

SOUTH ISLAND GRAND TOUR 16 Days / 15 Nights Picton to Queenstown

ITINERARY

Please bring this information with you to the tour start.

Distances are given in kilometres. 1 km = 0.62 miles

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; cycle as little or as much as you wish each day, the shuttle van will always be available. Suggested cycling distances are given for each day, as follows:

Cas. = casual cyclists, Int. = intermediate cyclists, adv = advanced cyclists.



Day Three: Nelson to St Arnaud:
Motueka to Kohatu: cas. 52 km / 33 mi
Motueka to Golden Downs int. 56km/ 35 mi
Motueka to St Arnaud: adv.97 km/ 61 mi

We cycle up the Motueka Valley, a delightful quiet road that passes apple orchards, berry farms and wineries before reaching open sheep country. Through Golden Downs forest we continue to climb to St Arnaud, set in beech forest by beautiful Lake Rotoiti.

Lodging: (Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included)
Alpine Lodge, Nelson Lakes, St Arnaud.
Phone 03 521 1869 enquiries@alpinelodge.co.nz
www.alpinelodge.co.nz
Facilities: Licensed restaurant, bar, laundry.
Features: In Nelson Lakes National Park.

Day Four: St Arnaud to Murchison: 63 km./ 39 mi. (downhill)

We take a short walk in the beech forest by the lake before starting the day's ride. From St Arnaud we follow the Buller River downhill through sheep farming country to Murchison. Once a goldmining town, it is best known for the devastating 1929 earthquake.

Lodging: (Breakfast and dinner are included)
Murchison Motel
53 Fairfax Street, Murchison
Phone: 03 523 9026 murchison.motels@xtra.co.nz
www.murchisonmotels.co.nz
Facilities: Laundry, swimming pool
Features: Quiet, picturesque surroundings.

Day Five: Murchison to Westport: adv. 97 km/ 61 mi
Murchison to Berlins: cas/int 64 km/ 40 mi

There is the option (at extra cost) to raft down the impressive Buller Gorge to Lyell for lunch, or cycle the road which follows the river. We then continue down alongside the river, before heading for the sea and Westport. The sparsely populated West Coast is relatively isolated being cut off by the Southern Alps.

Before dinner at Cape Foulwind there will be an opportunity to see seals and cheeky black wekas (flightless native birds).

Lodging: B, L & D (Dinner: Bay House Restaurant, Cape Foulwind)
Chelsea Gateway Motor Lodge, 330 Palmerston Street, Westport
Phone 03 789 6835 chelseagateway@xtra.co.nz
www.chelseagateway.co.nz
Facilities: Very spacious modern rooms, laundry
Features: Walking distance to town centre

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; the van will be available at any time

Day Six: Westport to Punakaiki: int./ adv 57 km/ 36 mi
Westport to Charleston: cas. 26 km/ 16 mi

At Charleston you may wish to go caving or underwater rafting. The rolling coastal road offers many spectacular views and delightful sandy coves. At Punakaiki we explore the fascinating Pancake Rocks and watch the sea surge through blow holes.

Lodging: B, D (lunch is not supplied today.)

Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki

Phone 03 731 1167 info@punakaiki-resort.co.nz

www.punakaiki-resort.co.nz

Facilities: Spacious modern rooms, licensed restaurant and bar, laundry, internet kiosk and wireless internet access

Features: On beachfront, all rooms have a sea view.

Day Seven: Punakaiki. Rest Day

Options today include kayaking, walks in Paparoa National Park, or simply relaxing in the beautiful surroundings.

Lodging: Lunch and dinner are not provided today.

Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki

Phone 03 731 1167 info@punakaiki-resort.co.nz

Day Eight: Punakaiki to Hokitika: adv. 84km / 52.5 mi.
Punakaiki to Greymouth: cas./int. 44 km/ 28 mi

We head south to Greymouth, the principal town of Westland. Named after Sir George Grey, New Zealand's first Governor, it was the site of Mawhera, the largest Maori settlement on the West Coast. From here it is a flat run to Hokitika, a town famous for its goldrush in the 1860's and more recently timber milling. The town has greenstone (jade) and glass blowing factories and now relies on tourism .

