

Aotearoa, Te Waipounamu

Land of the Long White Cloud, South Island

Two Weeks in NEW ZEALAND Saturday 22nd February to Saturday 8th March 2014

The Concept:

An Adventure catering for 30 to 40 keen cyclists and walkers.

We Accommodate in Cabins or Lodges. We Travel in self drive minibuses

We have available pleasurable, exciting, relaxing, cycling and/or walking every day

The Daily Options will be:

A enjoyable adventurous cycle ride or

A fabulous bush walk daily or simply relax and be driven through incredible scenery

The whole adventure is based:

3 Nights in BLENHEIM,

1 night each in HANMER SPRINGS, CHRISTCHURCH and Mt COOK,

2 Nights in QUEENSTOWN, 2 Nights in TE ANAU

1 Night in ALEXANDRA, 2 Nights in WAIPIATA.

First and Last Night CHRISTCHURCH

Eric's estimate of COST - \$1,100 per person

Accommodation and Transport \$75 per person per night for 15 nights AUD1100

We organise and pay for your accommodation from

Friday 21st February 2014 till Friday 7th March 2014 inclusive i.e. 15 nights.

You organise and pay for your own flights, you will get cheaper fares that way.

You buy food at Supermarkets and cook your own meals (not included in Accommodation)

Bring your own MTB, Tourer, Portable, Hybrid bicycle or hire one for AUD12 per day. Link [One, Two & Three](#)
(Your Hired bicycle may cost less if we negotiate in bulk— some participants may hire only on the second week as we pass through Christchurch preferring to Walk on the first 5 Days)



Available CYCLING every day:

Extensions are marked in red—they always go to home and can be decided on the day

Options are marked on Blue—1 & 2 Decide evening before, 3 Decide pre tour (we book a ferry)



Riders Start	Cycle Rides—WHERE	Km	Ride Time	Ride Notes
08:00 drive to 12:30 ride	Marlborough Wineries	57	4 hrs	Wineries are open till 5 pm later if we book.
09: 00 drive to 10:30 ride	Queen Charlotte Trail to Anakiwa to Picton Extension: Sealed Road Picton to Bleheim (Home)	43 28	5 hrs 2 hrs	The Ride can be shortened to the 20 km track only. There is a Road alternative to the track
09:00 drive to 10:30 ride	Portage to Havelock on sealed road Extension: Sealed Road to Blenheim (Home)	42 40	5 hrs 4 hrs	This is a road ride parallel to the track on day 2 for the first 20 km
08:00 drive to 11:00 ride	Buller Gorge or Lyell Trail 1st Option decide evening before	25	2 hrs	Start junct' highway 6 & 65 ride to Lyell. Lyell Trail option 15 km out & back at pickup point
10:00 drive to Noon ride	Ride to the City or Port Hills	24	3 hrs	
08:00 drive to Noon ride	Mt Cook to PukakiDam or Braemar Station to Pukaki 2nd Option evening before Extension: Pukaki Dam to Twizel or Glen Tanner(Home)	55 45 15	5 hrs 4 hrs 1 hr	Sealed road option with light tourist traffic or a new unsealed adventure trail on the northside
09:00 drive to Noon ride	Crown Range to Queenstown via Arrowtown	48	4 hrs	Ride down Tobins Track unsealed road but sealed main road option
08:00 drive to	Routeburn to Glenorchy unsealed road Extension: Sealed Road to Queenstown (Home)	25 45	2 hrs 4 hrs	There is time to Walk Routeburn Shelter to Flats Hut then ride to Glenorchy
07:00 riders 09:00 drive to Noon Ride	Te Anau to Manapouri or Mt Nicholas to Mavora 3rd Option decide pre-tour Extension: Dirt Road Mavora to Te Anau (Home)	34 45 61	3 hrs 5 hrs 4 hrs	Te Anau to Manapouri including Supply Bay & The Gates Option Riders ferry to Mt Nicholas up to Mavora & maybe <u>down</u> to Te Anau
08:00 drive to 10:00 ride 1 14:00 ride 2	Homer tunnel to Milford Extension: Sealed Road The Divide to Te Anau (Home)	17 81	1 hr 5 hrs	Riders have option of 81km sealed road ride from divide to Te Anau in the Afternoon
09:00 drive to 14:00 ride	Alexandra to Clyde and return	22	2 hrs	Relaxing day, short flat late afternoon ride
09:00 drive to 10:00 ride	Wedgeburn to Alexandra Otago Rail Trail	68	6 hrs	We drive forward to get a down hill ride back to Alexandra
09:00 drive to 10:00 ride	Wedgeburn to Middlemarch Otago rail trail	78	6 hrs	We drive to Wedderburn to get a down hill ride to Middlemarch picked up and returned to Waipiata
09:30 drive to	Ride to the City or Port Hills	24	3 hrs	This ride will be optional depending on numbers wishing to explore

The Following will be updated as we book accommodation it serves to give you a concept of Tour Accommodation (Always comfortable, economical and nearest to the action as is feasible). Your individual choices and privacy will be met where possible, read for yourself the dilemma the various levels of accommodation available each night and you will understand why with the same fare for all it will be impossible to cater for whims. If your genuine disability is an issue we promise to do our best to cater. We acknowledge all of you are outdoor tourists, the sites will all be comfortable but you will not get favouritism every night by whinging.



<u>Day</u>	<u>Accommodation—WHERE?</u>	<u>Shopping</u>	WORK IN PROGRESS the links are accommodation available pre deposits
0	Christchurch	Countdown Northlands Mon-Sun 24 Hours	North South (Cabins not Park Caravans)
1	Blenheim	Countdown Blenheim Mon-Sun 7am—10pm	Marlborough Accommodation 4 year old and rooms each but together
2	Blenheim	Countdown Blenheim Mon-Sun 7am—10pm	Marlborough Accommodation 4 year old and rooms each but together
3	Blenheim	Countdown Blenheim Mon-Sun 7am—10pm	Marlborough Accommodation 4 year old and rooms each but together
4	Hanmer	Four Square Hanmer Mon-Fri 830am—6pm	Hanmer Lodge A literal walk in the park to the town centre and hot pools Hanmer Hot Springs Pool Check it out I hope you will all have an evening soak and meal at the pool cafe
5	Christchurch	Countdown Northlands Mon-Sun 24 Hours	Christchurch The Holiday Park I wanted at start and finish but they have a two day weekend mandate
6	Mt Cook or Twizel	Countdown Northlands Mon-Sun 24 Hours	Mt Cook YHA OR Mt Cook Hostel A newer Lodge more separate rooms Larger OR Twizzle (Ruataniwha) Still undecided
7	Queenstown	Alpine Supermarket Mon-Fri 8am-9pm Sat-Sun 9am-9pm	Queenstown Holiday Park Separate units
8	Queenstown	Alpine Supermarket Mon-Fri 8am-9pm Sat-Sun 9am-9pm	Queenstown Holiday Park Separate units
9	Te Anau	Fresh Choice Supermart Te Anau 7 day 7am-9pm	Te Anau Holiday Park
10	Te Anau	Fresh Choice Supermart Te Anau 7 day 7am-9pm	Te Anau Holiday Park
11	Alexandra	Alexandra Foursquare Supermarket 7 days 7am-10pm	Alexandra
12	Waipiata	Alexandra Foursquare Supermarket (Prior) 7 days 7am-10pm	Waipiata or Patearoa Hotel or Tussock Lodge many variations to resolve but its likely to be a country Pub
13	Waipiata	Pub Meal	Waipiata or Patearoa Hotel or Tussock Lodge many variations to resolve but its likely to be a country Pub
14	Christchurch	Countdown Northlands Mon-Sun 24 Hours	North South (Cabins not Park Caravans)

This tour's primary focus is pleasurable cycling. We have not forgotten that on every day there will be non-cycling participants with us. The following are the fabulous walks (even World Class "Great" Walks) that are adjacent to our cycle rides that are available:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Walking—WHERE?</u>	<u>Available Distance</u>	-
1	Kaikoura Peninsula	7	Kaikoura Peninsula enroute This is only practical if adequate numbers to spare a Minibus
2	Queen Charlotte Walk	8	Queen Charlotte Walkway The Riders go to a simular start point
3	Queen Charlotte Walk	13	Queen Charlotte Walkway The Riders go to a simular start point
4	Lyell Walk	4	Lyell Walkway This is out and back at the end or optional cycle ride Hanmer Walks . This is the destination for this nights accommodation
5	Day off in Christchurch		
6	Mt Cook Walks	12	Mt Cook Village Walkways Here you are have ever so many options
7	Mt Cook Walks	12	Mt Cook Village Walkways Here you are have ever so many options but only if adequate numbers to spare a minibus to arrive late afternoon in Queenstown
8	Routeburn Track	13 or 17	Routeburn and Routeburn 2 and Routeburn 3 This is the riders start point
9	Kepler Track	12	Kepler Track The track starts at the Te Anau Lake Gates 3.8km nice walk along the lake front road from camp.
10	Routeburn Key Summit	12	Milford and Routeburn Key Summit It is the destination of the Cyclists
11	Alexandra to Clyde	13	Alexandra to Clyde River Trail It starts a short distance from our accommodation
12	Otago Rail -Omakau/Chatto	12	http://www.otagorailtrail.co.nz/ we all go the same way but you need to be dropped after Omakau Station
13	Otago Rail Trail –next?	12	http://www.otagorailtrail.co.nz/ Again there is a lot of trail to walk ask a local

Day 1 Sat 22nd Feb 2014

Accommodation, Supermarket & Drive	Cycling Information	Non Cycling Participants
Drive Christchurch to Blenheim 300km	Cycle Wineries of Marlborough	Walk 12 kms Kaikoura Peninsula if we can leave a bus with you (requires 6)
Accom': BLENHEIM Saturday Countdown Blenheim on-Sun 7am—10pm	We arrive Noon and head out immediately for a circuit of the wineries for lunch, tasting and fun—they close at 17-18:00 Hrs	Join the Winery Loop seated in the support Minibus

Drive to Blenheim total 300km 4.5 Hours start 08:00.

