

# Queenstown Lakes Trail Trip Notes

*A collection of cycle trails alongside the rivers and lakes of the stunning Queenstown Lakes district including Queenstown, Wanaka and Roxburgh. Incredible scenery and excellent cycle trails makes for a fantastic trip.*



## Tour Highlights

- + Cycle 191km+ of cycle trails around Central Otago's stunning lakes & rivers
- + Experience the colours of the seasons
- + Take in the spectacular scenery of the Wakatipu Basin
- + Soak up the relaxing atmosphere of Wanaka
- + Explore the small communities of Arrowtown & Clyde
- + Travel through the stunning Roxburgh Gorge by bicycle and jet boat
- + Indulge in fresh Central Otago produce and local wines
- + Dial out and enjoy a week away in this most stunning part of NZ

## Tour Details

- + 6 days
- + Grade 2
- + 191km+ cycling with full vehicle support [100% gravel cycle trail]
- + Starts/Ends in Queenstown or Christchurch

## Tour Cost

Tour Price: \$2,145  
Deposit: \$400

Grade 2



### What's included?

- + 5 nights twin-share accommodation
- + 5 evening meals; 4 lunches; 5 breakfasts
- + fruit, snacks & morning teas on the trail
- + the services of a tour leader who provides vehicle support & information
- + cycle repair support
- + all transport from/to Christchurch
- + Roxburgh Gorge jet boat shuttle
- + Roxburgh Gorge Trail usage fees
- + Goods & Services Tax of 15%

### Not included:

- + wine; beer; espresso coffees
- + lunch on Days 1 & 6
- + bike hire (standard \$190; e-bike \$465)
- + single accommodation (\$400)
- + transfers from Wanaka to Queenstown on Day 6 (\$35 approx)



## Departure Dates

Refer to our website for current 2018-2019 departure dates and tour availability

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## Itinerary

### Day 1 Christchurch/Queenstown - Arrowtown

We head south across the plains and through the Mackenzie Basin. The scenic drive continues as we head over the Lindis Pass to Central Otago, and through the Kawarau Gorge to our accommodation, a stone's throw from the quaint village of Arrowtown. In the afternoon enjoy a walk around the village and historic Chinese gold mining village relics. Alternatively there is the option to join the tour in Arrowtown from Queenstown. In the evening get acquainted with your travel companions over a meal at the local pub. **Meals (D) | Cycle Distance: 0km**

### Day 2 Arrowtown

We travel a short distance to Lake Wakatipu where your guide will fit you out with your bike. From here our first cycle commences, a lovely easy grade cycle trail which sidles alongside the Frankton Arm of Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown and return (16km). Here we take in the views over morning tea. The views of the peaks surrounding Lake Wakatipu - the Remarkable Ranges, Cecil & Walter Peaks as well as Ben Lomond - are stunning and provide a wonderful backdrop to this ride. We then continue on the lake side trail to Kelvin Heights and return to Frankton (16km). We travel a short distance to Lake Hayes and enjoy a picnic lunch with a stunning view over the lake. Our next ride is an 8km circumnavigation of the lake. After the ride we finish up for the day and transfer back to Arrowtown. **Meals (B/L/D) | Cycle Distance: 40km**

### Day 3 Arrowtown - Clyde

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 (12km). Enjoy a latte as you watch tourists take their jumps, before we continue cycling (11km) into the Gibbston Valley, high above the mighty Kawarau River, to a winery where we enjoy a vineyard platter lunch and optional wine tasting. After lunch relax on the bus for the scenic drive following the Kawarau River to Clyde. The afternoon cycle is a 13km ride beneath the willow trees, from Clyde to Alexandra, following the Clutha River. We transfer back to the delightful village of Clyde where you can have a walk around the historic precinct to appreciate the gold mining history of the township. **Meals (B/L/D) | Cycle Distance: 37km**

### Day 4 Clyde - Lake Roxburgh

This morning we travel a short distance to 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 13km cycle to the Roxburgh Dam. Here we enjoy lunch before continuing on the Clutha Gold cycle trail to Millers Flat (30km). This section features orchards as well as gold mining relics which makes for a very pleasant ride. At Millers Flat we load up our bikes, enjoy a cold drink at the local store, and then travel to our accommodation. **Meals (B/L/D) | Cycle Distance: 53km**

