



MTB-BUDDIES

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HELICOPTERS NELSON
NEW ZEALAND

Coppermine Saddle Heli-Bike \$140

Date: 30th December 2023

Time: 10:30am first flight

We will be starting flights up to the Saddle at 10.30am and working through the group until everybody is up at the saddle. The helicopter will be taking people and bikes in lots of 5-6 depending on weights. From there it is up to you, you can go for a walk up to the top of Dun Mountain for the views before riding down, or have a look at the old mine workings. The ride down will take about 30 minutes if you are going down the harder south branch side and about an hour if you are going down the Dun Mountain Railway. Obviously if you stop for pictures, food breaks etc it will lengthen your trip.

Where do we meet and fly from?

The Helicopter will be flying you up from the caretaker's house above the Maitai Dam. I have attached a map of where this is at the end of this sheet for you to be able to find it. If you are driving up, there is an area to park your car, just remember that after your ride you will have to come back to retrieve it! Alternatively, since you will not be expending a lot of energy getting up to Coppermine Saddle, you might like to ride up to the Caretaker's house from town or park your car at the bottom of the hill and ride up from there, so that after the ride you don't have to climb up the hill!

When should I turn up?

Closer to the time you will be given a rough time that your group will be flying. As this is quite variable, I would suggest you turn up early and be ready to fly. Be prepared to wait around, hopefully it's a nice day and there is lots to see and people to talk to.

What do I need to bring?

You will need to bring your bike and riding gear for the ride back down. Bring a small day pack with a minimum of a raincoat in it, just in case the weather changes. Bring some snack foods, a bottle of water, your camera, Sunscreen (hopefully) and a fun attitude for a fun trip. Please also make sure you have a spare tube and repair kit for your bike just in case you have a puncture. It's a long way to push your bike home! If you are in a group together, it's a good idea for one of you to be carrying a first aid kit and a cellphone as well. Please make sure you have your \$140 Cash Ready for the helicopter crew. No cash = no fly sorry, no exceptions.

What do I need to know about the Helicopter flight?

Safety First – important serious bit!

Firstly, and most importantly you **MUST** do what the Helicopter crew tell you to do. The Helicopter will be running with the rotor Blades spinning so you should only approach it when you are told to do so. **NEVER EVER** go near the back of the helicopter as you could be seriously hurt if you do. You will be put into groups of five. You will need to

make sure you have no loose clothing and that your helmet and pack are clipped together. You will approach the helicopter from the front and the crew will take your pack from you and put it in the cargo pod. You can keep your camera with you though. The crew will seat you in the helicopter and you will be given a set of headphones to wear so you can hear what the pilot and other passengers are saying. If you want to be heard, you will need to put the microphone close to your mouth. You will also need to buckle up your seat belt.

If you have never been in a Helicopter before, it can feel a bit weird as it takes off. It will climb straight up and then slowly start going up the valley toward the Coppermine saddle. There are great views out over the dam and mountains and plenty of opportunities to take some cool pictures. As you fly up the valley, you will see the track coming down on the left-hand side, you may even see people riding.

Once the helicopter gets to Coppermine Saddle it will land, and you will be instructed to unbuckle your seatbelt and exit toward the front of the helicopter. Make sure you walk well clear of the helicopter before jumping around with joy! The Crew will get your bag for you and instruct you to go over to the waiting area where you should be given your bike.

How is my bike taken up?

The Helicopter has purpose-built bike Racks. When you arrive and are put into your group, you will be asked to line your bike up ready to go. The Racks are secure, so there will not be any damage to your bike.

PLEASE NOTE - ANY accessory on your bike must be taken off, this includes pumps, saddle bags, child seats, computers even tubes taped to bars, this is a CAA requirement.

Those with infant seats need to have tools to be able to remove them and then put them back on at the saddle.

How do I get down?

If you are going with a guided group, then you will be instructed what to do once we are all ready to go. For the rest of you it is assumed you know your way down, either via Third house down the dun, or down the South Branch back to the Dam. We will be asking you to ride down in groups no bigger than 6 and leaving a gap of 5 minutes between groups, this is so that any other users of the track are not inundated by too many riders at once. Remember this is a SHARED USE TRACK and you need to always keep your speed under control. Expect to meet people coming up the other way around every corner! This is a fun trip, there is no rush as you have plenty of time, and it's NOT A RACE.