CYCLISTS ride from the Loop of the Wineries of Marlborough. The [Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway](#) is a marvellous 7km track which enables you to explore the richly endowed coastal area. Well-sited information panels assist you to learn about the fascinating history of the people (it is rich in Maori history), and the geology, as well as the animals and plants that make the area so special. You will be able to see seals basking on the rocks beside the sea and may sight whales or dolphins. In the afternoon, the minibus takes you on to Blenheim.

[Marlborough Wineries](#)

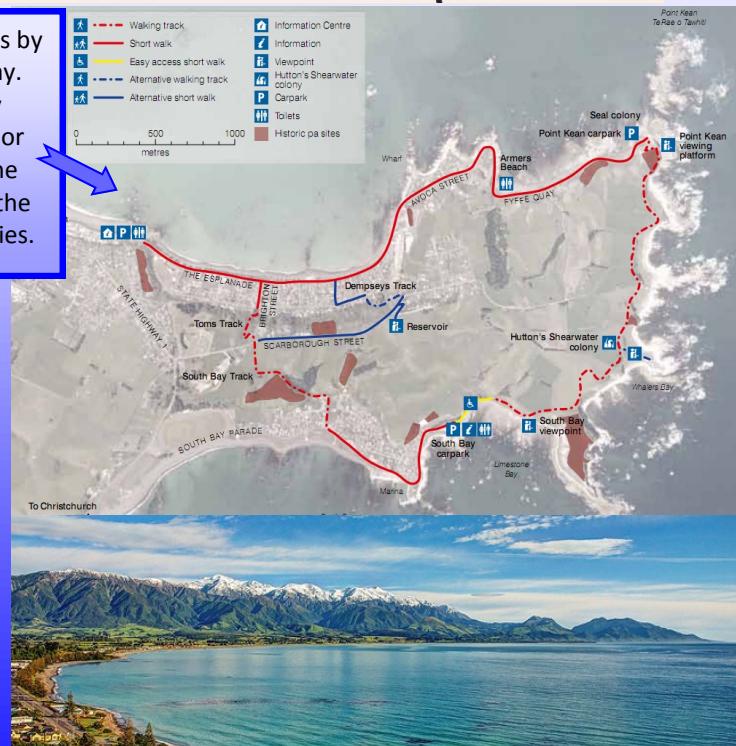


As you see by the map above a short bicycle ride covers many wineries. The Marlborough Wineries are open for business until 17:00 often till 18:00. We would be very drunk if we taste at all of them... it's not a good idea to be inebriated on our first day. Eric will seek local guidance which Wineries to visit - but please advise if you have a preference to visit a particular winery.

The Cyclists will pass by this coastal walkway. The Non-riders may choose to walk this or be a passenger in the sag wagon looping the Marlborough wineries.

Duncannon Lodge Marlborough

Duncannon has been operating since May 2009 and was developed from concept by David and Kimberly Lewis after recognizing a need in the Marlborough region for quality seasonal worker accommodation. The Lewis family own and operate Duncannon and currently live at Duncannon House located on-site. From these beginnings Duncannon has grown into more than just accommodation and offer many additional services and facilities designed to ensure that both Clients and Guests requirements are well taken care of. We are just at the cusp of the wine season and there are rooms to suit all

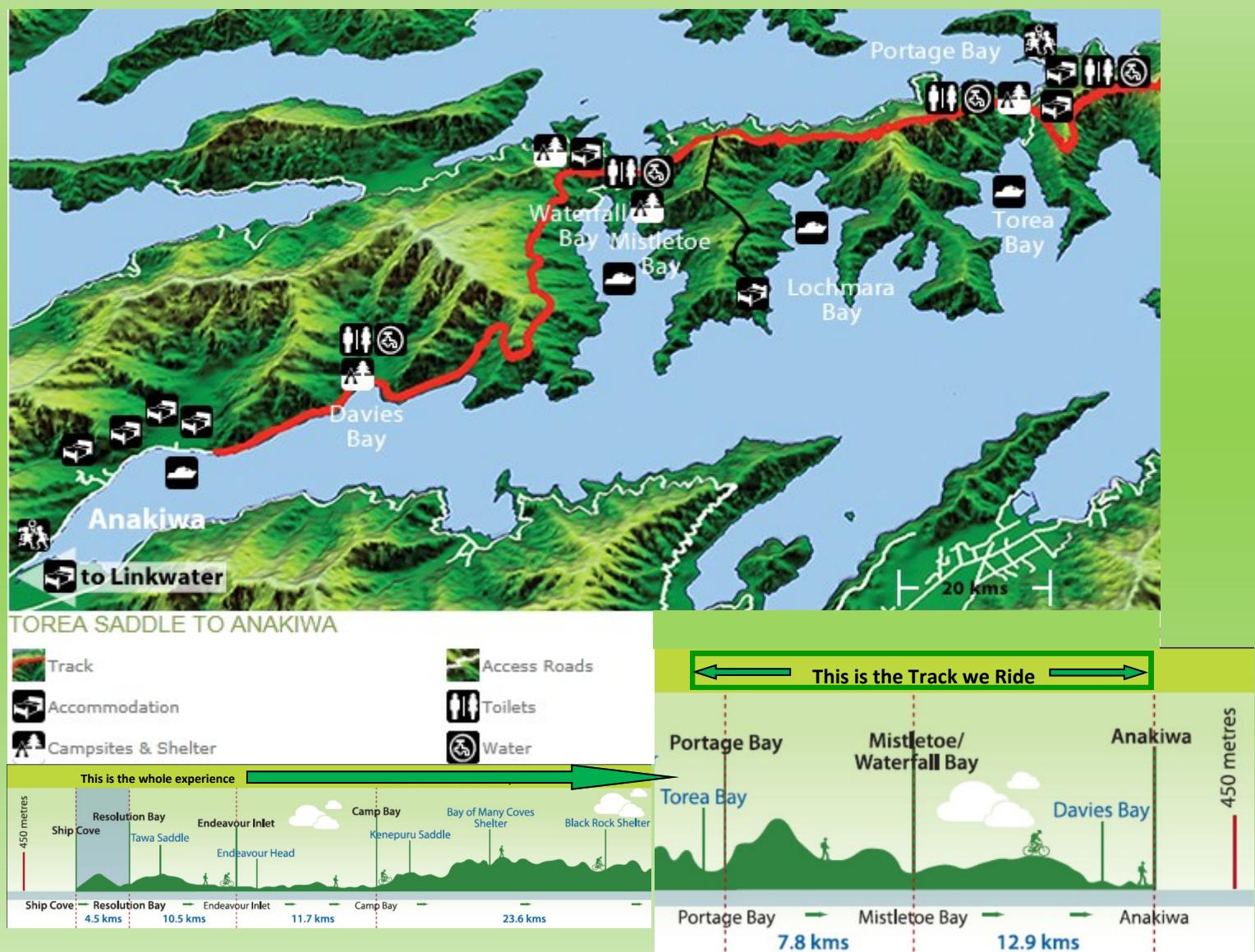


Day 2 Sun 23rd Feb 2014

Accommodation, Supermarket & Drive	Cycling Information	Non Cycling Participants
Drive Blenheim to Torea Saddle 83 Km	Cycle a part of Queen Charlotte Track	Walk the Queen Charlotte Track
Accom': BLENHEIM Sunday Countdown Blenheim on-Sun 7am—10pm	Depart at 8:30 am drive 83 km to Torea Saddle via Havelock. Release Riders 10: am for ride to Anakiwa 21 km	Take a Launch Trip in the Sounds

Drive to Torea Bay 83 km.

CYCLISTS ride Torea Saddle to Anakiwa 21km of the spectacular [Queen Charlotte Track](#) – Then maybe sealed road ride The Queen Charlotte Drive 22.4 Km to Picton. From Torea Saddle this section of the track begins with a long steep climb, lots of pushing, switch backs on descent. The section Waterfall to Anakiwa is narrow and undulating track at first becoming wider and more moderate in the mid-section with a long descent to Anakiwa. This makes a great day trip, with bikers able to continue from Anakiwa to Picton along the road. It is also possible to cycle as far as Mistletoe Bay via the Kenepuru Road, which offers an easier ride at sea level from Torea Saddle. This section is available to mountain biking throughout the year. **Walkers** pick the sections they wish to Walk on two separate days. Vehicle coordination will play a part in the choices.



