The Ultimate Supported DIY NZ South Island Cycling Adventure

Experience New Zealand's South Island like never before with up to 24 cycling trails and 1,800 km of riding opportunities across some of the country's most spectacular landscapes. Stay longer and explore deeper with 29 nights and 11 different South Island bases (Christchurch serving as both the starting and finishing point). Unlike many tours that rush from place to place, this itinerary provides time to ride, hike, sightsee, and truly enjoy each destination. Most locations are multiple night stays – only 3 one-night stays

Tour Structure

- Up to 24 participants, typically comprising 6 couples, 6 female riders and 6 male riders.
- Supported by two 12-seat minibuses and one 8-seat people mover, or whatever is the most efficient combination.
- A reduced-scale option is possible, but 12 participants is the practical minimum. Experience has shown that two support vehicles are essential for efficiency, flexibility and safety. A larger group also shares the workload more effectively because everyone contributes to making the tour work - you will all be allocated roles.

Flexible Join or Leave Options

A suggestion was made to split the tour into two sections with a break at Hokitika around Day 9 or 11. This is entirely feasible. Participants could join or leave via the TranzAlpine Train between Greymouth and Christchurch, by InterCity coach, or fly directly to/from Hokitika. This flexibility allows riders to complete either the full itinerary or only the first or second section.

More Than Just Cycling

You are never confined to the bike, every day offers alternatives for non-riders, including:

- Scenic towns and local attractions
- Great Walks: Milford, Routeburn, Kepler, Abel Tasman, Queen Charlotte and Heaphy Track book ahead we can fit it in.
- Day Walks: Mt Cook trails incl' Hooker Valley, Wanaka, Roys Peak and many more
- Scenic flights and helicopter tours; Boat cruises and wildlife experiences
- Adventure activities ranging from gentle sightseeing to bungy jumping

Every overnight location is a gateway to some of New Zealand's most iconic experiences.

Estimated Costs

- Accommodation (29 nights): approximately $1,800 per person
- Transport and support vehicles: approximately $1,200 per person
- Total estimated tour cost: approximately $3,000 per person Bikes and Travel only
- Airfares are not included, Bring your own bicycle where practical.
- E-bikes may be difficult to transport because airline battery restrictions generally prevent batteries from travelling as air cargo.
- Bicycle hire is available, more economical with long rental periods. Riders may choose location-specific hires.

Participants self-cater using a shared kitty system. Group meals are encouraged whenever possible as they:

- Build camaraderie; showcase everyone's culinary talents; significantly reduce restaurant costs

Volunteer Driver Support competent volunteer drivers are essential to the success of the tour.

- At least one driver is required every day. During transit days, up to three drivers may be needed.
- We use out-and-back and bi-directional ride formats wherever possible to maximise riding opportunities.
- Every effort will be made to ensure drivers also have opportunities to ride and enjoy activities.

A True DIY Adventure. This is not a commercial package tour. It is a member-supported DIY adventure where everyone contributes. The more participants involved, the lighter the workload for each person. We meet each evening to discuss plans, preferences and logistics for the following day. We strive to accommodate everyone's interests; early communication gives us the best chance of making that happen.

Accommodate Christchurch Come earlier or **on the day please be with your hire bike or own bike by 7.00pm.** night Christchurch 1

1. arrive That doesn't mean you couldn't be in Christchurch for several days earlier. I could fill a page with things to do in the town of my birth but I will leave you to research for yourself. A bit of trivia my ancestral home .

Tahunanui Nelson 4 nights – bike hire Tahuna and bike hire city Nelson

Experienced walkers it is possible to walk Able Tasman Walk Way 3 days then sea shuttle to Marahau to Heaphy Track 5 days and shuttle to Westport pickup day 9. That is a lot of walking on fantastic trails and will need rearrangement of accommodation.

2. 7.30 start Drive 360km to Kohatu.
ride Great Taste Trail to Tahuna, 65km.night Tahuna 2

Drivers and non-riders may explore Nelson City by foot of bicycle trail, go for a swim at Tahuna Beach, or an afternoon walk in Cathedral grounds, Queens gardens, Maitai River and/or Botanical Reserve includes centre of NZ

3. Ride Tahuna to Kaiteriteri, Great Taste Trail, in both directions 66km night Tahuna or Marahau 3
Everybody can ride we exchange keys mid ride meeting at Mapua Wharf,
or Drive to Marahau walk or kayak the Able Tasman Walk Way up to 2 nights can accommodate Marahau.

