gateway to the Goldfields

'Gabriel's Gully,' near Lawrence, was where the find that initiated the great Otago gold rush was made. Gabriel Read discovered gold here in May 1861, and the population quickly began to swell. At the height of gold fever, Lawrence's population reached

11,500 – twice that of Dunedin. Today Lawrence is a much more peaceful spot and a handy little town for exploring the local area. At least 50 of Lawrence's buildings are protected historic sites. Take the heritage trail and uncover the town's intriguing past. There's also a couple of good cafés here, as well as one or two second-hand shops and a good pub.

It ventures through a changing landscape of natural beauty punctuated by reminders of once-thriving gold rush spots – the river banks are dotted with ruins of miners huts and several bridges, all but washed away.

After weaving through the secluded Beaumont Gorge, the trail then branches off into lush farming valleys that cut a swathe of colour in all seasons and through some sections of the historic Roxburgh Branch railway line, including the 440m-long Big Hill Tunnel.

Dotted along the trail are four small towns that were established during the gold rushes of a bygone era. Each has its own story and are now welcoming places to stop for a meal or overnight.

The trail forms part of an extensive network of Great Rides in the Otago region, linking with the Roxburgh Gorge Trail at the Lake Roxburgh Dam, on to the famous Otago Central Rail Trail at Alexandra.

## TRAIL INFO



### TRAIL GRADES:

**COMMISSIONER FLAT (LAKE ROXBURGH DAM) TO ROXBURGH** GRADE 2 (EASY)  
A 10km ride alongside the river.

**ROXBURGH TO MILLERS FLAT** GRADE 2 (EASY)  
A 21km section, still following the river.

**MILLERS FLAT TO BEAUMONT** GRADE 2 (EASY)  
A 20km mix of new trail, historic road and railway line before heading inland.

**BEAUMONT TO LAWRENCE** GRADE 2 (EASY)  
22km ride featuring a railway tunnel.

**MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE:**  
Coverage is limited along the trail from Millers Flat to Lawrence.

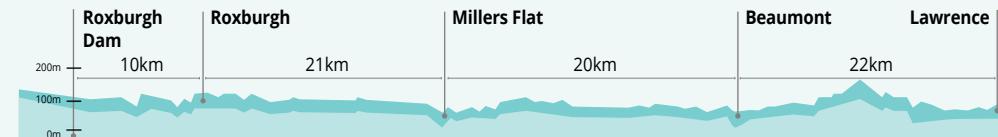
**DRINKING WATER:** There are plenty of villages along the trail where you can buy water, but take plenty with you for the next section.



### MAP LEGEND

- open section
- start / finish point
- point of interest
- bridge
- .-.- tunnel
- town
- ☕ café/restaurant
- 🚻 toilets
- P car park
- 🏠 accommodation
- 1 state highway

## riding the trail



**Lawrence** after Sir Henry Lawrence • 92km W of Dunedin on SH 8

### Jafa's Motels

Free unlimited broadband

Modern, spacious ensuite units off main street in town centre. Great beds & showers • Breakfast-making facilities. Tariff: \$110-\$140 (1-2 persons), extra person \$20.

4 Lancaster St, Lawrence | Phone: +64 3 485 9005  
Email: jafasmotels@outlook.co.nz | www.jafaslawrence.co.nz

#### Millers Flat's Lonely Graves

The goosebump-inducing story of the Lonely Graves near Millers Flat is part of local lore. The headboard on the anonymous grave (probably that of an 1860s miner) was provided by local William Rigney who etched the words 'somebody's darling lies buried here'. Rigney died in 1912 and was buried next to the 'lonely grave'. His touching gravestone reads 'The man who buried "Somebody's Darling"'.  
**Weather info:** There are four distinct seasons in Central Otago. In late spring the hillsides are lush, and in late summer and autumn the celebrated colours of Central Otago are on full display. Winters are cold, still and dry and temperatures range from -6 to +35 deg C.  
**Please note:** An annual maintenance contribution of \$25 per person or \$50 per family covers the cost of maintenance for use of the Clutha Gold Trail and the adjoining Roxburgh Gorge Trail. A 1-day pass is available for \$10 per person, or a life pass for \$500. Contribute at the i-SITE at Lawrence, Roxburgh, Alexandra, Cromwell or Ranfurly.

The 73km, Grade 2 (Easy) Clutha Gold Trail provides a great opportunity for day trips or a multi-day cycling holiday when combined with the Roxburgh Gorge Trail and even possibly the Otago Central Rail Trail.

#### ► COMMISSIONER FLAT (LAKE ROXBURGH DAM) TO ROXBURGH, 10KM

The trail starts at Commissioner Flat, a small car parking area 500m below the Lake Roxburgh Dam on the eastern side of the Clutha Mata-au River. From the car park, follow obvious signs down the valley on a smooth wide trail that leads to the Roxburgh township. There are kilometre marker posts on the trail to inform you of your progress. After 10km you will see Roxburgh township on the other side of the river where you will find plenty of shops and accommodation.

#### ► ROXBURGH TO MILLERS FLAT, 21KM

From the Roxburgh township the trail continues for approximately 21km. It follows the river past a popular swimming spot called Pinders Pond and eventually heads inland to reach Millers Flat. This small town offers a few accommodation places, Faigans Café and the Bridge Hotel across the river offering food, drinks and accommodation.

#### ► MILLERS FLAT TO BEAUMONT, 20KM

From Millers Flat, the trail heads through a small park and back to the riverside. It is 24km down the valley on a mix of new trail, historic road and historic railway line to the settlement of Beaumont. As soon as you reach the highway you will see Beaumont Hotel on the other side of the river. Food, drinks and accommodation are offered at the hotel.

#### ► BEAUMONT TO LAWRENCE, 22KM

This section has a moderate climb leading to a railway tunnel, followed by a long downhill to Evans Flat and Lawrence, the site of one of the world's largest gold rushes.