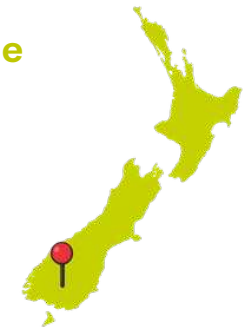
The Queenstown Cycle Trail

Queenstown - your adventure and cycling destination

5 Days, 4 Nights

Moderate Grade



Tour Cost (NZD)

2026 / 2027

Tour Cost: $2995

Single Supplement: $720

Tour Highlights

- Six iconic rivers and six lakes
- The Dunstan Cycle Trail and Wanaka
- The secluded valley of the Clutha Gold Cycle Trail
- Remote and stunning Roxburgh Gorge
- Historic landmarks and mighty suspension bridges

TUATARA TOURS
Est. 2003

Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

www.tuataratours.co.nz

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The Tour at a Glance

Ride through alpine landscapes, charming historic towns, past turquoise lakes, and world-class wine country on a spectacular network of trails. Each unique trail offers striking scenery and unforgettable experiences.
Cross private land and soaring suspension bridges, tracing six rivers and lakes through landscapes made famous by The Lord of the Rings. Venture into the remote bluffs of the Roxburgh Gorge, follow the Clutha Mata-au River through valleys and farmland on the Clutha Gold Trail, and marvel at cliff-hugging paths on the Lake Dunstan Trail.

Trip Grading: Moderate

An above average level of fitness required, you should be comfortable biking a minimum of 45km on formed tracks and unsealed roads with some average to steep inclines at times.
There is some low level mountain biking on this trail.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1	Queenstown to Arrowtown	38km
Day 2	Arrowtown to Cromwell	49km
Day 3	Roxburgh Gorge Trail & Clutha Gold Trail	47km
Day 4	Roxburgh to Lake Dunstan Cycle Trail	54km
Day 5	Lake Hawea to Wanaka	27km

Day 1 Queenstown to Arrowtown (38km)

Meet your local guide and fellow riders with a pickup from your accommodation between 8:30–9:00am. Then it's off to scenic Kelvin Heights, where your guide will get you set up and ready to ride.

Your journey begins beneath the willow-lined shores of the Frankton Arm of Lake Wakatipu, with spectacular views of rugged mountain ranges all around. Cruise past the airport and follow the Shotover River before reaching the peaceful shores of Lake Hayes—an artist's dream—for a full loop of its picturesque trail.

We finish the day with a gentle roll into historic Arrowtown, where charming stone cottages and rich gold rush tales welcome you for the night.
MEALS INCLUDED: L D

Day 2 Arrowtown to Cromwell (49km)

Begin the day in historic Arrowtown, riding alongside the Arrow River before continuing towards Gibbston. Along the way, cross impressive suspension bridges, including the historic Kawarau Bridge, home to the AJ Hackett Bungy Centre.

After a short stop to soak up the atmosphere – and perhaps watch a bungy jumper or two – continue into the beautiful Gibbston Valley. Here, vineyards line the slopes above the Kawarau River and provide the perfect setting for a platter lunch at a boutique winery.

From Gibbston, join the spectacular new Kawarau Gorge Trail for the journey through to Cromwell. This purpose-built trail provides the long-awaited cycling connection between the Queenstown Trails network and Central Otago.
The Kawarau Gorge is a dramatic Central Otago canyon carved by the Kawarau River, which is joined along its course by the Shotover, Arrow and Nevis rivers. The new trail winds through an impressive landscape of steep schist cliffs and turquoise water, with swing bridges and cantilevered sections providing some memorable riding.

This corridor also has a long human history. Māori travelled through the region on routes associated with journeys to obtain pounamu, long before European settlement. Later came pastoral pioneers, gold miners and, eventually, engineers investigating the hydro-electric potential of the Kawarau.

