

The Best of the West Cycle Trail



Rich history and vibrant West Coast charm

6 Days, 5 Nights

Mild Grade



Tour Cost (NZD)

2026 / 2027

Tour Cost: \$3350

Single Supplement: \$950

Tour Highlights

- Magnificent beech forest of the Lewis Pass
- The new Kawatiri Coastal Trail
- A taste of the West Coast Wilderness Trail
- Gold mining relics at Gillespies Beach
- Fox Glacier & Franz Josef



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



www.tuataratours.co.nz



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0800 377 378

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AUSTRALIA
1800 044 633





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The Tour at a Glance

From majestic mountains and sparkling lakes to turquoise gorges, towering forests, lush wetlands, and jaw-dropping coastal cliffs — the West Coast is bursting with natural wonders at every turn.

But it's not just about the scenery — there's rich history, unique heritage, and vibrant communities waiting to be explored.

This extraordinary West Coast adventure journeys between the mountains to the east and the coastline in the west, with views that'll take your breath away!

Trip Grading: Mild

An average level of fitness required, you should be comfortable biking a minimum of 25km on formed tracks and roads with some average incline.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1	Christchurch to Westport	20km
Day 2	Westport - Kawatiri - Hokitika	41km
Day 3	Hokitika to Kumara	72km
Day 4	Kumara to Fox Glacier	54km
Day 5	Fox Glacier & Franz Josef	30km
Day 6	Franz Josef Glacier to Okarito	

Day 1 Christchurch to Westport (20km)

The journey begins in Christchurch, heading into the hills and over the majestic Lewis Pass with its dense, green beech forest. There will be a couple of stops to stretch the legs, passing through Springs Junction and the historic goldmining town of Reefton.

Enroute we have time for a relaxed 20km ride — the exact route will be chosen by your guide to suit the weather and the group's energy levels.

The day wraps up in Westport with a delicious dinner and a comfy place to unwind for the night.

MEALS INCLUDED: L D

Day 2 Westport - Kawatiri - Hokitika (41km)

Today's ride is all about the Kawatiri Trail — the latest addition to the New Zealand Cycle Trail network. Spanning 41km from Westport to Charleston, it's made up of eight varied sections, each with its own distinct highlights. This trail has it all: dramatic geology, rich Māori and European history, lush native bush, and sweeping coastal views.

The dedicated cycle path winds through podocarp forest, across suspension bridges, through groves of nikau palms, and along wild beaches. It's a smooth, scenic journey that steps back in time — from Māori Pounamu gatherers, to the rush and sparkle of the gold mining era. You might even spot a seal or two.

With the ride complete, we jump back in the van and head down the coast, stopping to explore the epic Punakaiki Pancake Rocks before kicking back for the night in Hokitika.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D



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Day 3 Hokitika to Kumara (72km)

Today's ride is a classic — the West Coast Wilderness Trail from Hokitika to Kumara, and it's a favourite for good reason.

The scenery packs a punch, with native forest, open farmland, and the stunning Lake Kaniere — often called one of the most beautiful lakes in the country.

Along the way, you'll roll past gold rush relics, fast-flowing water races, and into the wide-open views of the Arahura Valley — the historic source of treasured pounamu (greenstone).

After a full day on the trail, it's time to kick back and relax at a cosy hotel in Greymouth.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 4 Kumara to Fox Glacier (54km)

We kick off with a drive to Ross, then jump on the bikes for a 23km spin along an easy 4WD track with some fun little hills.

Take in wild bush vibes, spot 120-year-old gold workings, and if you're up for it, fly down the hills — e-bikes love this!

Cruise high above Totara Gorge, then refuel with lunch at the cosy Black Hut — and if you're keen, cool off with a swim in the Totara River.

Allow around 5 hours for the round trip, but you set the pace!

Later, it's off to Fox Glacier for a chilled 8.4km ride on the Te Weheka Trail, before winding down for the evening at one of Fox Glacier's favourite local watering holes.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 5 Fox Glacier & Franz Josef (30km)

Start the day with a ride out to Lake Matheson, then take a peaceful walk around its famous mirror-like waters. The reflections of Mt Tasman and Mt Cook are iconic — this is one of the most photographed spots in the country.