### Day 5 Lake Roxburgh - Wanaka

Today we travel to Lake Hawea. Enjoy morning tea with another view of the mountains before our cycle for the day, alongside Lake Hawea and then following the Hawea River terraces (17km). We continue on the river terraces above the Clutha River as the river traces east (13km). This is the best of Central Otago with the raw brown plains coupled with sparkling cool blue waters and a backdrop of snowcapped mountains. Following our picnic lunch there is the option of continuing the loop back to Albert Town on the more challenging south side of the river (16km). At the end of the ride we load up and travel a short distance to Wanaka. In the afternoon relax and explore the laid back town of Wanaka. **Meals (B/L/D) | Cycle Distance: 46km**

### Day 6 Wanaka - Christchurch/Queenstown

This morning we head out for one last ride, following the Wanaka Outlet Track to Albert Town (15km). We then head back to Wanaka for a coffee to celebrate the end of the trip. This is the end of the tour and from here you have the option of getting a shuttle bus back to Queenstown, or travelling in the PureTrails bus to Christchurch (arriving 5:30pm approx). **Meals (B) | Cycle Distance: 15km**

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### Accommodation in Christchurch

If you need accommodation before and/or after your tour we recommend the following places. We provide **courtesy transfers from any of these locations** before/after your trip:

Airport Precinct:

[Airport Palms Motel](#)

*56 Roydvale Avenue | Phone: 0800 200 529 | [www.airportpalmsmotelchch.co.nz](http://www.airportpalmsmotelchch.co.nz)  
Motel complex with a range of room options and free airport transfers. Breakfast available. Close proximity to the airport.*

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## Airport Gateway Motel

45 Roydvale Avenue | Phone: 0800 242 8392 | [www.airportgateway.co.nz](http://www.airportgateway.co.nz)

Motel complex with a range of room options and free airport transfers. It also has an on-site café/restaurant & bar for convenient dining. Close proximity to the airport.

## Copthorne Hotel Commodore Christchurch Airport

449 Memorial Avenue | Phone: 0508 226 663 | [www.commodore.net.nz](http://www.commodore.net.nz)

Hotel complex in close proximity to Christchurch airport. Free 24 hour courtesy shuttle. Free bike's available to explore the local area.

## Sudima Hotel

550 Memorial Avenue | Phone: 03 358 3139 | [www.sudimahotels.com/christchurch](http://www.sudimahotels.com/christchurch)

Closest hotel to Christchurch Airport.

## Papanui Precinct:

### Quality Hotel Elms

456 Papanui Road | Phone: 0800 109910 | [www.elmshotel.co.nz](http://www.elmshotel.co.nz)

Hotel complex with a range of room options. On-site café/restaurant & bar for convenient dining. Close proximity to shops & restaurants and the PureTrails depot.

### Christchurch Top10 Holiday Park & Motels

39 Meadow Street | Phone: 0800 396323 | [www.christchurchtop10.co.nz](http://www.christchurchtop10.co.nz)

Holiday park with a range of motel style accommodation at budget-wise prices. Close proximity to shops & restaurants and the PureTrails depot.

## **Accommodation in Queenstown**

If you need accommodation in the Queenstown area before and/or after your tour we recommend the following:

### Scenic Heartland Hotel & Scenic Suites

27 Stanley Street, Queenstown | 03 442 4718 | [www.scenichotels.co.nz](http://www.scenichotels.co.nz)

3 star hotel complex offering a variety of rooms and rates.

### Garden Court Suites & Apartments

41 Frankton Road, Frankton | 03 442 9713 | [www.gardencourt.co.nz](http://www.gardencourt.co.nz)

Well appointed modern motel complex.