The trail is graded 2–3 and includes some substantial climbing, making this an exciting introduction to the landscapes and history of Central Otago.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 3 Roxburgh Gorge Trail & Clutha Gold Trail (47km)

This morning, we drive a short distance down the road to where the spectacular Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail awaits. With its dramatic cliffs and sweeping views, this ride is pure magic.
We kick things off with a 10km ride through the gorge, then trade bikes for a scenic jet boat trip from Doctors Point to Shingle Creek—a thrilling way to soak up the scenery from the water.

Back on the bikes, it's a further 10km to the Roxburgh Dam, where we join the Clutha Gold Trail for a 27km ride to Millers Flat. Along the way, you'll pedal past lush orchards and historic gold mining relics that tell the tales of a bygone era. We finish the day in Millers Flat before heading to our accommodation in Roxburgh to unwind for the evening.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 4 Roxburgh to Lake Dunstan Cycle Trail (54km)

After breakfast, we take a short drive to Clyde to tackle the spectacular Lake Dunstan Cycle Trail. Get ready for a thrilling ride along cliffside paths carved from solid rock, and cruise beneath the impressive Cairnmuir Terraces — a feat of engineering that protects the Clyde Dam.

One of the trail's highlights is the "floating" boardwalk that hugs the hillside, with deep blue lake waters below and towering rock faces beside you. As the trail flattens out near Cromwell, we roll past sun-drenched vineyards and olive groves — a peaceful testament to the town that once stood here, now submerged beneath the lake.

We finish the ride cruising through Pisa Moorings to Smiths Way. Then it's time to relax at our lakeside accommodation and toast to a big day out on the bikes.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 5 Lake Hawea to Wanaka (27km)

This morning, we make our way to the charming settlement of Lake Hawea, where the Hawea River Trail awaits. The ride winds gently through peaceful kānuka groves, lush woodlands, and across open river terraces, linking up with the Newcastle and Upper Clutha tracks all the way to Albert Town.

From here, we cruise the scenic Outlet Track alongside the shimmering Clutha River, finishing up on the shores of stunning Lake Wānaka — a perfect spot to reflect on the journey.

What a way to wrap up five incredible days of riding, scenery, and good company.

One last bus journey back to Queenstown has us arriving around 4:30pm back at your accommodation.

MEALS INCLUDED : B L

The Queenstown Cycle Trail
Queenstown - Your adventure and cycling destination
5 days 4 nights Moderate Grade

What's Included

- All Accommodation in comfortable hotel, motel or lodges, with ensuite facilities
- Support vehicle and all transfers
- DOC concession fees
- Tour Kit Bag with helpful goodies
- All meals during the tour—great local cuisine
- Entrance fees to listed activities
- Fully qualified, knowledgeable guide

Please Note:

Rooms are double or twin, either one queen bed or two separate beds. If you have a preference for a twin room please let us know when you make your booking. Solo travellers can choose to share or pay a single supplement for a private room

Dietary needs? We're happy to cater for gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian diets—just let us know at time of booking.

What's Not Included

Alcoholic beverages with meals – these are available for purchase.

Pre- and post-tour accommodation

Bike hire – you're welcome to bring your own bike, or you can hire one from our extensive fleet of e-bikes and mountain bikes. See the bike page for full details.

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Your travel check list:

The following is a list of recommended items. Please also use your own experience to supplement this list. **If you're bringing your own bike**, don't forget essential spares such as tyres and tubes, as well as your e-bike charger—ours may not be compatible. If you're unsure about anything, feel free to contact us.

	Waterproof rain jacket with hood
	Comfortable cycling shoes (with grip)
	Thermals (top and bottom)
	Warm jumper or jacket (fleece / wool) mid layer
	Gloves, warm hat
	Cycle shorts
	Drink bottle (we provide one , you might like to bring a second)
	Daypack /bag (this holds items you need for the day on the bus while you are biking)
	Camera/ phone and charger/ torch or head torch
	Sun hat , sun glasses sun block,
	Swimsuit and small towel
	One set of casual wear for the evening, including casual shoes or sandals
	Personal toiletries and essential medications, a small personal first aid kit
✓	Bringing your own bike? .... don't forget your E bike charger and spares (tyres/tubes)

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Frequently asked questions:

How do I book a tour?
A deposit of $300 per person confirms your place and can be paid via credit card (Visa or Mastercard, no surcharge) through our website: https://www.tuataratours.co.nz/make-a-payment/, or by bank transfer to Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd: 01 0797 0308837 00.

