

# Around The Mountains Cycle Trail



*The best of easy back country cycling in the beautiful environs of Queenstown and Northern Southland.*

## tour highlights

- stunning views
- historic towns
- lakeside biking
- alpine vistas
- Rich in history
- Varied and exciting riding
  - Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

## official partner

Tuatara Tours is proud to be in an official partnership with The New Zealand Cycle Trail. The objective of the partnership is to create a nationwide network of cycle trails that connect the Great Rides with the rest of New Zealand.



## tour cost

2019 / 2020

Starting in Queenstown/Arrowtown NZD\$1950  
4 Days

## options & supplements

Single Supplement: NZD\$400  
Bike Hire NZD\$190  
Electric Bike Hire NZD\$450

## fast facts

**Custom Groups:** Options are available for this tour

Tuatara Tours does not require single travellers pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share, a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.



## the tour

The tour begins with a bus trip from Queenstown to Kingston, the little township on the southern shores of Lake Wakatipu. You will circumnavigate the Eyre Mountains by bike finishing on the shores of Lake Wakatipu at Walter Peak Homestead. Your adventure continues with a boat trip across Lake Wakatipu on the historic steam ship, the TSS Earnslaw, ending up back in the southern jewel of Queenstown.

Your fully guided tour starts and ends in the South Island's largest tourist mecca: Queenstown, with all accommodation, meals, and support vehicles provided.

## about your guide

Our guides are very experienced, friendly and bikers who love to share their knowledge of New Zealand's flora and fauna and local history. They all hold current first aid certificates, passenger driving licences and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.

## at a glance

<b>DAY 1</b>	QUEENSTOWN, KINGSTON TO FIVE RIVERS
<b>DAY 2</b>	FIVE RIVERS TO ORETI RIVER - TE ANAU
<b>DAY 3</b>	TE ANAU AREA
<b>DAY 4</b>	TE ANAU - MAVORA LAKES TO WALTER PEAK - QUEENSTOWN



**Activities:** Cycling  
**Accommodation:** Hotel, Inn

**Trip Duration:** 4 Days, 3 Nights  
**Grade:** Moderate



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We suggest flying in the night before the tour departs, however if you plan to fly into Queenstown on the morning of the tour then you need to have landed and be in arrivals by 8:30am. Your guide will then come and collect you as the tour is leaving town. We don't recommend catching flights on the same day as the tour departs or finishes.

\*Please enquire for further information

### **what's included**

- Accommodation
  - Double or twin share. If single room accommodation is requested, an additional fee per person is payable to cover this requirement for the duration of the tour.
  - Night 1: Country Hotel, private rooms some with shared bathrooms.
  - Night 2 & 3: Motel, Private rooms with ensuite bathrooms.
- Food
  - You will enjoy great local cuisine; continental breakfasts and hearty packed lunches during the day, and restaurant meals in the evenings. If you have any dietary issues or food allergies, we are happy to cater for these, please advise the office of details when you make your booking. Alcohol is not included in the tour cost, but is available for purchase most nights or you are welcome to bring a small amount with you for personal consumption if you prefer.
- Luggage
  - Tuatara Tours transports all your luggage for the duration of the tour. All you carry is a small day pack with your personal gear, drink and lunch. We do the rest
- Tour Kit Bag - Exclusive to Tuatara Tours
  - To ensure you get the very best out of your journey with the least of fuss, we provide you with a calico kit bag full of useful goodies. This will be given to you at the start of your tour.
- An experienced guide
- All transport - support vehicle for the duration of the tour
- Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)
- Safety and Risk Management
  - To ensure maximum safety for all, our guides are certified first aiders and fully qualified drivers. Tuatara Tours operate under a Safety and Risk Management Plan which is regularly audited and approved by a qualified and independent auditor.

### **frequently asked questions**

#### **What do I carry while on my tour and what happens to the rest of my luggage?**

On a walking, cycling or kayak tour your extra luggage will be transported for you each day to your accommodation that night. All you need to have with you is your daypack with your lunch, clothing requirements, camera and incidentals. For cyclists, this can be left in the support vehicle while you are cycling as this is always close by for ready access. Please ensure the luggage you are sending on ahead is limited to one item and is packed in an easily transported overnight bag or suitcase.