From there, cruise out to Gillespies Beach on a scenic 21km ride. Wild and remote, yet peaceful, this windswept beach has a colourful gold mining past — and you might even spot a seal or two along the way.

Later, head back to Franz Josef and roll along the Te Ara a Waiarau cycleway — a gentle rainforest ride that takes you off-road to the glacier walk car park. It's an easy 8.7km return trip.

Tonight, rest up in Franz Josef.

MEALS INCLUDED : B L D

Day 6 Franz Josef Glacier to Okarito (non-biking day)

Today is a travel day, but before we head in the direction of Christchurch, we have one last West Coast must-see destination to visit. We will head to Ōkārito, a peaceful little coastal gem and the former home of Keri Hulme, author of *The Bone People*. Take a deep breath, soak in the stillness, and enjoy the magic of this quiet, wild place. From here, we make our way over the spectacular Arthur's Pass and on to Christchurch, arriving approx. 7-9pm depending on traffic— the perfect scenic finish to an unforgettable adventure.

MEALS INCLUDED : B L



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What's Included



All Accommodation in comfortable hotel, motel or lodges, with ensuite facilities



All meals during the tour—great local cuisine



Support vehicle and all transfers



Entrance fees to listed activities



DOC concession fees



Fully qualified, knowledgeable guide



Tour Kit Bag with helpful goodies



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 Best of the West 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 Best of the West is a Mild grade tour. You'll need to be comfortable biking 25km on varied surfaces, including some inclines. There is some low-level mountain biking on this tour. Not sure? Give us a call — we're happy to chat it through.

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 tour season is November to April. February and March are high season, and the trails are typically at their busiest over that time. New Zealand can have four seasons in a day and rain can be expected at any time throughout the year. The weather throughout the West Coast is dramatic – when it rains, it pours and when it's sunny, it's beautifully sunny. We depart rain, or fine so you should always be prepared for sudden changes in weather or temperature and always have the appropriate gear with you. See our gear list for details.

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.



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Frequently asked questions:

Can you pick me up for the tour?

Yes, we offer pick-ups from several central Christchurch locations. We can't pick up from Airbnbs or private homes. Check with us before booking your accommodation if you are not sure.

Is there any parking at your office? No, sorry. You'll need to arrange off-site parking — we suggest the long-stay airport carpark or check with your pre and post tour accommodation provider.

Can I join the tour in Westport? Yes — you're welcome to meet us in Westport on Day 1. At the end of the tour, we can drop you in Hokitika or Greymouth. We don't return to Westport, so you'll need to arrange transport back to your car if you leave it there.

What time do we get back to Christchurch? Usually between 7–9 pm, depending on conditions and group cycling pace. We suggest booking a night in Christchurch afterwards, so you don't have to worry about missing flights.

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? No, but you're welcome to purchase drinks with dinner. BYO isn't available as we dine at licensed venues.

Do I need to arrive ready to bike? Day 1 includes a 'Warm-up' bike ride, but we do a bit of travelling in the bus first. Please be ready to ride, or have your gear in your day pack to pop on before you get on the bike. You won't have access to your overnight bag during the day.

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? One overnight bag (max 20kg) and one day pack, please. The day pack can sit on the bus while you are riding so should contain the items you need during the day as you won't have access to your overnight bag until you reach your accommodation.

What's in the tour kit bag? Each rider receives a kit bag with practical items for the tour. We don't specify what these are as we like to keep it a surprise, but it does include a 500ml thermal drink bottle and a thermal cup—perfect for hot drinks along the trail.

Are there any biking sections on the road? Most of the ride is off-road on purpose-built trails. There are a few quiet back roads with very low traffic — no highways. High-vis vests are provided. For a quieter ride, avoid peak season or school holidays.

Are the tours guided? Our support vehicle and driver-guide are there to help you — handling bike issues, logistics, and first aid. They may join you on the trail at times but don't pedal the full ride. You're also welcome to ride in the van if you need a break.

If you've still got questions, feel free to call us on 0800 377 378 or email the team — we're happy to help!