When is the balance due?
The final balance is due 90 days prior to departure. A reminder will be sent via email. You're welcome to pay in instalments, as long as the full amount is received by the due date.

What if I need to cancel?
Our cancellation policy for the Queenstown Cycle Trail Tour is:

- 91+ days before departure – no fee
- 90–60 days – $300 per person
- 59–30 days – 30% of total cost
- 29–0 days – 100% of total cost
- After departure – no refund available

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance in case of unforeseen events.

How big are the groups?
Our tours typically accommodate up to 12 people, though we can cater to larger groups on request.

Do I have to bike as part of a group? You are free to ride at your own pace. We regroup periodically for coffee breaks, meals, and scenic stops so your guide can check in and assist if needed.

Do I have to share a room? Tours are priced on a twin-share basis (two people per room). Let us know if you prefer a queen bed or two singles. Solo travellers will be paired with another solo of the same gender, or you can opt to pay a single supplement for your own room.

Am I fit enough?
The Queenstown Cycle Trail is graded Moderate, so you'll need above average fitness. You should be comfortable biking around 45 km a day on a mix of sealed and unsealed trails, with a few decent hills thrown in. There's also a bit of light mountain biking. If you are unsure about your fitness level, feel free to contact us for advice.

Should I hire an e-bike or a standard bike?
E-bikes have become increasingly popular, making multi-day rides more accessible for all skill levels. They're especially helpful for hills, headwinds, and gravel sections. If you're unsure about completing the tour under varying weather conditions, we recommend an e-bike.

When is the best time to do the tour?
Our season runs from November to April. February and March are the busiest months, while April offers stunning autumn colours. Tours run in all weather, so come prepared. See our gear list for what to bring.

Can I fly in/fly out the same day? We recommend you arrive the day prior to your tour and depart the morning after the tour finishes just in case there are any unexpected delays or cancellations to your flights.

What time do I get back to Queenstown? The itinerary can change depending on weather conditions and the speed of the cycling group, so arrival back to Queenstown on the final day can be anywhere between 4.30 and 6.30 pm, we recommend you stay a night in Queenstown post tour, so you don't have to worry about missing a flight or any ongoing travel plans.

Frequently asked questions:

Can you pick me up for the tour?
We offer pick-ups and drop offs from Central Queenstown, Airport and Arrowtown hotels/motels. Unfortunately, we cannot collect guests from Airbnb properties or residential suburbs.

Is there any parking at your office? Unfortunately, not. You will need to arrange for storage for your vehicle while you are on tour. We suggest using one of the long-stay car parks at Queenstown airport or arranging with a local accommodation provider for pre and post tour accommodation and vehicle storage.

Can you join this tour from Christchurch? Our support vehicle departs from Christchurch the day before the tour and returns to Christchurch the day after the tour finishes. You are welcome to hitch a ride in our support vehicle at no extra cost. You will need to arrange a night's accommodation in Arrowtown before and after the tour, as this is where our guide stays.
Please let our office know if you would like to join us for the journey to Arrowtown.

What kind of meals are provided? Please have breakfast before your pick-up on the first day, as the tour begins immediately afterward. From then on, all meals are included as per your itinerary. You'll enjoy continental breakfasts, hearty packed lunches, and evening meals at your accommodation or a local restaurant. We can cater to vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free diets—just let us know at the time of booking.

Is alcohol included? Alcohol is not provided. However, you can purchase drinks with your evening meals or bring a small amount for personal consumption at the accommodation.

Do I need to arrive ready to bike? Yes, please come dressed ready to bike on the morning of your tour with your overnight bag packed ready for the transport. During the day you will not have access to your overnight bag so please make sure to have all the items you require for use during the day, packed in a day pack for easy access.

Can I bring my own bike? Absolutely. Please ensure your bike has been recently serviced and is suitable for trail riding. If you're bringing an e-bike, don't forget your charger.

