



Aotearoa- Land of the long white cloud

7 or 14 day Road Cycling Tour on New Zealand's South Island

Tour A:

Day 1 Christchurch

You will be met on arrival at the airport and transferred to your accommodation. Join us with the scenic afternoon tour of this picturesque city, including a highlight stop at the "Sign of the Takahe", where you will be treated to a birds eye view of the city, the Canterbury plains, Southern Alps and the South Pacific Ocean. The evening meal will give the group a chance to get to know each other in the pleasant surroundings of a local Christchurch restaurant.

Meals: L



Whatever the time of year, Christchurch is the perfect choice for a well-deserved short break, longer stay or even for just a few hours.

Christchurch's unique combination of fascinating heritage, beautiful coastline, peaceful rivers and spectacular natural harbour appeals to all ages and provides all the ingredients to make your visit extra special.

Christchurch Tourism - the Southern Alps provides a fantastic backdrop to the city. Perched on the coast, the city is the doorway to the Canterbury Plains, which spread westwards towards the mountains. To the south-east, Banks Peninsula, formed by two huge volcanic craters, extends into the Pacific Ocean. Nature has been kind to this part of New Zealand and it is nature that offers the richest rewards for the visitor.

Day 2 Christchurch - Geraldine

Experience the open beauty of the Canterbury Plains. Start cycling after viewing the Rakaia gorge flowing deep and swiftly. The relaxing ride through the Mt Hutt region's rolling countryside to Geraldine is a transplanted English settler's dream town.

80km biking: from Mt. Hutt to Geraldine, Meals: B/L

Geraldine's atmosphere is reminiscent of an English country village with its abundance of attractive parks, reserves and walkways. An ideal place to relax.

There are three picturesque river gorges nearby with some of New Zealand's best picnic spots and swimming holes. Rising above the town "The Downs" gives a magnificent panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

Day 3 Geraldine - Lake Tekapo

Riding through the Kakahu Forest we steadily climb to a rest place - " The Farm Barn", where we experience the great view of Fairlie and the surrounds. The route takes us over a small pass in the Mackenzie highland. After travelling 42 km by bike we reach the turquoise coloured glacier Lake Tekapo. Those who are in the mood, can do a 1.5 hour walking tour up to Mount John.

91km biking, Meals: B/L



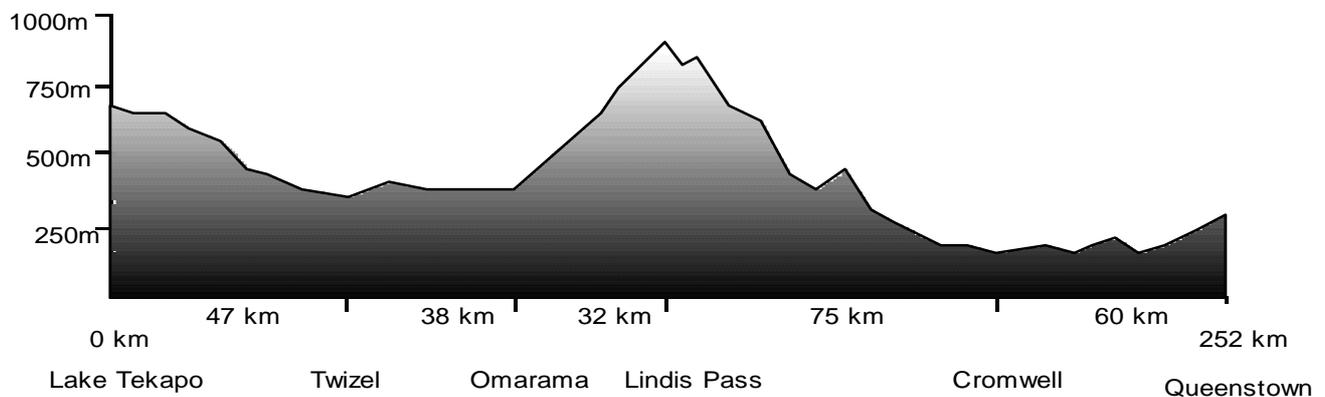
In the heart of New Zealand's South Island lies Lake Tekapo, a beautiful turquoise highland lake surrounded by a vast basin of golden tussock and the spectacular Southern Alps mountains. Summer or Winter, Lake Tekapo offers a wide range of outdoor activities throughout the year: hiking, mountain biking, climbing, fishing, hunting, kayaking, skiing, star gazing...