On a hiking tour where huts and lodges are less accessible by vehicle, you may be asked to carry your own luggage for some or all of the days of the tour, please refer to your itinerary for details. For this reason we recommend you pack as lightly as possible and carry only the items suggested on your gear check list. For any of our tours, we recommend the use of a waterproof pack liner to keep your personal items as dry as possible.

#### **Do I really need thermals and a fleece, even in summer?**

Yes, as some of the areas visited can be exposed, and New Zealand weather can be notoriously changeable, you must be prepared for all weather conditions.



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## frequently asked questions

### **How many people are in each group?**

Typically, we take a maximum of twelve people on each tour. We feel this gives you the best opportunity to gain as much from your experience as possible and keeps the feel of each tour relaxed and friendly. We are happy to discuss options for groups of more than twelve with you.

### **How fit do I need to be?**

The main purpose of a guided tour is to enjoy your surroundings and learn from your local guide, it's not a race, however the more you can prepare for a tour, the better the experience will be for you. As a general guideline we suggest the following activity level guide for our tours.

The Around The Mountains Cycle Trail does include some low level mountain biking.

Easy: An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline.

Mild: An average level of fitness, Walk 12km, Bike 25km on well-formed tracks and roads with average incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20+ km , Bike 50+km on partially formed tracks and roads, some off-road , some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.

### **Do you have bikes I can hire?**

We have cycles for hire and recommend you use them as they are tried and true in the areas we operate. All of our cycles are fully maintained and serviced before they leave. We also supply you with a cycle helmet and safety vest in the cost of your cycle hire. You may use your own cycle, but please ensure it is well maintained and fully serviced before your tour starts.

## itinerary

### **Day 1 Queenstown - Kingston to Five Rivers - 48km**

We leave at 9am from Queenstown and drive 40 km to the quaint little lakeside township of Kingston on the southern tip of Lake Wakatipu.

From Kingston you'll cycle through gently rolling land past Fairlight Station - The Kingston Flier Steam Train destination( the train is not currently operating ). From here it is on to Garston and Athol, through the farming communities in this lush rural region before finishing your days riding at Five Rivers.

Your accommodation tonight will be in Lumsden in a delightfully restored historic country hotel. Nestled in a picturesque and tranquil basin this small town revels in its role as the crossroads for travellers who choose to venture to this peaceful and restful part of Northern Southland.

Roads journey to Lumsden from all directions of the compass - Queenstown to the north, Gore to the east, Te Anau and Milford Sound to the west and Invercargill to the south.

### **Day 2 Five Rivers to Oreti River - 52km - Te Anau**

This morning you commence your riding for the day at Five Rivers .You ride downhill gently for 15 km to Lumsden. From Lumsden you ride west gradually up the valley alongside the Oreti river to New Zealand's Deer Capital - Mossburn. You continue on your ride for another 24km to the finish of Day 2 on the banks of the Oreti River.

From here we drive to Te Anau where we will spend the next 2 nights and relish the warm Southern Hospitality. Sit back, relax and watch the sunset with Fiordland's mountains creating the most beautiful backdrop.

### **Day 3 Te Anau**

Te Anau township sits on the edge of Lake Te Anau, lying on the border of Fiordland National Park and Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area. Te Anau is the town that connects Queenstown to Milford Sound by road. The famously scenic Milford Road begins in the centre of Te Anau.

Lake Te Anau is the largest lake in the South Island and largest in the country by water volume getting to depths of over 400m. The lake sprawls at the feet of high rugged mountains.



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### **Some tips for training:**

Undertake your training using the clothing and footwear you intend to complete the tour in, this will give you the opportunity to make sure they will be suitable for the purpose and to break in your foot wear so as to avoid any discomfort. Train with your pack or day pack on so you get used to bearing the weight and include a variety of terrain in your training including hills and off road. As much as we'd like to we can't guarantee fine weather on your tour so don't hesitate to get outdoors and train on the rainy days as well.

### **What will the weather be like?**

New Zealand is known to have four seasons in a day so you should always be prepared for sudden changes in weather or temperature and have the appropriate gear with you at all times. Rain can be expected at any time throughout the year.

