

THE GREAT TASTE CYCLE TRAIL & ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK 5-day / 4-night easy – moderate SELF GUIDED cycling from & back to Nelson **E-BIKE TOUR**



Departs: Daily on demand from 1 September 2023 to 30 April 2024

Cost from: \$2740 per person twin share. Single room supplement on request

Includes: 4 nights comfortable B&B, hotel or eco-resort accommodation; 4 continental breakfasts; multi-geared E-bike with lock and repair kit; Abel Tasman National Park Open Day Pass, pre-tour briefing; detailed maps and trip notes, Mapua ferry ticket; transfers ex Nelson Airport or Nelson City; emergency assistance.

Not included: Meals, drinks and services or transfers not mentioned, travel to/from Nelson, personal expenses.

Helmets can be provided but for safety and hygiene purposes we strongly recommend you bring your own.

Private guide services available on request – ask for details.

Fitness: Easy to moderate tour suitable for reasonably fit people who cycle regularly. The trail is off-road, apart from some short sections on quiet country roads with some road crossings. Approximately 70% of this route is flat with 2 short hill sections, a 1.4km tunnel and a 3.5km section on the “*Easy Ride*” trail in the Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park which has a smooth surface, some steep drop-offs, blind corners and switchback corners.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Nelson – Stoke – Mapua

Cycling @ 27km

Transfer from Nelson to Stoke for a briefing and introduction to your bike. After a look around the interesting town, head out onto the Great Taste Trail for an easy, flat ride around the Waimea Estuary, weaving across the plains. For those wanting a longer ride, head up into the foothills behind Mapua into the Moutere area for some great on-road riding. For lunch consider the Harvest kitchen at Siefried Estate Winery. Coastal views today range from the long swimming beach at Rabbit Island, to reedy estuaries and boardwalks. From Rabbit Island the ferry transfers cyclists across the channel to the old Mapua Wharf, a popular destination with casual fine dining venues, a brewery, smoked fish stores, galleries and boutique stores and your overnight B&B stay.

Day 2 Mapua – Motueka – Kaiteriteri

Cycling @ 44km

From Mapua the Great Taste Trail follows the coast then heads up in two hill sections on the route including a slow climb up to a ridge with panoramic views over the Abel Tasman and Tasman Bay. The landscapes from the mountains to the sea are spectacular and during harvest, there is lots of activity in the orchards of apples, pears, nashi, grapes, citrus and cherries. Cyclists can visit three breweries and great cafes along the trail. The trail around Motueka is flat and follows the estuary waterfront, past rambling gardens and grassy beach reserves on the way to Riwaka. The last part of today's route heads into the Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park to take the Easy Rider Trail before you arrive to Kaiteriteri. Relax on the golden sands of Kaiteriteri Beach and enjoy a 2-night stay at an Eco Resort in a forest setting above the beach. Dinner not included on either night, but is available in the acclaimed on site vegetarian restaurant.

Day 3 Abel Tasman National Park Day Trip

Cruise into the Abel Tasman National Park from Kaiteriteri beachfront at 9.20am. The cruise offers great views and access to beaches of golden sand ideal for swimming. Take a walk along the Coastal Track or sea kayak if pre-arranged, before the return boat cruise to Kaiteriteri arriving back at 4.15pm.

Day 4 Kaiteriteri – Tapawera

Cycling @ 58km

Start by riding back to Riwaka for a second chance to try the food, beer and real ice creams there. Then head into the Motueka Valley, on-road from Riwaka to Tapawera, with the scenic Motueka River alongside for most of the way. Consider visiting Dunbar Estates Vineyard, Cellar Door & Café, a short detour off the trail near Ngatimoti. After the old village of Stanley Brook, now just a tiny church and old school building, there is one small hill before the views open up across the valley and hop gardens to the mountains in the Kahurangi National Park and to Tapawera with its pub, café, tiny local history museum and your overnight hotel stay.

Day 5 Tapawera – Spooners Tunnel – Wakefield – Brightwater – Nelson

Cycling @ 53km

Firstly, ride the off-road trail from Tapawera down the wide valley, past the Hidden Sculpture Garden with its large, wooden and steel sculptures to Kohatu, an important junction during early settlement. Cycle to Spooners Tunnel, a brick-lined, 1.4 km long, disused rail tunnel which is completely dark, so bring your lights! Then coast on a long, gentle downhill and meander around the side of the Wai Iti River towards the historic village of Wakefield with its cafes, bakery and old pub. The flat trail passes the St Johns church which is the second oldest church in NZ, through a remnant Totara forest, then follows a quiet country road edged with old oak trees, towards Brightwater. The last part of the ride is on the Waimea Plains, past a number of wineries, including one where the trail goes right through the vines. Skirt the town of Richmond and on to Stoke where you drop off the bikes, before your transfer back to Nelson where your tour ends.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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