4. Ride Tahuna to Picton via Dunn Mountain, Maungatapu, & Link Trails. with a big hill and wow 100km night Tahuna or Marahau 4
The BIG ride needs a local guide or GPS on-board and early start. The ride can be split into two parts; for the less adventurous we will have a link trail with an Anakiwa extension ride available from Havelock or Picton. If you haven't chosen Marahau a walk on Queen Charlotte Walkway can be arranged. Torea Bay to Anakiwa Full Day 7 hours, Moderate Fitness, Track Pass Required Travel by water taxi from Picton to Torea Bay (about 20 minutes). Follow the road for about 15 minutes to the intersection with the Queen Charlotte Track. From here it is a steep climb (about 45 – 60 minutes) to the highest point on the Queen Charlotte Track. The views are stunning, looking out over Kenepuru Sound and Queen Charlotte Sound as you descend from the summit and continue through patches of native forest and farms. The final section of the Track between Mistletoe Bay and Anakiwa takes you through some very fine beech forest. There is a place to shelter if needed near the wharf where the minibus will pick you up.

5. Drive to Tapawera ride **Great Taste Trail** to Motueka, in both directions. 51km night Tahuna 5
Everybody can ride we exchange keys mid ride meeting at Baton Bridge, Woodstock. Pickup Marahau stayers on way to Tahuna

Hanmer 4 nights–

6. Drive to 85 km Rainbow Rd Junction with highway 6.
ride Rainbow Rd (extremely low traffic unsealed road) to Lake Tennyson. 64km night Hanmer 6
Pickup crew will drive 244 km to Hanmer Springs then 43 km to lake Tennyson (extra ride 29 km to the St James Homestead)
Walkers Conical hill walks and Hanmer Hot springs or spend afternoon evening in hot pools
7. Drive to lake Tennyson Ride the **St James cycle trail** to St James Homestead 61km. night Hanmer 7
We will need drivers to drop riders at Maling Pass car park 43 km – (option ride +14 km to accommodation – over Jacks Pass)
Hamner Springs Forestry Walks
8. Ride Hanmer Clarence Valley Rd to clarence river to jollies pass to Hanmer (low traffic unsealed road) 27km. night Hanmer 8
This is a loop tide climbing Jacks Pass and Jollies Pass – the descent from Jollies Pass to Hanmer is loose gravel and steep.
Hamner Springs Forestry Walks or visit the village.
9. Ride Hanmer to through forest a deliberately light day which allows for swapping or a day relaxing 20km. night Hanmer 9

Hokitika 3 nights

10. Drive to Westport 3hr 216km ride Kawatiri Coastal Trail then 115km drive to Hokitika. 40km. night Hokitika 10
A long day scenic driving including a 3-hour bi-directional all riding trail – one group from Westport the other from Charleston.
We will take an hour's break at Buller Swing bridge and Punikiki Pancake rocks.
This is the pickup for any who chose to walk the Heaphy track.
This is also the day we can deposit or pickup from Greymouth participants who join on the TranzAlpine train at Greymouth
11. Drive or ride to Kumara +28km ride West Coast Wilderness Trail to Hokitika 67km. night Hokitika 11
One group rides from Kumara the other from Hokitika. The riders from Hokitika can ride the extra 28km to Greymouth.
For those not riding Lake Kaniere Walkway and Hokitika Gorge short walk
12. Ride Hokitika to Ross West Coast Wilderness Trail and return 66km. night Hokitika 12
Everybody can ride this is an out and back ride from our accommodation.
For those not riding Carve your own greenstone pendant or meandering about the Pounamu (Greenstone) capital

