

The Around The Mountains Cycle Trail



Explore the picturesque
wilderness of southern
New Zealand

4 Days, 3 Nights

Mild Grade



Tour Cost (NZD)

2025 / 2026

Low Season (Nov, Dec, Jan, Apr): \$2,195

High Season (Feb, Mar): \$2,395

Single Supplement: \$545

Tour Highlights

- Spectacular Lakes and Mountains
- Easy scenic trail riding
- Lush, rural countryside
- Te Anau, gateway to Milford Sound
- Support from our experienced guide



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



www.tuataratours.co.nz



info@tuataratours.co.nz

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The Tour at a Glance

You will circumnavigate the Eyre Mountains by bike finishing on the shores of Lake Wakatipu at Walter Peak Homestead.

Your adventure continues with a boat trip across Lake Wakatipu on the historic steam ship, the TSS Earnslaw, ending up back in the southern jewel of Queenstown.

Trip Grading: Mild

Ideal for anyone comfortable biking a minimum of 20-25km per day on well-formed trails with average incline.

Pre-tour

We travel to Queenstown the day before the tour begins. If you'd like to join us from Christchurch, just let us know—there's no additional cost. Please note that accommodation and meals in Queenstown are not included, so you'll need to arrange these independently. Let our office team know if you need some help with this.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 Kingston to Lumsden

63km

Day 2 Lumsden to Oreti River

54km

Day 3 Te Anau

29km

Day 4 Mavora Lakes to Walter Peak

30km

About your guide

Our guides are very experienced, friendly walkers and bikers who love to share their knowledge of New Zealand's flora and fauna and local history.

They all hold current first aid certificates, passenger driving licences and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.



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Day 1 Kingston to Lumsden (63 km)

The adventure begins with a 40 km drive from Queenstown to Kingston, on the southern end of majestic Lake Wakatipu.

On arrival, the group will hop on the bikes and pedal through open farmland, past Fairlight Station—originally the final stop for the old Kingston Flyer steam train. The trail winds through the rustic rural townships of Garston, Athol, and Five Rivers, before rolling into Lumsden for the night.

We'll stay in a charming historic country hotel. Nestled in a quiet basin, Lumsden is a hub for travellers, with roads in all directions—Queenstown, Te Anau, Gore, or Invercargill.

MEALS INCLUDED: L D

Day 2 Lumsden to Oreti River (54 km)

After breakfast in Lumsden, it's back on the bikes for a cruisy ride west along the Oreti River valley to Mossburn—proudly known as New Zealand's Deer Capital.

From there, it's another 24km in the saddle before wrapping up the day beside the Oreti River. Then it's a short transfer to Te Anau, your home for the next two nights.

Settle in, soak up the warm southern hospitality, and enjoy sunset views backed by the rugged Fiordland mountains.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 3 Te Anau (29 km)

Te Anau sits right on the edge of its namesake lake, nestled beside Fiordland National Park and the Te Wāhipounamu World Heritage Area. It's the last big stop before Milford Sound, with the iconic Milford Road kicking off here.

Lake Te Anau is the largest in the South Island and, by volume, the deepest in the country—dropping over 400 metres beneath towering peaks.

Today you've got a couple of options: hop on the bike for a scenic ride to Manapouri, dropping in to the Te Anau Wildlife Park to meet some of our rare native birds (like the flightless Takahe, cheeky Kea, and colourful Parakeet). Or you might prefer to take a day off biking with an optional trip (extra cost) to the Te Anau Glowworm Caves. After a cruise across the lake, a short walk and boat ride take you deep into a 15,000-year-old cave lit up by thousands of tiny glowworms. Pure magic.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 4 Mavora Lakes to Walter Peak (30 km) - Queenstown

Today we head by vehicle into Mavora Lakes—a stunning mix of mountains, forest, and open tussock country. Part of the Te Wāhipounamu World Heritage Area, it's also home to a few Lord of the Rings film sites.

Keep your eyes peeled on the ride for Red and Fallow Deer, Chamois, and even Himalayan Tahr on the flanks of Mt Nicholas. The Von River winds through this remote landscape, offering plenty of photo-worthy moments. Mt Nicholas Station is a working High Country farm—the largest on the lake—with 27,000 merino sheep turning out top-notch wool for brands like Icebreaker.

Pedalling along the shores of Lake Wakatipu, you'll roll into Walter Peak Station to toast the ride with a well-earned drink before cruising back to Queenstown aboard the grand old TSS Earnslaw.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L



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What's Included



All Accommodation in comfortable hotel, motel or lodges



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. The first night on this tour, bathrooms are shared with others in your group. From night two, all rooms have ensuite facilities.

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 our 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 Around The Mountains 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're 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 Around The Mountains is graded Mild and suits those with average fitness. Expect to ride on well-formed tracks and roads for 25 km at a time. If you're unsure about your fitness level, feel free to contact us for advice.

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).

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 and remains a popular time. Tours run in all weather, so come prepared. Please refer to our gear list for what to bring.

What time do we return to Queenstown?

We aim to be back by 4:30pm on the final day, but delays can happen. We recommend staying in Queenstown that night.

Which direction do we ride?