Spring (September-November) and Autumn (March-May) are generally cooler months for experiencing the outdoors with temperatures averaging 15-25 degrees during the day.

Summer (December-February) is usually warmer with averages of 20-30 degrees and longer sunshine hours due to daylight saving. As New Zealand has very little air pollution, UV rays are strong during the summer months and a good sunscreen and a hat are recommended for outdoor activities during the heat of the day.

Today we visit Te Anau's Wildlife Park where you can view the rediscovered Takahe a flightless alpine bird, along with other unique native birds such as the Kaka, Tui, Kea and the Parakeet.

We also journey to the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional your own cost- approx \$80 or you can go biking for the day instead - no cost) - a rare example of a living cave that is still under formation. A beautiful cruise across the lake drops you off at The Grotto where a short walk and boat ride along water from a fresh water spring takes you deep into the (young) 15,000 year old cave, lit by thousands of tiny bioluminescent insects.

There will also be some time for biking if this is your choice for the day. Tonight you stay again in te Anau.

## **Day 4 Te Anau - Mavora Lakes to Walter Peak - 30km**

Today we travel by vehicle through to the Mavora Lakes Park.

The North and South Mavora Lakes are located in an impressive landscape of mountains, forest and tussock grassland and recognised as part of the Te Wāhipounamu/ South-West New Zealand World Heritage Area. The area is also home to multiple Lord of the Rings film locations.

Along today's ride Red Deer, Fallow Deer, Chamois and Himalayan Tahr can be spotted on the slopes of Mt Nicholas, providing an extraordinary environment to cycle through. The picturesque Von River also runs across the station providing some stunning photographic opportunities.

Mt Nicholas Station is a New Zealand family owned, fully operational High Country Sheep Station. At over 100,000 acres, Mt. Nicholas is the largest station on the lake. The 27,000 merino sheep produce some of the world's finest quality wool fibre, the majority of which is used in the production of the iconic "Icebreaker" range of high quality, natural fiber garments. The Station lies at the foot of the Southern Alps, with Fiordland National Park to the west and the spectacular, clear waters of Lake Wakatipu immediately to the east.

For the final afternoon of your Around The Mountains cycle experience you ride along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to finish the trail at Walter Peak Station. Here you can have a wine (or beer) to celebrate a successful ride before boarding the TSS Earnslaw Steamship from Walter Peak to downtown Queenstown where you stay overnight either in Queenstown or Arrowtown.





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## **have you considered?**

### **New Zealand Walking Tours**

The Akaroa Walk  
The Franz Josef Trail  
The Mesopotamia High Country Walk  
The Queen Charlotte Walk  
The West Coast Trail  
The Hump Ridge Track Walk  
The Coromandel Explorer Walk  
The Tongariro Crossing Walk  
The Lake Waikaremoana Walk  
The Abel Tasman Walk - 3 Days  
The Abel Tasman Walk - 5 Days  
The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 3 Days  
The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 5 Days

### **New Zealand Hiking Tours**

The Heaphy Track  
The Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk  
The Stewart Island Track  
The Tongariro Crossing Walk

### **New Zealand Cycling Tours**

The Tekapo Canal Trail  
The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail  
The Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail  
The Otago Rail Trail  
The Tasman Great Taste Trail  
The Queenstown Trail

### **Japan Walking Tours**

### **Bhutan Tours**

All of these tours and more available at  
[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

## **pre and post tour accommodation**

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation we can help

### **Contact us at**

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
- ▶ Australia: 1 800 044 633
- ▶ World: +64 3 962 3280
- ▶ Email: [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)
- ▶ Web: [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

## **what's not included**

- pre and post tour accommodation
- alcoholic drinks
- personal expenses
- gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service

## **custom tours**

### **▶ We Can Customise Existing Tours To Suit.**

You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add another element to your tour!

### **▶ We Can Design A New Tour Just For You.**

We have years of experience in creating custom-made tours for groups, so if you are planning a tour for your friends, family, club, corporate workplace.... contact us now.