Wanaka 3 nights

13. 7.30 am start Drive 418 km 6-hrs to Wanaka and ride Hawea and outlet trail to Wanaka 30 km. night Wanaka 13
Haast Pass or Makarora any road riders want an epic 80 or 60 km sealed road ride you can, or Hawea outlet trails to Wanaka.
Pure scenic tourists Lake Mapourika - franz Josef glacier - lake Matheson - Knights Point Lookout – Ship creek - The Hard Antler Restaurant Haast – roaring billy falls or Thunder Creek Falls or Fantail Falls then drive over Haast Pass to Blue Pools, then on-board camera views from the Haast pass to Wanaka passing Makarora, lake Wanaka, the neck to lake Hawea and to Wanaka town
14. Wanaka to Glendhu Trail to Motatapu and return *Out and back from Accommodation* 36 km. night Wanaka 14
Pick a walk there are many use DOC for details or perhaps a flight to Milford Sound or Siberia valley the big walk is Roys peak
15. Wanaka to Luggate and return via Clutha River Trails both sides (new trail hopefully 2027 75km) 44 km. night Wanaka 15
Out and back from Accommodation
Pick another walk there are many use DOC for details or perhaps a Wanaka lake cruise

Cromwell 2 nights

16. Cromwell to Smiths Way Dunstan trail out &back 48 km. night Cromwell 16
Out and back from Accommodation
Visit Cromwell Heritage precinct have lunch at a winery e.g. Carrick Winery & Restaurant then visit Highlands Motorsport Park
17. Bannockburn to Alexandra; Dunstan **trail and** Millenium Trails 65 km. night Cromwell 17
Bi directional to allow all to ride … non-riders Drive with the riders visit Clyde and Alexandra

Queenstown 5 nights

18. Cromwell to Gibbston to Queenstown new trail Kawarau Gorge Trail 67 km. night Queenstown 18
All Ride we get a bus back to pick up vehicles (maybe one doesn't)
Book well ahead and you can walk Routeburn track, Milford track, Kepler track, hollyford track. Develop your own appetite
There is so much to do that doesn't require a bike from Queenstown -jet boats, zip lines or simply relax Best hikes in New Zealand
18. Q'town return Frankton 8, Twin rivers 19, Lake Hayes 6, Countryside 8 Wharehuanui 13, Arthurs 6 62 km. night Queenstown 19
19 Half group Q'town ferry to Mt Nicholas up to Mavora and on to Mossburn (Around the Mountains) 92 km night Mossburn 20
19 Other half group Drive to Routeburn ride (low traffic unsealed road) to Paradise to Glenorchy 57 km. night Queenstown 20
20 Half group Overnight Wheels&Reels Mossburn then to Kingston. 78km. night Queenstown 21
20 Half group Q'town ferry to Mt Nicholas up to Mavora and on to Mossburn (Around the Mountains) 92 km. night Mossburn 21
22 Other half group Drive to Routeburn ride Routeburn (low traffic unsealed road) to Paradise to Glenorchy 57 km night Queenstown 22
22. Half group Overnight Wheels&Reels Mossburn then to Kingston pickup 78km. night Queenstown 22

Alexandra 1 night, *7.30 start 93 km 1hr 15 min drive to Alexandra.*

23. Ride Roxburgh Gorge (13km jetboat) then to Lawrence on Clutha Gold trail total 103. km night Alexandra 23
Alexandra to doctors 15km, jet boat 12km, shingle to Roxburgh 15km, total 42km Roxburgh to Lawrence 73km. optional Extension to Waihola 62km
The 12 km jet boat gap is expected to become trail by early 2027
No Walk Skip stay at Alexandra and Wedderburn (maybe drive sag-wagon) or stay 2 nights longer in Queenstown or on great walks etc. then bus to Twizel or Mt Cook

Ranfurly 1 night

24. Ride Alexandra Otago Rail Trail to Ranfurly. 75km. night Ranfurly
Bi-directional all ride

Twizel 3 nights

25. Early morning Ride to Otago Rail Trail Middlemarch then Afternoon Drive 297km Twizel 70km. night Twizel 25
26. Drive to Tekapo (or Mt Cook) ride Alps 2 Ocean ride 55km Twizel, 38km Ohau, 90km night Twizel. 26
It's a long ride - we will need a sag wagon,
27. Drive to Ohau ride Alps 2 Ocean ride 35km Otematata, 44 km Kurow 79km night Twizel 27