LOGISTICS:

We separate into two cycling Groups. The first group drive to Anakiwa. Leave their vehicle at Anakiwa. Ride (including Driver) Anakiwa to Torea Saddle (Said to be a little more strenuous by the locals); they return using the minibuses left by the second group at Torea. The second larger group drive to Torea Saddle. Leaving their vehicles at Torea and ride to Anakiwa. Depending on how much walking with our bikes or photographs we take, the journey is between 2 to 4 hour duration. Those wishing to ride on the sealed road to Picton it is a further 21 km, with good hills providing spectacular views as a tourist rider it will take 2.5 Hours (can be done in 1 hour with steam coming out of you ears). We will pick you up from the Picton Foreshore Cnr London Quay and High Street; several cafes in the vicinity.

P.S. for the Heroes there is 28 km ride back home from Picton to Blenheim.

Accommodation, Supermarket & Drive	Cycling Information	Non Cycling Participants
Drive Blenheim to Portage 83 km	Cycle Kenepuru Road from Portage to Link water 28 km—Then Queen Charlotte Drive to Havelock 13 km	Walk more of the Queen Charlotte Track
Accom': BLENHEIM Sunday Countdown Blenheim on-Sun 7am—10pm	Depart at 8:30 am drive 83 km to Portage Via Havelock. Release Riders 10: am for ride to Havelock 41 km	Take a Launch Trip in the Sounds

Drive to Torea Bay 83 km.

CYCLISTS ride Kenepuru Road 28 km of the spectacular views this time looking west to Pelorus and Kenepuru Sounds – Then maybe sealed road ride The Queen Charlotte Drive 13 km to Havelock. There is a petrol station 1 Km West of Linkwater Junction 30 year ago they sold drinks and snacks—(Mr Googles little camera man shows it still exists) so there we re-group maybe even a pickup. The section to Havelock climbs up the side of the Sound with a fantastic lookout just before a fast down hill to Havelock. We might take a break and wal the short Track around the point.

P.S. for the absolute Heroes there is 40 km ride back home from Havelock to Blenheim.

Walkers pick the sections you wish to Walk on this day from previous page notes. Vehicle coordination will play a part in the choices.
P.S. for the absolute Heroes there is 28 km ride back home from Picton to Blenheim.



[Queen Charlotte Drive](#)

[Portage Adventures](#)

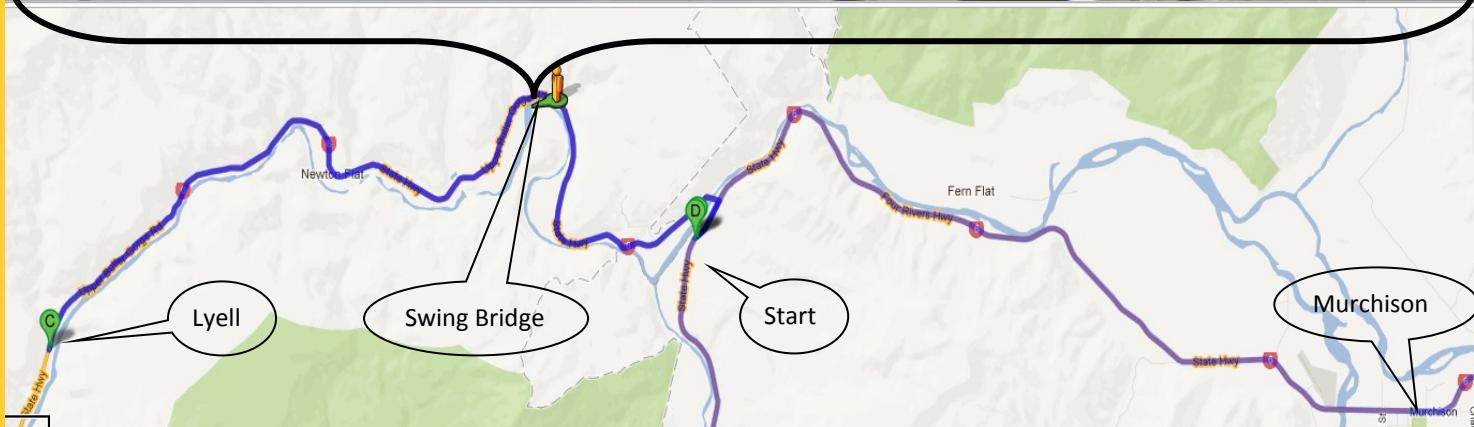
[Portage Restaurants](#)

[Havelock Restaurant](#) plus 4 good cafes

Accommodation, Supermarket & Drive	Cycling Information	Non Cycling Participants
Blenheim -Murchison Junction 174km Murchison Junction—Hanmer 164km Start 9 am	Cycle Buller Gorge Road from Murchison Bridge Junction to Lyell 15 km probably stop at Swing Bridge	Walks at Rotoiti enroute
Accom': Hanmer Tuesday Four Square Hanmer Mon-Fri 830am—6pm	Option is to go to end of ride at Lyell and ride up 15km on the Old Ghost Trail BRING LUNCH try this film	Walks at Lyell

Drive to Junction Highway 8 and 65 at the Buller Bridge past Murchison .

CYCLISTS ride Buller Gorge Road 15 km spectacular but different views this time looking at the Buller River – Sealed road ride. The alternative is to ride the newly opened Lyell end of the Old Ghost Road Trail, 15km up and back, intermediate trail ride. It resurrects a long forgotten 19th century gold miner's road , this picturesque trail passes through native forest and traverses open tussock tops and ridges. The Old Ghost Road starts at the Department of Conservation's Lyell Campground, State Highway 6, Upper Buller Gorge. <http://nzbybike.com/the-old-ghost-road/>



HANMER We arrive late So...

We drop our luggage at our Lodge then we walk to: Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools for a relaxing soak or just to sit and enjoy the atmosphere.

[Thermal Pools Pricing](#)

We eat together at the Garden House Café— you are treating yourselves.

[Hanmer Pools Garden House Café Menu pdf](#)

Read the Menu above the prices are NZ Dollars

OK You can stay in the lodge... But why? - (maybe its snowing) Perhaps prepare your own meal and a walk is your preference There are several [Short Walks](#)

[Hanmer Boasts 11 Cafes](#)

Accommodation Proposed [YHA Kakapo Lodge](#)



The Lodge:

- is literally a stroll in the park to the Pools, restaurants, and shops of Hanmer Springs.
- sleeps up to 50 people with a variety of accommodation: motel units (with bathroom, kitchen), ensuites, twins, doubles & dorms.
- All beds made-up, no bunks.
- has underfloor heating, large kitchen/dining room, 3 decks, court-yard with BBQ and seating, log fire and large lounge.

Accommodation, Supermarket & Drive	Cycling Information	Non Cycling Participants
Hanmer to Christchurch 164km Start 10 am unless need to be earlier	Cycle Christchurch Short and flat anywhere we decide Rail Trail to City . Map in References The camp is opposite Vagues Rd at the top of the map	ESSENTIALLY THIS IS THE DAY OFF THAT SO MANY HAVE ASKED FOR May be walks—shops botanic gardens
Accom': Christchurch Wednesday Countdown Northlands 7 days 24 hrs Top 10 Tourist Park	Option for Heroes—Port Hills Short Steep uphill then great views from the Sea to the Mountains	Try a unique little zoo Willowbank wildlife reserve

Drive to Christchurch no planned stops on the way... Oh! But we do pass through a new winery district at Waipara about half way. Perhaps an option - [Waipara wineries](#) - but it must be organised the night before.

