



9 Day Road Tour Christchurch to Queenstown

Route: Christchurch – Hokitika – Franz Joseph – Fox Glacier – Haast – Makaroa – Lake Wanaka – Queenstown

Day 1 Christchurch

We pick you up from your hotel at 7.00am and bring you back to the depot for a bike fitting. Following that, we drop you and your bikes at the station for your transalpine Express departure at 8.15am. We arrive in Greymouth at around 12.45pm and from here we cycle southwards through the rural countryside before we reach the craft centre of Hokitika, home of the local jade known as Pounamu or greenstone.

Meals: L/D

Cycling: 40kms

Day 2 Hokitika to Franz Joseph

Further south, the glacier country beckons and the road soon changes from rural countryside to one fringed with the mighty podocarp rainforests. Along the way we break for coffee at Ross, one of the early gold-mining townships and then onwards through Hari Hari and Whataroa until finally we reach Franz Joseph Glacier township for the night.

Meals: B

Cycling: 135kms. Short Option – Ross to Whataroa – 81kms

Day 3 Franz Joseph to Fox Glacier

This morning is a chance to relax but for those who feel the need for some upper body exercise there is an option to do some sea-kayaking into the rainforest at the nearby Okarito Lagoon & bird sanctuary. The distance to Fox Glacier is only a matter of 25 kms but that ride crosses three strenuous passes, each followed by an exciting and exhilarating downhill. The ride is worth the effort with the last downhill into Fox leading straight into one of the village cafes or bars. In the evening we take a short tour to walk around nearby Lake Matheson with its famous sunset reflections of New Zealand's highest mountains.

Meals: B/L

Cycling: 25kms

Tour includes:

- 8 nights in excellent accommodation 3 Star NZ standard share twin
- 8 breakfasts (B)
- 5 lunches (L)
- 4 dinners (D)
- Cycle hire and helmet
- Tour Guide
- Support vehicle and luggage transfer
- All activities shown
- Walk to base of Glacier
- DOC Fees

Grade:

- 3 Challenging



Day 4 Fox Glacier

Time for a day off the saddle and Fox Glacier is a great place to enjoy this. Relax and catch up with your diary or postcards. Your guide will take you for a walk to the base of the Glacier, but you also have the option of going with the local Alpine Guiding company for a half or full day hike onto the glacier itself. Flight-seeing is very popular here either in fixed wing planes around the mountains or a helicopter flight to land on the snowfields high above the village. For those with extra energy we offer a late afternoon drive & then walk along the isolated Gillespies beach.

Meals: B

Cycling: No cycling today

Day 5 Fox Glacier to Haast

After the free day we head off again on the beautiful highways and flat roads. The road reaches the coast at Bruce Bay before turning inland again and skirting the beautiful Lake Moeraki and then the Knights Point coastline. Eventually we roll into Haast township and a final night on the west coast.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 120kms. Short Option – Fox to Lake Moeraki – 89 kms

Day 6 Haast to Makaroa

Haast Pass presents another of the riding highlights. For some 50 kms the road slowly rises as the mighty Landsborough River joins the nearby Clark Valley. Countless waterfalls cascade from the mountains towering above the road & the lush rainforest changes to beech forest as you get higher up the valley. A final serious climb takes us to the summit of the pass at 678m. From here there is a 20km ride down into the beautiful township of Makaroa and a deserved end to the days ride. If the descent does not provide enough excitement there is a thrilling jet-boat ride nearby taking you deep into the Mount Aspiring National Park.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 82 kms

Day 7 Makaroa to Lake Wanaka

Dramatic changes in the landscape today as we enter the dry arid country on the eastern side of the ranges. Today we cycle alongside spectacular lakes as the road rolls down into the headwaters of the Otago valleys and then climbs along the lake shore before taking us into the bustling resort township of Lake Wanaka. The afternoon is free to enjoy the shopping & relax alongside the lake.

Meals: B

Cycling: 68kms



Day 8 Lake Wanaka to Queenstown

This morning we head out of town on a 25km cycle to the historic township of Cardrona, with a chance to stop in the old pub for a coffee in the beautiful gardens. From here the last serious climb of your tour takes us to our highest point, 1070m at the top of the Crown Range with its spectacular views, before a wicked drop down into Arrowtown for lunch. We have time to enjoy this historic Gold Mining town before our final ride into Queenstown.

Meals: B/L/D

Cycling: 78kms

Day 9 Queenstown – Departure Day

Our tour ends today after breakfast and we must sadly say farewell. Queenstown is known as the adventure capital of the world. The town is situated alongside a beautiful lake surrounded by mountains so relaxing is also very easy to do & the shopping is fantastic. We recommend you spend some extra time here and are happy to help with accommodation bookings.

Meals: B