What's included with the hire bikes?
Our hire bikes come equipped with memory foam saddles, a rack bag for essentials, a helmet, and a hi-vis vest—which must be worn while riding.

How much luggage can I bring?
Space is limited, so we ask that you bring one small day pack and one overnight bag or suitcase (maximum 20kg).

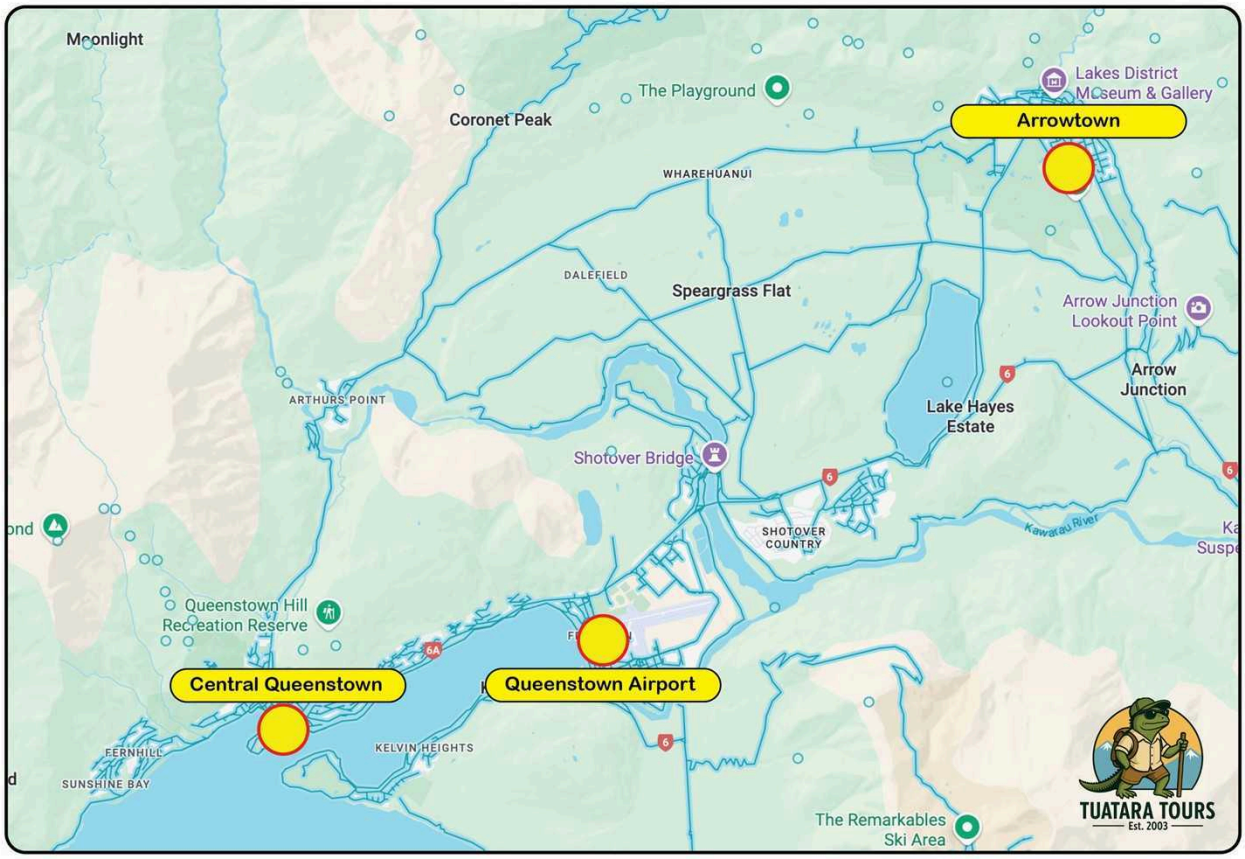
What's in the tour kit bag?
Each rider receives a kit bag with practical items for the tour. It includes a 500ml thermal drink bottle and a thermal cup—perfect for hot drinks along the trail.

