# **OTAGO RAIL TRAIL**

For your peace of mind, our support vehicle is always available throughout each stage of the cycle tour. This gives us the opportunity to visit other points of interest around the areas on the tour. Or if we have any unfavourable weather conditions, bike hassles or flatties, or you just simply need to rest the legs for a little bit, then we can accommodate accordingly. Please refer to our <u>FAQs page</u> for more information.

### Day 1: Christchurch/Queenstown/Dunedin – Clyde

- The Otago Rail Trail cycle tour gets underway as we depart Christchurch for the scenic drive south through the Mackenzie Country to Central Otago via the inland route that passes by Lake Tekapo and Lake Pukaki, and finally over the Lindis Pass to Clyde.
- Alternatively, there is the option of meeting the tour in Clyde in the afternoon from Queenstown or Dunedin, which we can organise for you.
- In the late afternoon get used to your bike and the terrain with a short cycle ride along the lovely Clutha River. Settle into our accommodation in the charming historic precinct of Clyde.

CYCLE DISTANCE: 5KM MEALS: DINNER

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### Day 2: Clyde - Wedderburn (Lauder)

- Begin cycling the Otago Rail Trail, biking from Clyde to Lauder.
- Highlights of today's Otago bike trail cycle ride include the wooden trestle Muttontown Viaduct, the Old Tucker Hill gold diggings, lunch at the historic Chatto Creek Tavern, views of the Dunstan Mountains and Raggedy Range and spotting brown trout in the Manuherikia River.
- After the ride we make a side trip in our support vehicle to the historic goldmining town of St Bathans, with a mandatory stop at the iconic Vulcan Hotel!
  From here we head to the highest point of the trail and check into our beautiful accommodation for the next two nights.

CYCLE DISTANCE: 47KM MEALS: BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER

#### Day 3: Wedderburn (Lauder to Wedderburn)

- After a quick transfer back to Lauder, today we cycle to Wedderburn on the Otago Rail Trail.
- Highlights of today's bike ride on the rail trail include the engineering marvel that is the Poolburn Gorge Viaduct and tunnels, the vast wide-open Ida Valley (made famous by the painter Grahame Sydney), the Idaburn dam (famous for its winter curling) and also a visit and lunch at Hayes Engineering Works.
- In the afternoon explore NZ's oldest Store in Oturehua before the last ride of the day back to our accommodation in Wedderburn.
- Later in the afternoon we will head off to the quaint town of Naseby to try our hand at the indoor curling rink, followed by our evening meal in the historic local tavern.

#### CYCLE DISTANCE: 35KM MEALS: BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER

#### Day 4: Wedderburn - Waipiata

- Today we bike Wedderburn to Hyde, a gentle downhill on the Otago Rail Trail cycleway.
- Highlights of today's bike ride include crossing the Maniototo Plains, visiting the rural art deco town of Ranfurly, following the Taieri River as it snakes around the Rock and Pillar Range, and crossing the unaltered stone bridge over Cap Burn, the 32m high Price's Creek Viaduct and 152m long tunnel, to Hyde.
- We stay the night in Waipiata township and enjoy a celebratory meal in the Waipiata Country Hotel.

CYCLE DISTANCE: 46KM MEALS: BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER

#### **Day 5: Waipiata – Christchurch/Dunedin/Queenstown**

- Finishing off the tour in style, we bike from Hyde to the end of the Otago Rail Trail at Middlemarch.
- Highlights of the final day's cycle ride on the Otago Rail Trail include views of the Rock and Pillar and Taieri Ranges, the Hyde Railway Disaster memorial, and dropping down into the Strath Taieri Plain, an area used in the filming of the Hobbit Trilogies.

• In the afternoon we make our way back to Christchurch arriving at around 6pm. Alternatively opt to catch a shuttle back Clyde, Dunedin or Queenstown (arriving at 6:15pm).

CYCLE DISTANCE: 27KM MEALS: BREAKFAST

## What's Included:

- 4 nights twin share ensuite accommodation
- 4 evening meals; 3 lunches; 4 breakfasts
- Home baking, healthy snacks, fruit & morning teas on the trail
- The services of a tour leader who provides vehicle support & information
- Cycle repair support
- Side trip to St Bathans
- Indoor curling at Naseby
- All transport from/to Christchurch
- GST

## What's Not Included:

- Wine; beer; espresso coffees
- Lunch on Days 1 & 5
- Single accommodation supplement (\$495)
- Bike hire (\$200) or e-bike hire (\$495)
- Transfers to Queenstown/Dunedin to Clyde on Day 1 (3rd Party Transfer Company)
- Transfers (3rd party) from Middlemarch to Clyde/Dunedin/Queenstown on Day 5



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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