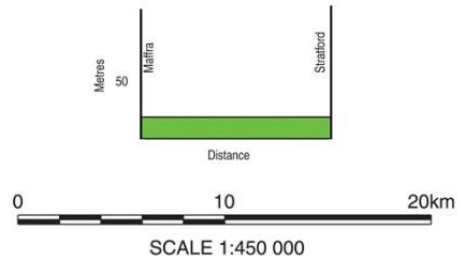




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FACT SHEET No. 4 (of 4) Maffra to Stratford



How long: 10kms

Time: Allow 1.15 hours each way by bicycle.

- Start point: Maffra – Sale Rd, Maffra (across from Gippsland Vehicle Collection)
- Terminates: Apex Park, Stratford (located at the Avon River/Princes Hwy crossing)
- Going: Predominantly flat, easy to medium ride on gravel surface.
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Trail Description:

The leg takes you through farmlands which are home to some of Victoria's richest dairy country. Plenty of car parking is available opposite the trail head, across Maffra-Sale Rd at the Gippsland Vehicle Collection, and in Stratford at Apex Park. Leaving Maffra, you will eventually pass through Powerscourt, where a busy railway siding was once located and which serviced surrounding farms, including the grand "Powerscourt" (after which the area is named). Powerscourt is visible from the road, and in recent times the opulent ballroom was used as a fine-dining restaurant. Now a private residence, Powerscourt is not open to the public. However; Powerscourt is your exit if visiting Avon Ridge Winery. Near Stratford you will cross Maffra-Stratford Rd, and make your way to the Princes Hwy (A1) Avon River crossing. From the bridge the view of the Great Dividing Range is stunning. To the east, you will see Apex Park in the foreground. This is where the trail ends/begins. Across the park you will notice a railroad bridge traversing the river. The bridge is still in use today, and if you see a train crossing, the driver often gives a 'toot', and a wave.

There is much of interest in Stratford; Apex Park, Stratford Arts Trail, Hobbies Plus, The Knob Reserve, Courthouse Theatre and Segue Arts Café, Avon River flats, and much more. Make your way to the historic and still operational Stratford Railway Station to catch your V-line train to East Gippsland (Bairnsdale), or back to Traralgon or beyond.

Note: there is no drinking water, nor are there toilet facilities on the trail. Please use the amenities in each of the towns along the trail, as needed.

What to Look For:

- **Maffra** - Remains of an old railway bridge as you near Maffra, Billabong Trail (immediately before the Macalister River), Macalister Park (Cnr Johnson & McMahon Sts), Maffra Sugar Beet Museum (McMahon St), Pino Deriu Mineral Collection (Visitor Information Centre, Courthouse, Johnson St.), Pinguin Booksellers, Antiques, Collectables & Ephemera (172 Johnson St.), Gippsland Vehicle Collection (Cnr Maffra-Sale Rd & Railway Pl.), Old Maffra Railway Station (one of only two stations remaining on the trail; privately owned, but may be viewed from the road).
- Views of the Great Dividing Range's southern foothills (Victoria's famous High Country).
- Avon Ridge Winery (Powerscourt).
- Powerscourt Homestead (no public access, but visible from the road at Powerscourt).
- Old railway bridge remains just west of Stratford (at the Maffra-Stratford Rd crossing).
- Avon River crossing at Stratford (mountain views & working railway bridge)
- **Stratford** – Apex Park, Stratford Arts Trail, (trail head), Old Courthouse Theatre and Segue Arts Café, Hobbies Plus, cafés, Avon Hotel, Turkish Magic, bakery, Historic Stratford Railway Station (operational),
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What You Should Know:

- Whilst predominantly flat, the trail does have a gentle incline when traversed from east to west.
- There are several resting benches along the trail, which are positioned at the western end.

Other Places of Interest:

For those looking for longer trips, detours to Valencia Creek, Boisdale, and Briagolong may reward the effort. Travel along quite rural roads to these small, quaint and welcoming townships.

Bicycle and Trail Services:

Full cycle services are available at Alexander's Cycle and Sports store, 54 Johnson St, Maffra. (03) 5147-2442.

Wellington Shire Tourism welcomes feedback from all visitors to our region. We would love to hear your Rail Trail tale. We would also welcome your comments on ways that our Rail Trail might be improved to further enhance your Rail Trail experience. We can be contacted at www.tourismwellington.com.au, or write to us care of Wellington Information Centre, Foster St, Sale. 3850.