

Bike The South 9 Days

Queenstown Cycle Trail & Otago Rail Trail



One of the Most Beautiful Places on Earth Awaits With A Journey Into The Past Through Spectacular Central Otago!

tour highlights

- Historical gold works
- Vast wide open expanses
 - Lakeside biking
 - Alpine vistas
 - Rich in history
 - Easy trail 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.



tours run

Tours run: November - April

tour cost

2019/ 2020

Starting in Christchurch: NZD\$3900

options & supplements

Single Supplement: NZD\$950
 Bike Hire: NZD\$380
 Electric Bike Hire: NZD\$900

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

Your tour starts at Lake Hayes and spends 2 day on the Queenstown Cycle Trail taking under the soaring heights of the Remarkables mountain range and framed by the meandering coves of Lake Wakatipu. Queenstown is a right show-off and you will experience it all. The surrounding Central Otago region is known for its Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vineyards, and we cycle the Roxburgh Cycle Trail and the Clutha Gold Trail followed by 2 days in the spectacular and tranquil Wanaka region riding the cycle trails alongside the mighty Clutha River and Lakes Wanaka and Hawea. Your tour continues today on the world famous Otago Rail Trail. Trains typically travel through hills, around hills but (if it can be avoided) not uphill (the maximum gradient is 2%). The Rail Trail runs for 150kms between Clyde and Middlemarch (close to Dunedin), passing through the towns of Clyde, Alexandra, Chatto Creek, Omakau, Lauder, Oturohua, Wedderburn, Ranfurly, Waipiata and Hyde.

about your guide

Our guides are very experienced, friendly walkers 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

- DAY 1** QUEENSTOWN & LAKE HAYES
- DAY 2** ARROWTOWN, GIBBSTON, CLYDE, ALEXANDRA
- DAY 3** ROXBURGH GORGE & CLUTHA GOLD TRAIL
- DAY 4** LAKE ROXBURGH TO WANAKA
- DAY 5** LAKE HAWEA & HAWEA RIVER TRAIL TO CLYDE
- DAY 6** CLYDE TO LAUDER
- DAY 7** LAUDER TO RANFURLY
- DAY 8** RANFURLY TO HYDE
- DAY 9** HYDE TO MIDDLEMARCH TO QUEENSTOWN





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what's included

- Accommodation
 - Night 1: Comfortable Motel.
 - Night 2: A charming turn of the century hotel converted into bed and breakfast accommodation with either ensuite or shared facility rooms.
 - Night 3: Modern Lodge with bar and restaurant. Double or twin rooms with ensuite bathrooms.
 - Night 4: Modern Hotel with double or twin rooms and ensuite bathrooms.
 - Night 5: Same as Night 2
 - Night 6 : The original local store, renovated to provide modern bed and breakfast accommodation. Private rooms with shared bathrooms, and lounge area.
 - Night 7: An historic stage coach inn, rooms are simply furnished, with ensuite bathrooms.
 - Night 8: Modern Motel . Ensuite bathroom.

- Food

You will enjoy great local cuisine; continental breakfasts and hearty packed lunches during the day, and either restaurant meals or wholesome home-cooked fare prepared by your host/hostess 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.

- 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
- Entrance fees for Hayes Engineering, Curling and visit to the Real Dog Company
- 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.

We suggest flying in the night before the tour departs, however if you plan to fly into Christchurch 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

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.

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 & Lake Hayes - (48km)



We travel a short distance to Lake Hayes where your guide will fit you out with your bike. The first ride is an easy 8km circumnavigation of the lake.

From here we commence, a lovely easy grade cycle trail from Lake Hayes to the Shotover River past Queenstown Airport to Frankton. We then sidle beneath the willow trees alongside the Frankton Arm on The Kelvin Peninsula of Lake Wakatipu 24km.

Here we take in the views of the peaks surrounding Lake Wakatipu - the Remarkable Ranges, Cecil & Walter Peaks as well as Ben Lomond - which are stunning and provide a wonderful backdrop to this ride.

