

# Kaikoura Wine Trail Trip Notes

Take a journey starting amidst North Canterbury's Waipara Wine growing region to Hanmer Springs, along the stunning Kaikoura coastline, and culminating in the heart of NZ's wine industry, Marlborough.



## Tour Highlights

- + Enjoy 148km of cycling featuring country landscapes, wild coastlines and vineyards
- + Cycle alongside vineyards at Waipara, the Awatere Valley & Marlborough
- + Relax in Hanmer Springs Thermal Hot Pools
- + Journey alongside the Pacific Ocean on the stunning Kaikoura Coast
- + Explore the arty seaside village of Kaikoura post-quake
- + Partake in wine tasting at premier Marlborough wineries

## Tour Details

- + 5 days
- + Grade 1
- + 148km cycling [84% sealed roads; 16% gravel roads/trails]
- + Starts in Christchurch/Ends in Christchurch or Blenheim

## Tour Cost

Tour Price: from \$1,850

Deposit: \$400

## What's included?

- + 4 nights twinshare ensuite accommodation
- + 4 evening meals; 4 lunches; 4 continental breakfasts
- + Fruit, snacks & morning teas on the trail
- + tour guide & vehicle support while biking
- + cycle repair support
- + all transport from/to Christchurch
- + Goods & Services Tax of 15%

## Not included:

- + wine; beer; espresso coffees
- + lunch on day 5
- + bike hire (standard \$200; e-bike \$500)
- + entry into Hanmer Springs thermal hot pools (from \$16)
- + entry into Omas Aviation Heritage Centre (from \$25)
- + wine tasting fees where applicable
- + single accommodation (\$400)
- + optional activities at Kaikoura (from \$120)



## Departure Dates

Refer to our website for current departure dates and tour availability.

Grade 1



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## Itinerary

### Day 1 Christchurch – Hanmer Springs

The tour gets underway as we head north to the Waipara grape growing region. Here we commence our first ride (14km) which takes you on a tour of the Waipara countryside and vineyards, before enjoying lunch at a cellar door. After lunch we travel a short distance to our next ride, through the lovely Scargill Valley, dotted with some of the farms original homesteads (22km). At the conclusion of the days cycling we head to the alpine resort town of Hanmer Springs and our accommodation. Enjoy a soak in the thermal hot pools before our evening meal. **Meals (L/D) | Cycle Distance: 36km**

### Day 2 Hanmer Springs – Kaikoura

We head out of the Hanmer Basin on a scenic drive through the Hurunui area towards the rugged Kaikoura Coast. Cycle a quiet rural road that takes us alongside the wild Pacific Coast (17km). We transfer a short distance to Kaikoura and enjoy a picnic at South Bay, where dolphins and seals are often visible in the surf. Our next ride takes us on a scenic ride around the foothills of the Kaikoura Peninsula through farmland with lovely views of the mountains and ocean to our seaside accommodation. Enjoy a meal featuring fresh local seafood, straight from the fishing boats. **Meals (B/L/D) | Cycle Distance: 35km**

### Day 3 Kaikoura - Blenheim

We travel along the stunning Kaikoura Coast, where the land changes following the November 2016 earthquakes are amazing to see as we head north. Our ride begins on a river terrace above the Awatere Valley. Ride through farmland and vineyards all the way to the sea at Clifford Bay at Yealand's Estate Winery. Yealand's is a world leader in sustainable wine production and as well as tasting the wines there is an opportunity to tour the spectacular Seaview vineyard. From here it is a short drive over to Blenheim and our accommodation for the next two evenings. **Meals (B/L/D) | Cycle Distance: 25km**

### Day 4 Blenheim

Today is your opportunity to taste the award winning wines of Marlborough. From our base in Blenheim, cycle along the scenic rural roads that dissect the sea of vineyards on the Wairau Plains. We stop off at numerous wineries where you are welcome to taste the local wines or simply relax in the serene grounds. Stop at as many or as little as you like throughout the day. We meet up for lunch at a cellar door, with further tasting opportunities available. We terminate the ride here and transfer to the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre where there is the option to view the impressive *Knights of the Sky* exhibition, featuring Sir Peter Jackson's own collection of WW1 aircraft and artefacts. **Meals (B/L/D) | Cycle Distance: 37km**

### Day 5 Blenheim - Christchurch

This morning we head south back along the Kaikoura Coast, cycling or walking parts of the stunning coastline as development allows. After a refreshment stop at Kaikoura we return to Christchurch, arriving in the city by 5pm. Alternatively you can finish your journey in Blenheim after breakfast. **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. We do not provide central city or city-wide pick ups at the start or end of your tour.

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.

### 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.

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.

### 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.

## Accommodation on the tour

Our comfortable accommodation on this tour includes motels. Accommodation is based on double or twin share rooms with 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 trip prior to the tour departure unless specifically requested.