Lodging: B, D (lunch is not provided today.)

Jade Court Motor Lodge, 85 Fitzherbert Street, Hokitika.

Phone 03 755 8855 Fax. 03 755 8133

<http://www.jadecourt.co.nz/> jadecourt@minidata.co.nz

Facilities: Internet facilities and laundry

Features: Luxury units in attractive garden setting.

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; the van will be available at any time

Day Nine:Hokitika to Whataroa: adv. 85.5 km/ 53 mi
 Hokitika to Lake Inathe tavern cas./ int. 49km/ 31 mi

Much of the ride today is through native bush. The Bushman's Centre at Lake lanthe at Lake lanthe is well worth a stop, as is beautiful Lake lanthe, renowned for trout fishing. Harihari is a small logging town and has an excellent craft shop.

Shortly after leaving Harihari we tackle Mt Hercules – a far easier climb than the name suggests.

Trips can be arranged to the White Heron colony at Okarito (optional extra). Okarito Beach is the site of Abel Tasman's landfall and once a thriving town.

Lodging: (Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included)
 Mount Adam Lodge. Phone 03 753-4030 fax 03 753 4264
mtadam@paradise.net.nz www.mountadamlodge.co.nz
 Facilities: Licensed restaurant and bar
 Features: Deer farm, trout fishing nearby, quiet relaxed setting

OR Alternative B&B and Hotel

Day Ten: Whataroa to Fox Glacier: adv. 74 km/ 46 mi
 Whataroa to Franz Josef: cas/int. 50 km/ 31 mi

It is a flat run into Westland National Park and Franz Josef Glacier where you will have superb views of snowcapped peaks. From Franz to Fox (24 km) there are three climbs (and descents) through beautiful native forest, a spectacular way to finish the day.

Lodging: (Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included)
 The Westhaven, State Highway 6, Fox Glacier.
 Phone 03 751 0084 host@thewesthaven.co.nz
www.thewesthaven.co.nz
 Facilities: Guest laundry, guest BBQ, microwave oven in room, WiFi access.
 Features: Very attractive modern property set in Westland National Park with a backdrop of snow capped peaks and flowing glaciers. Walking distance to flightseeing operators.

Day Eleven: Fox Glacier - rest day.

A walk up the glacier valley gives spectacular views of the terminal ice, while the Westland National Park Visitors Centre houses a wealth of information. (Thirteen percent of N.Z. is national park.) Also highly recommended are ski-plane or helicopter flights over snowfields, forests and glaciers and the lovely walk around Lake Matheson, with its mirror views of Mt's Cook and Tasman.

Lodging: B Lunch and dinner are not included this day.
 The Westhaven, State Highway 6, Fox Glacier.
 Phone 03 751 0084 host@thewesthaven.co.nz

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; the van will be available at any time

Day Twelve: Fox Glacier to Lake Moeraki: adv. 90 km/ 56 mi.
 Fox Glacier to Bruce Bay: cas. 48km/ 30 mi
 Fox Glacier to Salmon Farm: int. 65km/ 41 mi

From Fox to Lake Paringa the road passes through lush rain forest of rimu and rata, flax filled swamps and past rugged hills. The many rivers become raging torrents after rain. With fine weather there will be superb views of Mt. Cook and the Southern Alps.

Lodging: B, D Lunch is not provided today.
 Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge.
 Phone 03 750 0881 Fax. 03 750 0882
www.wildernesslodge.co.nz lakemoeraki@wildernesslodge.co.nz
 Facilities: Licensed restaurant and bar, and drying room, free broadband internet.
 Features: Riverside setting, beautiful bush walk to the beach.
 Canadian canoes available for a paddle on the lake.

Day Thirteen: Lake Moeraki to Makarora: adv. 112 km / 70 mi.
 Lake Moeraki to Haast: cas. 30 km / 19 km
 Lake Moeraki to Haast Pass: int. 81km / 51 mi

Just south of Lake Moeraki, Knights Point affords excellent views of the rugged coastline where seals can often be seen basking in the sun. From Haast we head inland, following the Haast River towards the snowcapped peaks. We pass innumerable waterfalls and much bird life, notably keas, fantails and bellbirds. After lunch the stiff climb through the Gates of Haast is negotiated before the gentle descent to Makarora.

