

SOUTH ISLAND NELSON LAKES TOUR 7 Days / 6 Nights Picton to Christchurch

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.

Our South Island Adventure starts at Picton, a picturesque fishing town at the northern tip of the South Island. It is a small town (pop.2,600) nestling under bushclad hills of Queen Charlotte Sound, named by Captain Cook in 1770.

Your options for reaching Picton are as follows:

- a. Fly to Auckland and then fly to Wellington, take the ferry to Picton. The scenic Inter-Islander departs at 8.25am, 10.35am, 2.00pm and 6.15pm and the journey takes three hours. You can therefore take the 8.25am ferry on the meeting day and be in Picton in time to meet the group.
- b. Fly to Christchurch, drive or take the TransCoastal train to Picton. Our guide will be driving up on the meeting day; please let us know if you would like a ride in the minibus with the guide. The train departs Christchurch at 7.00am and arrives in Picton at 12.15pm. It is a very scenic journey but you would need to arrive in Christchurch the day before in order to take the train.



MEETING DAY / DAY ONE

We meet at 1.00 pm at Beachcomber Inn
27 Waikawa Rd, Picton
Ph 03 573-8900

Should you need to contact Pedaltours please call our Auckland office, Richard, Helen or Lisa tollfree 0800 302 0968.

Your tour leader will hold a trip orientation meeting after lunch. We will then take a short ride on a quiet country road, to Waikawa Bay and return.

Lodging and meals: (Lunch and dinner are included)
Beachcomber Inn, 27 Waikawa Rd, Picton
Ph 03 573-8900 Fax 03 573-8888
Facilities: Laundry, restaurant
Features: Central to harbour and ferries.

Day Two: Picton to Nelson: adv. 110km/69 mi
Picton to Havelock: cas. 35km/ 22 mi
Picton to Pelorus Bridge: int. 56km/ 35 mi

We climb out of Picton along a delightful, twisty little road to Mahau Sound and the sleepy town of Havelock, from where the mail boat leaves. There is an attractive bush reserve at Pelorus Bridge. Through Rai Valley and over the climbs of Rai Saddle and Whangamoia Saddle we descend to the cathedral city of Nelson (pop 43,000), New Zealand's sunniest city with its neighbouring orchards and sandy beaches.

Lodging: (Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included)
Trailways Motor Inn, 66 Trafalgar St, Nelson
Phone 03 548-7049 Email enquiries@trailways.co.nz
Facilities: Licensed restaurant, bar, laundry.
Features: In centre of town.

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 Fax. 03 521 1868
Facilities: Licensed restaurant, bar, laundry.
Features: In Nelson Lakes National Park.

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

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 (and Kiwi Park Motels)
53 Fairfax Street, Murchison
Phone: 03 523 9026 Fax: 03 523 9298
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 hill along side 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 Fax. 03 789 6379
Facilities: Very spacious modern rooms, laundry
Features: Walking distance to town centre

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 Fax. 03 731 1166
Facilities: Spacious modern rooms, licensed restaurant and bar, laundry
Features: On beachfront, all rooms have a sea view.

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

Day Seven: Punakaiki to Christchurch

The morning is free to spend at your leisure; options include kayaking, walks in Paparoa National Park, or simply relaxing in the beautiful surroundings. In the afternoon we will drive you over Arthur's Pass to Christchurch where the tour ends.

It is here we say farewell, a safe journey home and hope to see you again one day.

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

SOUTH ISLAND – NELSON LAKES 7 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		Depart for home.		