

The Oaks Route

Dirt = 289 km

2014



The Oaks Route takes in the rural area of Vulindlela outside Hilton and adjoining Edendale in Pietermaritzburg, en route to brunch at The Oaks at Byrne. Byrne is a picturesque village nestled among the rolling green hills of KwaZulu-Natal (more at <http://www.oaksatbyrne.co.za/>).

An orange loop takes one by winding dirt-road to a wonderful view of the hotel itself like an image from Mini-town and of the Conservancy on the other side of the ridge, as well as a fascinating museum of old tractors, machinery and early appliances like typewriters, scales and telephones (more at <http://www.minervareserve.co.za/>)



Crossing the Mkomazi River on Hela Hela

From there the ride continues over Hela Hela Pass from Richmond to Donnybrook, crossing the Mkomazi river and returning through Impendle to Midmar Dam. Read about Hela Hela at <http://www.wilddog.za.net/forum/index.php?PHPSESSID=t0jk37d9hheljij9nurkqv7s83&topic=8787.0>

Fuel is available at Richmond, Donnybrook and Bulwer, and food outlets include the Nipp Inn at Bulwer and the Pepper Pot on the tar road from Bulwer to Howick, the alternative to the gravel roads through Impendle.

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