Day 4 Lake Tekapo – Omarama

Lake Tekapo is part of a large hydro-energy project. There are six lakes joined by canals. We ride along the awesome canal to Lake Pukaki. On a clear day, we can breathtakingly view the snow capped peaks of Aoraki, "Mount Cook", the highest mountain of New Zealand. Continue to Omarama "Place of light" famed as a gliding centre.

The Mackenzie highland is famous for its Merino sheep, which have very fine wool.

87km biking, Meals: B/L





Omarama's gliding is renowned among glider pilots the world over. The Nor'wester blows steady and warm off the Alps to form the famous Northwest Arch, a thermal that can take the intrepid pilot to 10,000 metres. World records have been set from here, and facilities are available for accommodating both people and gliders at the airfield.

Day 5 Omarama – Cromwell

Gently from Omarama you make your way up the Lindis Pass, a truly photographic delight with its unique scenery. Cruising down following the Lindis River is most rewarding. Riding beside Lake Dunstan, the youngest storage lake in New Zealand, you overnight in the centre of this fruit growing region.

112km biking, Meals: B/L



An historic place - originally called the Junction, where the Clutha and Kawarau Rivers join, the area was a mecca for the early goldminers. Today there are many reminders of those staunch pioneers and gold-seekers scattered around the surrounding mountains and valleys. The remains of stone cottages, mining equipment, mineshafts and old sluicings can be seen not far from the town. Visit the Museum, Old Cromwell Town and the Gold Mining Centre to see how the history has been preserved and re-created.

Day 6 Cromwell – Queenstown

Experience the goldfields area steeped in history following the rugged Kawarau Gorge and River. After 15km we arrive at Roaring Meg, a small power station and an attractive picnic spot. Travelling past vineyards and the original AJ Hackett bungy suspension bridge (43m) we cycle past Lake Hayes and the shores of Lake Wakatipu into Queenstown.

60km biking, Meals: B/L

Day 7 Queenstown – Leisure Day / departure for 7 day option

Queenstown the outdoor adventurer's capital of the world!

Take the Gondola ride to the Skyline restaurant, viewpoint and luge ride. Don't miss the lake cruise aboard the historic steamship Earnslaw, jet boating on the Shotover river, Bungy jumping, white water rafting, paragliding, or a visit to the Kiwi house at the base of the Gondola to see New Zealand's national icon in the flesh. Or take a day trip to Fiordland's, Milford or Doubtful Sound.

Meals: B



Welcome to the original home of Bungy...

The Kawarau Bridge. A 43 metre Bungy Jump above the Kawarau River. Situated 20 minutes from the heart of Queenstown.

Originally built to link Queenstown to Central Otago during the gold rush of the 1880's, later replaced by the larger and more modern Battling Betty Bridge in the 1960's. The bridge fell into a state of disrepair and was deemed unsafe until Henry van Asch and AJ Hackett applied for a one month license to use the bridge commercially for Bungy Jumping in 1988. As they say; the rest is history and a piece of New Zealand heritage has been saved. A fee is paid to the Department of Conservation for every jump by AJ Hackett Bungy to maintain the site. In 2002 the company is investing in a new development for the Kawarau Bridge reserve, this will include a Cinematic Bungy Experience, interactive displays, quality cafe and shopping facilities.

Tour B: Day 8 Queenstown – Arrival Day

Arrival day for participants doing Tour B only, in which case you need to arrive by 8am since we leave for Arrowtown this morning.

Day 8 Queenstown - Wanaka

An early morning visit to Arrowtown, an idyllic gold town with its lovely tree lined streets and fascinating shops, is followed by a challenging ride over the Crown Range. Stops to take on more oxygen are rewarded with fabulous views back over the Arrow basin toward Queenstown and Lake Hayes. From the Cardrona Saddle there is a great downhill into the Cardrona Valley. On your left you will pass the historic Cardrona Hotel, a relic from the gold prospecting days of the late 1800's and a worthy stop to imbibe some liquid refreshments. The final ride is along a gentle downward sloping road to Wanaka.