We usually ride anticlockwise, finishing at Walter Peak. This gives you better views and a more enjoyable downhill over Von Hill.



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Frequently asked questions:

Can you pick me up for the tour?

We offer pick-ups and drop-offs from selected locations in Queenstown and Arrowtown. Unfortunately, we cannot collect guests from Airbnb properties or private homes in residential suburbs. If you have your own vehicle, we recommend using long-stay parking at Queenstown Airport or arranging storage with a local motel.

Is breakfast included on the first day?

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.

What kind of meals are provided?

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?

Please arrive ready to ride on the first morning, with your overnight bag packed for transport. You won't have access to this bag during the day, so carry essentials in a small day pack which you can leave on the bus while you are riding.

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.

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. 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.

What's in the tour kit bag?

Each rider receives a surprise tour 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 road sections on the ride?

Most of the trail follows dedicated off-road cycle paths or quiet gravel roads. No highway riding. We provide high-vis vests and recommend avoiding school holidays for quieter conditions.

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 at any time if you need a break.

Can I join from Christchurch?

Yes—you're welcome to join our support vehicle from Christchurch (free of charge). It departs the day before the tour and returns the day after. You'll need to book your own accommodation for those nights.



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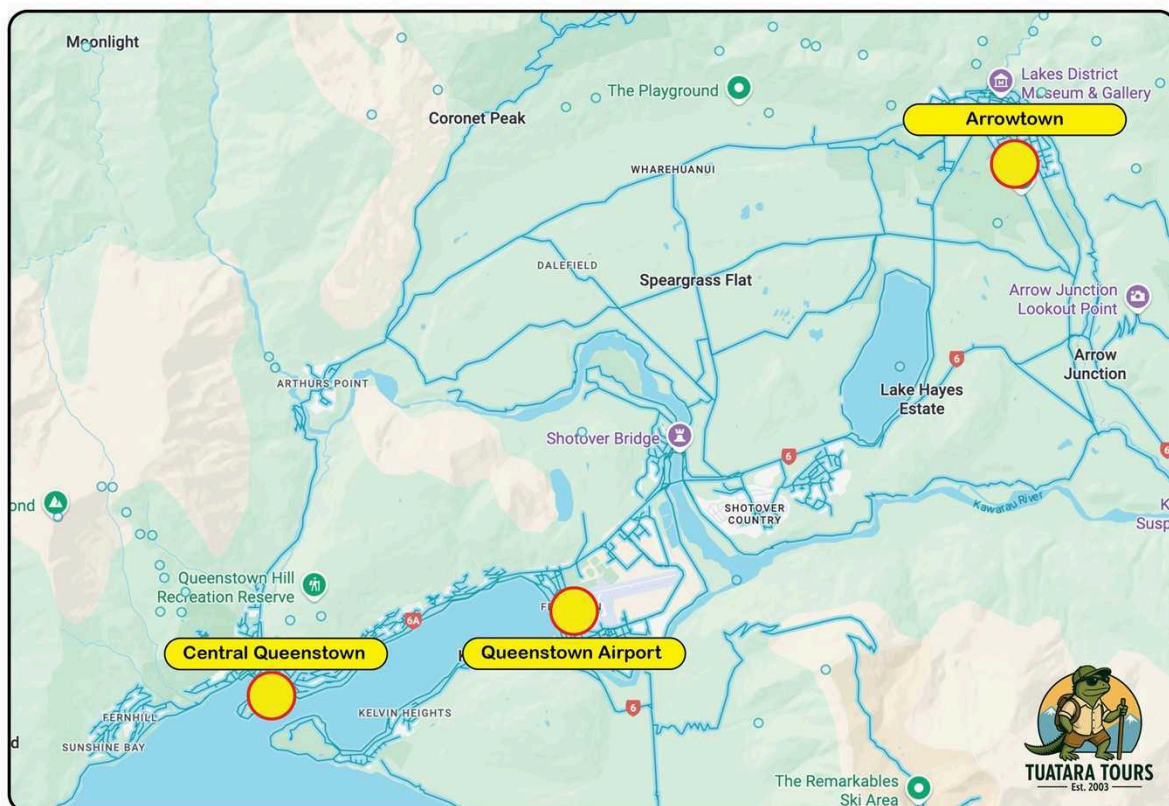


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Pickup Points

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

Hybrid F18 Cruise Elite Special \$110 per day

MOST POPULAR

Our most popular E bike.

The perfect cross over between comfort cruiser and trail bike



10-speed gearing &
29" wheels

Hybrid M18 Sport Elite Special \$110 per day

Same performance and specifications as the F18, with a more mountain bike-style handlebar and top bar

Hybrid M24 Adventure \$165 per day

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



Powerful
20Ah/720Wh battery

The Merida eOne-Sixty 8000 Electric Mountain Bike \$185 per day

Perfectly tuned Mountain bike geometry with E bike travel, the Merida 8000 is a comfortable alternative to a standard mountain bike.

LIMITED NUMBERS AVAILABLE

Manual (non-e) bikes \$57 per day



11-speed gearing &
29" wheels .



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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.



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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.



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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



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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 Otago Rail Trail

The West Coast Wilderness Cycle Trail



Official Partner

Tuatar 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.



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