

Devils Gully, Kersbrook, South Australia

When the Devil went down to Kersbrook, he decided to be uncharacteristically generous in the trails stakes.

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It would be easy to miss the car park that marks the trailhead for this unassuming but excellent MTB playground. But If you fancy getting away from the purpose-built trail centres and just getting out to explore, then Devil's Gully is worth a visit. This under used corner of Mount Crawford Forest has a number of intermediate downhill trails, and also plenty of riding for those of the XC persuasion. Don't expect signs and graded marked trails, though, the best thing to do is get out there and explore.



DEVILS GULLY:

The name Devil's Gully has become synonymous with this area, which really comprises of two separate areas either side of the One Tree Hill to Kersbrook Road. To the north is the real 'Devil's Gully', whilst on the southern side of the road is another area of pine plantation and the Kersbrook Glades native bushland.

For the Downhillers there are two riding options. Head up the firetrack that

leads north-west from the car-park for 500m or so to the top of a hill, and from there you can see the pine plantation that houses the Devils Gully DH track. This area has a few great trails with lots of jumps that are pretty suitable for intermediate DH riders. There's plenty to play on, but you will need to get yourself back up the hills.

The other option is to grab a mate with a van and head up Mt Gawler road (directly opposite the car park) until you get to the Junction with Airstrip road, about 1.2km up the road. There are a number of DH trails to explore which snake through the pines on either side back to the car park, and all are good for shuttle runs.

Then there's the riding for the XC riders. It is certainly worth exploring both pine plantations, as there are networks of singletrack and firetrack that give some great riding. Indeed most of the DH trails are perfectly rideable on an XC bike with a little skill, so a real 'All-mountain' loop can be enjoyed. Once you are done with the more obvious runs there are plenty of other trails to explore within the native forest zones. The best thing to do is to grab a map and explore!



GETTING THERE:

Devils Gully is about an hours drive from Central Adelaide, and is located on the One Tree Hill to Kersbrook Road. So, either get yourself to Kersbrook from the city via North-East Road and Chain of Ponds, or head out from Salisbury along Black Top Road to the township of One Tree Hill. The car park is on the Northern side of the road, opposite the Junction with Mt Gawler Road, and is about 9km from One Tree Hill, or 3km from Kersbrook.

TECHNICAL NATURE:

There is pretty much something for everyone here. The Downhill trails are of an intermediate level, but with some big jumps there for those that like to be airborne. The same goes for the XC riding, which varies from cruisy firetrack trails to tough, tricky singletrack. This area is hilly though, so if you intend to ride back up you will need to be fit, or find a mate with a van!

YOU'LL NEED:

Bring everything! There are no services at the trailhead or nearby, so bring some water and food at least. Body armour would be appropriate for the DH trails. If you intend to do a longer XC ride you would need to bring a suitable local map as it would be easy to get lost further away from the pine plantations.

DISTANCES:

There is plenty of riding to keep you interested for a good few hours for the downhillers and cross country riders alike within the pine plantations. Bigger XC rides could be planned out to the adjoining forest blocks of Mt Crawford.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE:

As with all of the Forestry SA areas dotted around this corner of South Australia, you need to be respectful to the rules regarding mountain bike access. Riding in any of the pine plantation is fine on the singletrack. However when it comes to the Native sections of the forest, mountain bikers must remain on 4WD vehicular trails. But don't worry, there are stacks of decent riding out there.

AT A GLANCE:**TECHNICAL RATING: 3****FITNESS LEVEL NEEDED: 3****TYPE OF RIDING:****XC / Trail / All-mountain / DH****FACILITIES:**

Toilets:	No
Drinking Water:	No
Parking:	Yes
Trails Signposted:	No
Mobile Reception:	Limited
Shelter:	No
BBQ Facilities:	No
Camping:	No

BEST TIME OF YEAR TO RIDE:

All year is fine, although the forests are closed on Total fire ban days. Check with the CFS for details.

WHILE IN THE AREA, ALSO CHECK OUT:

Just down the road is Bennett's block, with another DH trail, and a little further away is Fox Creek. Or for the XC riders it is worth exploring the numerous other plantations that make up Mount Crawford forest for plenty of good riding for all levels.

LOCAL BIKE SHOPS:

JT's Cycles on the Philip Highway, Elizabeth (08 8255 7100) is probably the nearest decent bike shop, although it is a good 20km away. Take some tools!

LOCAL CLUB CONTACTS:

- Adelaide Mountain Bike Club www.amtbc.com run the XC racing in South Australia and run both summer and winter series racing, and soon Dirt Crits too.
- For local Downhilling, check out the Insideline Downhill MTB club at www.ilmtb.com for their race schedule.

REGULAR EVENTS:

- The Mount Crawford area is often used for Mountain bike Orienteering competitions, which is a great way to discover new areas and trials. For more details check www.sa.orienteering.asn.au/mtbo.
- Escapegoat Adventures run MTB skills training and social rides within the Adelaide area. For more details visit www.escapegoat.com.au

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