CYCLISTS ride Christchurch somewhere

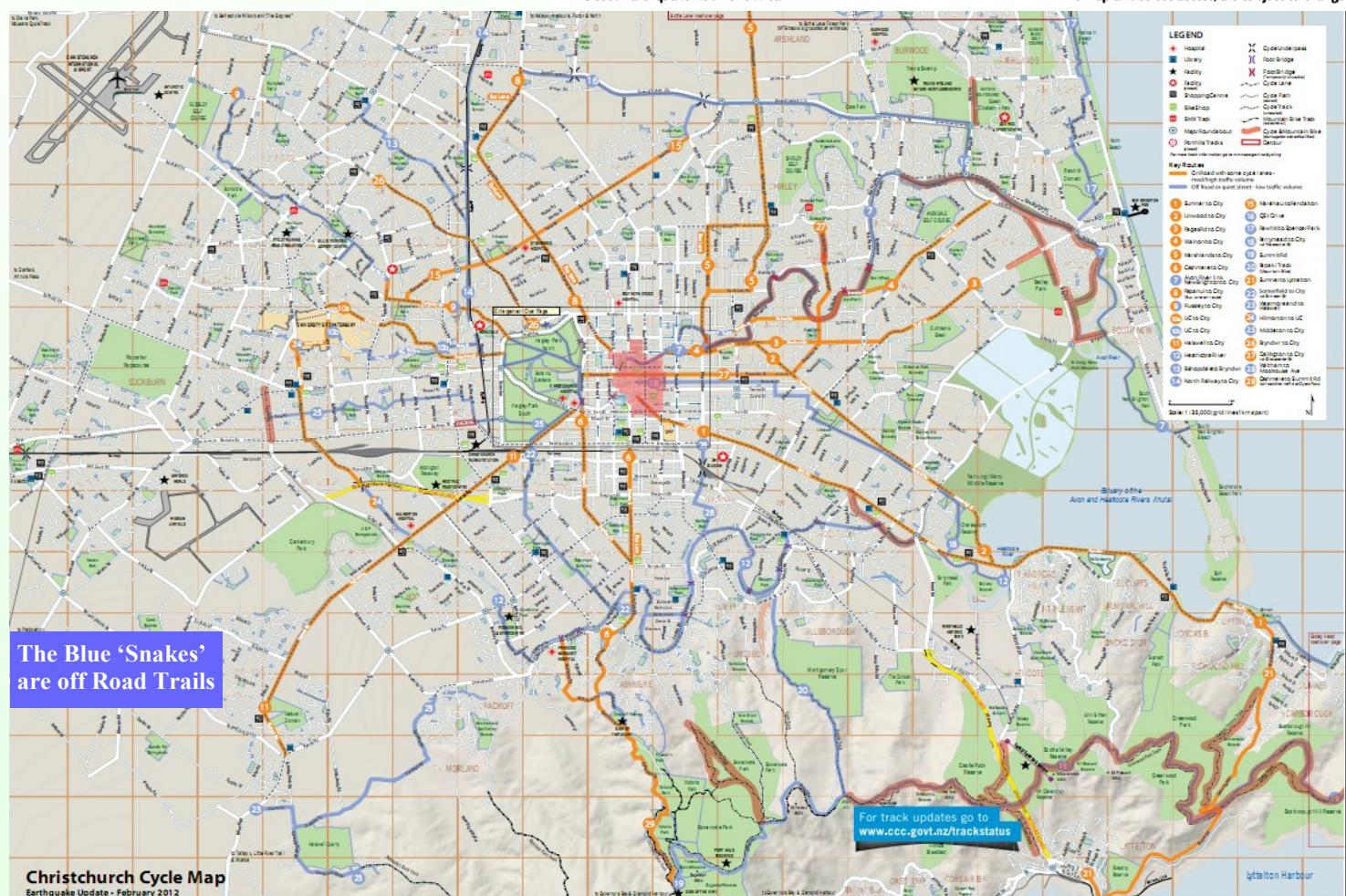
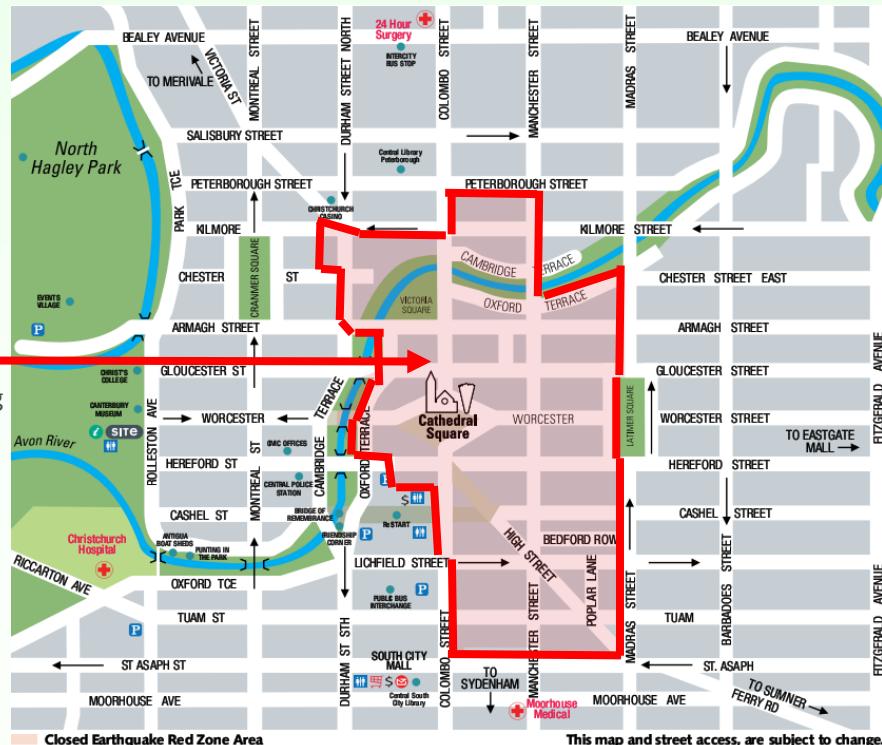
The status of Christchurch City is as follows:

- A small area of the Christchurch central business district called the "red zone" remains cordoned off from public access while underground infrastructure is repaired and demolition of damaged buildings is completed. Cathedral Square is currently in the cordoned off area. The "red zone" area will re-open in stages during 2012 as remedial work is completed. Please see map for details.
- More than 98% of the Christchurch City roading network is fully operational and all power, water and waste water services are operating normally.

[Christchurch International Airport](#) and Addington Rail-way Station have not been affected by any of the previous earthquake activity. All public transport systems and networks are operating normally.

[Christchurch Visitor Guide](#)

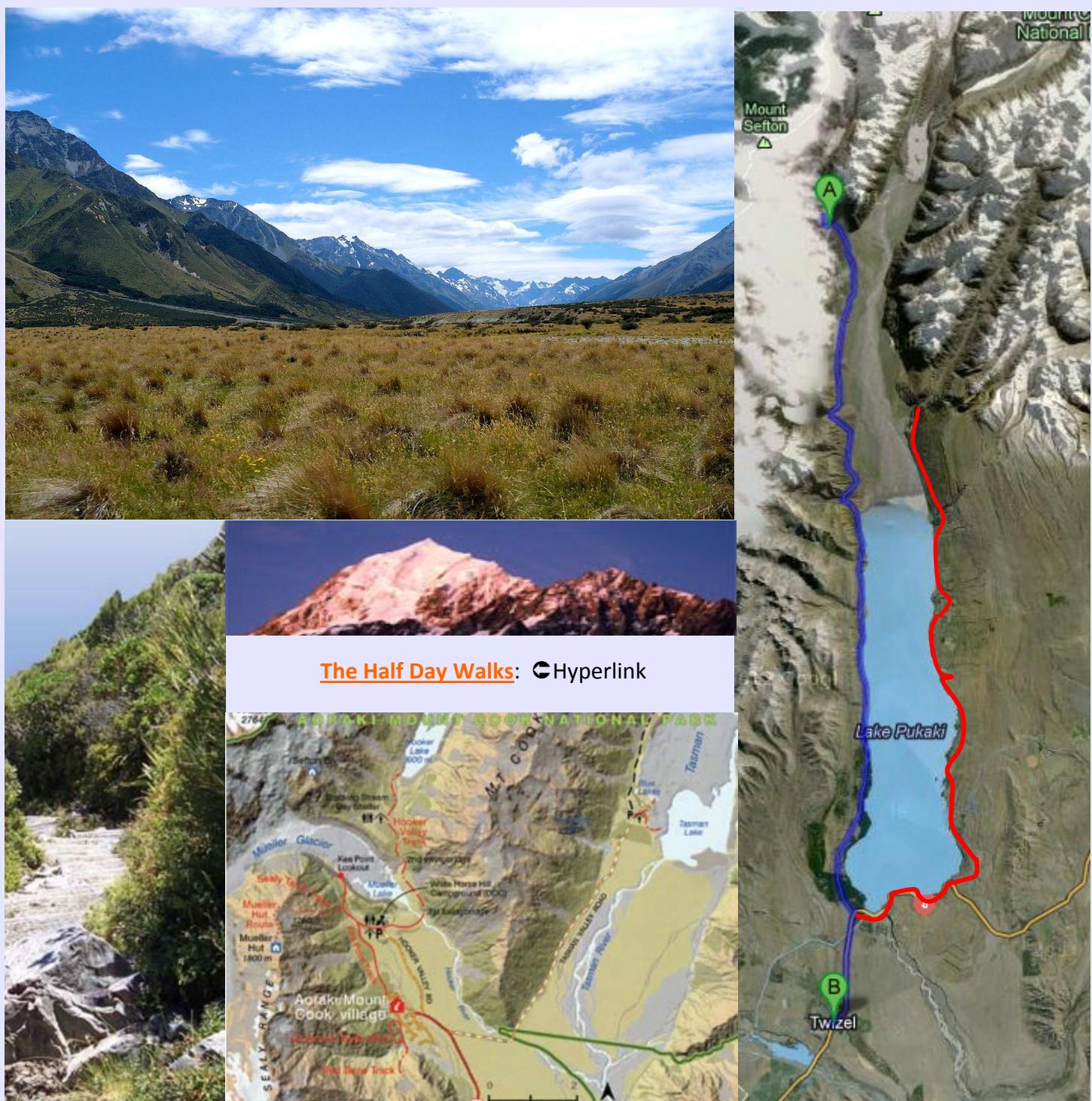
[Christchurch Accommodation](#)



The Blue 'Snakes'
are off Road Trails

Accommodation, Supermarket & Drive	Cycling Information	Non Cycling Participants
Christchurch to Mt Cook 330 km Start 8 am You had a day off to get ready so it is a Sharp start	Cycle Mt Cook to Pukaki Outlet Dam 56 km sealed road some tourist traffic pickup sag wagon following	Depending on Accommodation we stay at Twizel or Mt Cook YHA Many walks at Mt Cook
Accom': Twizel or YHA Mt Cook Buy before you leave—please Countdown Northlands 7 days 24 hrs	Option Dirt Road North side of Pukaki Lake Braemar Station to Pukaki Outlet Dam 45 km	

