



25Day Road Tour Christchurch to Christchurch

Route: Christchurch – Hanmer Springs – Greymouth – Westport – Nelson – Kaikoura – Christchurch – Farlie – Lake Tekapo – Twizel – Wanaka – Queenstown – Te Anau – Milford Sound – Manapouri – Queenstown – Wanaka – Haast – Fox Glacier – Franz Josef – Hokitika – Christchurch

Day 1 Christchurch to Hanmer Springs

After a pick-up from your hotel we start with our first cycle on the volcanic Port Hills above Christchurch. From a set up on the summit road, we cycle towards Sumner nestled on the coast. This ride provides spectacular views north to the Kaikoura ranges, and South to the Southern Alps. After a picnic lunch we drive and cycle the plains of Canterbury into the foothills. Edging onto the bushclad Lewis Pass and its mountain ranges is the thermal resort of Hanmer springs. At the end of this first day the hot pools are a welcome interlude.

Meals: L/D

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 2 Hanmer Springs to Greymouth

This morning the beautiful beech forests of the Lewis Pass beckon. By cycle and coach we gradually climb over the picturesque Lewis and Rahu Saddles, after each climb is a downhill rush with long sweeping corners. On beautifully sealed roads with lush temperate rainforest lining the roadside we ride until we reach the rugged beauty of the West Coast. Our accommodation for the evening is in the coastal mining town of Greymouth.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 40 – 60 kms

Day 3 Greymouth to Westport

One of the trips many highlights is the coastal riding as we head northwards to Westport. From the Strongman Memorial through to the famous Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki, the riding is pure quality – with enough hills to keep you honest. After a midday break we continue along the coast and finally reach our accommodation for the evening.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Tour includes:

- 23 nights of 3 Star accommodation share twin
- 1 Overnight in Milford Sound aboard the ship
- TranzAlpine Train journey
- TSS Earnslaw
- Walk to base of Glacier
- 24 Breakfasts (B)
- 21 Lunches (L)
- 11 Dinners (D)
- Cycle hire
- Tour Guide
- All activities as shown
- Support vehicle and luggage transfers
- DOC fees

Grade:

2 Moderate



Natural High

130B Montreal St– Christchurch 8023 – Fax 03 9822967

Tel 0800 444 144 - email: team@naturalhigh.co.nz - www.naturalhigh.co.nz

Day 4 Westport to Nelson

We cycle the sealed roads through the impressive Buller Gorge where the upper gorge landscape provides us with snapshot vistas of the Buller River whose white water attracts many a rafting and kayak enthusiast. There are plenty of photo opportunities on this scenic and gently undulating ride, before we board our coach for a final ride into Nelson, home of NZ leading arts and crafts exhibits.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 5 Nelson to Kaikoura

By coach we motor over the steep outlying hills to arrive at the start of the beautiful Queen Charlotte Drive, which skirts the Marlborough Sounds into Picton. From here it is a short hop over the hill to Blenheim, NZ's premier wine producing region. After a great lunch at one of the countries leading wineries, we head south down the dramatic East Coast to reach Kaikoura, home of NZ 's Whale Watch icon.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 6 Kaikoura to Christchurch

For the early risers, an optional chance to view one of the great natural sights as whales surface against the spectacular mountain backdrop of the seaward Kaikoura Mountains. Following a late breakfast we head further south cycling some of the great back roads and enjoying the scenery as we eventually return to Christchurch and deliver you to your accommodation for the night.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 7 Christchurch – Rest Day

A rest day in Christchurch. A chance to explore the Garden City and relax before the start of the exciting Southern Lakes, Queenstown and Milford Sound sections of this tour.

