

MARLBOROUGH WINE COUNTRY & KAIKOURA WHALES

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



Start your journey with a scenic train trip, astonishingly close to the ruggedly beautiful coastlines of the surging Pacific Ocean and the steep Kaikoura Ranges. Kaikoura is famous for its natural ocean wonders and an abundance of sea life, including world famous Whale Watching excursions by boat or plane.

Then travel to equally 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 15-35km per day, each day's end sees your baggage transported ahead to your accommodation base and a choice of superb dinner venues.

Cost from: **\$1895** per person twin share with **E-bike** hire
Single room supplement on request

Departs: Daily all year round - starts in Christchurch 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, train from Christchurch to Kaikoura to Blenheim, train station transfers in Kaikoura and in Blenheim, hire of multi-geared E-bike with panniers, safety vest, lock and helmet (bring your own if you prefer), luggage transfers in Marlborough, road maps, route and local tourist information, emergency bike assistance.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Christchurch to Kaikoura, optional Whale Watching (weather permitting)

No cycling

An early start from the Christchurch Railway station begins a memorable journey to the coastal fishing port of Kaikoura. Travel across broad braided rivers (including the Clarence River that was the training ground for Sir Edmund Hillary) and the rich patchwork of farming landscapes of the Canterbury Plains. The wild coastline is home to seals, dolphins and a host of marine life.

After a spectacular train trip you will arrive at the Kaikoura Railway station at lunch time. You will be met by your hosts and transferred to your accommodation. This afternoon you are free to explore or to contact local tour operators (at own cost) to watch whales, dolphins, sea-birds and many other species of marine life. These operate on a daily basis; by boat, flight and by land. With wetsuits provided, visitors can even swim with the dolphins and seals in their ocean environment. The tours are weather dependent so best booked locally.

Kaikoura boasts a great selection of restaurants, cafes and bars with a wide range of cuisine, including seafood, the local specialty. Your local hosts will happily assist you with a choice and reservations.

Day 2 Kaikoura to Blenheim and Vintners Retreat

Cycling @ 15km

After breakfast, you will be transferred back to the railway station for the last 2 hours of your train journey to Blenheim. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your villa accommodation at the Vintners Retreat, surrounded by vineyards in the very heart of Marlborough wine country, with views cross the Wairau River valley to the Richmond Ranges.

Once you have settled in and collected your E-bikes, the rest of the afternoon is at your leisure with some classic wineries to visit. Take a ride along the 'Golden Mile' of food and wine estates, including Matua, Allan Scott, Cloudy Bay, Wairau River, and Nautilus Estate (which in addition to its exceptional Sauvignon Blanc also offers great cheese platters). .

Day 3 Vintners Retreat to French Fields

Cycling @ 20km

We suggest you start your cycling day in a leisurely fashion. En-route, why visit the township of Renwick with its quaint history museum showcasing Renwick's early settlement through to the start of the wine industry and enjoy a morning coffee at a local cafe. Then head out for some wine tastings at Forrest, Framingham, Bladen, and Spy Valley. Enjoy great scenery, art, food, superb wine and a perfect day cycling in the vineyards.

Arrive in the afternoon at French Fields, a boutique French country B&B with Provencal-style suites, situated overlooking fields of lavender and olive groves amongst Marlborough's vineyards, then spend a beautiful relaxing evening among the vines. Your hosts are happy to assist with local restaurant bookings or enjoy a glass of wine and a light platter in the garden (at extra cost).

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Day 4 French Fields to Hotel D'Urville, Blenheim

Cycling @ 20km

Prepare yourself for a day of quality wine tasting and great cycling also. Suggested tastings are at Villa Maria, Wither Hills, and Lawsons. There's a chance to ride along the Wither Hills Farm park before cycling into Blenheim. Spend your last night at Hotel d'Urville, a fine and elegant boutique hotel situated within the historic Public Trust Building in the centre of Blenheim. For an excellent evening meal in a delightful setting, the d'Urville Wine Bar and Brasserie may be just the perfect place.

Day 5 Blenheim and Departure

Enjoy breakfast in the rich ambience of the dining room and take the opportunity to explore Blenheim before you depart. 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.

Optional transfers to Blenheim train station or airport are available at extra cost, depending on your onward travel arrangements.



Where the usual accommodation is unavailable an equivalent alternative will be booked instead. Additional accommodation can be arranged in Christchurch, Kaikoura or 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.

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 and the Queen Charlotte Track Walk.

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:

- Toll free on 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741