



PureTrails New Zealand Biking Tours

Our biking tours are a fun and convenient way to explore a select few stunning regions of New Zealand by bike. Discover the satisfaction of biking through a breathtaking visual landscape, where you can hear the cries of the birds and the trickle of the streams, feel the warmth of the sun and the breeze in your hair, and smell the long dry grass. Our biking itineraries are often on dedicated biking trails, including the Otago Rail Trail, and are always well off the main highways. We travel by minibus to an area, often exploring en route. When the biking begins your guide and vehicle are there to support you during the day's ride, often appearing around a stretch of trail with a welcome cup of tea and snack. If the weather conditions are not favourable or you simply need a break, your support vehicle is always available as 'back up'.

In addition to the daily biking we go tiki-touring in our vehicle, visiting the local sights and meeting the local people in the small rural communities to really get a sense of the whole region. Each tour is led by a friendly and informative guide, and we take a maximum of 16 clients. Though your guide does not participate in the biking, they are a wealth of knowledge and are only too happy to provide any guidance you may need or bike repair support.

How hard is the biking?

PureTrails tours are suitable for healthy people of all ages with an average level of fitness who enjoy biking. Biking times average 3-6 hours with distances ranging from 35 - 50 kilometres, or longer for those looking for a challenge. Majority of the rides are on gravel surfaces which require more effort than road cycling. Though we rate the biking as easy to medium, at times the weather conditions can make the biking more difficult. The biking is dispersed with plenty of breaks to explore local sights encountered, take photos, talk with the locals, rest, refreshments and to simply take in the scenery. Those who are not comfortable participating in all the biking are always welcome to join our support vehicle.

What about the bikes?

We can organise bike hire for you, which will include a helmet. The hire bikes we use are modern high quality bikes that are well maintained and designed specifically for bike touring. You can bring your own bike - our vehicle has a trailer equipped for transporting bikes - however unless you have a lightweight modern and well maintained bike, we recommend you hire one. Freighting bikes by air is a costly and inconvenient exercise, so bike hire is highly recommended.

Do I need any special equipment?

You will need a small comfortable day pack and a water/wind proof jacket. Silicon gel seat covers, available from bike shops for around \$30, can increase seat comfort. High visibility vests are provided during any rides that are on public roads (Mackenzie Country tour). We will provide specific information at the time of booking on what to bring.

Do I have to carry heavy pannier bags on my bike?

No - on PureTrails New Zealand tours you only need to carry a day pack with your jacket, camera etc. All your luggage is transported on our vehicle.

How should I prepare for my tour?

We recommend you put in a good amount of training so you gain the most enjoyment out of your experience. We encourage you to get out and do some biking before your tour, starting out with say half an hour a day and gradually building up to 2-3 longer bike rides each week, ideally on gravel surfaces if

Tour Options

[Bike the Otago Rail Trail](#)

5 days

Ride through beautiful 'big sky' country on a bike trail converted from a railway line.

[Bike Mackenzie Country](#)

5 days

Features stunning snow-capped mountain-scapes and turquoise lakes.

[Bike Molesworth Station](#)

4 days

Ride through the vast tussock landscapes of New Zealand's largest station.

Testimonials

"Our choice of tour company for the Otago Rail Trail proved to be an excellent one as it exceeded all our expectations. Thanks to our guide Jim's knowledge of the history and characters of the Central Otago region we have learned a lot about the region's past. Our group enjoyed the variety of food and types of accommodation provided by PureTrails. A big thanks to Jim for his courtesy and flexibility, especially when day two was adversely affected by the weather - we all loved "Plan B"! We would have no hesitation in recommending PureTrails to our friends. Many thanks."
"The MacHunes", New Zealand, Otago Rail Trail, May 08

"What a fantastic way to see the beautiful Otago - great scenery, great food, wonderful company & organisation. Will definitely recommend others to do the trip! Thanks for a terrific holiday."
Janice Mentiplay Smith, Australia, Otago Rail Trail, Jan 09

"Whole trip exceeded our expectations. Great company, marvellous scenery, fantastic organisation. Will definitely recommend it to our friends and family."
Alan Lesley & Lynette, New Zealand, Otago Rail Trail, Mar 07

"Thankyou for making this trip a wonderful experience. It is a great way to explore this part of the world and to meet and share the passion of the local communities along the track. Jim - you are great and your

available. The secret is to start slowly and increase your exercise gradually. The fitter you are the more enjoyable your tour will be.

What's the accommodation like?

Accommodation is based on double/twin share, with a combination of en-suites and shared bathroom facilities. You won't be surprised with any nasty bunkrooms, and everywhere we stay is clean and tidy. Most of the accommodation we use on our biking tours is hosted by local farming families, particularly along the Otago Rail Trail, and getting to know our hosts adds a real local flavour to your experience.

What if I'm travelling alone?

Accommodation is based on twin share, with a combination of private and shared facilities. Single travellers are welcome on our biking tours - either twin share with another person of the same gender or pay a single supplement and have your own room (where available).

When is the best time to go?

Each season has its advantages: Springtime (October - December) features dramatic snow-clad peaks; fewer people; cooler biking temperatures; green pastures and playful lambs. Summer (January - February) features warmer temperatures; wildflowers; long summer days. Autumn (March - May) features stunning autumn colours; generally settled weather and mild temperatures. Our rule of thumb is come prepared for anything regardless of the season, and you will have a great time.

What's included in the price of my holiday?

PureTrails is committed to providing excellent value for money tours. Accommodation, most meals, transport, vehicle and bike repair support; local sightseeing and information booklets are all included in the tour price. Bike hire, the optional Taieri Gorge Train (Otago Rail Trail tour), and other optional activities such as curling are extra. Detailed information is available on the tour pages.

experience of this great area has made the trip for us - Thanks. "
Kevin & Jeanette McCullough, Australia,
Otago Rail Trail, Nov 08