

NEW ZEALAND - QUEENSTOWN & WANAKA CYCLE TRAIL

5 days / 4 nights GUIDED inn-to-inn cycling tour from Queenstown to Clyde, Alexandra & Wanaka



The Queenstown Cycle Trail starts in Otago's world-renowned Wakatipu Basin where the reputation as one of the world's favourite adventure and cycling destinations is enhanced with the addition of this New Zealand Cycle Tour. The newly opened trail is part of the New Zealand Cycling Trails network and unveils stunning new vistas, hidden ruins, spectacular architecture and world-class food and wine.

On this small group guided cycle tour, we meander through some of New Zealand's most breathtaking scenery, taking in the landscapes of Lake Hayes, Frankton, and Queenstown, Arrowtown, Gibbston Valley, Clyde, Alexandra (Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail), Roxburgh (Lake Dunstan Cycle Trail) and Wanaka, for five full days of spectacular cycling and local experiences. Discover Central Otago's gold-rush history and taste the Pinot Noirs and aromatic white wines of this stunning wine region. Bustling Queenstown, contrasts with the quiet, historic Clyde and the remote, rarely toured Roxburgh Gorge.

This unique itinerary has been specially created to allow cycling across unspoiled private land, over mighty suspension bridges, and alongside six iconic rivers and six lakes all set in dramatic landscapes, some used for the backdrop for The Lord of the Rings films. Well-maintained mountain bikes are provided, suitable for the unsealed terrain. A limited number of E-bikes are available for a surcharge – these need to be booked well in advance.

Cost from: **\$2615** per person twin share Single room surcharge **\$590**

Departs Queenstown*: 31 October, 7, 21 November, 12 December 2023
16, 30 January, 6, 20, 28 February, 12, 26 March, 2, 16 April 2024

* Other dates available weekly from November 2023 to April 2024, for minimum groups of 4 people.

Duration: 5 Days / 4 Nights

Includes: Double or twin share in hotels, motels, or lodges with mainly ensuite bathrooms; all meals during the tour (including continental breakfasts, packed lunches and dinners); services of an experienced and knowledgeable guide; bike hire (includes use of helmet and hi-visibility safety vest); support vehicle; tour kit including water bottle and field and history guide to the area; luggage transfers.

Transport can be arranged from or to Christchurch at extra cost if you prefer to start or end your tour there. Ask us about additional nights of accommodation in Queenstown and/or Christchurch if required.

Fitness: This tour is easy to moderate and suitable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness who is used to cycling. As the cycling is mostly on dedicated cycle trails you are usually away from the traffic, although there are a number of road crossings. Terrain is generally flat to undulating with a few steeper ascents. Trails are unsealed and may have muddy or loose sections, obstacles, steep drop-offs, or small river crossings.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Queenstown – Lake Hayes – Arrowtown

cycling @ 38km

After being collected from your accommodation in the morning, you'll be transferred to Kelvin Heights for your bike fitting. We cycle alongside the Frankton Arm of Lake Wakatipu, taking in the views of the Remarkables and other peaks surrounding the lake. Along the way the magnificent colours of the South Island come to life, particularly in autumn (you'll quickly see why these roads are such a favourite with the makers of car commercials). We then continue past the Shotover River to Lake Hayes, which is 'the most photographed lake in New Zealand', a mirror lake reflecting the majestic mountains of the Wakatipu Basin and the earth tones of the landscape. We do a circumnavigation of the lake before finishing the day's ride in Arrowtown. Then drive to our overnight accommodation.

Day 2: Arrowtown – Gibbston – Clyde – Alexandra

cycling @ 38km

Transfer to the start our ride in Arrowtown, a gold rush town in the late 1800s, and cross the awe-inspiring Southern Discoveries suspension bridge, a destination in itself and with stunning views. We ride past quaint cottages and grazing horses down Whitechapel country lane – a landscape painting straight out of a picture book. We stop at the Knights Family Underbridge for the spectacular view of where the Arrow River drops into the gorge. Yet another impressive feat of engineering, the breathtakingly graceful 80-metre Edgar Suspension Bridge, looms dramatically. From its midpoint, it delivers an awe-inspiring view down the Arrow Gorge. Breathe in the thyme-scented mountain air as we make our way over the historic Kawarau Bridge, home of the world's first bungy jumping operation. The Kawarau River remains in view far below on our left and to the right, we see the Gibbston vineyards and iconic Central Otago landscapes. In Gibbston at a boutique winery we enjoy a picnic vineyard platter lunch and wine-tasting, followed by a scenic drive following the Kawarau River to Clyde, a boom town during the Central Otago gold rush in the 1860s. In the afternoon we cycle beneath willow trees from Clyde to Alexandra, following the Clutha River, then return to our accommodation in Clyde by bus or bicycle.

Day 3: Alexandra – Roxburgh Dam – Millers Flat

cycling @ 47km

We travel the short distance back to Alexandra where the Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail begins. We ride to Lake Roxburgh Dam along the stunning Clutha River, exploring the remote gorge with its incredible scenery and gold-mining history. At its most dramatic point, bluffs rise almost 350m on either side of the river, and we cycle past the remains of two small mining settlements and old schist huts built into the rock by Chinese miners. From Doctors Point we travel around 12km by boat (approx. 45 minutes), through some of the most stunning scenery New Zealand has to offer, then continue by bike through secluded valleys and lush green farmland, still alongside the mighty Clutha River, a distinctive turquoise in colour. Look out for signs of the original search for gold and imagine what the hardy settlers faced in the early days. Downstream the valley is lined with orchards on both sides creating a splash of colour at every season, and we see unusual rock formations on the hillsides and in the river, some created by ancient glacial activity. From Millers Flat we drive to our overnight accommodation.

Day 4: Roxburgh – Lake Dunstan Cycle Trail – Wanaka

cycling @ 55km

Transfer to the start of our ride at Lake Dunstan, where the base of the stonework faces of the Cairnmuir slide, a unique feature high above the lake, were built to protect the river from a major land slide. There are 13 tunnels (total 18.5km of tunnels) drilled into the hillsides of the gorge in the mid 1990's. These tunnels are also used to mitigate against landslips into the Clutha River. A dominant feature at the Clyde end of the trail is New Zealand's third largest hydro-dam, the Clyde Dam, which was constructed from 1977 onwards, with the first power generated in 1992. From Cornish Point the trail passes by vineyards and olive groves with views back to Cromwell and the Heritage Precinct. Follow the Kawarau arm of Lake Dunstan to the Bannockburn bridge, then wend alongside Lake Dunstan from Cromwell via Pisa Moorings to Smiths Way, the final stop of your Lake Dunstan Cycle Trail journey. Transfer to the stunning lakeside resort town of Wanaka where we stay the night.

Day 5: Wanaka – Lake Hawea – Queenstown

cycling @ 27km

We start the day with a transfer to Lake Hawea, and cycle along the shores of this remote and spectacular lake. At the small lakeside settlement of Lake Hawea, we join the Hawea River cycle trail, winding through kanuka (tea tree) groves and woodland near the Hawea River. We then ride the Outlet Track beside the Clutha River to Lake Wanaka. On completion of our ride, we drive back to Queenstown where your experience finishes.

Outdoor Travel offers guided or self-guided cycling or walking trips in New Zealand. Try cycling the Great Taste Trail in Nelson or the fabled **Otago Rail Trail**. Combine a ride with a walk on the **Hollyford Track** or **Queen Charlotte**. Combine walking, kayaking and cycling on the **Abel Tasman** in the north of the South Island.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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