81km biking, Meals: B/L



Here in the heart of the Southern Lakes, ringed by golden hills, snow-clad peaks, ancient forests, crystal-clear lakes and rivers, you'll find time and space to truly enjoy yourself.

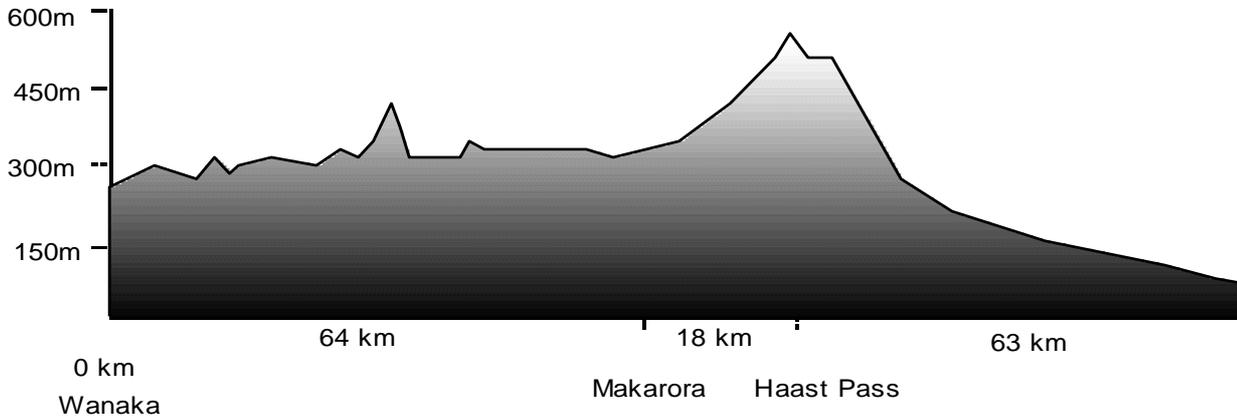
The town acts as a magnet for New Zealanders and international visitors alike who want to return to sample the delights of a range of activities, cafes, shops and restaurants.

Day 9 Wanaka – Makarora

When you think back this afternoon about where you started this morning, you may find it hard to believe that in the short distance we have covered by bike, the landscape could change so much.

Today's trip will guide you through the hill country along lakes Hawea and Wanaka. As you travel the vegetation becomes denser until shortly before Makarora you become submerged in the dense rain forest on the boundary of the Mount Aspiring National Park. The simple A-frame motels are in a picturesque setting and the 20 minutes nature walk behind the tourist park will enthrall you.

65km biking, Meals: B/L



Day 10 Makarora – Haast



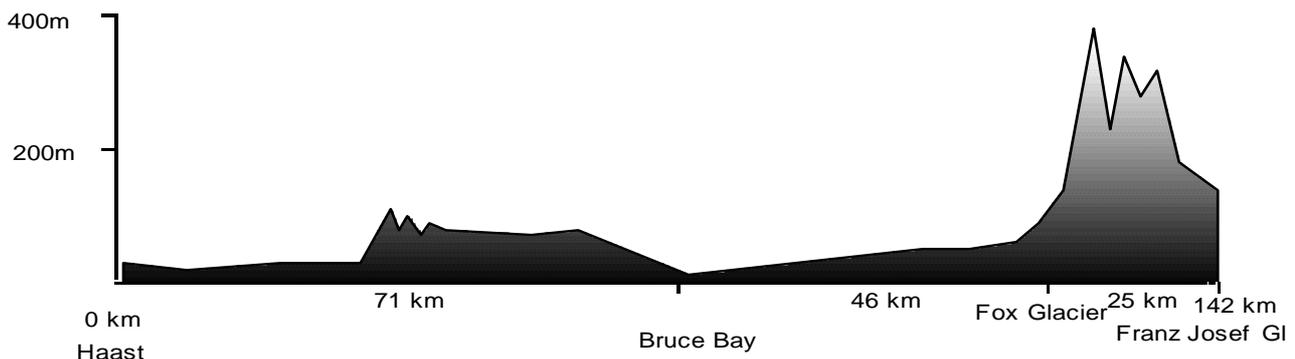
A great day with your bike through dense rain forest, past 100 small rivers and waterfalls, that impress all. We travel to the summit of Haast Pass (563 m/1700 ft) and from there begins the pleasurable ride for 60 km along the Haast river to the sea. If unspoilt nature exists, then it is here. You are a guest of one of the youngest and also greatest National Parks in the world, which the United Nations has found as an international protected "World Heritage Park". Due to this fact this jewel of nature is virtually undisturbed. A close look into the developing stages of this landscape can be seen at the Visitors Centre of Haast, which was opened in 1991.