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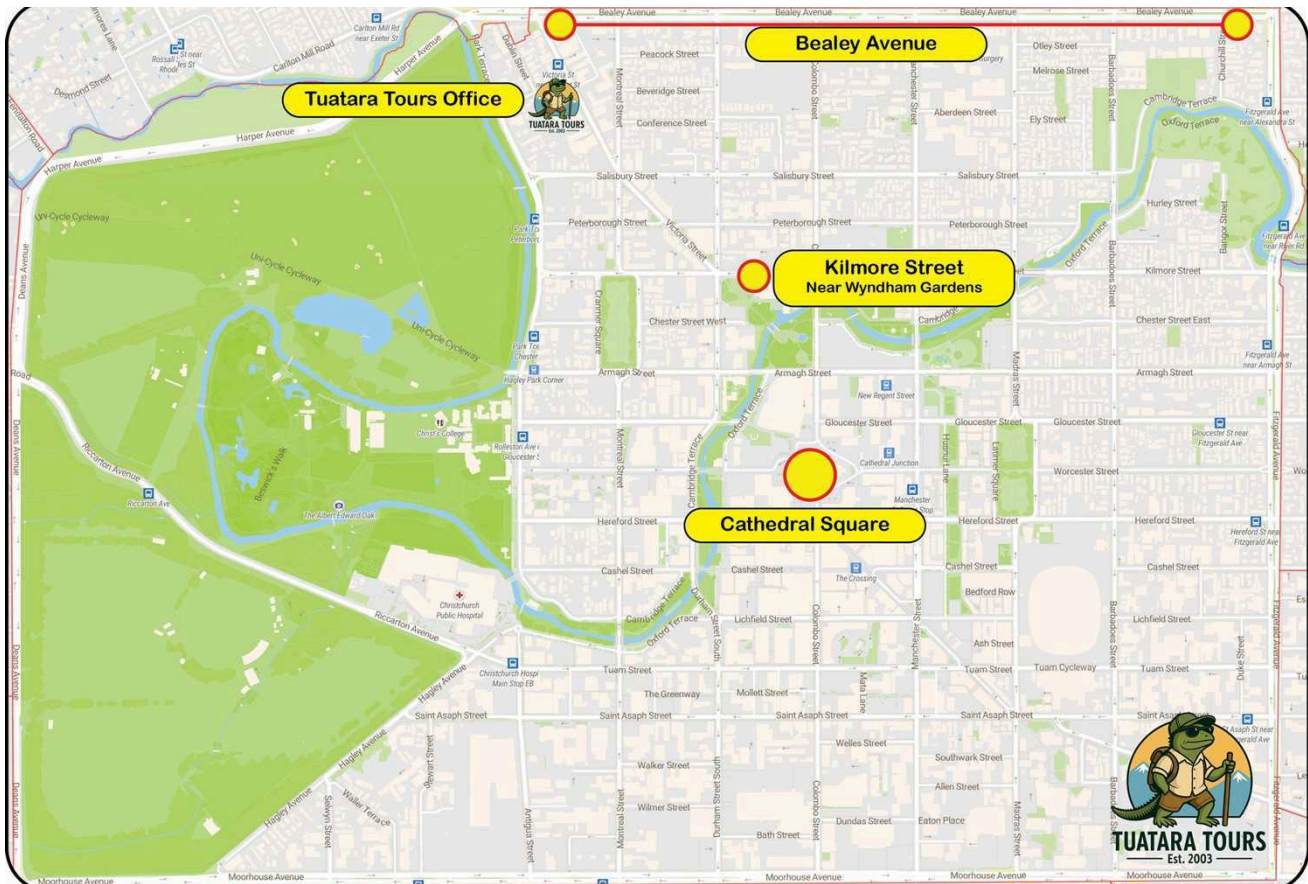




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Pickup Points

Please contact us to confirm the nearest pick-up location to your accommodation.
 Unfortunately, we are unable to collect guests from Airbnb properties or residential suburbs.



Central City
 Cathedral Square, outside
 Novotel



Bealey Avenue
 Local motels



Kilmore Street
 Wyndham Gardens vicinity



Tuatara Tours Office
 122 Victoria Street

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



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...

Tasman Great Taste Trail & Golden Bay Explorer
West Coast Wilderness Cycle Trail



Official Partner

Tuatarata 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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