Lastly - Take your time and enjoy yourself, it's a beautiful place up there, don't just rush off, I suggest you take a picnic lunch up and enjoy the views before you make your way down. Take plenty of photos, and please – no littering.

Video of a previous year's trip

A video of a previous trip can be found on Youtube at the URL below.

This trip was not open to the public and filmed on a closed track. The riders are shown riding down the South Branch track.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8Wkmc1_qOM

Need more information

Then contact Steve on his email at steve@helibikenelson.co.nz or phone / txt on 0276826357

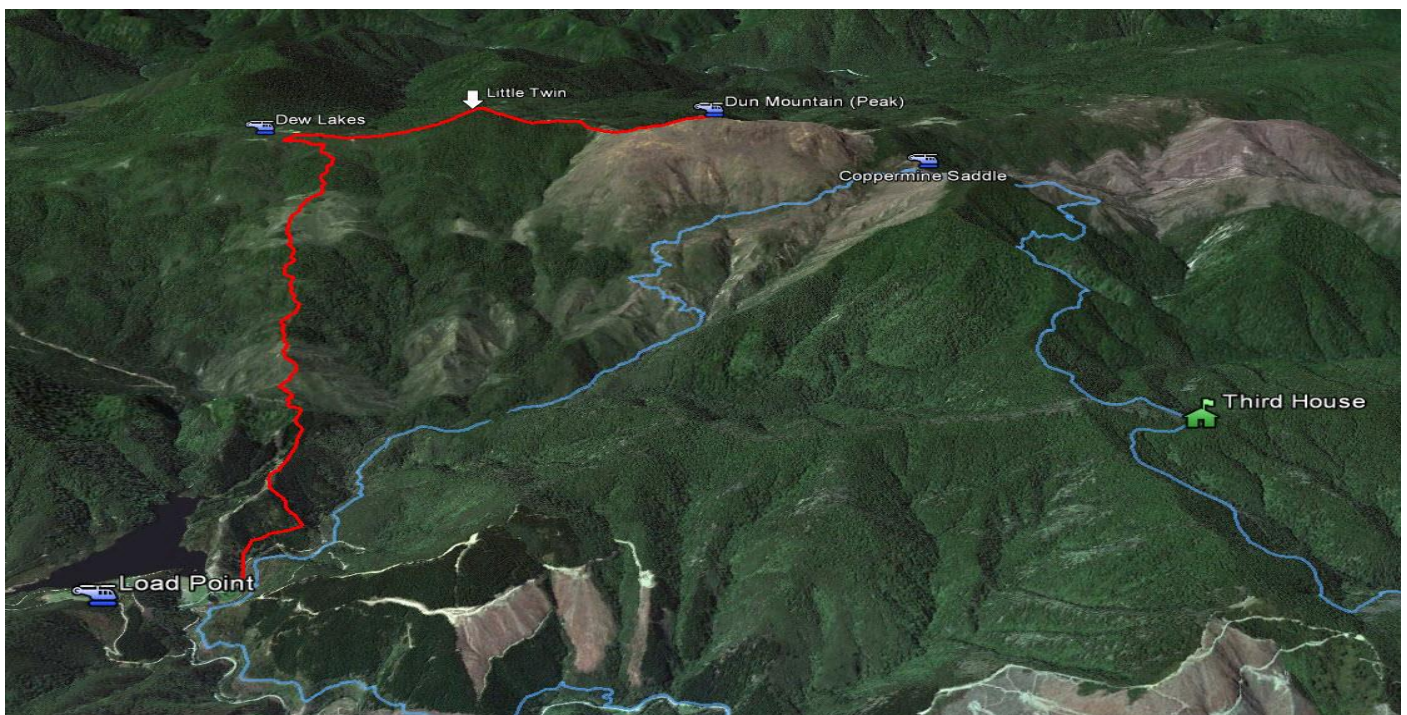


Hot to get to the Takeoff point

From Nelson, Drive up Nile street and turn into the Maitai Valley Road. Travel all the way up the Maitai Road until just before the Dam. At this point there is a road off to the left just before a cattle stop / gate.

Turn left up this road toward the caretaker's house, the road is quite steep in one place. Once you get to the top you will see where the takeoff point is. If you are bringing a car, please park it on the grass on the dam side of the road.

Preference is for people to park at the bottom of the road and ride up to the takeoff point, this also has the advantage that you don't have to ride up after your ride to get it!



Picture shows the Coppermine loop (Blue – Grade 3) and the Dew Lakes track (Red – Grade 5 and not used this year)