### Shades of Arrowtown (our accommodation for night 1 of the tour)

9 Merioneth Street, Arrowtown | 03 442 1613 | [www.shadesofarrowtown.co.nz](http://www.shadesofarrowtown.co.nz)

Cottage style motel close to Arrowtown's main street

## **Accommodation on the tour**

Our comfortable accommodation on this tour includes motels, a restored historic guesthouse, and a former hydro electric station's workers camp. Accommodation is based on double or twin share rooms, with mostly en-suite facilities. Single travellers are required to pay the single room supplement fee, however if there are other singles on the trip willing to share a twin room we can arrange this for you in which case no single supplement fee will be payable.

On our website you will find links to some of the accommodations we use within the tour itinerary description. We do not send out a list of accommodation venues for your

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## **'Saddle Sore' Tip:**

No amount of gel seats or padding will protect you from saddle sore if you do not cycle regularly. The best way to prepare your backside for your tour is to cycle regularly (3 or more 20km+ rides per week) during the month leading up to your trip. Failing that you are welcome to bring a gel seat cover or even your own bike saddle to fit to your hire bike.

You are also welcome to bring your own spd pedals and cleat shoes to fit to your hire bike.

trip prior to the tour departure unless specifically requested.

## **Bike hire**

Standard bike hire is available at a rate of \$190 for the 5 days. The bikes we use are hybrid style mountain bikes that are high quality and well maintained. We also have a small fleet of electric bikes (ebikes) available for hire at a rate of \$465 for the 5 days. Ebike availability is strictly limited so if you'd like to secure an ebike for your trip you need to book this in with us at your earliest convenience. For standard or ebike hire we need an **accurate measurement** of your height before we can confirm availability.

All bikes are fitted with comfortable gel seats and a small handlebar pannier bag. We also supply you with a helmet and drink bottle. To read more about our bikes, refer to our website: [www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/cycling-nz-information/cycle-trail-bike-hire](http://www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/cycling-nz-information/cycle-trail-bike-hire).

Please note the wearing of cycle helmets on PureTrails tours, whether you are cycling on a public road or cycle trail, is a compulsory requirement.

## **Bringing your own bike**

You are welcome to bring your own bike. Please ensure it is in good condition, recently serviced, and suitable for the terrain you will be riding on. Your bike must not weigh more than **20kgs** as anything over this weight is unmanageable for our guides to handle. You need to supply your own spare inner-tubes and other spare parts. Your guide can assist with basic repairs such as repairing punctures, however any running repairs required beyond this are your own responsibility.

If you require the services of a bike mechanic to unpack and assemble your bike prior to your trip and/or box it up again at the end of your trip, this service is available for \$25 (for those starting/finishing in Christchurch only).

## **Booking Conditions & Cancellation & Refunds policy**

Bookings will be confirmed and held on receipt of a deposit by PureTrails New Zealand. The full name and contact details (phone, email & postal address) for each person booking the tour are required at the time of booking.

Prices quoted are in New Zealand dollars. The balance of the tour price is payable **60 days** prior to departure and payments must be made in New Zealand dollars. Payment is accepted by:

- + direct credit;
- + visa or mastercard & debit cards (add 2.5% surcharge);
- + cheque (in NZ currency);
- + international bank transfer (add \$25 funds clearance fee);
- + international bank draft

Cancellations must be received in writing and the following conditions apply:

- + Cancellations outside 90 days of the tour departure date will receive a full refund;
- + Cancellations between 90-61 days prior to the departure date will lose the deposit; this deposit can be transferred to an alternative tour within 12 months of the original departure date
- + Cancellations between 60-31 days of the departure date will receive no refund; however a 50% credit can be transferred to an alternative tour within 12 months of the

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original departure date

+ Cancellations within 30 days of the departure date will receive **no refund**; and no transfers or credits are available.

PureTrails New Zealand strongly recommends all clients, including **domestic** travellers, purchase travel insurance to protect against unexpected cancellations.

We strongly recommend you obtain travel insurance should you need to cancel your trip unexpectedly within 3 months of departure.

Tour departures are subject to a **minimum of 4 people**. You can enquire with us as to the status of your tour at any stage. The full conditions are available on our website at [www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/booking-terms-conditions](http://www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/booking-terms-conditions).

