

SOUTH ISLAND WEST COAST TOUR 10 Days / 9 Nights Christchurch 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 are entirely optional; the shuttle van will be available at any time. Cas.= casual cyclists, Int. = intermediate cyclists, adv = advanced cyclists.



MEETING DAY / DAY ONE:

Included in the tour is transport from Christchurch, on the East Coast of the South Island, across the Southern Alps to Punakaiki on the West Coast. Please inform us if you require transport and if so, where you will be staying in Christchurch the night before commencing the trip.

A Pedaltours guide will drive you across the Alps, departing Christchurch at **8.00 am**. from your hotel. Lunch at Arthur's Pass village or Moana (near Lake Brunner) is included. There will be time for a short ride before lunch. We will reach Punakaiki mid afternoon; there will be time to explore the fascinating Pancake Rocks and watch the sea surge through blow holes.

Should you need to contact Pedaltours call our Auckland office, Richard, Helen or Lisa: phone 0800 302 0968

Lodging: (Lunch and dinner are included)

Punakaiki Resort, Punakiaki

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.

Day Two: 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
Facilities: Internet facilities and laundry
Features: Luxury units in attractive garden setting, close to town centre.

Day Three: Hokitika to Whataroa: adv. 85.5 km/ 53 mi
Hokitika to Lake lanthe 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 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
Facilities: Licensed restaurant and bar
Features: Deer farm, trout fishing nearby, quiet relaxed setting

OR Alternative B&B and Hotel

Day Four: Whataroa to Fox Glacier: adv. 74 km/ 46 mi
Whataroa to Franz Josef: cas/int. 50km/ 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 Fax. 03 751 0094
Facilities: Guest laundry, guest BBQ, microwave oven in room.
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.

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

Day Five: 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 Fax. 03 751 0094

Day Six: 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
Facilities: Licensed restaurant and bar, and drying room.
Features: Riverside setting, beautiful bush walk to the beach.
Canadian canoes available for a paddle on the lake.

Day Seven: 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
Facilities: Swimming pool, restaurant.
Features: Jet boating up Wilkin River into Mt. Aspiring National Park.

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

Day Eight: 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

Facilities: House bar, library, garden hot tub and laundry facilities.

Features: Attractive boutique lodge in the town centre.

Day Nine: Wanaka to Queenstown via Cardrona: adv. 78km/ 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)

Copthorne Resort Lakefront, Cnr Franklin Rd & Adelaide Street, Queenstown

Phone 03 442 8123 Fax. 03 442 7472

Facilities: Licensed bar, restaurant, private facilities, spa pool, internet access

Features: Lake and mountain views.

Day Ten: 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.

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

SOUTH ISLAND – WEST COAST 10 DAY TOUR

DAY	DATE	LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION	Phone
1		Punakaiki	Punakaiki Resort	03 731-1167
2		Hokitika	Jade Court Motor Lodge	03 755 8855
3		Harihari	Mt Adam Lodge	03 753-4030
4		Fox Glacier	The Westhaven	03 751 0084
5		Fox Glacier	The Westhaven	03 751 0084
6		Lake Moeraki	Lake M. Lodge	03 750-0881
7		Makarora	Wilderness Resort	03 443 8372
8		Wanaka	Te Wanaka Lodge	03 443 9224
9		Queenstown	Copthorne Lakefront	03 442 8123
10			Depart for home.	