82km biking, Meals: B/L

Day 11 Haast - Fox Glacier

Today's stretch will guide us through rain forest, the 'Pakihi' swamps and along the coast. There is time for short walks and photo stops or just focus on the beauty of nature. Our goal is the small village of Fox Glacier, at the foot of the glacier of the same name. The walk to the glacier face which is almost at sea level is another experience.

119km biking, Meals: B/L



Glacier Walks
and other
Ice Adventures

ALPINE GUIDES
FOX GLACIER
New Zealand



Take an enthralling guided trip on the West Coast's longest glacier amidst fascinating ice features with Fox Glacier's most experienced guiding company. Guided walks from half a day to 2 days duration. Our helihikes combine the excitement of exploring a wild and remote part of the glacier with the thrill of a helicopter flight. We also offer expert guided mountaineering trips, instruction courses and our new special interest trips amongst New Zealand's highest peaks.

Day 12 Fox Glacier - Hokitika

As we ride only 25 km to Franz Josef today, it leaves us enough time for a walk around lake Matheson (the Mirror Lake). On a clear and windless day the peaks of Mount Cook and Mount Tasman are mirrored beautifully in the lake. There will be time for a 1.5 hour walk to the Franz Josef Glacier or to visit the nearby Visitors Centre for "Westland National Park".

We drive to Hokitika, an important gold and jade (Greenstone or Pounamu) town on the West Coast.
25km biking, Meals: B/L



Hokitika is the gateway to the South Westland World Heritage National Park. The Arahura River, which enters the sea 8 kilometres north of Hokitika, is a traditional source of pounamu (greenstone) for the Maori people and still yields a large proportion of the Coast's continuing supply.

Day 13 Hokitika – Greymouth - Christchurch

Optional morning ride to Lake Kaniere in the morning. We have the opportunity to visit a Greenstone factory and buy jade at a reasonable price. At 1 pm we have to board the TransAlpine Express in Greymouth. This train ride to Christchurch belongs to one of the best train journeys of its kind in the world.

Meals: B/L



In a remarkably short journey - little more than 4 hours -the world famous TransAlpine train leaves Greymouth on the beautiful West Coast, travels through lush beech forests and past serene lakes, passes over massive viaducts, crosses New Zealand's greatest mountain range, the Southern Alps, winds its way through a stunning gorge and crosses the fertile farmlands of the Canterbury Plains before arriving Christchurch.

Day 14 Christchurch – Departure

All participants will be transferred to the airport between 7am and 3.30pm.

Meals: B

Please note that your trip may differ from the above itinerary either to better suit the needs of the group, or due to circumstances beyond our control such as the weather.

Tour includes:

- Transfer from and to airport (Christchurch and Queenstown)
- Sightseeing Christchurch & Queenstown
- 6 or 13 overnight stays in excellent accommodation (2-4+* NZ Standard)
- All breakfasts - (B)
- All lunches - (L) except on day 7 (Queenstown leisure day)
- Tour guide
- Support vehicle & Luggage transfer

Trip Prices

Trip prices are as per our website. Please inquire for group or family rates.

Departure Dates

Scheduled departure dates are as per our website. Customized trip departures can be arranged for groups and families of 8 or more participants outside of these dates.

Group size:

minimum 8 participants

Reservations: 1-800-661-BIKE (2453) / e-mail: res@rockymountaincycle.com