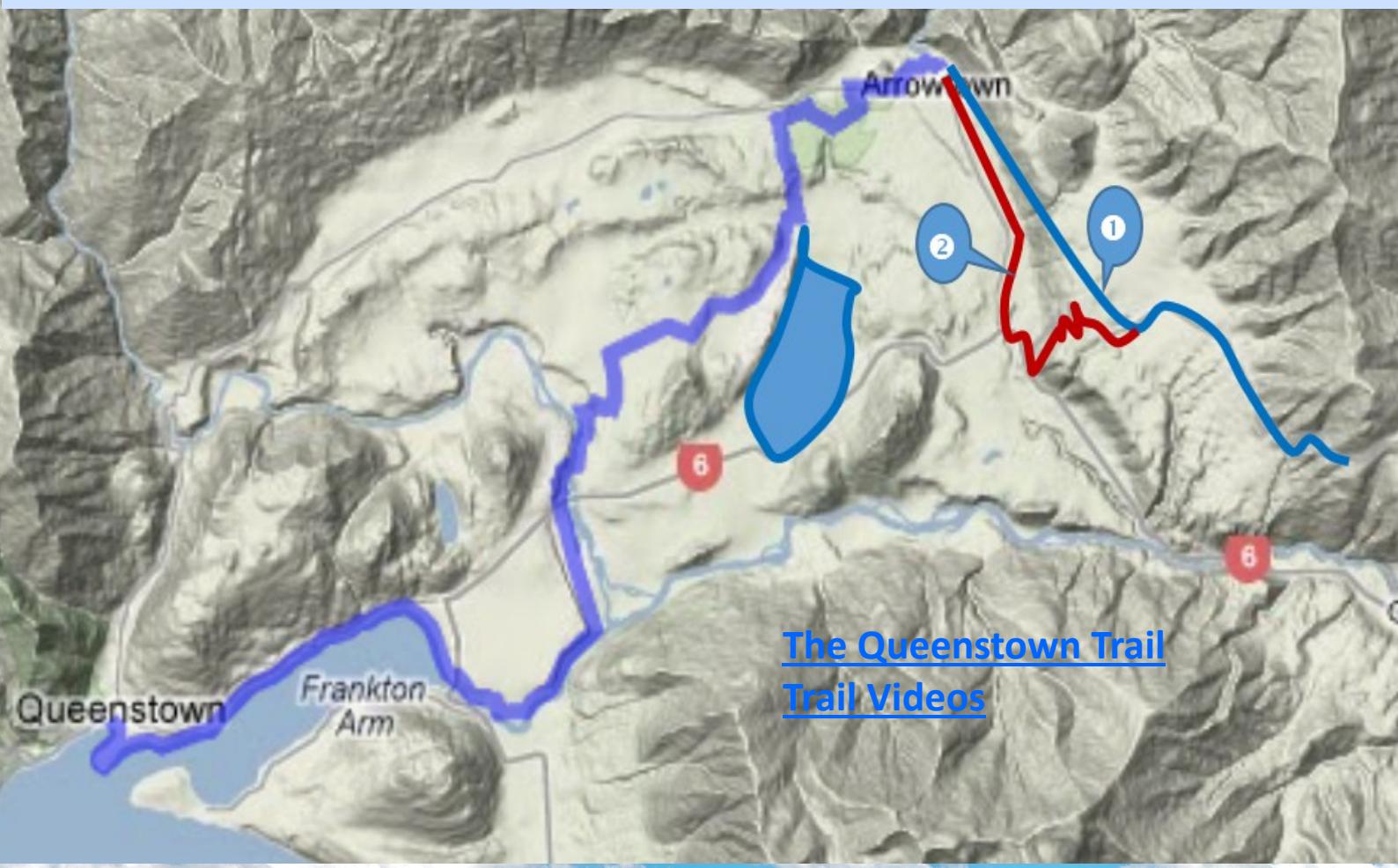
Ok here we have a minor Dilemma there are two large well fitted out Hostels in Mt Cook and not a lot of accommodation in Twizel. [YHA Hostel Mt Cook](#) or [Mt Cook Backpackers](#) both are comfortable with Backpackers newer, larger and wider options range. This doesn't change the scheduled ride it still is from Mt Cook to Pukaki Outlet Dam but the sag wagon/minibus can just as easy pickup and return to Mt Cook Village or drive on to Twizel. Mt Cook does offer many advantages for the non-riders on Day 6 afternoon and potentially in the morning of Day 7 assuming enough non riders desire to drive later to Queenstown.



Accommodation, Supermarket & Drive	Cycling Information	Non Cycling Participants
Mt Cook to Cardrona 220 km Twizel to Cardrona 175 km Start 9 am	Cycle Down from Crown Range Lookout to Queenstown through Arrowtown, Loop lake Hayes the Trails to Queenstown	Many walks at Queenstown
Accom': Queenstown Alpine Supermarket Mon-Fri 8am-9pm Sat-Sun 9am-9pm	There is an option of following the Minibuses down the staircase (Thrill-seekers) the bus cannot follow Tobins Track	Adventure Capital of the World do whatever you like



Cyclists released top of Crown Range Road then after 6 km turn right off the Crown Range Road to Glencoe Road. Glencoe Road is a Dirt road 3.3 km long that connects (turn Left) to Tobins Track a dirt road 2.4 km then cross a shared path bridge into Arrowtown marked ①. The alternative ② is a sealed main road down the staircase wow then up Centennial Avenue into Arrowtown where we all will regroup at the Arrowtown Bakery Buckingham Street. [Arrowtown to Queenstown](#)



Hyperlinks [Arrowtown to Queenstown](#) [Lake Hayes](#) [Other Queenstown Bicycle Rides](#) [Queenstown Accommodation.](#)



Accommodation, Supermarket & Drive	Cycling Information	Non Cycling Participants
Queenstown to Routeburn 68 Km Start 8 am	Ride from Routeburn to Glenorchy 25km	Walk the Routeburn track as below or many walks at Queenstown
Accom': Queenstown Alpine Supermarket Mon-Fri 8am-9pm Sat-Sun 9am-9pm	Extend yourself and cycle 45 km from Glenorchy to Queenstown	Adventure Capital of the World do whatever you like

Glenorchy is surrounded by snow capped towering mountains, glacier fed rivers and ancient beech forest, worlds away from the bustling resort town of Queenstown. Situated at the northern end of Lake Wakatipu. A stunning 45 km drive down the lake from Queenstown.

The Routeburn Track - one of New Zealand's multiday Great Walks - starts very near Glenorchy. The small settlement of Paradise itself is 20 kms on past Glenorchy and is the home of many Lord of the Rings scenes.

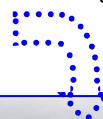
CYCLISTS:

We ride to Glenorchy just 25km so you may want to go for a short walk first as underlined **████████** over.

The ride is gravel road to the Dart river bridge then sealed road 16 km to Glenorchy.

The extension is simply a sealed road ride along Lake Wakatipu all the way to Queenstown 46 km. If its misty rain the whole scene is ethereal if its bright sunshine the vista positively shines.

Yes these are the Views you get undulating along Lake [Wakatipu](#).



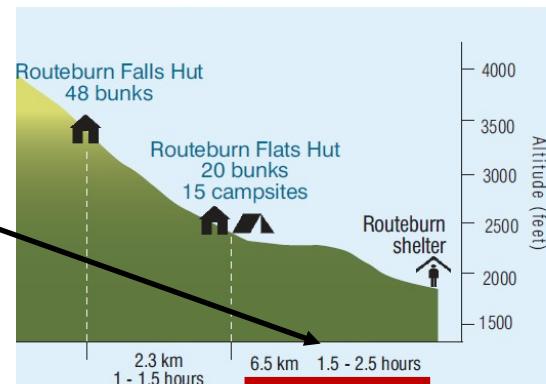
WALKERS: Routeburn Day Walk:

Pick up 8am Drive Queenstown to Glenorchy - • 48 km, 40 minutes • Glenorchy to Routeburn Shelter - 25 km, 30 minutes (unsealed road).

Start Walking at 9.30 am.

Routeburn Shelter to Routeburn Flats Hut 6.5 km, 1.5-2.5 hours

The journey begins at the Routeburn shelter, with a swing bridge crossing to a well formed track that gently winds beside the crystal clear Route Burn. After passing Sugarloaf Stream, the track climbs to Bridal Veil waterfall and continues above the gorge. A swing bridge leads to open grassed flats and the Routeburn Flats Hut and camping area. On reaching the Routeburn Flats Hut you can enjoy the Lunch that you provided while taking in the splendour of the surrounding mountains.



Optional: Routeburn Flats Hut to Routeburn Falls Hut 2.3 km, 1-1.5 hours

The more adventurous are welcome to carry on up the 300m (980ft) climb, to Routeburn Falls. The walk to the waterfall is more challenging than the first section of the track, but promises to be the highlight of your day before heading back to the Routeburn Carpark. From Routeburn Flats Hut, the track climbs steadily through stunning beech forest to Routeburn Falls Hut, situated on the edge of the bush line and close to the impressive Route Burn Falls cascade. Along the way there are views of the Routeburn Flats & the peaks of the Humboldt Mountains.

