

The Grading Shift: Supporting Better Rider Choices



























Why Trail Grades



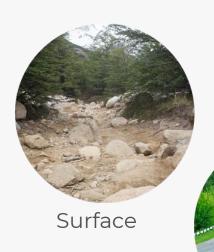
- Help Riders Choose the Right Trail for Their Skills and Fitness
- Support a Safe and Enjoyable Experience
- Ensure Consistency Across the NZ Cycle Trails Network
- Assist Designers, Builders, and Funders
- Enable Operators and Advisors to Give Accurate Recommendations

Determining Trail Grades

Gradient



 Trail grades are determined by evaluating the technical difficulty, surface conditions, gradients, and other key features of the trail, based on criteria set out in the NZ Cycle Trail Design Guide (2024). This ensures consistency across all Ngā Haerenga Great Rides.





Width



Obstacles



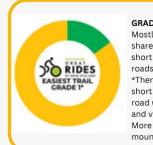
Length



Exposure & Risk

Grade Equivalents





GRADE 1*

Mostly off road, generally flat shared concrete path. There are short sections on suburban roads with lower traffic volumes. *There is one very short section on a higher volume road with shoulder and visible delineation. More details: mountainstosea.nz/trail-grades/



GRADE 2

Gentle climbs, firm gravel trail surface. Expect bridges and boardwalks.

Enjoy as a leisurely ride while enjoying the scenery with moderate technical skills required.

More details:

mountainstosea.nz/trail-grades/

<u>Right Trail, Right Rider, Right Info</u>





























Right rider, right bike, right trail So RIDES OF NEW ZEALAND





Know your grades



Grade	Symbol	Rider Level	Terrain / Conditions	Recommended Bike
1 Easiest	SÃ RÍDES TRAIL GRADE BEGINNER	Beginner Family	Smooth, wide, gentle	Any sound bike
2 Easy	RIDES TRAIL GRADE EASY	Most riders with some experience	Mostly smooth Some hills	Hybrid, touring, e-bike
3 Intermediate	TALICIA DE INTERMEDIATE	Confident riders	Narrower, rough sections, some hills	MTB or e-MTB
4 Advanced	RIDES TRAIL GRADE ADVANCED	Fit & Skilled	Steep, technical, exposure	High spec MTB
5 Expert	TAIL CRADE EXPERT	Very experienced	Challenging, remote, drop offs	Expert MTB, No kids

Questions to ask?

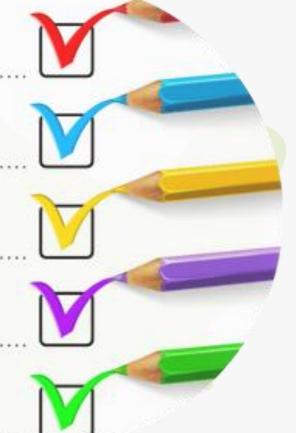


- ☐ Have you ridden a trail like this before? (or what trails have you ridden before?)
- ■What kind of bike are you using?
- □ Are you comfortable with hills or gravel?
- Are you on a time schedule or taking it easy?
- □ Do you want a scenic cruise or a physical challenge?

Quick Checklist!



- Match fitness and skills to trail
- Confirm bike type (tyres, gears and brakes)
- E-bikes check battery range
- Recommend trail sections with good support/access to less confident rides
- Encourage riders to carry water, repair kit (and know how to use it) and wet weather gear





Its all about setting riders up for success.

A happy rider is a returning rider - and we have great advocates who do more and advocate more!

Match the Rider to trail Team exercise



























