



5 Day North Canterbury and Marlborough Tour

Route: Christchurch – Waipara Valley – Hanmer- Molesworth - Kaikoura - Christchurch

Day 1 Christchurch to Waipara Valley

After picking you up from your hotel we meet at our depot at 9.00am for a bike fitting and a test ride before driving out of town. Today's cycling itinerary is flexible depending on the prevailing. All going well we wind along the quiet back road from Loburn to Oxford. During the day we will visit the scenic Ashley River Gorge and Jo Seager's famous café in the town of Oxford. In the late afternoon we drive to our homestay accommodation amongst the vineyards of the Waipara Valley. Tonight we enjoy a home cooked meal and sample local wines alongside the pool in the beautifully converted barn at the Old Vicarage Lodge.

Meals: L/D

Cycling: up to 50 kms

Day 2 Waipara Valley to Hanmer

After a relaxed start, we cycle the quiet back roads to the historic Hurunui Pub before driving to Hanmer. The rest of the afternoon you have the option to explore the local cycle trails or soak in the thermal hot pools. Tonight you are free to enjoy one of the several excellent local restaurants.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: up to 50 kms

Day 3 Hanmer to Upcott Station

An early start sees us drive to the top of Jacks Pass before cycling into the Molesworth Valley. Flanked by mountain ranges, the road follows the Acheron River to the historic Acheron House, built in 1863. It was an overnight stopover in the early stock droving days. We cycle and drive our way along the spectacular valley. Just after Ward's Pass we pass the Molesworth Station settlement before meeting up at the Molesworth Cob Cottage built in 1866. Strong riders will enjoy the beautiful road to Upcott Station; for the rest we load up and drive to our shearer's quarters lodging nestled under Mt. Tapuaeouenuku, New Zealand's highest mountain outside of the Southern Alps. We dine on local produce tonight with our hosts, whose family has farmed this land for three generations.

Tour includes:

- 4 overnight stays 2-3 star twin share accommodation
- 4 breakfasts (B)
- 5 lunches (L)
- 3 dinners (D)
- Tour guide
- Support vehicle & luggage transfer

Grade:

- 1 Easy

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: up to 86 kms

Day 4 Upcott Station to Kaikoura

A relaxed start this morning allows us to enjoy this high country Merino sheep farm. After saying farewell to our hosts we set off along the beautiful Awatere River Valley. The scenery is spectacular and the road undulates at first before we encounter a long flat section as the valley opens out into the terraced vineyards that produce award winning Sauvignon Blanc's. We picnic on Yealand's Estate, a modern vineyard following sustainable horticultural practices, before driving along the scenic coastline to Kaikoura. If time allows your guides will take you on a dusk walk around the Kaikoura Peninsula.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: up to 63 kms

Day 5 Kaikoura to Christchurch

Early morning you have the option of taking a Whalewatch tour, or going on an Encounter with dolphins or albatross. Our guides will deliver those that want to ride to the Inland Kaikoura Road before returning to collect the rest of the group from their marine wildlife experience. We meet up with the cyclists before enjoying an easy downhill run into the village of Waiau for a picnic lunch. There is a final option for one more backcountry ride before we load up and return to Christchurch where you will be delivered to your local lodging.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: Up to 110 kms