Lodging: (Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included)
 Makarora Wilderness Resort, Makarora
 Phone (03) 443 8372 Fax. (03) 443 1082
<http://www.makarora.co.nz/> info@makarora.co.nz
 Facilities: Swimming pool, restaurant.
 Features: Jet boating up Wilkin River into Mt. Aspiring National Park.

Day Fourteen: Makarora to Wanaka: int./adv. 66 km/ 41 mi
 Makarora to Hawea turnoff: cas. 50 km/ 31 mi

The country is now dramatically drier, dense bush giving way to open sheep paddocks. The scenery is breathtaking as the road closely follows Lake Wanaka, crosses the Neck to Lake Hawea and then recrosses to Lake Wanaka.

Lodging: B Lunch and dinner not included. There are excellent restaurants & cafes in Wanaka.

Te Wanaka Lodge, 23 Brownston Street, Wanaka.
 Phone: (03) 443 9224 Fax: (03) 443 9246
<http://www.tewanaka.co.nz/> info@tewanaka.co.nz
 Facilities: House bar, library, internet, garden hot tub and laundry facilities.
 Features: Attractive boutique lodge in the town centre.

Day Fifteen: Wanaka to Queenstown via Cardrona: adv. 78 km/ 49 mi.
Wanaka to Cardrona Hotel: cas./ int.27km/ 17 mi

Our route today takes us up the Crown Range, over the Cardrona Road. We climb past the historic Cardrona Hotel; on reaching the top there will be amazing views of The Remarkables mountains and Queenstown. We descend the exhilarating hairpin bends down to Arrowtown, with its quaint old cottages and avenues of elms.

A short leisurely ride beneath Coronet Peak, a winter ski field, takes us to Arthur's Point where we cross the Shotover River on our way to Queenstown. Surrounded by mountain peaks (including the famous Remarkables), and set on Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown has much to offer.

Lodging: (Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included)
Cophorne Resort Lakefront, Cnr Franklin Rd & Adelaide Street, Queenstown
Phone 03 442 8123 Fax. 03 442 7472
cophorne.lakefront@millenniumhotels.co.nz
<http://www.millenniumhotels.co.nz/cophornequeenstownlakefront/index.html>
Facilities: Licensed bar, restaurant, private facilities, spa pool, internet access
Features: Lake and mountain views.

Day Sixteen: Queenstown

Options today include a jet boat or rafting trip on the Kawarau or Shotover Rivers, the steamer "Earnslaw" to visit a high country sheep station, the gondola cableway, Skippers canyon, a flight to Milford Sound (fiord), and much more. Queenstown also has an excellent botanical garden and a very good shopping centre.

It is here that we say farewell, a safe journey home and hope to see you again (or start the Southern Scenic tour).

You may like to leave the following accommodation list with relatives or friends.

SOUTH ISLAND - GRAND TOUR 16 DAY TOUR

DAY	DATE	LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION	Phone
1		Picton	Beachcomber	03 573 8900
2		Nelson	Trailways	03 548-7049
3		St Arnaud	Alpine Lodge	03 521-1869
4		Murchison	Murchison Motel	03 523 9026
5		Westport	Chelsea Gateway	03 789-6835
6		Punakaiki	Punakaiki Resort	03 731-1167
7		Punakaiki	Punakaiki Resort	03 731-1167
8		Hokitika	Jade Court Motor Lodge	03 755 8855
9		Harihari	Mt Adam Lodge	03 753-4030
10		Fox Glacier	The Westhaven	03 751 0084
11		Fox Glacier	The Westhaven	03 751 0084
12		Lake Moeraki	Lake M. Lodge	03 750-0881
13		Makarora	Wilderness Resort	03 443 8372
14		Wanaka	Te Wanaka Lodge	03 443 9224
15		Queenstown	Copthorne Lakefront	03 442 8123
16		Depart for home or Southern Scenic tour.		