On reaching the end of the Kelvin Peninsula we can either ride into Queenstown or travel in the support vehicle. (16km). We will have time to wander around Queenstown before departing to our accommodation in Arrowtown.

Day 2 - Arrowtown to Gibbston - (24km) Clyde to Alexandra - (14km)



Today we cycle from our accommodation along the Arrow River. Cross over two very impressive suspension bridges and over the historic Kawarau Bridge to the AJ Hackett bungy centre (13km).

Take a break and watch tourists take their jumps, before we continue cycling into the Gibbston Valley, high above the mighty Kawarau River, to a boutique winery where we enjoy a picnic vineyard platter lunch (11km).

Enjoy a wine tasting in this lovely setting. After lunch relax on the bus for the scenic drive following the Kawarau River to Clyde.

The afternoon cycle is a 14km ride beneath the willow trees, from Clyde to Alexandra, following the Clutha River. We transfer back to the delightful village of Clyde and our accommodation where you can have a walk around the historic precinct to appreciate the gold mining history of the township.





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frequently asked questions

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.

Day 3 - Roxburgh Gorge Trail and Clutha Gold Cycle Trail - (47km)



This morning we travel a short distance to Alexandra where the Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail begins. The trail through the Roxburgh Gorge is just stunning and will take your breath away. A 10km cycle is followed by a scenic jet boat transfer from Doctors Point to Shingle Creek, followed by another 10km cycle to the Roxburgh Dam.

At the Roxburgh Dam we start the Clutha Gold cycle trail to Millers Flat (27km). This section features orchards as well as gold mining relics which makes for a very pleasant scenic ride.

At Millers Flat we finish for the day, and then travel to our overnight accommodation at Lake Roxburgh.

Day 4 - Lake Roxburgh to Wanaka - (33km)



Today we travel from Roxburgh to Luggate where we start the ride along the Clutha River Outlet Trail from Luggate all the way to Wanaka (33km).

For the balance of the afternoon relax and explore the laid back town of Wanaka where stay tonight.

Day 5 - Lake Hawea and the Hawea River Trail - (40km)



Today we travel by bus to a point almost halfway up Lake Hawea (Some say Lake Hawea is the most picturesque lake in the region). We then cycle back along the shores of Lake Hawea to the sleepy settlement of Lake Hawea village.

Here we join the picturesque Hawea River Trail which ambles its way all the way to Albert Town. An excellent relaxing ride alongside this crystal river to finish our first 5 days of riding around this world renowned outdoor paradise.

We transfer back to the delightful village of Clyde and our accommodation for the night





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Day 6 Clyde to Lauder - 44km



The actual Rail Trail ride starts today. We leave Clyde, crossing the flat rural countryside until Chatto Creek..... where we stop for lunch. The trail then starts to rise before levelling off at Omakau, where we briefly leave the trail and take a short ride around the quaint township of Ophir.



In the afternoon we make a side trip in the bus to the historic gold-mining town of St Bathans, and walk around the beautiful Blue Lake..... with a mandatory stop at the Vulcan Hotel!

The highlights of today are the wooden trestle Muttontown Viaduct; the Old Tucker Hill gold diggings; views of the Dunstan Mountains and Raggedy Range; and (hopefully) sighting brown trout in the Manuherikia River.

At the end of the day we drive back to Lauder, for a relaxing drink at the pub before dinner.

Our accommodation tonight is at the charming (converted) historic Lauder Store.

Day 7 Lauder to Ranfurly - 35km



On the third day we cycle through two tunnels and over two rail bridges. Below us at the time are a willow tree edged gorge and welcoming river pools. We finally emerge into the scenic Idaburn valley, and then have a last easy climb up to the summit of the trail. We then enjoy the descent down to the art deco township of Ranfurly



The highlights of today include the engineering marvel of the Poolburn Gorge Viaduct and tunnels; the vast wide open Ida Valley (made famous by the artist Grahame Sydney); the Idaburn dam (known for its winter curling); and a trip to Hayes Engineering Works (Hayes invented the wire strainer, pulley block and cattle stop at the beginning of the 20th century); and visiting the town of Wedderburn.

