

MARLBOROUGH WINE COUNTRY

5 days / 4 nights **QUALITY** self-guided cycling in the Sauvignon Blanc wine region of Blenheim



Explore the landscapes of famous Marlborough; renowned as one of the world's top 10 wine regions. What better way to experience the dramatic transformation of the fruit of the vine into a bottle of wine than on a Wine Trail tour by bicycle? On our leisurely cycling journey of just 15-30km per day, each day's end sees your baggage transported ahead to your accommodation base and a choice of superb dinner venues.

Cost from: **\$2270** per person twin share with **E-bike** hire
\$2175 per person twin share with standard hybrid bike hire
Single room supplement \$985

Departs: Daily all year round - starts and ends in Blenheim.

Duration: 5 Days / 4 Nights

Includes: 4 nights' accommodation in characterful 4-5-star hotels or boutique lodges, all with private bathrooms, 4 breakfasts, hire of multi-geared E-bike or standard hybrid bike with panniers and helmet (bring your own if you prefer), either a light evening meal at Peppertree or taxi into town, one-way restaurant transfer (Bell Tower), luggage transfers, road maps, route and local tourist information.

Additional accommodation can be arranged in Blenheim or along the route at extra cost – ask for details.

Fitness: This tour is easy to moderate and suitable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness, who is used to cycling. Some preparation with regular cycling is advised.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Arrive in Blenheim

Make your way by mid-afternoon to Blenheim in the heart of New Zealand's Marlborough wine district. Blenheim is a busy country town full of interesting shops and cafés. An hour's stroll will take you from historical buildings to modern architecture. Pollard Park nearby has wonderful gardens, a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts and a fitness trail. Check in at the Hotel d'Urville is from 2pm but the hotel will happily store your luggage if you arrive earlier. Your E-bikes can be collected from 1pm onwards and once you have them, the rest of the afternoon is at your own leisure.

Hotel d'Urville is a fine and elegant boutique hotel situated within the historic Public Trust Building in the centre of Blenheim. We suggest you spend the afternoon exploring the local area. For an excellent evening meal in a delightful setting, the d'Urville Wine Bar and Brasserie may be just the perfect place.

Day 2 Blenheim to The Bell Tower

Cycling @ 25km

We suggest you start your first cycling day in a leisurely fashion. Your destination today is a boutique lodge, situated amidst stunning scenery overlooking Marlborough's vineyards. En route, why not cycle to the Wither Hills Walkway and enjoy a brisk walk to the Lookout. From here you have an excellent view over Blenheim and the Wairau Plains. Then cycle half way back, turn left into New Renwick Road and after a couple of kilometres, left again into Ben Morven Road, which starts off very flat but gradually takes you to the elevated site of Fran Maguire's pottery studio. Fran is an artist with a passion for clay and food, which is reflected in her brightly coloured, unique tableware. Visit Villa Maria Estate on Paynters Road before turning left into New Renwick Road where you can visit Matua Marlborough and Fromm Winery, which are two well-established vineyards.

We suggest you take a late lunch at the Tuscan style Highfield Estate Winery with its tower and commanding views across the valley. Then make your way to The Bell Tower Boutique Lodge on Dog Point early afternoon ready to be spoiled. Please ask your hosts to recommend a suitable dinner venue and to book a table. A one-way taxi transfer is included in your tour price.

Day 3 The Bell Tower to Marlborough Vintners Hotel

Cycling @ 25km

Wake to the calls of a host of native songbirds. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and prepare yourself for a day of quality wine tasting. Cycling from The Bell Tower Boutique Lodge, turn left into Dog Point Road, then right onto Hawkesbury Road and left to Middle Renwick Road. Here you look out for the "hand sign" of Seresin Estate on your right and follow Bedford Road through the vineyards. Only estate grown grapes from their organic and biodynamic vineyards are used in the production of their wine.

Turn right onto Highway 6 and visit the boutique Gibson Bridge Vineyard. The tasting room is a converted garage, where Julie and Howard love to share their passion for wine. Cycle through Forrest Wines and see Georges Michael Wine Estate.

Perhaps call in at the family owned Wairau River Wines for lunch before heading to your accommodation. The Marlborough Vintners Hotel is a heritage boutique hotel hidden away amongst the vines and situated on the same road. Arrive early afternoon to be able to enjoy this setting.



Day 4 Marlborough Vintners Hotel to The Peppertree

Cycling @ 30km

Your route today offers at least four other vineyards of note. At the family owned Allan Scott Winery in Jackson Road, taste premium award-winning wines in a unique setting. Just opposite is the winery that took New Zealand's Sauvignon Blanc wine from "curiosity to respectability" – Cloudy Bay. Then turn left into Old Renwick Road and left again into Hammerichs Road to visit Drylands Estate, which offers state-of-the-art wine production. Saint Clair, back on the corner of Rapaura and Selmes Road is a good place for lunch, before the final stop for the day which could be 'Price's Traditional Country Preserves'.

Today's destination is The Peppertree, a gracious Edwardian villa. We suggest you cycle there via the scenic route on a marked cycle track. Your evening can be spent relaxing in one of Peppertree's beautiful garden spots, in the vineyard or on the veranda. Tour cost includes either a platter for two, comprised of local produce from The Peppertree's own organic orchard and from the famous Marlborough area, or a hot meal alternative. If you prefer to dine in town, please advise in advance and we can organise a one-way taxi transfer in place of the evening meal at The Peppertree.

Day 5 The Peppertree to Blenheim and Departure

Cycling @ 15km

Enjoy a country style breakfast in the rich ambience of the dining room and stroll around the lovely garden before your tour ends. Please make your own way back to central Blenheim, mostly via a cycle path, and drop your bikes off by 4.30pm and collect your transferred luggage.

Weather and cycling conditions – New Zealand has an Oceanic climate and weather conditions can change rapidly throughout the day. Summers can be very hot and sunblock is essential. Winters are the opposite and we recommend you wear or carry a hat, gloves and a neck-warmer or scarf in addition to your jacket. Your bike comes with panniers for easy storage. If you experience adverse weather conditions during your journey you can ask local pubs, accommodation or services for assistance. Strong wind can be quite common and in this case you can contact your next accommodation to see if they are available to come and collect you from your current location.

We recommend you link this tour with Abel Tasman walking and / or sea kayaking tours from Nelson.

Outdoor Travel offers many guided cycling or walking trips in **New Zealand** including the iconic Otago Rail Trail and the Milford Sound Track, the Routeburn Walk or Grand Traverse, Hollyford Track walk, the Abel Tasman walk or sea-kayaking, Queen Charlotte Walk and the Tongariro Crossing on the North Island.

In **Europe** inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling holidays are available in France, Italy, Spain, UK, Germany, Switzerland Croatia, Greece and Turkey. Bike & Barge or Bike & Boating cycling cruises in Europe are available in the Loire Valley, Champagne, Burgundy or Provence regions of France, along the Saar and Moselle in Germany, the Danube through Austria, the Venice Lagoon, the popular routes between Amsterdam and Bruges or Brussels or between Paris and Bruges through France, Belgium and Holland.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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