



10 Day Road Tour Christchurch to Queenstown T3

Route: Christchurch – Punakaiki – Hokitika – Hari Hari – Fox Glacier – Lake Moeraki – Makarora – Wanaka – Queenstown

Day 1 Christchurch to Punakaiki

Included in the tour is transport from Christchurch, on the East Coast of the South Island, across the Southern Alps to Punakaiki on the West Coast.

Please inform us if you require transport and if so, where you will be staying in Christchurch the night before commencing the trip. Your guide will drive you across the Alps, departing Christchurch at **9.00 am**. from your hotel. Lunch at Arthur's Pass village or Moana (near Lake Brunner) will be included.

We will reach Punakaiki early afternoon; there will be time to explore the fascinating Pancake Rocks and watch the sea surge through blow holes.

Meals: L/D

Cycling: No cycling today

Day 2 Punakaiki to Hokitika

We head south to Greymouth, the principal town of Westland. Named after Sir George Grey, New Zealand's first Governor, it was the site of Mawhera, the largest Maori settlement on the West Coast. From here it is a flat run to Hokitika, a town famous for its goldrush in the 1860's and more recently timber milling. The town has greenstone (jade) and glass blowing factories and now relies on tourism .

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: Punakaiki to Hokitika 84km. Short option Punakaiki to Greymouth 44km.

Day 3 Hokitika to Whataroa

Much of the ride today is through native bush. The Bushman's Centre at Lake lanthe at Lake lanthe is well worth a stop, as is beautiful Lake lanthe, renowned for trout fishing. Harihari is a small logging town and has an excellent craft shop.

Shortly after leaving Harihari we tackle Mt Hercules – a far easier climb than the name suggests.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: Hokitika to Whataroa 85.5km. Short option Hokitika to Lake Inathe Tarvan 49km

Tour includes:

- 9 nights accommodation in 3 – 4 Star hotels, or motels
- 9 Breakfasts (B)
- 5 Lunches (L)
- 7 Dinners (D)
- Tour guide
- Support vehicle & Luggage transfer
- DOC fees

Grade:

2 Moderate



Day 4 Whataroa to Fox Glacier

It is a flat run into Westland National Park and Franz Josef Glacier where you will have superb views of snowcapped peaks.

From Franz to Fox (24 km) there are three climbs (and descents) through beautiful native forest, a spectacular way to finish the day.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: Whataroa to Fox Glacier 74km. Short option Whataroa to Franz Josef 50km.

Day 5 Fox Glacier – Rest day

A walk up the glacier valley gives spectacular views of the terminal ice, while the Westland National Park Visitors Centre houses a wealth of information. (Thirteen percent of N.Z. is national park.) Also highly recommended are ski-plane or helicopter flights over snowfields, forests and glaciers and the lovely walk around Lake Matheson, with its mirror views of Mt's Cook and Tasman.

Day trips can be arranged to the White Heron colony at Okarito (optional extra) Okarito Beach is the site of Abel Tasman's landfall and once a thriving town.

Meals: B

Cycling: No cycling today

Day 6 Fox Glacier to Lake Moeraki

From Fox to Lake Paringa the road passes through lush rain forest of rimu and rata, flax filled swamps and past rugged hills. The many rivers become raging torrents after rain. With fine weather there will be superb views of Mt. Cook and the Southern Alps

Meals: B/D

Cycling:

Easy: Fox Glacier to Lake Moeraki 90 km/

Moderate: Fox Glacier to Bruce Bay 48km/

Challenging: Fox Glacier to Salmon Farm 65km

Day 7 Lake Moeraki to Makaroa

Just south of Lake Moeraki, Knights Point affords excellent views of the rugged coastline where seals can often be seen basking in the sun. From Haast we head inland, following the Haast River towards the snowcapped peaks. We pass innumerable waterfalls and much bird life, notably keas, fantails and bellbirds. After lunch the stiff climb through the Gates of Haast is negotiated before the gentle descent to Makarora.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling:

Easy: Lake Moeraki to Haast 30 km

Moderate: Lake Moeraki to Haast Pass 81km

Challenging: Lake Moeraki to Makaroa 112 km

Day 8 Makaroa to Wanaka

The country is now dramatically drier, dense bush giving way to open sheep paddocks. The scenery is breathtaking as the road closely follows Lake Wanaka, crosses the Neck to Lake Hawea and then recrosses to Lake Wanaka.

Meals: B

Cycling: Makaroa to Wanaka 66km. Short option Makaroa to Hawea 50km

Day 9 Wanaka to Queenstown

Our route today takes us up the Crown Range, over the Cardrona Road. We climb past the historic Cardrona Hotel; on reaching the top there will be amazing views of The Remarkables mountains and Queenstown. We descend the exhilarating hairpin bends down to Arrowtown, with its quaint old cottages and avenues of elms.

A short leisurely ride beneath Coronet Peak, a winter ski field, takes us to Arthur's Point where we cross the Shotover River on our way to Queenstown. Surrounded by mountain peaks (including the famous Remarkables), and set on Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown has much to offer.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: Wanaka to Queenstown 78km. Short option Wanaka to Cardrona Hotel 27km.

Day 10 Queenstown

Options today include a jet boat or rafting trip on the Kawarau or Shotover Rivers, the steamer "Earnslaw" to visit a high country sheep station, the gondola cableway, Skippers canyon, a flight to Milford Sound (fiord), and much more. Queenstown also has an excellent botanical garden and a very good shopping centre.

It is here that we say farewell, a safe journey home and hope to see you again.

Meals: B

Cycling: No cycling today.