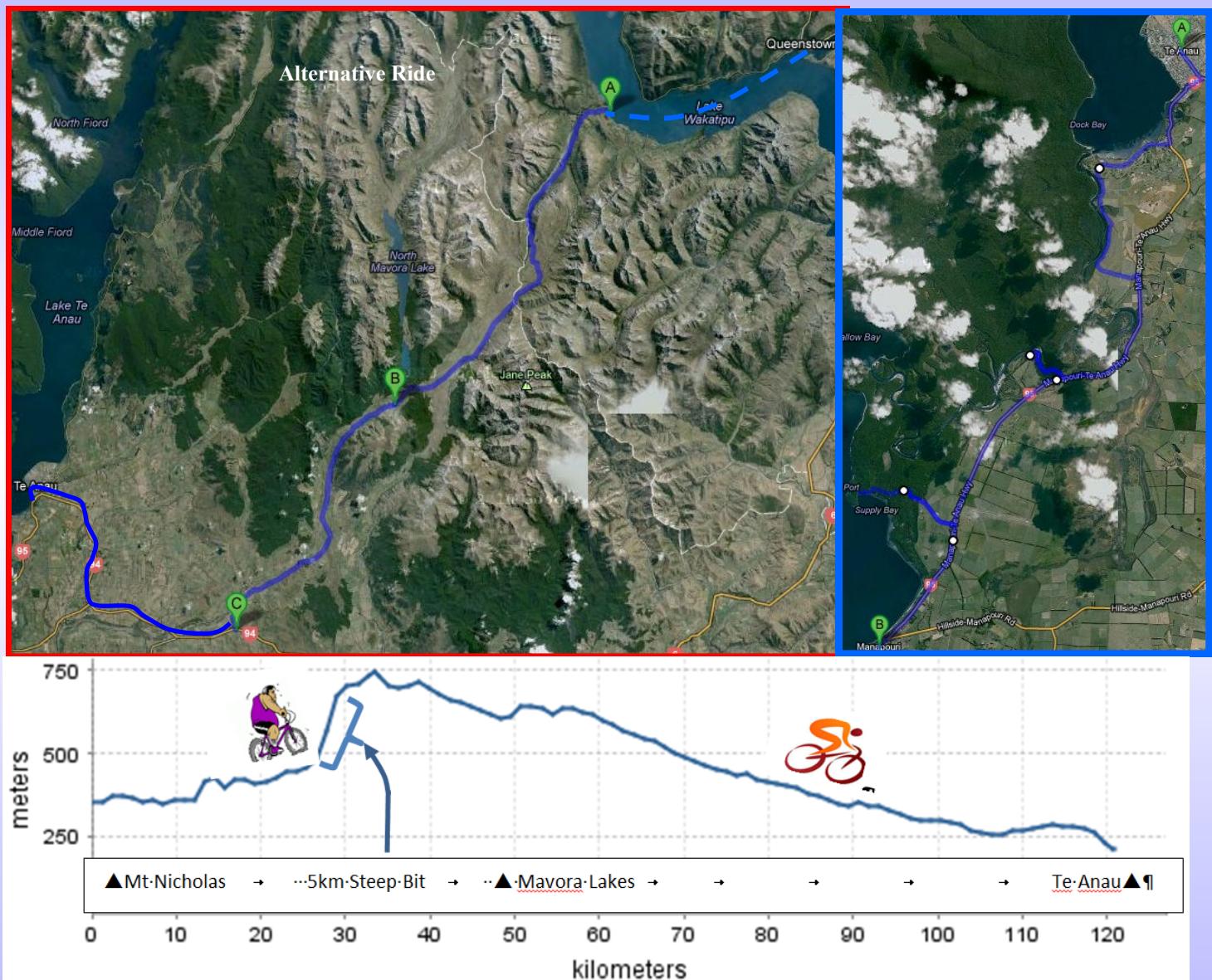
For up-to-date information about the track, please go to the [DOC Routeburn website](#)

Day 9 Sun 2nd Mar 2014

Accommodation, Supermarket & Drive	Cycling Information	Non Cycling Participants
Queenstown to Te Anau 175 Km Q'town to Te Anau via Mavora 221 Km Start Mavora 7am; Te Anau 9am	Te Anau to Manapouri or Mt Nicholas to Mavora—Option *3	Walk the Kepler Track.
Accom': Te Anau Fresh Choice Supermarket Te Anau 7 days 7am-9pm	Extension: Dirt Road Mavora to Te Anau (Home)	Visit the Animal Park, Glow Worm Caves,

The Around the Mountain trail cycling trail starts with a difference departing from Queenstown on a ferry to Mt Nicholas Station. Mount Nicholas station is a real working high country sheep station; then public back country gravel road takes you all the way from Mt Nicholas station into Mavora Lakes via the Von Valley. The road has an amazing sense of remoteness and passes at least two restored Shepherds cottages from times bygone. About halfway through the ride you come to the apex of the ride which has a total elevation of 700 meters. Approximately 33km from Mt Nicholas station turn into Mavora Lakes Road which takes you the 8km up to the camping areas. The Minibus will pick up those not desiring to ride downhill to the junction or Te Anau.

Map to Mavora



THE REALLY BIG DAY OUT

Day 10 Sun 3rd Mar 2014

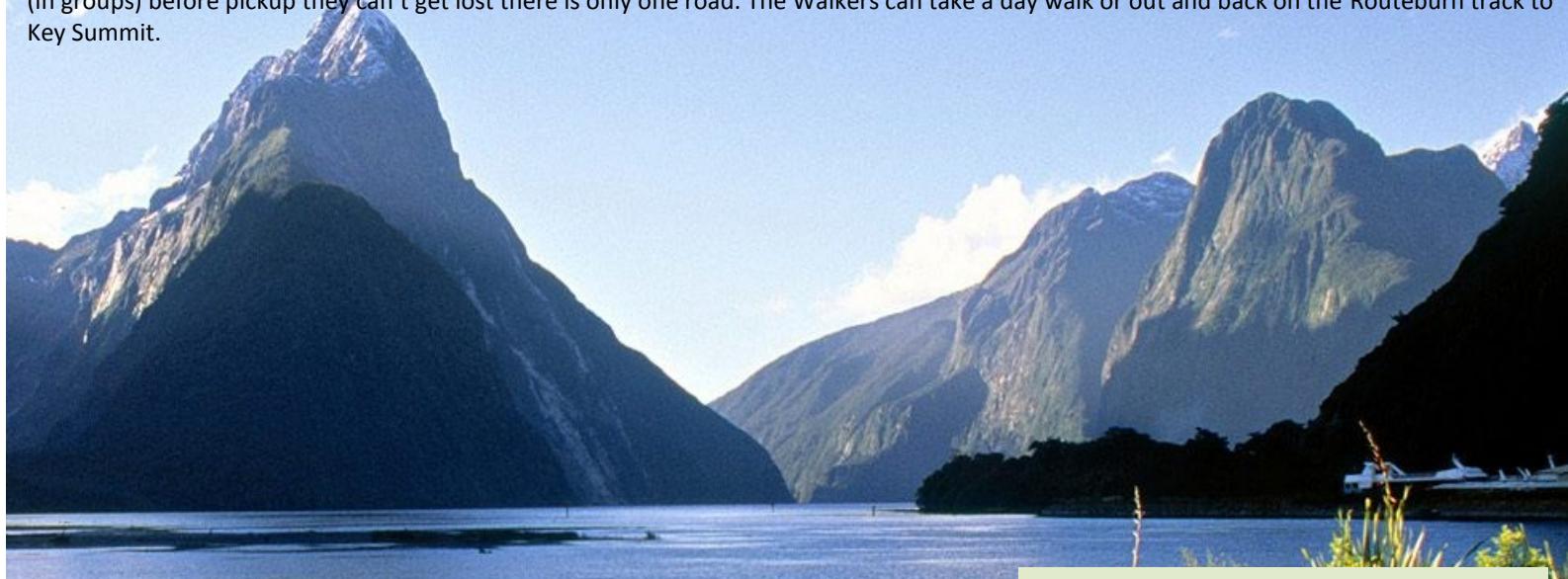
Accom' Te Anau	Cycle road 17km through Homer Tunnel to Milford	Walk 12km Routeburn Key Summit
Drive to Milford 234km return	Optional 84km downhill The Divide/Te Anau	Supermarket Te Anau

TE ANAU to MILFORD: 234 km return journey; driving time 2 hour 43 Minutes.

CYCLISTS: (All sealed roads)

1. Downhill roll through Homer tunnel 17 km to Milford – the road Drops 900M in 16km.
2. Then an Afternoon downhill ride from The Divide 84 km to Te Anau (or picked up on the way). The Divide is 532M in elevation dropping to Te Anau at 210 M.

You leave at 08:00 Hours from Te Anau & drive to the Homer Tunnel. We let the Riders off to ride through the Homer Tunnel and down 17km 900m to sea level at Milford sound, the ride is exhilarating but you will stop many times to take walks in the bush on well built short trails. Then you finish at Milford for lunch or late morning tea. There are well made short walking tracks in the Milford Sound. Then we drive back up (cyclists on Board) to The Divide (Start of Routeburn Track) and unleash the cyclists for a 84km downhill ride to Te Anau or wherever they get (in groups) before pickup they can't get lost there is only one road. The Walkers can take a day walk or out and back on the Routeburn track to Key Summit.



Milford Road short walks:

Mirror Lakes Time: 5 min

A good place to stretch your legs during the drive to Milford Sound. Small lakes provide outstanding reflective views of the Earl Mountains. Water fowl and wetland plants can be seen against a backdrop of beech forest

East Homer Nature Walk Time: 20 min return

Please note this walk cannot be accessed if avalanche danger closes the car park

Located on the Eastern side of the Homer Tunnel this short nature walk gives an opportunity to see the alpine landscape close-up and see the plants and animals that survive in this harsh environment.

