



6 Day Otago Rail Trail

Route: Christchurch – Clyde – Lauder – Naseby – Dunedin – Christchurch

Day 1 Christchurch to Clyde

We will come and pick you up from your pre tour accommodation in Christchurch and bring you back to the depot at 7am. A quick check of your bike – or a fitting of one of our fleet of rental bikes will precede the loading of the bike trailer that will see us departing by 8am. After a lunch stop in Tekapo we start our cycle program with a quiet ride alongside a canal system with spectacular views of Mt Cook & the Southern Alps. Crossing over the Lindis Pass we descend down to Cromwell and travel alongside the scenic river gorge before arriving at the rail head in Clyde. The rest of the afternoon will be free to explore this old goldmining town, or there are other cycling options that your guide can advise you of. The evening will then be finished off with our first group dinner.

Meals: D

Cycling: Road Cycling - 24kms.

Day 2 Clyde to Omakau

The real riding starts today as we leave town across the flat rural countryside. From Chatto Creek the trail starts to rise before levelling off as we approach Omakau, where we stop for lunch and our accommodation for the night. After lunch there will be time to check into the accommodation and refresh, before we drive around the quaint township of Ophir. We will also drive to the top of the raggedy range to get a real bird's eye view of the trail and the path it takes. During the late afternoon we will take a drive to the historic gold mining village St Bathans, for a walk around the beautiful blue lake. This evening it is time for a relaxing beer and a game of pool at the local pub before dinner.

Meals: B/D

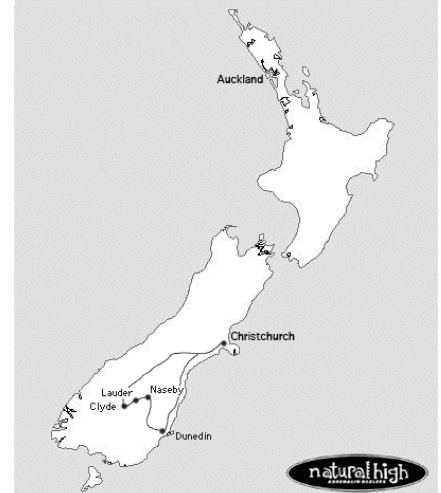
Cycling: Rail Trail Ride - 37 kms

Tour includes:

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

Grade:

- 2 Moderate



Day 3 Omakau to Naseby

On this day we head inland and ride through the first of two tunnels and over two rail bridges on the trip. With the willow tree edged gorge below the trail and the welcoming pools beckoning, we finally emerge in the Idaburn Valley. One last short easy climb takes us to the summit of the trail and the beginning of the downhill descent that will take us to Wedderburn. We lunch at a local cafe and then take a short ride which takes us to the beautiful township of Naseby and our hotel stay for the night. For those wanting to try their hand at something new, there is the opportunity to try the sport of Curling in the local indoor rink, the first in the southern hemisphere.

Meals: B/D

Cycling: Rail Trail Ride – 41.5 kms

Day 4 Naseby to Dunedin

It's a relaxing start to the morning, with options of a morning ride around one of the trail rides in Naseby forest with your guide, or if you would prefer, there are a number of short walks through the forest as well. After morning tea in Naseby, it's a short drive back to where we left off in Wedderburn. The riding is all down hill as we cruise into the art deco town of Ranfurly and our lunch spot for the day. Continuing on through the heart of the Moniototo Plain, we ride through to Daisy bank where you will meet your guide. We then load up the bikes and start to head back to Naseby. Along the way we will make some stops to check out the sights of the Central Otago area. Once back in Naseby there is plenty of time to relax at the hotel or explore more of the township.

Meals: B/D

Cycling: Rail Trail Ride – 39.5 kms

Day 5 Naseby to Dunedin

We start the morning with a drive back to Daisy Bank from Naseby. After riding through a couple more tunnels you will be arriving into Hyde and our lunch spot. After lunch you're on the home straight! From here a final 27kms takes us past the scene of the famous Hyde rail disaster of 1943 and then out onto the rolling plains slowly descending into Middlemarch. At 4.30pm we join the famous Taieri Express for a spectacular ride through the gorge; described as one of the worlds great train journeys. We travel into Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South. Our dinner tonight is in the form of a group celebration to acknowledge the 150kms of Rail Trail riding.

Meals: B/D

Cycling: Rail Trail Ride - 38 kms

Taieri Express – A trip not to be missed!

The 58kms of rail travel into Dunedin is rated as one of the worlds great rail trips. The 1.75 hour route traverses the Taieri gorge travelling across high iron viaducts and tunnels. (Note from Geoff – “As an aside, in my youth I scaffolded and sandblasted the main viaduct, which involved travelling this route on a daily basis!”). All trains feature heritage carriages and you may have a viewing carriage on your trip, which provides even better panoramas. The train arrives at the historic Dunedin railway station at 6.30pm in time for a transfer to our accommodation.

Day 6 Dunedin to Christchurch

The riding is still not finished as we head north to Oamaru, leaving behind those who wish to finish in Dunedin. Via the beautiful coastal roads we visit the famous Fluers Cafe at picturesque Moreaki Village and Moreaki Boulders before turning onto the final quiet 24km coastal ride along the cliff tops and farms that take us into Oamaru. Here in the old warehouse quarter the early buildings are being restored creating a fascinating opportunity to explore the past as you relax at a local Cafe. Back on the road again we continue across the Canterbury Plains and finally reach Christchurch and your accommodation at the trip end.

Meals: B

Cycling: Coastal Rides - 24-40 kms