



7Day Road Tour Picton to Christchurch

Route: Picton – Nelson – St Arnaud – Murchison – Westport – Punakaiki – Christchurch.

Day 1 Picton – Arrival Day

We meet at our the Hotel at 1pm. There will be an introductory meeting, rental bikes fitted and tried, or your own unpacked. We will then have dinner at one of the many excellent restaurants in town.

Meals: L/D

Cycling: Short warm up ride

Day 2 Picton to Nelson

We climb out of Picton along a delightful, twisty little road to Mahau Sound and the sleepy town of Havelock, from where the mail boat leaves. There is an attractive bush reserve at Pelorus Bridge. Through Rai Valley and over the climbs of Rai Saddle and Whangamoia Saddle we descend to the cathedral city of Nelson (pop 43,000), New Zealand's sunniest city with its neighbouring orchards and sandy beaches.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling:

Easy: Picton to Havelock 35km

Moderate: Picton to Pelorus Bridge 56km

Challenging: Picton to Nelson 110km

Day 3 Nelson to St Arnaud

We cycle up the Motueka Valley, a delightful quiet road that passes apple orchards, berry farms and wineries before reaching open sheep country. Through Golden Downs forest we continue to climb to St Arnaud, set in beech forest by beautiful Lake Rotoiti.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling:

Easy: Motueka to Kohatu: 52 km

Moderate: Motueka to Golden Downs 56km

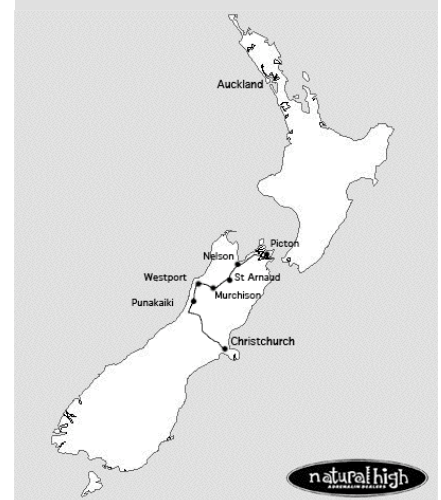
Challenging: Motueka to St Arnaud: 97 km

Tour includes:

- 6 nights accommodation in 3 – 4 Star hotels, motels or chalets.
- 1 nights accommodation at farm stays.
- 7 Breakfasts (B)
- 4 Lunches (L)
- 6 Dinners (D)
- Tour guide
- Support vehicle & Luggage transfer

Grade:

2 Moderate



Day 4 St Arnaud to Murchison

We take a short walk in the beech forest by the lake before starting the day's ride. From St Arnaud we follow the Buller River downhill through sheep farming country to Murchison. Once a goldmining town, it is best known for the devastating 1929 earthquake.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: St Arnaud to Murchison 63km (downhill)

Day 5 Murchison to Westport

There is the option (at extra cost) to raft down the impressive Buller Gorge to Lyell for lunch, or cycle the road which follows the river. We then continue down hill to the quaint old pub at Berlins, before heading for the sea and Westport. The sparsely populated West Coast is relatively isolated being cut off by the Southern Alps.

Before dinner at Cape Foulwind there will be an opportunity to see seals and cheeky black wekas (flightless native birds).

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: Murchison to Westport 97km. Short option Murchison to Berlins 64km.

Day 6 Westport to Punakaiki

At Charleston you may wish to go caving or underwater rafting. The rolling coastal road offers many spectacular views and delightful sandy coves. At Punakaiki we explore the fascinating Pancake Rocks and watch the sea surge through blow holes.

Meals: B/D

Cycling: Westport to Punakaiki 57km. Short option Westport to Charleston 26km.

Day 7 Punakaiki to Christchurch

The morning is free to spend at your leisure; options include swimming with dolphins and seals, kayaking, walks in Paparoa National Park, or simply relaxing in the beautiful surroundings. In the afternoon we will drive you over Arthur's Pass to Christchurch where the tour ends.

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

Meals: B/L

Cycling: No cycling today