The Chasm Time: 20 min return

This popular walk is on the western side of the Homer Tunnel. Two foot bridges over the Cleddau River offer spectacular views of a series of waterfalls. Thousands of years of swirling water have sculpted round shapes and basins in the rock.

Milford Foreshore Walk Time: 30 min

At the entry to the main visitor car park at Milford Sound you will find the start of this short loop walk. Walk through beech forest to viewing points with access to the beach. These viewing points have some of the best views of Mitre Peak as well as great views up the Arthur Valley. There are several panels along the way to help you interpret your surroundings.

Knob's Flat : just a stop on the way

Here an interpretive display has been provided to show the effect of avalanches on the Milford road and give some information on the wildlife of the Eglinton valley. Toilets are available here.

Lake Gunn Time: 45 min round trip

The Lake Gunn Nature Walk is an easy 45 minute loop walk suited to all ages and accessible to wheelchairs. The loop track passes through red beech forest and gives glimpses of the birdlife typical of the Eglinton Valley. Side trips can be made to several lake beaches and sheltered fishing spots.

Lake Mistletoe Time: 45 min return

Suitable for all ages, Lake Mistletoe is reached by a short forest walk. The entrance is signposted opposite the Te Anau Downs hotel complex.

WALKERS KEY SUMMIT TRACK

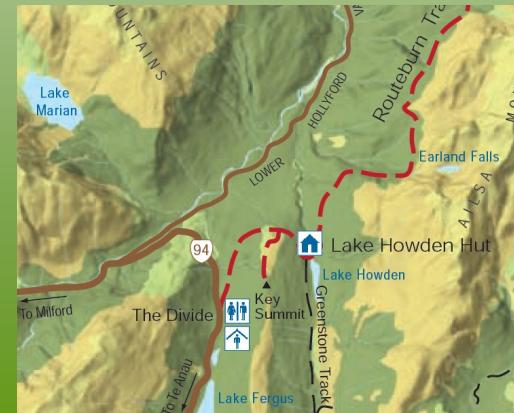
Time: 3 hr return

The Key Summit track is an ideal introduction to the impressive scenery and natural features of Fiordland National Park.

The track starts at The Divide carpark and shelter and follows the Routeburn Track for about an hour. It then branches off on a 20 minute climb to Key Summit, where there is a self guided alpine nature walk.

Walkers will pass a range of native vegetation: beech forest, sub-alpine shrublands, and alpine tarns and bogs. Birdlife is prolific and tomtits, robins, wood pigeons and bellbirds are commonly seen.

Key Summit 918M provides panoramic views over the Humboldt and Darran Mountains. During the last ice age, which ended about 14,000 years ago, a huge glacier flowed down the Hollyford Valley and overtopped Key Summit by 500 metres, with ice branches splitting off into the Eglinton and Greenstone Valleys.



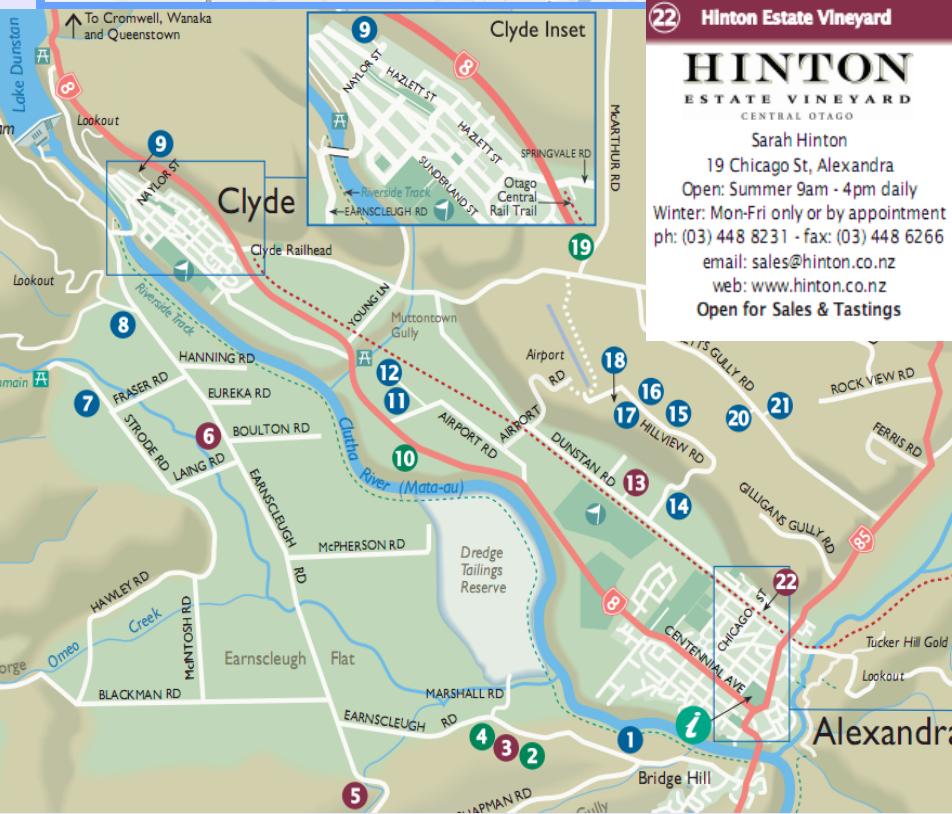
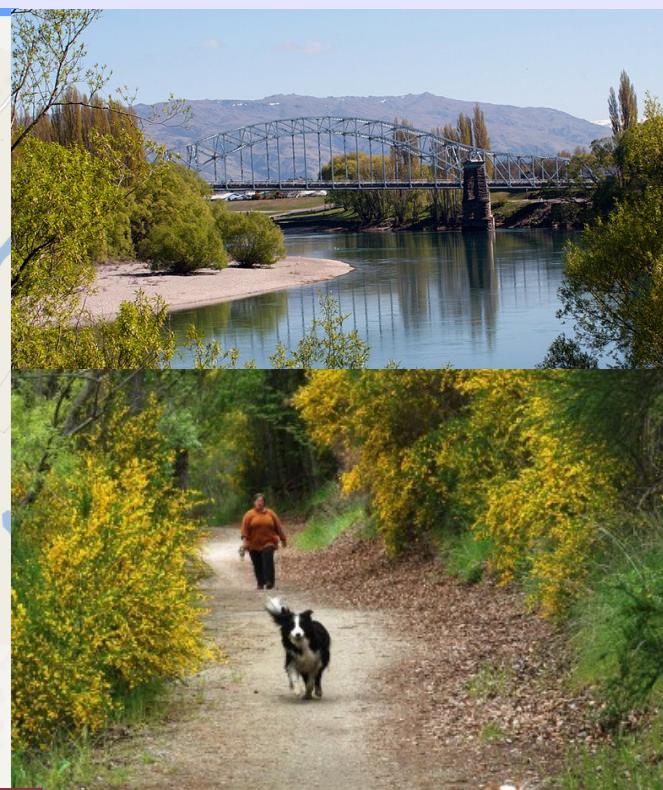
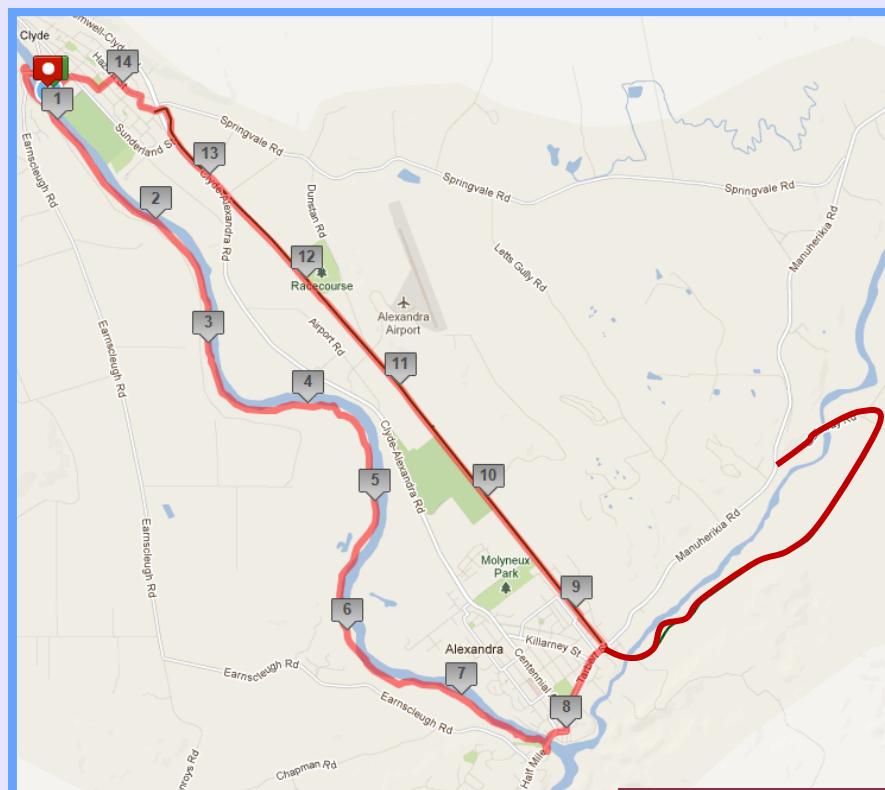
Accom' Alexandra Thursday	Cycle Trail 22km Alexandra/Clyde/ Alexandra	Walk 10km Millennium Trail
Drive to Alexandra 251km		Supermarket Cromwell

Cyclists Afternoon ride; we ride the Rail trail to Clyde then leave Clyde Rail head and ride down into the township of Clyde. Explore the old Township with its historical buildings on the main street and Power Dam just behind the town. Cross the bridge and follow the signs leading to the Millennium walking/ cycling track.