Meals: B

Cycling: No cycling today

Day 8 Christchurch to Farlie

The Port Hills overlooking Christchurch provide us with our first great ride with spectacular views over the city, the Pacific Ocean and into Lyttleton Harbour. Our first cycle takes us along the summit ridge before dropping down to a small boutique winery for lunch. After this early familiarisation and exercise we drive onto the vast Canterbury plains and cycle on a very quiet road into the foothills before meeting with our farmstay hosts for the night.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 9 Farlie to Lake Tekapo

Early morning you are shown around the farm and after a hearty breakfast we set up for a days cycling at your own pace. The turquoise blue of Lake Tekapo is approximately 45 kms via Burkes Pass. Those who wish to can cycle the entire way at their own speed, others can enjoy

the full comfort of the occasional vehicle ride. The vast MacKenzie Basin with its views of Mt Cook and the Southern Alps provides an awesome backdrop to the beautiful wild flower fringed highway, before dropping into Tekapo and our lakeside accommodation. In the afternoon we go for an optional walk to the Mt. John lookout with its spectacular views of Lake Tekapo and the Southern Alps.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 10 Lake Tekapo to Twizel

Huge glacial lakes and flat sealed hydro canal roads add interest to the day as we cycle to Mt Cook and the alpine village. We hike into the Hooker Valley, dominated by New Zealand's highest mountain with its steep glacier sides regularly providing a spectacular sideshow. At day's end we drive and cycle the final section into beautiful Lake Ohau and our lodge accommodation.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 11 Twizel to Wanaka

An early morning lakeside cycle takes us away from the mountains into tussock-covered hill country as we traverse Lindis Pass. As we cycle down the gentle descent we freewheel past high country sheep stations into the historic gold mining areas of New Zealand's past. By coach and cycle we approach Lake Wanaka and enjoy a superb final lakeside track which takes us into the bustling alpine village of Wanaka.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 12 Wanaka to Queenstown

Our day starts with a 25km cycle on a smooth sealed road, towards the historic Cardrona Hotel for a relaxing coffee or tea. Strong riders can cycle to the summit of the Crown Range, at 1076 metres it is New Zealand's highest alpine highway, while those who want an easier option can drive to the top, before enjoying the magnificent downhill into the Queenstown basin. Via the scenic trails we cycle and explore Arrowtown, an old gold-mining centre before continuing on to Queenstown.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 40 -60 kms

Day 13 Queenstown – Rest Day

Today is a rest day from the bikes and a chance to explore Queenstown. Known as an adventure capital there are many options available for clients on this day, including bungy-jumping, jet-boating, rafting, flying and many more. There are also some nice hikes in the surrounding area, some great shopping or perhaps just a day to relax and enjoy the scenery?

Meals: B

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 14 Queenstown to Te Anau

From Queenstown we cycle to Kingston at the end of Lake Wakatipu. The road is surrounded by spectacular mountains as it hugs the shoreline. After lunch we drive to Lake Manapouri and our lakeside accommodation. For the rest of the day we walk through native beech forests alongside the Waiau River section of the Kepler Track.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 15 Te Anau to Milford Sound

A gentle morning warm-up ride takes us to Te Anau before we drive into the Fiordland National Park amid the beech forests and mountains that the region is famous for. The beautiful sealed road tracks through the wilderness and we stop to enjoy some of the short walks on the way before a wonderful cycle down to the Humboldt Falls at the end of the very quiet & scenic Hollyford road. We coach through the Milford Tunnel and then enjoy the sheer delight of a 16km cycle descent down into Milford Sound and our accommodation for the night on the SS Milford Mariner. This boat takes us out of the Sound to the open seas beyond before returning to a sheltered spot for the night. By 9am the next morning we have enjoyed optional kayaking or swimming before returning to shore and the start of another day.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 40 – 60 kms

Day 16 Milford Sound to Te Anau

By bus we travel back to the Divide, stopping en route to explore the famous Chasm walkway. From the Divide we walk to Key Summit with its spectacular views of the Hollyford Valley and Humboldt & Earl mountain ranges. The afternoon sees us cycling down the majestic Eglington Valley as we slowly return to our overnight in Te Anau.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40 – 60kms