Are there any biking sections on the road? Our Queenstown Cycle Trail Tour combines a number of popular off-road cycle trails into a multi-day cycle adventure. We do not bike on the highways; there is a support vehicle and driver-guide with you to provide transport between the biking sections. We do ask our bikers to always observe road rules when biking and wear a high vis vest (provided for you). If traffic is a concern we recommend joining a tour in the quieter months of the season, outside the school holiday periods.

Are the tours guided? Our tours are supported by a driver-guide and vehicle. The guide provides trail advice, first aid, and assistance with bike issues. They may cycle parts of the trail to point out key features but do not guide the entire route. You're welcome to ride in the support vehicle with them at any time if you need a break.

Pickup Points

Please contact us to confirm the nearest pick-up location to your accommodation. Unfortunately, we are unable to collect guests from Airbnb properties, private residences, or hill suburbs due to restrictions on access.



Arrowtown:
Shades of Arrowtown Motel

Central Queenstown
Beach Street, opposite Crowne Plaza Hotel

Queenstown Airport vicinity
Main road outside Queenstown Airport, or vehicle parking at Hawthorne Drive car park near Ramada Hotel

Tuatara Conservation

We're proud supporters of tuatara conservation.
We've adopted ""BP"—a juvenile tuatara at Orana Park in Christchurch, helping ensure the future of this amazing native species.

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Our Hire Bikes

All hire bikes are supplied with carrier bag, memory foam comfort seat and helmet

Ebike Step Thru
$110 per day

MOST POPULAR

Our most popular E bike.
The perfect cross over between comfort cruiser and trail bike

Ebike High Bar
$110 per day

Same performance and specifications as the Step Thru, with a more mountain bike-style handlebar and top bar

Ebike M24 Full Suspension
$165 per day

The ultimate full suspension E bike for unparalleled comfort, with carbon fibre frame and dropper seat

Ebike Merida 8000 Full Suspension Electric Mountain Bike
$185 per day

LIMITED NUMBERS AVAILABLE

Manual (non-e) bikes
$57 per day

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Department of Conservation APPROVED

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Tuatara Tours NZ Limited accepts bookings subject to the following terms:

Contract

This contract is between Tuatara Tours and you, the client—defined as any person travelling or intending to travel on a tour operated by Tuatara Tours. The contract, including all matters arising from it, is governed by New Zealand law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts. Only employees or directors of Tuatara Tours have the authority to vary or omit any of the terms stated herein.

Cancellation Policy Due to Travel Restrictions

If your trip is impacted by travel restrictions imposed by the New Zealand government or any other government, Tuatara Tours will either work with you to transfer your trip to a future date at no additional cost, or provide a full refund.

Price

All prices are quoted in New Zealand dollars and include 15% GST. Prices are based on rates current at the time of publishing. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to modify prices without notice if deemed necessary or appropriate.

Accommodation on organised tours is based on twin or double share. Solo travellers will be paired with another traveller of the same sex. A single supplement is available upon request.

Confirmation of Booking

Bookings are confirmed upon receipt of the full tour price, which is due 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Tuatara Tours and its agents reserve the right to decline any booking at their discretion.

Cancellation

If a client cancels a tour, the following charges apply (unless otherwise stated):

- 91+ days prior to departure – no fee
- 90–60 days prior to departure – NZD $300.00 per person
- 59–30 days prior to departure – 30% of the total package cost
- 29–0 days prior to departure – 100% of the total package cost
- After tour commencement – no refund available

These cancellation fees are non-negotiable. We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance.

Travel Insurance

Tuatara Tours strongly recommends that clients take out travel insurance, including tour cancellation cover and any other relevant insurances. It is the client's responsibility to ensure adequate coverage. Tuatara Tours cannot be held liable for any failure to obtain appropriate insurance.

Medical Conditions

You must inform us at the time of booking of any medical condition, history, or medication you are currently taking.

Changes to Tours

Tuatara Tours will make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. However, reasonable changes to the itinerary may be made if deemed necessary or advisable. Clients will be informed of any changes as soon as reasonably possible. Where a tour service must be substituted, a service of similar quality and standard will be provided.

