

BEAR HILL /LAYRITZ PARK LOOP

General description A long-ish loop route that takes the rider along the Lochside Trail and then the Bear Hill, Elk/Beaver Lake and Layritz parks' trails.

Location Victoria, Saanich, Central Saanich and View Royal.

Length 46 kilometres.

Level Moderate.

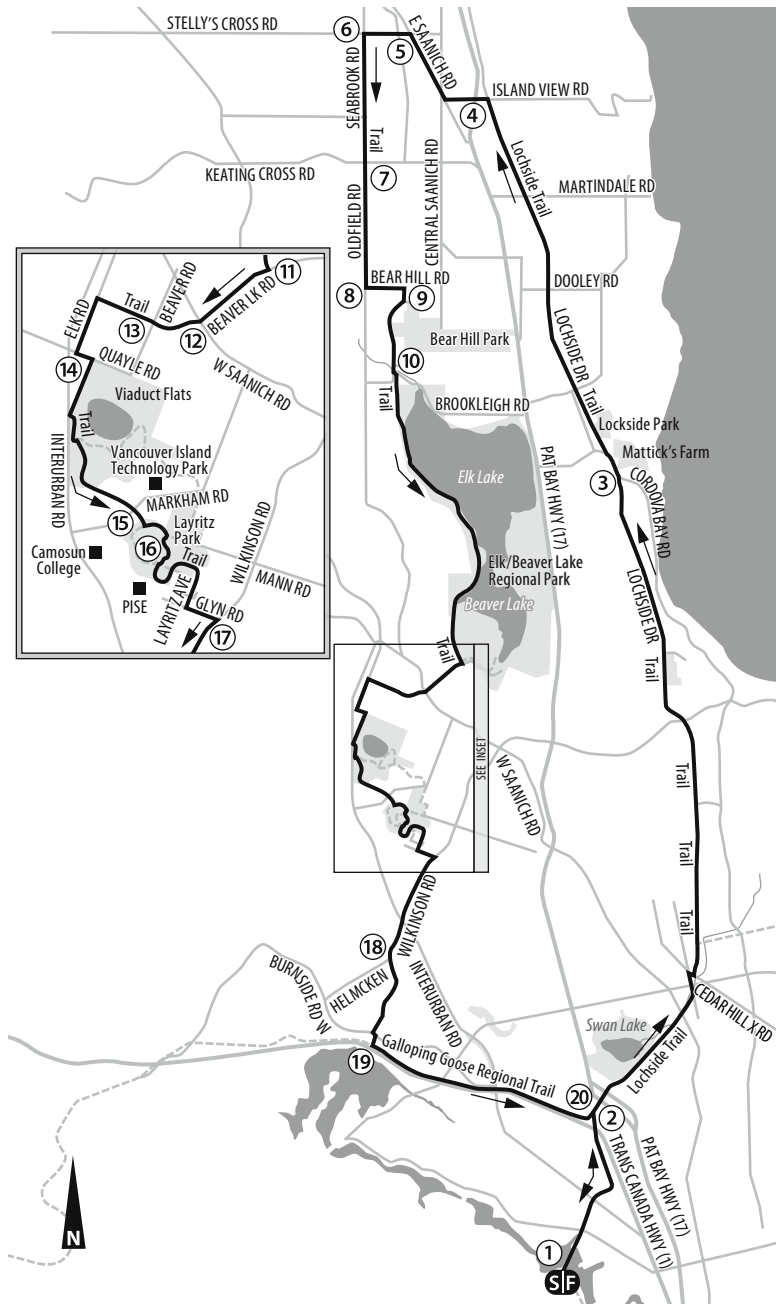
Start Johnson Street Bridge/ Galloping Goose Trail trailhead.

Highlights Seabrook Road in Central Saanich; Bear Hill Road; the Glendale Trail through Viaduct Flats and Layritz Park.

THE RIDE

- ① From the Galloping Goose trailhead (on the west side of the Johnson Street Bridge), follow the signed trail for four kilometres to the Switch Bridge over the Trans-Canada Highway.
- ② (3.7 km) Over the bridge take the **R** fork. This is the beginning of the Lochside Trail. You'll stay on this trail as it crosses a number of major roads.
- ③ (13.2 km) Cross Cordova Bay Road at Mattick's Farm. Continue on the trail as you cross Hunt, Dooley and Martindale roads.
- ④ (18.6 km) Turn **L** off the trail onto Island View Road. (Michell's barn is on the corner.) Cross the Pat Bay Highway at the light and ascend the steep hill to turn **R** onto East Saanich Road.
- ⑤ (20.1 km) Turn **L** onto Stelly's Cross Road.
- ⑥ (20.7 km) At the top of the hill turn **L** onto Seabrook Road. At the end of Seabrook continue straight on a short gravel trail to connect with Oldfield Road.
- ⑦ (22.5 km) Keeping on Oldfield, cross Keating Cross Road. This stretch of Oldfield has farms, orchards and roadside produce stands.

- ⑧ (24.2 km) Watch for and turn **L** onto Bear Hill Road. It's marked "No Exit" but that's okay as you'll soon see.
- ⑨ (24.7 km) Turn **R** keeping on Bear Hill Road. (Signed for Bear Hill Regional Park.) At the end of the paved road (just past #5916) turn **R** onto a narrow gravel trail that leads to a continuation of Bear Hill Road.
- ⑩ (26.0 km) Cross Brookleigh Road at an awkward bend to continue on Bear Hill as it takes you into Elk Lake Park. You're soon on a very straight trail that travels along the park's west side.
- ⑪ (30.4 km) At the trail's end turn **R** onto Beaver Lake Road.
- ⑫ (31.0 km) Cross West Saanich Road diagonally **R** to take the continuation of Beaver Lake Road. (This is another awkward crossing.)
- ⑬ (31.4 km) At the T junction with Beaver Road continue straight to take a gravel trail into a wooded area. The trail exits onto a short section of pavement at the end of which you turn **L** onto Elk Road. After a brief gravel and paved section you intersect Quayle Road.
- ⑭ (32.3 km) Turn **L** onto Quayle and then, after about 70 metres, turn **R** onto the Glendale Trail. Keep to this trail past the Viaduct Flats and on up its wide gravel surface to Markham Road. (Camosun College is on the **R**, the Vancouver Island Technology Park on the **L**.)
- ⑮ (33.9 km) Cross Markham onto the paved trail that swings **L** to curve around a wooded knoll. You're now in Layritz Park.
- ⑯ (34.1 km) Continue straight at the Centennial Trails information board junction on a wide gravel trail. After 500 metres turn sharp **L** at another junction. (The Pacific Institute of Sports Excellence is straight ahead at this turn.) Continue to keep **L** until the gravel meets pavement where you turn **R** and **R** again to ride through the park's carpark. Exit the park on Layritz Avenue riding to its end. Turn **L** onto Glyn Road descending to Wilkinson Road.
- ⑰ (36.0 km) Turn **R** onto Wilkinson Road. Cross the Interurban/Hastings lighted intersection keeping to Wilkinson.



- ⑱ (37.0 km) At the next traffic light turn **L** onto a continuation of Wilkinson Road. (Straight ahead is Helmcken Road.)
- ⑲ (38.8 km) Turn **L** onto Burnside Road West and then, after 20 metres, turn **R** down the no exit Belgrave Road. At the end of this short street turn **L** onto the Galloping Goose Trail.
- ⑳ (42.0 km) After crossing McKenzie Avenue and Tillicum Road turn **R** at the trail junction to ride over the Switch Bridge and back to the ride's start.



MIA CROUCH

Bridge on the Glendale Trail.