The millennium trail is a very scenic trail that follows the true right of the Clutha Mata-Au River for a distance of 10 km, passing the Earnsleugh Tailings Historic Reserve en route to the Alexandra Bridge.

This popular shared track can make a pleasant ride on its own either by returning on the same trail or combining it with the Alexandra Clyde rail trail section. It is a mainly flat single track with small undulations, a good surface, some boardwalks and bridges, staying pretty much within 20 meters of the river all the way. As previously stated it is very popular so watch out for other users on corners.

A relatively flat trail loop of 22km in the late afternoon after Minibus tourist cruising 251km from Te Anau through the Kawarau Gorge, Cromwell lake Dunstan then down the Cromwell Gorge to Clyde and Alexandra. The ride starts from the camp gate by road to the rail trail then crosses the river at Clyde for a meander along the river trail 9km back to Alexandra then follow the rail trail back to camp.



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Wine Tasting in the Region

Accom' Waipiata	Saturday Wedderburn ride down to Alexandra	Walk Rail Trail or visit the local towns
Drive to Waipiata 98km	Sunday Wedderburn ride down to Middlemarch	Day 12 & Day 13 5th & 6th Mar 2014

Otago Central Rail Trail

The Otago Central Rail Trail is the bike trail that started it all in New Zealand. Stretching from Clyde in the north to Middlemarch in the south, the Otago Rail trail runs along the old Dunedin to Clyde railway. This trail takes you on a cycling or walking adventure of a lifetime through 150km of some of New Zealand's most memorable scenery and awe-inspiring gold mining history. In 1993 with incredible foresight the Department of Conservation purchase the railway line and in partnership with the newly formed Otago Central Rail Trail Trust a massive undertaking was embarked on to replace the rails with the manicured gravel path that you can ride on today. The Central Otago Rail Trail is now one of the greatest multi-day cycling adventures in the world achievable by any level of fitness, age and experience. Passing through old gold mining towns, over massive viaducts, under long dark tunnels, and across some truly remote and stunning Otago scenery the Rail Trail is steeped in history and adventure, telling the story of Otago's heritage. This is an adventure that absolutely anyone can achieve. The days are not long and remember trains can't go up steep hills - so neither do you have to!!! Much of the enjoyment of the Rail Trail is the numerous cafes, restaurants and pubs scattered en-route each and every one boasting the friendliest and most hospitable locals on the planet (two of them are Eric's Nephews).



DAY 12 BIG DAY CYCLING: We will leave Alexandra as early as practical and drive to the highest road accessible point on the rail Trail near Wedderburn. The riders ride down hill 80km back to Alexandra. Picked up and returned by minibus to Waipiata for the night. You have already ridden the Alexandra to Clyde section the previous day. The 80km to Clyde is mostly downhill, but I can't promise a tailwind.

DAY 13 JUST AS BIG AS DAY 12: We will be driven back up to Wedderburn and ride all the way down to Middlemarch 78km where we will be picked up and returned to Waipiata

Refer to route notes next page or go to [Otago-central-rail-trail](#)

Walkers: The rail Otago Rail Trial is there to Walk, it is just as enjoyable at 4 kph as it is at 16 kph you simply will cover less distance and you may wish to select the most interesting sections.



OTAGO RAIL TRAIL	Distance	TIME Estimates	Notes: (The notes are back to front from Wedderburn to Alexandra)
Clyde to Alexandra Day 11 out & back	8km	30 minutes - 1 hour	The highlight of this section of riding is the Muttontown Viaduct which crosses a stream soon after leaving Clyde. This is one of only two wooden trestle bridges on the trail (the other is at Hyde). At the far end of Alexandra you will cross a second bridge over the large Manuherikia River as you ride up onto Little Valley Road. Standing next to this bridge built for modern times like sentinels of history are the two stone end foundations of the original structure.
Alexandra to Chatto Creek Day 12	17km 68 accum	1-1.5 hours 6.5 hour accum	The ride from Alexandra to Chatto Creek starts with a very open flat 7km rural section from Alexandra to Chatto Creek traversing around the base of Tucker hills. Reaching Galloway Railway Station there is nothing to suggest that this once was a bust staging post. Inside the ladies waiting room at the Galloway Railway Station site is an interesting and informative display of petrified wood.
Chatto Creek to Omakau Day 12	10km 51 accum	45 mins - 1.25 hours 5.25 hours accum	Leaving Chatto Creek you must ascend the steepest part of the Otago Central Rail Trail (<i>we ride in reverse so get a good downhill</i>). The trail known as “the horseshoe bends” climbs Tiger Hill in a sweeping ‘S’ shape designed to not exceed a gradient of 1 in 50 - the most a steam train was able to climb. This is through irrigated farmland, with the noticeable water races scarring the slopes of Tiger Hill providing the necessary water to the farmland in the lower Manuherikia Valley. Many of these races were originally created by the gold mines to get water to their plots. You will cross the main state highway 85 twice on your ascent of Tiger Hill. Also look out for the gangers shed containing regional information about halfway up. Once at the top of Tiger Hill you pass under a roadway overpass and it is an easy ride into Omakau. There is a superb picnic spot at Thomson’s Creek just before you reach the township of Omakau.
Omakau to Lauder Day 12	9km 44 accum	30 minutes - 1 hour 4.25 hours accum	The ride from Omakau to Lauder is a flat 9km through the Pastoral area of the Manuherikia Valley. The trail rises (<i>descends</i>) gradually before a gentle slope has you cruising down (<i>up</i>) into Lauder. You will be feeling the best you have felt all Rail Trail at this point as you are supposedly approaching the cleanest and most-pollution free air in the world. The New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) has a research facility in Lauder.
Lauder to Oturehua Day 12	23km 35 accum	1.25 hours - 2.5 hours 3.5 hours accum	The riding from Lauder to Oturehua is arguably the most scenic section of the Otago Central Rail Trail. Leaving Lauder it is only a few kilometers until the start of the amazing Poolburn Gorge. The Poolburn Gorge is a break in the mountains between the Raggedy Range and Blackstone Hill and takes cyclists from the Manuherikia River area to the Ida Valley. The gorge starts with the 110 metre Manuherikia Bridge Number 1, the longest on the rail trail, and gradually makes its way into the rugged schist rock formations. Two magnificent tunnels assist cyclists (<i>trains</i>) up the hill without the need to climb too steep. The first tunnel in this direction is Poolburn Tunnel Number 2, which is the longest of the two at 230 metres. Ideally you should have a torch or riding light. The tunnel goes round a corner so you can’t see the end of the tunnel and it gets very dark and quite disorientating trying to ride without a light. It is also worthwhile stopping and using your torch to investigate the craftsmanship of the tunnel cut through the schist. The Poolburn Tunnel Number 1 is slightly shorter at 201 metres. The rail trail through this section is built on large embankments, made all the more impressive when you consider that the railways were built using little more than a pick and shovel. Before you enter the first tunnel a trail leads you up over a bank and down into a gully where there are remnants of huts and a small village that was home to the construction workers during building the Poolburn Gorge sections. You get a real sense of how harsh the living conditions were wandering around the remaining buildings. It took three years and over 300 workers to get through the rugged Poolburn Gorge section of the Otago Central Railway. The ride through the gorge is not over until you ride across the awesome 108-metre long, 37-metre high Poolburn Viaduct with its impressive schist rock piers and abutments, set against stunning scenery. If you are very lucky you may even get a glimpse of the very rare and endangered Kārearea, New Zealand Falcon, which habitats the Gorge. The section through Poolburn Gorge has two toilets en-route.
Oturehua to Wedderburn Day 12	12km 12 accum	1 - 2 hour 1.5 hours accum	Your ride starts the northern slopes of Rough Ridge passing over the highest point on the Otago Central Rail Trail as you cross into the Maniototo Plains. Extensive views of both the Hawkdun Ranges to the north and the Ida Ranges to the south make for lovely riding on this section. Look for Seagull Hill Gangers’ Shed to stamp your Rail Trail Passport. You will cross the 45th Parallel twice on your way from Wedderburn - marked by concrete blocks.
Wedderburn to Ranfurly Day 13	13km 13 accum	2 - 3 hours 2 hours accum	Ranfurly is an easy 14km from Wedderburn. Technically, the Rail Trail is all downhill from Wedderburn. Your ride winds its way over the Maniototo Plains nestled between some huge mountain ranges. To the north are the Hawkdun and Mt Ida Ranges, to the east are the Kakanui’s, to the south is the Rock and Pillar Ranges and to the west are South Rough Ridge and North Rough Ridge.
Ranfurly to Waipiata Day 13 Base camp	9km 22 accum	30mins - 1 hour 3 hours accum	
Waipiata to Kokonga Day 13	15km 37 accum	1 - 2 hours 4.5 hours accum	
Kokonga to Hyde Day 13	14km 51 accum	1 - 2 hours 5.5 hours accum	
Hyde to Middlemarch Day 13	27km 78 accum	90 mins - 2 hours 7 hours accum	Beware of the inevitable headwind!