We also drive to Naseby, which is a small forestry township, and play a game of curling (if you can imagine bowls on ice then you are on the right track....they have the only dedicated curling rink in the Southern Hemisphere). We continue on to the famous Kyeburn gold diggings and the historic Dansy's Pass Inn..... where we dine and stay at the end of the day.





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Day 8 Ranfurly to Hyde - 46km



We head off from the Dansey's Pass Inn to the Real Dog Equipment Company, to see the famous Antarctic huskies and Alaskan malamutes in action..... before starting the ride for the day (which has some of the best riding of the trip). We follow the trail from Waipiata to the edge of an old lake, before entering the Taieri Gorge. The trail then crosses through further tunnels and bridges..... before a fast downhill to the end of today's cycling at Hyde.



The highlights of today's cycle include crossing the vast Maniototo Plains; following the Taieri River as it snakes around the Rock and Pillar Range; crossing the stone bridge over Cap Burn; and experiencing the 32 metre high Price's Creek Viaduct, and the 152 metre long tunnel.

Tonight we return to Ranfurly where we stay for the night.

Day 9 Hyde to Middlemarch - 27km (all downhill)



The highlight of the final day's ride includes views of the Rock and Pillar and Taieri Ranges; the Hyde Railway Disaster memorial; and dropping down into the Strath Taieri Plain.

We end at Middlemarch – which is a small farming town that is well known for the Easter singles Ball. Girls travel there to meet eligible rugged young Southern Men who come down to the ball from their hill country stations.

In the afternoon we make our way back to Queenstown.

Alternatively you can catch a shuttle back to Clyde or Queenstown, or extend your holiday with a ride on the historic Taieri Gorge Railway (additional cost) and finish in Dunedin.





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responsible travel

None of us could deny the benefits of travel in broadening our horizons and our way of thinking about the world we all share; travel breaks down barriers and provides valuable insights into other ways of life, it challenges us to step outside our comfort zone and to learn from those around us.

Our responsibility as participants in this journey is to acknowledge our impact on the environment and the communities in which we travel and to consider our individual contribution now and for the benefit of future generations.

We are Qualmark endorsed; New Zealand tourism's official benchmark for environmental standards and quality control. Wherever possible our company utilises local products and services, we support conservation efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage and we respect and care for the unique environment we travel in. Make your commitment to responsible travel with us.

trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors.

These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip.

The first 5 days of Bike The South is graded Mild:

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

There is some low level mountain biking on this trail.

The final 4 days of Bike The South I is graded Easy: An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise.

If you are uncertain about your suitability for this tour, speak with us and we can help guide you in the right direction

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
- ▶ Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

what's not included

- pre and post tour accommodation
- alcoholic drinks with meals
- 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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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 Queenstown Cycle Trail
Around The Mountains Cycle Trail
The Clutha Gold Cycle Trail
The Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail

Japan Walking Tours

All of these tours and more available at
www.tuataratours.co.nz

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 include toilet roll or tissues as none are provided in the trackside toilets
- Insect repellent
- Camera
- Drink bottle (we supply you with one bottle, but you may wish to bring another)
- Head torch or small torch for the tunnels

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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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.

subscribe to our newsletter

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

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz and click the free subscription button.

how to book

Go to 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.