Weather

Adverse weather may prevent planned activities from proceeding as scheduled. The tour guide may decide to alter the itinerary based on weather conditions, prioritising group safety. Tuatara Tours and its contracted suppliers are not responsible for changes resulting from weather-related circumstances.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Tuatara Tours NZ Limited accepts bookings subject to the following terms:

General conditions

Tuatara Tours, its agents, contractors and guides do not accept responsibility or liability for loss, damage to, or theft of personal belongings (owners risk) or for any expenses, including medical and transport expenses arising from a personal accident, injury, illness, or hospitalisation. Tuatara Tours and their guides reserve the right to make any alterations to the itinerary in the interest of safety, or unforeseen circumstances due to causes such as weather, illness or misadventure. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to keep to published schedules but no guarantee is given. Tuatara Tours will not be held liable for costs incurred by change, delay or the missing of connecting services. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to exclude a person from a tour at any time, if in the opinion of the guide or operator, that person may be likely to risk the health, safety or comfort (including unsociable behaviour) of other clients, him or herself or the environment. In such circumstances,
Tuatara Tours will not be obliged to offer any refund or transfer ticket. These terms and conditions apply to each participant including in a group booking. Where a booking is made on behalf of a group of two or more people then each participant in the group must be made aware of and accept these terms and conditions.

RISK DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In any adventure activity, there is an element of risk involved. Risks in undertaking this activity include (but are not limited to): hypothermia, heat exhaustion, physical injury caused by environment i.e. rock falls, and physical injury caused by self, i.e. falling over.

The staff and management of Tuatara Tours and any of its agency partners take all practicable steps to identify and minimise potential dangers. The Operator makes all arrangements for all tours on the condition that it shall not be liable for any sickness, injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, either directly or indirectly, by reason of any defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, by weather, by any other cause, or through acts of default of a company or person engaged in conveying the passengers, or in carrying out arrangements for these activities.

We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance prior to your trip.

By participating in this activity, you are expressly assuming those risks and responsibilities and are, to the maximum extent permitted by law releasing the Operator, its officers, employees, directors, agents and any other person associated with us, from any liability, claims, loss, damages or expenses (whatsoever and irrespective of whether direct, indirect or consequential) caused by any event including but not limited to: personal injury or death; property loss or damage; acts which may be construed as negligible or accidental; any other loss, damage, suffering, emotional or nervous disorder suffered by you or any other person in relation to this activity. You accept that you have been advised to obtain adequate travel insurance for all persons named on the booking.

In participating in the activity, the customer agrees to be bound by the following conditions:

- My successors, executors and administrators are bound by the Terms and Conditions;
- I agree not to commence any litigation proceedings in any country in relation to the risks and liabilities set out above and to indemnify the Operator against any claims;
- I confirm and warrant I am physically fit and suffer no medical conditions, which may affect my ability to participate in the activity;
- I confirm I am aware that professional medical assistance may be difficult and/or take some time to access due to the remote areas in which we are travelling;
- I consent to receive medical treatment in the case of injury, accident or illness during the activity and to indemnify the Operator against any claims, costs or expenses in respect of the treatment;
- I agree that any film, sound, video or other recordings taken of or during the activity will not be used in any production, or advertising without prior consent of the Operator, however the Operator may use such recordings itself at its complete discretion without any prior approval; and
- I agree to listen to my driver/guide/host, follow their instructions and make sure any children in my care do the same. Furthermore, the Operator will not be responsible for any personal injury and or property damage caused by you and any costs for such injury / damage will be your responsibility.

Custom Tours Available

Want to change the itinerary or create something entirely new? We enjoy designing custom adventures for friends, families, work groups and clubs. Get in touch!

Keen to join a tour? Enquire now

New Zealand free dial 0800 377 378

Australia free dial 1800 044 633

World +64 3 962 3280

Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz

Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

You might also like....

The Around The Mountains Cycle Trail
The Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail

Official Partner

Tuatara Tours is proud to be in an official partnership with Ngā Haerenga The New Zealand Cycle Trail.

The objective of the partnership is to create a nationwide network of cycle trails that connect the Great Rides with the rest of New Zealand.