## **Car Storage**

In Christchurch secure car storage is available at our depot in Papanui for \$10 per day. This needs to be booked in advance. In Queenstown 'Airport Parking Queenstown' ([airportparkingqueenstown.co.nz](http://airportparkingqueenstown.co.nz)) has storage available at reasonable rates near the airport for cars/SUV's. Campervan's/Motorhomes can be left at the Arrowtown Holiday Park by prior arrangement.

## **Cash facilities**

The only places you will encounter a cash ATM machine or bank during the 5 days is Arrowtown, Alexandra & Wanaka. EFTPOS and credit cards can be used at virtually all the cafes and hotels along the trail.

## **Contact details while on the tour**

If your friends or family need to contact you urgently during the tour, they can contact you via our office on: Phone: +64 21 178 8287. Please note there is good mobile phone coverage throughout most of the region.

## **Degree of difficulty & What to expect**

The Queenstown Lakes Trail tour is a collection of cycle rides totalling 191km that we have put together that showcase the beautiful Southern Lakes and Central Otago regions. This tour is a visual feast with mountains and pristine lakes everywhere you look, fantastic Autumn colours (during April), fun cycle trails, as well as great local food and wine.

The cycling is all on purpose built **gravel cycle trails** rather than roads. Day 4 is on the stunning Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail, which, due to the nature of being a narrow gorge, features some well benched zig-zag climbs/descents. The riding is rated Grade 2. Refer to our website for more information on our Difficulty Gradings.

[www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/cycling-nz-information/level-of-difficulty](http://www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/cycling-nz-information/level-of-difficulty). Cycling experience is necessary, as well as the ability to change gears proficiently.

**If you do minimal training before your tour or are not 'cycle fit', you may find that you are not able to cycle all of the sections of the trail, and may require the use of our support vehicle.**

## **Departure time and place (Christchurch)**

PureTrails offer courtesy pick ups and drop offs from the locations recommended on pages 3 & 4. If you are staying at one of these locations, we will pick you up between

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8:00am and 8:20am approximately. For those staying elsewhere, we ask that you make your way to our depot in Papanui (11a Langstone Lane) **by 8am**.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide pick ups or drop offs at Christchurch Airport. The nearest pick up point available is at the Airport Gateway Motel, 2kms from the terminals.

## **Departure time and place (Queenstown)**

If you opt to join the tour in Queenstown rather than Christchurch, the tour will meet you in Arrowtown at approximately 4:30 on Day 1, at our accommodation at Shades of Arrowtown, cnr Buckingham/Merioneth Streets. Check in is available *from* 2pm.

You need to make your own way to Arrowtown. Supershuttle ([www.supershuttle.co.nz](http://www.supershuttle.co.nz)) provide transfers, or the local bus service run regular and affordable buses between Queenstown, Frankton and Arrowtown. The blue #2 run from Arthur's Point to Arrowtown is the bus to catch from the Frankton bus shelter, outside of the airport terminal to Ramshaw Lane, Arrowtown. <https://www.orc.govt.nz/public-transport/queenstown-buses/queenstown-bus-timetables/2-arthurs-point-to-arrowtown>

### **International Transfers Tip:**

Conventional Banks have high fees when it comes to international transfers (hence our \$25 funds clearance fee). Third party institutions such as Western Union or CurrencyFair or TransferWise will offer you a competitive currency exchange rate and significantly lower transfer fees. We are happy to refund you the difference (in NZ\$ cash) in funds clearance fees if you manage to secure a better rate.

## **Final Payment**

Your final payment is required **60 days prior** to your tour departure date, and will include items which may not be listed on your original invoice such as bike hire and any tour transfers required. You will receive an updated invoice around 10 weeks prior to departure once we have received your Tour Information & Safety Declaration Form – see page 9.

Payment can be made by:

- + visa or mastercard (Inc debit cards) - subject to a 2.5% surcharge;
- + direct transfer (NZ bank account holders only);
- + international transfer (subject to a \$25 funds clearance fee which covers the fee NZ banks charge to receive your payment);
- + cheque in NZ currency ;
- + international bank draft (cheque)

## **Finishing your tour in Christchurch**

If you are finishing your tour in Christchurch, you are likely to be back in the city by 5:30pm on Day 6. Your guide can drop you off at any of the accommodation locations on pages 3 & 4. If you are flying out of Christchurch on Day 6, do not book flights that require check in before 6:30pm.