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## **Tuatara Tours - experienced and innovative!**

Tuatara Tours is an experienced and innovative walking and cycling adventure company, based in the South Island of New Zealand. The vision at Tuatara Tours is to encourage as many people as possible to be involved in fun, adventure and the outdoors. We ourselves walk, run, mountain bike, road bike and occasionally participate in multi-sport adventure races... to the best of our ability. We are not champions – but we are out there! We understand the outdoors and we revel in the country, people and climate that we work with

## **our team is here to provide the best experience**

We only have one world and we have to share it with each other. Much of the attraction for our clients is to experience unspoiled and un-crowded landscapes. It is our challenge to ensure that in this sharing of the experience, we minimise where possible, the impact of our business.

Through the introduction of strict environmental guidelines, we minimise our impact on the environment we live and work in.

## **pre tour checklist**

Please ensure you have the following compulsory items for your cycle tour.

Medium size day pack (this can be transported for you in the support vehicle while you are cycling)

- Waterproof rain jacket with hood
- Comfortable walking/riding shoes, we suggest lightweight walking shoes suitable for cycling and for any extra short walks you may choose to do.
- Woollen (merino) or polypro thermals (top and bottom)
- Polar fleece jacket or top or woollen jumper
- Gloves-fleece or woollen or cycle gloves if you have them
- Pair of shorts (preferably quick-dry fabric, no jeans) or cycle shorts if you have them.
- Personal first aid items and any essential medications

## **The following are highly recommended but not compulsory:**

- Swimsuit and small towel
- Sun hat , sun glasses, sun block
- Pair of light shoes or sandals for the evenings
- Casual attire for the evenings
- Personal toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Camera
- Drink bottle (we supply you with one bottle, but you may wish to bring another)
- Torch

If you are bringing along your own bike, you must ensure your bike has been fully serviced and is in a roadworthy and safe condition to ride. You must also ensure you bring spare tyres or tubes as we only carry a basic stock for the bikes we hire out.

All our hire bikes come with helmet, hi-vis safety vest and have a standard “gel-tech” seat however you are welcome to bring your own helmet or gel seat cover if you prefer.





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## ***subscribe to our newsletter***

Our newsletter will be emailed to you monthly on the first working day of every month.

- latest trips
- travel advice
- events & attractions
- and more!

Go to [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz) and click the free subscription button.

## ***how to book***

Go to [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz), click the enquiry button and submit your booking request using the form provided.

We enjoy talking to people about their travel interests. So feel free to contact us directly if you'd rather not fill out a form.

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
- ▶ Australia: 1 800 044 633
- ▶ World: +64 3 962 3280
- ▶ Email: [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)
- ▶ Web: [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)





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## **Tuatara Conservation**

Tuatara Tours are proud to be actively involved in Tuatara Conservation.

Tuatara Tours has formally adopted "BP" a male juvenile tuatara who resides at Orana Park in Christchurch and is part of the conservation programme to ensure the safe future of these amazing reptiles.



## **country information**

### **Culture**

New Zealand has a diverse multi-cultural population, the majority of whom are of British descent. New Zealand's indigenous Maori make up around 14 percent of the population. The culture of its indigenous Maori people affects the language, the arts, and even the accents of all New Zealanders. New Zealanders embrace new technology and culture, but they also have a background of quiet but rugged individualism, self-reliance and a passion for invention. Many New Zealanders travel extensively and thrive on learning and experiencing other cultures. They are renowned for their openness, ingenuity and "easy-going" nature.

### **Environment**

Fourteen spectacular national parks preserve New Zealand's natural heritage enshrining a huge variety of landscapes, vegetation and wildlife, New Zealand encompasses rich farmland, mountains, rivers and unsurpassed scenery. The country is slightly bigger than the UK in size. Three-quarters of the population live in the North Island with more than a third of New Zealand's population living in the largest city, Auckland.

The South Island - with its lakes, fiords and spectacular outdoor scenery is the most popular destination for tourists. The gateway to the South Island is Christchurch - a city of approximately 340,000 people.

### **Recreation**

New Zealand's stunning landscapes, lush forests, amazing wildlife and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities, and a great place to relax and enjoy life. New Zealanders love the outdoors, especially tramping, camping, skiing and snowboarding. Sailing, surfing and swimming are also favourite pursuits. New Zealand's sports and recreation facilities are inexpensive, abundant and very accessible.



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**Day Three**

**Day Four**

**Day One**

**Day Two**

**QUAL  
MARK  
GOLD**

