



Bike Molesworth Station

South Island: Christchurch to Christchurch

4 days

Experience the mysterious rugged and vast landscapes of one of New Zealand's most iconic and remote places, Molesworth Station, by bike. Cycle at your own pace through the open tussock landscapes and river valleys of NZ's largest station, with the luxury of your support vehicle there for you all the way. Cycling distances range from 25 – 50kms daily, but all are flexible. Stay in characterful accommodation complete with hot showers and comfortable beds.

As well as biking through Molesworth Station, our itinerary also includes cycling in the North Canterbury area and the Awatere Valley in Marlborough. A stay at Hanmer Springs brings an opportune and well deserved chance to soak in the villages' thermal hot springs. To top it all off, finish your journey by taking the TransCoastal scenic train from Marlborough back to Christchurch, via the rugged and beautiful Kaikoura coast.

If you're looking for your next cycling challenge or foray into one of our country's most iconic places, then this is the trip for you.

Day 1 Christchurch – Hanmer Springs

We collect you from your central city accommodation before heading to our bike depot on the city fringe to fit you out with your hire bike. Once we have our gear sorted, we head north across the plains through the Waipara wine growing region and into North Canterbury. We make a morning tea stop in the small hamlet of Domett, before continuing on to the start of our bike ride. The biking begins on a secondary road offering superb views of the Amuri Range (≤ 30 km). We drop into the picturesque village of Waiiau where we lunch at the historic hotel, before continuing on our bikes along the flats beside the Waiiau River (25km). At the end of the days riding, we continue on a short distance in our vehicle to the alpine resort of Hanmer Springs, where we spend the next two evenings. Eat out at a local restaurant. (L)

Day 2 Hanmer Springs

Today we head over Jacks Pass on the outskirts of Hanmer Springs and into Molesworth. We travel north to the beautiful Lake Tennyson scenic reserve on the western side of Molesworth Station, where we enjoy a morning tea beside the lake before the days biking begins. Cycle the scenic river flats of the Clarence River, bordered by the St James Range to the west (35km). After a picnic lunch continue your bike ride following the Clarence to the historic Acheron Accommodation House (16km). Spend some time looking around these historic buildings, before travelling back to Hanmer Springs in our vehicle. Relax with a long soak in the thermal hot pools, before our evening meal in our lodge. (B/L/D)

Day 3 Hanmer Springs – Upcot Station (upper Awatere Valley)

Today's journey takes us through the largest station in the country (182,000 ha) on the historic Acheron Road. We travel into the Station a short distance to the start of our first ride of the day. Bike the river flats of the Acheron River, admiring the crops and famously healthy cattle herds, not to mention the surrounding rugged peaks, as you bike (16km). We continue by vehicle over some of the more

Tour Map



Grade



Tour Details

Tour Price: \$1,195
 Single supplement: \$200
 (pending availability)
 Deposit: \$200
 What's included? See bottom of page.

Groups of 10+ people will receive a 5% discount off the tour price.

Departure Dates:

Jan 27 – 30 2011
 Feb 2 – 5 2011
 Mar 8 – 11 2011
 Mar 14 – 17 2011
 Mar 19 – 22 2011
 Apr 5 – 8 2011
 Apr 10 – 13 2011
 Apr 15 – 18 2011

challenging passes on the road to the historic Molesworth Cob Cottage. Here we enjoy a wholesome picnic lunch and the opportunity to explore the cob cottage and learn about the history of the area. This is also the starting point for our second ride of the day, which takes us into the top of the beautifully scenic Awatere Valley to our accommodation at Upcot Station (37km). We stay in the comfortable and characterful shearer's quarters where a hot shower awaits. Upcot Station is a working farm and we are fortunately to enjoy the wonderful hospitality of this 3rd generation family with a traditional farming meal. Hear stories of the musterers and farmers who have worked to tame this land since 1858. (B/L/D)

Day 4 Upcot Station - Christchurch

Our final ride of the tour takes us down the Awatere Valley, through a combination of vineyards and sheep country set amongst the river terraces of the Awatere River and the Black Birch Mountain Range, with the imposing view of Mt Tapuae-o-uenuku ever present (≤61km). We enjoy a celebratory lunch on the grounds of one of the prominent wineries of the region near Seddon. In the early afternoon board the TranzCoastal train, sit back and relax and enjoy the scenery on your way back to Christchurch via the Kaikoura coast, arriving in the city at approximately 6:30pm. (B/L)

Included in the tour package:

All prices are in New Zealand dollars and include New Zealand Goods & Services Tax of 12.5%. The fare includes just about everything including: 3 nights accommodation; 2 evening meals, 4 lunches, 3 breakfasts and plenty of healthy snacks in between (as indicated on the itinerary - B/L/D); TranzCoastal train fare; a friendly knowledgeable guide; all transport and vehicle support; and bike repair support.

Not included in the tour price is wine and beer (you are welcome to BYO where permitted – 2 nights out of the 3); evening meal on day 1; optional bike hire (\$150); Hanmer Springs hot pool entry fees.

Acheron Road

The road that goes through the centre of Molesworth Station, the Acheron Road, is open from Dec 28 until the end of April. Within this open period the road can be closed occasionally due to extreme fire conditions, which is at the discretion of DOC and the Station Farm Manager. In the event that this occurs on/before your tour, Puretrails will be required to go with a 'Plan B' itinerary. Days 1/2/4 of our itinerary will remain the same, however on Day 3 we will be required to take the alternative coastal route via Kaikoura to the Awatere Valley. This will require more driving than our standard tour and will include alternative cycling options, however we will endeavour to minimise disruption to our tour as much as possible.

Level of Difficulty:

On this tour we have full vehicle back up – the support vehicle will be travelling along the same piece of road that you will be biking on, so there is unlimited opportunities to ride out parts (or all) of each ride in our vehicle if you are not feeling up to it.



Grade 3

Routes generally on mild to moderately undulating quiet rural country roads. Surfaces range from seal to gravel, with some gravel areas rough in places. Distances cycled average 40-60km per day. For this grade we recommend an above average level of fitness. Training beforehand is recommended, on gravel roads if possible.