

## **Gate 19, Kangarilla, South Australia**

**A forest that is too steep and small to attract hikers and visitors?  
It's a gift to South Aussie riders.**

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Gate 19 so called because Forestry SA label all their access gates, and this area was always accessed through 'Gate 19'. However a recent change of numbering has resulted in the gate now being "Gate B02", but the old names sticks! What you find once you wander through the gate is a fantastic forest plantation in a steep gully, with a network of Downhill tracks wherever you look. And the best thing is this little corner of Kuitpo forest has basically been left to the Downhillers to do as they want by the Rangers.



### **GATE 19:**

The gate 19 plantation, or 'Bone Gully' as it is sometimes called, is a small and steep-sided pine forest plantation. It is about 1km long and half that in width, but it is the steep slopes and the vertical drop of up to 120m that make it so attractive to riders and thankfully unattractive to anyone else!

What started off as a few quiet DH trails cleared away though the pines has

turned into a maze of DH trails criss-crossing the gully. The bonus is that due to there being no conflicts with any other users the Forestry rangers are pretty happy to let anything go, within reason. There are now numerous trails with jumps, road gaps and berms littering the areas and the only restriction is that any building of Northshore is not allowed, and has been removed when it has been built in the past.

All rides start from the Gate 19 car park. From there a meandering firetrack leads up through the bottom of the gully with a number of firetracks branching off this main one. There are two main firetracks to the left, and another that branches off at a clearing to the left. Push (or for the tough, ride) your bike up any of these tracks and you will see various singletrack trails heading back down the gully.

Most trails are in pretty good condition, and some are more difficult than others, but all are rideable to a reasonably confident rider. There are pretty much always ways to ride around the big jumps and obstacles, but it would certainly be recommended to check any jumps out though BEFORE committing to them, and it is certainly worth being cautious the first time you ride any of these trails, as you never know what surprises the trail builders may have left, or what may have collapsed or been washed away recently!

So, get down there and explore. Head up any of the firetracks and you can't miss the start to the various trails. Start from one side and work your way around all the trails, or concentrate on nailing one trail over and over again, it's up to you. All the trails have different names depending on who you ask, so just make up your own names amongst yourselves and get riding.

### **GETTING THERE:**

Gate 19 (B02) is one kilometre east of Kangarilla, which is an hours drive from Central Adelaide. Head south out of town and take the road via Flagstaff hill and Happy Valley to Clarendon. Once you drive through Clarendon, follow the signs to Meadows which will take you on for another 6km to the Kangarilla turning. Keep going past here towards Meadows for a further 1km, and you will see a pine plantation on a steep hill on your left. Find the small car park with the 'Kuipto Forest' sign on your right, and you are there.

### **TECHNICAL NATURE:**

This is an area for the keen downhiller, although there are plenty of trails for the newer rider to start to gain confidence. It certainly is not suitable for beginners. The trails are steep and require a push to the top, which can be quite tough. Even the easier runs require concentration and a good riding ability.

**YOU'LL NEED:**

A full face helmet and body armour is definitely recommended. There is no water or shops nearby, so if you are planning to ride for a while you are best bringing some supplies. Also bring along a friend, and to be safe, don't ride alone.

**DISTANCES:**

None of the runs are particularly long in distance, and most tracks drop you to the bottom of the forest, not far from the car park. The only real limiter is the number of times you are happy to ride or push your bike back to the top of the forest to ride back down. It's possible to spend a good few hours here without riding the same track twice.

**LOCAL KNOWLEDGE:**

Gate 19 is part of Kuinto Forest, and there are a number of other sections of the forest nearby which are more appropriate for cross country riding. There is also plenty of other activities to do in the area, so it's ideal to make a longer trip of it. There is plenty of accommodation to be found in the McLaren Vale area.

The wineries of McLaren Vale are only just up the road if that interests you, or head to Southport beach for a swim or surf after your ride.

**AT A GLANCE:****TECHNICAL RATING: 4****FITNESS LEVEL NEEDED: 3****TYPE OF RIDING:****All-mountain / Freeride / DH****FACILITIES:**

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

**BEST TIME OF YEAR TO RIDE:**

All year is fine, although the forest is closed on Total fire ban days, and it can be hot and dry during the summer. Check with the CFS for details.

**WHILE IN THE AREA, ALSO CHECK OUT:**

Don't dare drive through Clarendon without stopping at the bakery, it's one of the best for miles, and has a pleasant park across the road to enjoy the sun after a few runs.

**LOCAL BIKE SHOPS:**

The nearest bike shop is Oxygen Cycles at 143 Main Road, McLaren Vale. [www.oxygencycles.com](http://www.oxygencycles.com). They are open every day except Monday, and also hire out bikes to tourists to cruise the wineries.

**LOCAL CLUB CONTACTS:**

- Adelaide Mountain Bike Club [www.amtbc.com](http://www.amtbc.com) run XC races in Kuinto and elsewhere throughout the year.
- For local Downhilling, check out the Insideline Downhill MTB club at [www.ilmtb.com](http://www.ilmtb.com) for their race schedule. They often run downhill races at Willunga area.

**REGULAR EVENTS:**

- Kuinto forest is often used for Mountain bike Orienteering competitions, which is a great way to discover new areas and trails. For more details check [www.sa.orienteeing.asn.au/mtbo](http://www.sa.orienteeing.asn.au/mtbo).
- Escapegoat Adventures run MTB skills training and social rides within the Adelaide area. For more details visit [www.escapegoat.com.au](http://www.escapegoat.com.au)

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