

NEW ZEALAND - QUEENSTOWN & WANAKA CYCLE TRAIL

5 days / 4 nights GUIDED inn-to-inn cycling tour from Queenstown to Clyde, Alexandra & Wanaka



The Queenstown Cycle Trail starts in Otago's world renowned Wakatipu Basin where the reputation as one of the world's favourite adventure and cycling destinations is enhanced with the addition of this New Zealand Cycle Tour. The newly opened trail is part of the New Zealand Cycling Trails network and unveils stunning new vistas, hidden ruins, spectacular architecture and world-class food and wine.

On this small group guided cycle tour we meander through some of New Zealand's most breathtaking scenery, taking in the stunning landscapes of Lake Hayes, Frankton and Queenstown, Arrowtown, Gibbston Valley, Clyde, Alexandra (Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail), Roxburgh (Clutha Gold Cycle Trail) and Wanaka, for five full days of spectacular cycling and local experiences. Discover Central Otago's gold-rush history and taste the Pinot Noirs and aromatic white wines of this up-and-coming wine region. Bustling Queenstown provides a rush of adrenaline, contrasted with quiet historical Clyde and the remote, rarely toured Roxburgh Gorge.

This unique itinerary has been specially created to allow cycling across unspoiled private land, over mighty suspension bridges, and alongside six iconic rivers and six lakes all set in dramatic landscapes, some used for the now famous Lord of the Rings films. Well-maintained mountain bikes are provided, suitable for the unsealed terrain or you can bring your own if you prefer. A limited number of pedal-assist E-bikes are available for a surcharge – these need to be booked well in advance.

Cost from: \$2335 per person twin share Single room surcharge \$515

Departs: 10th January, 16th March 2020, from Queenstown *

* Other dates available weekly from November 2019 to April 2020, for minimum groups of 4 people.

Duration: 5 Days / 4 Nights

Includes: Double or twin share in hotels, motels or lodges with mainly ensuite bathrooms; all meals during the tour (including continental breakfasts, hearty packed lunches and dinners); services of an experienced and knowledgeable guide; bike hire (includes use of helmet and hi-visibility safety vest); support vehicle; tour kit goodie bag including water bottle and field and history guide to the area; luggage transfers.

Transport can be arranged from or to Christchurch at extra cost if you prefer to start or end your tour there. Ask us about additional nights of accommodation in Queenstown and/or Christchurch if required.

Fitness: This tour is easy to moderate and suitable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness, who is used to cycling. As the cycling is mostly on dedicated cycle trails you are usually away from the traffic, although there are a number of road crossings. Terrain is generally flat to undulating with a few steeper ascents. Trails are unsealed and may have muddy or loose sections, obstacles, steep drop-offs or small river crossings.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Lake Hayes – Queenstown – Arrowtown

cycling @ 48km

We start with an easy 8km cycle ride around Lake Hayes to settle into our bikes. Lake Hayes is the 'the most photographed lake in New Zealand', a mirror lake reflecting the majestic mountains of the Wakatipu Basin and the earth tones of the landscape. From Lake Hayes we cycle to Frankton where Lake Wakatipu empties into the mighty Kawarau River. Along the way the magnificent colours of the South Island come to life, particularly in autumn (you'll quickly see why these roads are such a favourite with the makers of car commercials). We continue alongside the Frankton Arm of Lake Wakatipu, taking in the views of the Remarkables and other peaks surrounding the lake. We drive into Queenstown (or cycle if time permits) to soak up the atmosphere of this bustling resort town, then head to our overnight accommodation in Arrowtown.

Day 2: Arrowtown – Gibbston – Clyde – Alexandra

cycling @ 38km

We start our ride in Arrowtown, a gold rush town in the late 1800s, and cross the awe-inspiring Southern Discoveries suspension bridge, a destination in itself and with stunning views. We ride past quaint cottages and grazing horses down Whitechapel country lane – a landscape painting straight out of a picture book. We stop at the Knights Family Underbridge for the spectacular view of where the Arrow River drops into the gorge.

Yet another impressive feat of engineering, the breathtakingly graceful 80-metre Edgar Suspension Bridge, looms dramatically. From its midpoint, it delivers an awe-inspiring view down the Arrow Gorge. Breathe in the thyme-scented mountain air as we make our way over the historic Kawarau Bridge, home of the world's first bungee jumping operation. The Kawarau River remains in view far below on our left and to the right, we see the Gibbston vineyards and iconic Central Otago landscapes. In Gibbston at a boutique winery we enjoy a picnic vineyard platter lunch and wine-tasting, followed by a scenic drive following the Kawarau River to Clyde, a boom town during the Central Otago gold rush in the 1860s. In the afternoon we cycle beneath willow trees from Clyde to Alexandra, following the Clutha River, then return to our accommodation in Clyde by bus or bicycle.

Day 3: Alexandra – Roxburgh Dam – Millers Flat

cycling @ 47km

We travel the short distance back to Alexandra where the Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail begins. We ride to Lake Roxburgh Dam along the stunning Clutha River, exploring the remote gorge with its incredible scenery and gold-mining history. At its most dramatic point, bluffs rise almost 350m on either side of the river, and we cycle past the remains of two small mining settlements and old schist huts built into the rock by Chinese miners.

From Doctors Point we travel around 12km by boat (approx. 45 minutes), through some of the most stunning scenery New Zealand has to offer, then continue by bike through secluded valleys and lush green farmland, still alongside the mighty Clutha River, a distinctive turquoise in colour. Look out for signs of the original search for gold and imagine what the hardy settlers faced in the early days. Downstream the valley is lined with orchards on both sides creating a splash of colour at every season, and we see unusual rock formations on the hillsides and in the river, some created by ancient glacial activity. From Millers Flat we drive to our overnight accommodation.

Day 4: Roxburgh – Luggate – Albert Town – Wanaka

cycling @ 33km

After breakfast we transfer by bus to the starting point of our ride, just outside the township of Luggate. Again we cycle along the banks of the mighty Clutha River. On reaching Albert Town, the cycle trail crosses the Cardrona River at 'Pawson's Crossing', and we continue to follow the river over escarpments and past ox-bow lakes, all the way to Lake Wanaka. This stretch of the river is world-renowned for its trout fishing. We end our ride in the stunning lakeside resort town of Wanaka where we stay the night.

Day 5: Wanaka – Lake Hawea – Queenstown

cycling @ 40km

We start the day with a transfer to Lake Hawea, and cycle some 20-30km along the shores of this remote and spectacular lake. At the small lakeside settlement of Lake Hawea we join the Hawea River track, winding through kanuka (tea tree) groves and woodland near the Hawea River. On completion of our ride we drive back to Queenstown where your Queenstown Cycle Trail experience finishes.

Outdoor Travel offers guided or self-guided cycling or walking trips in New Zealand. Try cycling in the **Marlborough** wineries or the fabled **Otago Rail Trail**. Combine a ride with a walk on the **Milford Sound Track**, the **Routeburn Walk**, **Grand Traverse**, **Hollyford Track**, **Queen Charlotte** or **Akaroa Walk** near Christchurch. Combine walking, kayaking and cycling on the **Abel Tasman** peninsula to the north of the South Island.

In Europe inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling holidays are available in most destinations.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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