



## 7Day Road Tour Top of the South Island

Route: Christchurch – Hanmer Springs – Greymouth – Westport – St Arnaud – Nelson – Kaikoura – 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

**Cycling:** 45 – 100kms

### 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:** 50 – 90 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:** 60 – 100kms

#### Tour includes:

- 5 nights of 3 Star accommodation share twin
- 7 Breakfasts (B)
- 7 Lunches (L)
- 3 Dinners (D)
- Cycle hire
- Tour Guide
- Support vehicle and luggage transfers
- DOC fees

#### Grade:

2 Moderate





## Day 4 Westport to St Arnaud

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 St Arnaud, nestled in the heartland of the Nelson Lakes National Park. We recommend that you take one of the many short walks around nearby lake Rotoiti, this area is known as a “mainland island” and the results of the pest eradication program means that the native bird life is flourishing.

**Meals:** B/L/D

**Cycling:** 45 – 70kms

## Day 5 St Arnaud to Nelson

Early risers are encouraged to take a walk into the nearby native forest at sunrise to hear the native birds & their “dawn chorus” From behind St Arnaud we cycle the sealed forestry roads on a long mainly downhill ride towards the coast. The cycle then travels along a quiet road beside the beautiful Motueka river and through an area known for growing hops. We enter the township of Motueka and transfer by coach to nearby Nelson where we have time to explore the arts and craft capital of New Zealand.

**Meals:** B/L

**Cycling:** 40 – 95kms

## Day 6 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 7 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 ([www.whalewatch.co.nz](http://www.whalewatch.co.nz)). Swimming with or watching dolphins is also highly recommended ([www.dolphin.co.nz](http://www.dolphin.co.nz)). Due to the popularity, however, it is essential to make a booking well in advance. 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: 50 – 110kms**