Day 17 Te Anau to Queenstown

Out of Te Anau we journey into the hidden Mavora Lakes site of the closing scenes from Lord of the Rings. We cycle by the lakeside and through the beech forest before continuing on to the isolated Von Valley for lunch. We farewell our supporting coach as we cycle on to the shores of Lake Wakatipu and down to Walter Peak station. Here we enjoy the hospitality of a farm show and farm-style afternoon tea before boarding the steam ship TSS Earnslaw to cruise across the waters to Queenstown. Its time to say a sad goodbye as we pick you up from the wharf and deliver you to your Queenstown accommodation.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40 -60kms

Day 18 & 19 Queenstown – Rest Days

Two free days in Queenstown, the adventure capital of the world and a chance to explore this alpine lake wonderland.

Meals: B

Cycling: No Cycling

Day 20 Queenstown to Wanaka

Out from Queenstown we head up to the Coronet Peak ski field car park and cycle down to Arrowtown where we explore this beautiful old gold-mining town. From Arrowtown we travel by bus and bike over the Crown Range, with a lunch stop at the historic Cardrona Hotel. We carry on down the Crown Range to our next ride. The Fishermans Track follows the banks of the Clutha River ending in the picturesque alpine village of Wanaka.

Meals: L/D

Cycling: 40-60kms

Day 21 Wanaka to Haast

An early cycle takes us to Lake Hawea. We drive to the top of the Haast Pass and enter the famous West Coast forests. We cycle down through the 'Gates of Haast' on sealed roads to the flats of the Landsborough River for lunch. Our route continues down the Haast River with its rainforest clad mountain slopes and numerous waterfalls until the days spectacular journey ends on the coast at Haast. An evening walk on the beach provides a chance to watch the sun set into the Tasman.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 40-60kms

Day 22 Haast to Fox Glacier

This morning we cycle peaceful forest roads to Bruce Bay and then onto Fox Glacier. The rest of the day is available for sightseeing in the township as well as providing the chance to take a scenic helicopter flight, which is highly recommended. Maybe you would rather a trip to nearby Lake Matheson famous for its reflection views of the Southern Alps, or enjoy any of the local walks in the area.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40-60kms

Day 23 Fox Glacier to Franz Josef

This morning we walk to the base of the mighty Fox Glacier. For those who want to challenge themselves an optional guided walk will take you onto the face of the glacier as it grinds down through the rainforest. The afternoon sees us cycling another West Coast challenge, the road between Fox and Franz Josef Glacier.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40-60kms

Day 24 Franz Josef to Hokitika

With some spectacular views as a backdrop, we cycle through the podocarp forests to hidden Lake lanthe. Throughout the day we will cycle and explore the numerous lakes, valleys and gold mines, as we continue up the coast to the rainforests of Lakes Kaniere and Mahinapua and the quiet roads and tracks that surround them.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 40-60kms

Day 25 Hokitika to Christchurch

From Hokitika township we travel by bus and bike on quiet inland roads through native forests to Lake Brunner. There are stunning lakeside views and swims before more scenic quiet roads take us back the West Coast highway. Here we stop to enjoy our final meal together at the recently restored historic Jackson's Tavern. If you can drag yourself away from the ambience in the pub, there is the option to cycle some more through sweeping rural landscapes and beneath rugged mountain peaks to Otira. Here we board the TranzAlpine Express train for a leisurely scenic trip back into Christchurch where our coach will meet and deliver you to your accommodation.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 40-60kms

Please note: This tour is made up of three different tours combined into one amazing tour of the South Island. On some departures Day 1 – Day 6 maybe moved to the end of the tour after Day 25. In this case Day 7 Christchurch becomes a rest day before the original Day 1.

The route in this scenario is then:

Route Scenario 2: Christchurch – Farlie – Lake Tekapo – Twizel – Wanaka – Queenstown – Te Anau – Milford Sound – Manapouri – Queenstown – Wanaka – Haast – Fox Glacier – Franz Josef – Hokitika – Christchurch – Hanmer Springs – Greymouth – Westport – Nelson – Kaikoura – Christchurch

Confused? If so just ask and we will put you straight.