

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: \$1995 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-gear 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)

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. These 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

After breakfast, you will be transferred back to the railway station for the last 2 hours of your train journey to Blenheim, where on arrival you will be met and transferred to your accommodation. 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. Pollard Park nearby has wonderful gardens, a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts and a fitness trail. Check in at the Hotel d'Urville is from 2pm but the hotel will happily store your luggage if you arrive earlier. Your E-bikes can be collected from 1pm onwards and once you have them, the rest of the afternoon is at your own leisure.

Hotel d'Urville is a fine and elegant boutique hotel situated within the historic Public Trust Building in the centre of Blenheim. We suggest you spend the afternoon exploring the local area. For an excellent evening meal in a delightful setting, the d'Urville Wine Bar and Brasserie may be just the perfect place.

Day 3 Blenheim to French Fields

Cycling @ 25km

We suggest you start your first cycling day in a leisurely fashion. Your destination today is a boutique French country B&B with Provencal-style suites, situated overlooking fields of lavender and olive groves amongst Marlborough's vineyards. En-route, why not cycle to Makana Confections (the Macadamia Butter Toffee Crunch is to die for!) and then head out for some wine tasting. There is Saint Clair, on the corner of Rapaura and Selmes Road, amongst many others on the North West side of Blenheim. At the family owned Allan Scott Winery in Jackson Road, taste premium award-winning wines in a unique setting. Just opposite is the winery that took New Zealand's Sauvignon Blanc wine from "curiosity to respectability" – Cloudy Bay. Many of the wineries have wonderful restaurants on site for lunch options today.

Arrive at French Fields in the afternoon for 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 The Peppertree

Cycling @ 15 - 35km

Prepare yourself for a day of quality wine tasting. For those keen on some longer riding today, a great first stop would be out at Spy Valley wines, and then you could wind your way back through Highfield winery, Brancott Estate (great restaurant with beautiful views for a nice lunch option), Villa Maria and Wither Hills.

Today's destination is The Peppertree, a gracious Edwardian villa. We suggest you cycle there via the scenic route on a marked cycle track. Your evening can be spent relaxing in one of Peppertree's beautiful garden spots, in the vineyard or on the veranda. A platter for two, comprised of local produce from The Peppertree's own organic orchard and from the famous Marlborough area, can be provided via prior arrangement (at additional cost), to enjoy in the vineyard or on the verandah.

Day 5 The Peppertree to Blenheim and Departure

Enjoy a country style breakfast in the rich ambience of the dining room and stroll around the lovely garden before your tour ends. A shuttle will collect you mid-morning and transfer you to Blenheim train station or airport, depending on your onward travel arrangements.



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:

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