## **Finishing your tour in Queenstown**

If you are finishing your tour in Queenstown we can organise a bus connection for you from Wanaka, where our last ride concludes at approximately 10:30am. Bus times available vary from day to day and month to month, so please check the timetable with us before booking any onward travel. Please note tour transfers need to be booked and paid for at least one month in advance. The cost is \$35 pp approx.

Bicycles are not easily transported on public buses so you may find you are not able to bring your own bike if you require a bus connection to Queenstown.

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## Guide

Your tour will be led by one of our friendly and professional guides who drives the support vehicle and will be at hand for (almost) anything you need or want to know during your tour (we try our best anyway!) We are very approachable so please do ask if you have any queries or concerns. Your guide **does not participate in the cycling** with the group, but meets up with you along the trail in our vehicle every 10 - 20kms or so.

## Health & fitness

You will be cycling 191km over 5 days so you should be reasonably fit and in good health. The **gravel trail** has a few moderate climbs so the more comfortable you are riding your bike beforehand, the more you will enjoy the trail. You bike at your own pace and can have plenty of photo and snack stops. Our emphasis is on having fun and enjoying the scenery. If you need a rest, there is always the option of taking the **support vehicle**.

We strongly encourage you to get out and do some biking before your tour, on gravel roads if possible, starting out with half an hour a day, building up to 3-4 longer rides (20km+) per week during the month prior to your tour (at the very minimum). The secret is to start slowly and increase your exercise gradually. The fitter you are the more enjoyable your experience will be.

**If you do minimal training before your tour or are not 'cycle fit', you may find that you are not able to cycle all of the sections of the trail, and may require the use of our support vehicle.**

## Insurance

You never know when either yourself or a family member may fall ill. You are urged to take out travel insurance to cover yourself in the event that you need to cancel your tour with us within three months of the tour departure date. **This includes New Zealander's travelling within New Zealand.** PureTrails New Zealand Ltd is not obligated to give you a refund within this period. Refer to our website for the full terms and conditions [www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/booking-terms-conditions](http://www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/booking-terms-conditions).

## Laundry facilities

There are laundry facilities for you to use at some of our accommodation venues during the tour. There is usually a \$4-5 charge per wash and dry cycle.

## Luggage

Please limit yourself to 18kgs of luggage. All luggage is transported in our vehicle during the day. Anything you need access to during the days cycle ride should be stored in a small bag which can be left on the bus rather than in your suitcase. Those starting and finishing in Christchurch with excess luggage not needed on the tour are welcome to store bags at our depot free of charge while you are away.

## Meals & Special Dietary Requirements

Meals are supplied as indicated on the itinerary (B/L/D). Beer and wine, tea & coffee etc are not included in the tour package however there will be the opportunity for you to buy beverages along the way.

### Insurance Tip:

Domestic New Zealand travellers can obtain a Domestic Travel Insurance Policy online from [www.1Cover.co.nz](http://www.1Cover.co.nz) (Comprehensive Domestic) or [www.CoverMore.co.nz](http://www.CoverMore.co.nz) (Domestic Plan D) for reasonable prices (approx \$100-\$150 for two seniors for 8 days cover). Ensure your policy includes cover for 'Cancellations & Lost Deposits'. Pre-existing medical conditions are not generally covered so check the policy wording and exclusions carefully.

### Laundry Tip:

If you need to give your cycle gear a wash during your trip, bring some travel liquid detergent and an elastic travel clothes line (available from Kathmandu etc). You can wash your garments and hang them out to dry in your room overnight. Merino and quick-dry fabric garments will dry out overnight.

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Breakfasts are generally a continental style breakfast, and lunches are taken either in cafes along the trail or as a trail-side picnic. For dinner we dine in the local restaurants in the villages where we stay following a two course set menu format.

We provide a range of high energy healthy snacks while biking such as bananas and fruit, froye balls, muesli bars, fruit cake and biscuits.

