

Mountain biking tours in New Zealand



Highlights

Take a long weekend to discover Nelson and the Golden Bay on two wheels! These four-day mountain biking tours in New Zealand combine fun, challenging riding with some of the country's most spectacular scenery (and that's saying something!).

Exacting, exciting and eco-friendly, mountain biking is without doubt one of the best ways to discover a country. Engineered for durability and performance in rough terrain, with wide, knobby tyres and serious suspension, mountain bikes get you off the beaten track, quite literally! Going cross-country requires endurance, self-reliance and teamwork but rewards with backstage access to landscapes of breathtaking majesty. It's a million miles from the usual travellers' trail: there are no trains to catch, no 4am starts, no watching the sublime country pass you by from the back seat of a packed bus. Better still, a mountain bike holiday allows you to interact with peoples and places in a much more intimate fashion than is possible on many tours, where you're forever surrounded by coachloads of other tourists in default travel mode: stop, snap, shop, split. On tours like these the main things are planned for you – hotels, routes, even the best time of year to travel – leaving you free to enjoy the awesome biking!

This four-day cycling tour takes you through some seriously scenic country. Starting from the pretty Victorian town of Nelson, renowned for its vibrant music and arts scene, you'll follow a loop through forest and countryside out to Golden Bay and back. One of New Zealand's most magical regions, remote Golden Bay is an internationally significant conservation area, with vast caves, forested mountains, coastal plains and warm turquoise waters providing a range of microclimates that boast an extraordinary diversity of wildlife, not to mention some excellent mountain biking trails! You'll approach the coast on the famous Rameka Track, which drops you down to Golden Bay through the magnificent Abel Tasman National Park. After exploring the area on some challenging single track, it's back to Nelson where the weekend's adventuring comes to a end.

Is it for me?

These are fantastic, fun-packed mountain biking tours in New Zealand; an awesome country. We'd recommend them to pretty much anyone, so long as they have some off-road experience and a good level of fitness. The terrain is mixed, with single-track, farm tracks and 4x4 roads, meaning cycling that is challenging and occasionally technical. Again, it's important that folk know how to handle their bikes before embarking on this tour. Rest assured, you won't be covering any massive distances – the average is 30-60km per day – and you'll be supported at all times by the trusty support vehicle, which carries luggage, lunch, snacks and, when necessary, weary cyclists!

Accommodation

Accommodation for this tour is included in the price on a shared twin basis. You'll be staying at guesthouses and hotels, all en suite, clean and comfortable. Meals are wholesome and hearty affairs, with continental breakfasts and picnic lunches prepared using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients wherever possible. You'll also have plenty of opportunity to visit cafes and restaurants along the way. New Zealand specialities include meats like lamb and venison, fresh fruit and vegetables, seafood and wine; foodies should look out for kumara (native sweet potato) and pipi (New Zealand shellfish) in particular.

Prices from

626 GBP (1 day) per person

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Details

Price includes

3 nights accommodation on a twin share basis, 3 breakfasts and 3 lunches, bike guides/drivers, support vehicle and trailer to carry your all luggage, all land transfers for the duration of the tour.

Not included

Airfares, visas, airport taxes, optional activities, evening meals, personal equipment (bikes etc).

A single supplement of NZ\$195 applies.

Bike hire if required - Hard tail: NZD\$150 or full suspension: NZD\$250

Typical Duration

4 days

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

Some previous experience is needed