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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

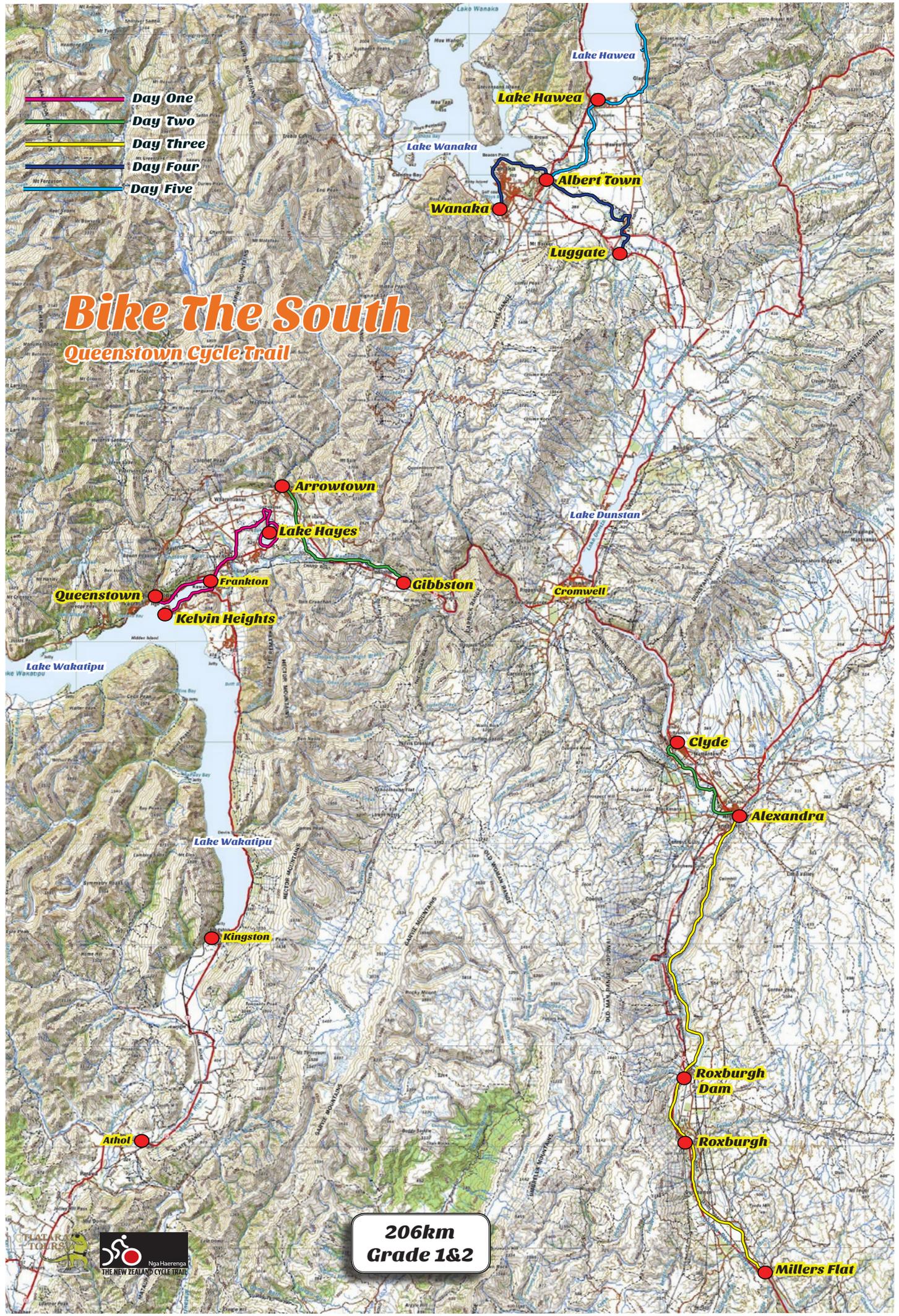
New Zealand's stunning landscapes, lush forests, amazing wildlife and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities, and a great place to relax and enjoy life. New Zealanders love the outdoors, especially tramping, camping, skiing and snowboarding. Sailing, surfing and swimming are also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



- Day One
- Day Two
- Day Three
- Day Four
- Day Five

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206km
Grade 1&2



Millers Flat