PureTrails New Zealand will **endeavour** to cater to any special dietary requirements you may have (please disclose this on the Tour Info & Health & Safety Declaration form). Vegetarian and gluten free and dairy free diets are not a problem for our meal providers. Requests such as a sugar free or grain free diet and vegan meals etc are a little more problematic given the remote rural location of the tour. In these instances you may need to bring your own snacks and specialty foods. We are unable to guarantee a peanut free or allergen free trip, and therefore we strongly encourage that travellers with life threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self administering these medications.

## **Medical conditions**

If you have a medical, physical or mental condition that may affect your ability to participate in the tour you must disclose this to us on our Tour Information and Safety Declaration form (see page 9). Your guide may follow up on your condition with you on Day 1 to help us manage your safety in the event of a medical event.

## **Phone reception/Wifi**

There is very good mobile phone coverage throughout much of the area. Wifi is becoming more widely available and in most case (but not all) is offered free of charge, and there is also good 3G/4G coverage.

## **Tour Information and Safety Declaration Form**

All tour participants (including non-riders) are required to complete a separate copy of our 'Tour Information and Safety Declaration Form', and return it to us **3 months** prior to your tour departure date. Please note this includes those who have been on another PureTrails New Zealand tour at some point in the past. Although we keep a database of information from previous tours, medical/dietary/emergency contact details can change from year to year so we require that a new form be completed for each tour you join.

## **Weather conditions**

Central Otago experiences big extremes of weather, with temperatures ranging from -10 to 38°C. The altitude of the trails range from 100 – 360 metres above sea level, and the region can be subject to strong winds. You could experience very hot or cold temperatures (including snow) at any time of the year.

Generally, you can expect the temperature to be around 15-30°C in Jan/Feb, and 10 - 25°C in Nov/Dec/Mar/April. By April, it tends to get quite cold in the evenings with frosts, and possibly snow in late April (!) The visual landscape is impossibly beautiful regardless of season or temperature. You will gain maximum enjoyment by being prepared for both hot and cold temperatures.

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## Cycle Clothing Tip:

Bright reflective cycling gear makes you far more visible to other road users and increases your safety significantly. We require that those not wearing bright reflective cycle clothing wear a PureTrails supplied high-vis safety vest for all cycle sections that are on public roads.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit Tip:

PureTrails NZ carries a comprehensive 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit and an Emergency Response Kit in our support vehicle; however this is kept for emergency situations only. Please bring your own supply of paracetamol, voltaren, antihistamine and any other medication you take, as well as bandaids and some dressings etc in a small kit that you can take with you on your bike.

## Wet Weather Tip:

Bring a large plastic zip-lock bag that you can use inside the pannier bag of your hire bike to store your camera, phone, wallet etc to prevent them from getting wet (the pannier bags are not 100% waterproof).

## What to bring

In the interest of safety and enjoyment, please ensure you are adequately equipped for your tour. **Warm clothing is essential even in January/February.** The following is a list of what you need to bring:

- Clothing:**
- Waterproof raincoat – **essential**
  - Thermal top – **essential**
  - Thermal leggings – **essential in Spring/Autumn**
  - Shorts, bike pants or light trousers for cycling
  - Woollen or fleece jacket layers (not cotton)
  - T-shirts (breathable fabrics are best)
  - Warm hat and gloves
  - A comfortable pair of shoes for cycling
  - Sports socks for cycling
  - Comfortable casual wear for evenings

- Equipment:**
- Padded cycle gloves
  - Sunscreen, sunglasses & sunhat
  - Personal toilet gear
  - Personal first aid kit** containing paracetamol, voltaren, antihistamine and any other medication you take
  - A supply of toilet tissue as it may not be provided in the public toilets along the trails
  - Insect repellent

- Optional:**
- Gel seat cover
  - Camera
  - A large plastic ziplock bag for use inside the hire bike pannier bag if it is very wet
  - Mobile phone to enable phone contact with your guide

For excellent quality NZ made cycle specific clothing and accessories, visit [www.groudeffect.co.nz](http://www.groudeffect.co.nz)