## Bike hire

Standard bike hire is available at a rate of \$200 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 \$500 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 seats and a small handlebar pannier bag. We also supply you with a helmet. 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)

### '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.



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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

If you are bringing your own, please take the following into consideration:

- Your bicycle **does not weigh more than 20kg** – including e-bikes (with the battery off). Bikes heavier than this are too heavy for our guides to be able to lift on and off the cycle trailer safely and are too heavy for our trailer fittings.
- Your bike **does not have any mudguards fitting on the front tyre** (due to how they are secured on the trailer). Rear mudguards are fine.
- The bike is well maintained, recently serviced, and in a good safe condition.
- Your helmet is in a good safe condition with no cracks, and can be fastened properly.
- The tyres have a good level of tread on them, suitable for trails/gravel. Slick tyres are not recommended.
- A basic bike repair kit must be carried including 2 x spare inner tubes.
- Any major mechanical breakdown is your own responsibility.
- **PureTrails staff will secure your bike on our cycle trailer when in transit during the tour, but the company is not held responsible for any damages that occur during transportation.**

Your guide can assist with basic repairs such as repairing punctures, however any running repairs required beyond this are your own responsibility.

## Booking Terms & Conditions

Our Booking Terms & Conditions can be found on our website at:

<https://puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/booking-terms-conditions/>

Please read carefully these terms and conditions of contract. In completing and submitting the Booking Form and/or paying a deposit, you agree to be bound by these conditions which constitute the agreement between PureTrails New Zealand Ltd and you.

## Car Storage

In Christchurch secure car storage is available at Superior Airport Parking.

[www.superiorairportparking.co.nz](http://www.superiorairportparking.co.nz)

## Degree of difficulty & What to expect

The Kaikoura Trail tour is a collection of cycle rides totalling 148km that we have put together that showcase the North Canterbury, Kaikoura & Marlborough regions. The tour features 84% cycling on sealed roads, and 16% cycling on **gravel roads and trails**.

The riding is rated Grade 1 and there are a few gentle hills that can be skipped if desired. 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)



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## 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.

## Departure time and place

PureTrails offer courtesy pick ups and drop offs from the locations recommended on page 4. If you are staying at one of these locations, we will pick you up between 8:00am and 8:20am approximately. We do not provide central city or city-wide pick ups at the start or end of your tour. If you choose to stay elsewhere in Christchurch we will meet you at one of the locations on page 4, or the Airport.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide pick ups or drop offs at Christchurch Airport terminals. The nearest pick up point available is at Spitfire Square Shopping Centre, 800m from the terminals. Please factor in a 10 minute walk to get to/from the terminal from there. Our bus stops outside the Lonestar Restaurant.

## 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. You will receive an updated invoice around 10 weeks prior to departure once we have received your Tour Information & Safety Declaration Form – see page 8.

Payment can be made by:

- + visa or mastercard (Inc debit cards) - subject to a 2.9% 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);

## Finish time and place

The tour finishes in Christchurch by approximately 5pm on Day 5. Your guide can drop you off at any of the accommodation locations on page 4. If you are flying out of Christchurch on Day 5, do not book flights that require check in before 6pm.

## Finishing your tour in Blenheim

If you are finishing your tour in Blenheim we can drop you off in the town centre by 9am.

## 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.

## Health & fitness

You will be cycling 148km over 5 days so you should be reasonably fit and in good health. While the cycling is not technically difficult, the more comfortable you are riding your bike beforehand, the more you will enjoy the tour. 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, starting out with half an hour a day, building up to 3-4 longer rides



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## 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.

## 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.

(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.

## 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. **This includes New Zealander's travelling within New Zealand.** 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 our accommodation during the tour. There is usually a \$4-5 charge per wash and dry cycle.

## Luggage

We urge you to try to keep your luggage to a minimum. Please limit yourself to 18kgs. 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. On Day 1 when you join the tour, please be ready wearing your cycle gear.

## 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.

Breakfasts are a continental style, and lunches are taken either as picnics or in cafes. 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. Your guide may follow up on your condition with you on Day 1 to



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On Day 1 when you join the tour, please be ready wearing your cycle gear.

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

#### 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).

#### Help us go green:

Help us save the planet by bringing your own reusable drink bottle and coffee cup. Alternatively a branded PureTrails 'Specialised' drink bottle can be purchased for \$10.

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 region. 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 copy of our online 'Tour Information and Safety Declaration Form' **3 months** prior to your tour departure date. Please note this includes those who have been on another tour with us 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

Generally, you can expect the daytime temperature to be around 15-30°C in Jan/Feb, and 12-25°C in Nov/Dec/Mar/April. The visual landscape is impossibly beautiful regardless of season or temperature. You will gain maximum enjoyment by being prepared for hot, cold, and wet conditions.

#### 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
  - Comfortable casual wear for evenings

- Equipment:**
- A drink bottle (or buy a PureTrails branded bottle for \$10)
  - A cup for tea/coffee stops
  - Padded cycle gloves
  - Sunscreen, sunglasses & sunhat
  - Personal toilet gear
  - Personal first aid kit** containing paracetamol, voltaren, antihistamine and any other medication you take
  - Insect repellent

- Optional:**
- Gel seat cover
  - A large plastic ziplock bag for use inside the hire bike pannier bag if it is very wet
  - Swimming costume (Hanmer Springs thermal hot pools)



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