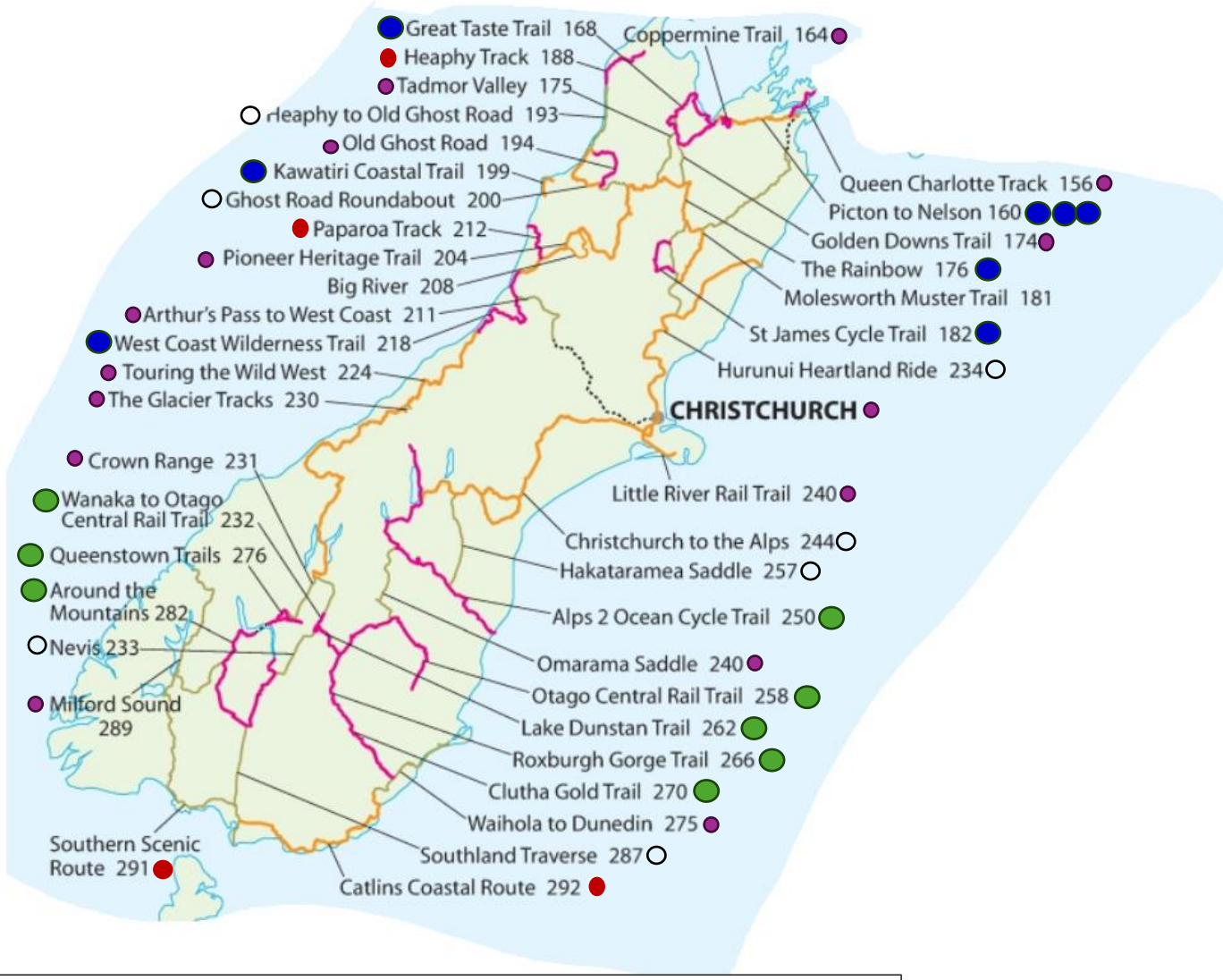
Non riders (drive support vehicles) or intercity bus to Mt Cook even possibly book 2 nights Mt Cook lodge or Aoraki Court or Haka house walking tracks Mt Cook - hooker valley best effortless walk.

Oamaru 1 night

28. From otematata Alps 2 Ocean ride 27km Duntroon, 54km Oamaru 81km, night Oamaru 28
    It's a long ride - we will need a sag wagon.

Christchurch Drive 151km to Geraldine then 138km to Christchurch 1night pack-up and return gear day no ride night Christchurch 29?

Classic New Zealand Cycle Trails, 6th edition | Kennett Brothers.



Key:
Included in this project all previously ridden **each circle links to the ride web site!**
Not included in project all previously ridden
Not included but still on my bucket list
Tourist Roads all driven in last 60 years.

FYI: Four I have not ridden - Heaphy, Paparoa, Southern Scenic, and Catlins.