

# The Hurunui

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Welcome

Thank you for choosing to join us on an adventure of a lifetime through the remote and spectacular high country of southern New Zealand.

**Please read the following information carefully.**

### What to wear:

- Comfortable trousers for riding in. (jodhpurs, riding jeans, trackpants, etc). Men may like to wear lycra cycle shorts under their pants.
- Cotton Socks
- Warm woollen socks
- Riding or Tramping/hiking boots with a heel and good ankle support and non-slip sole.
- ½ chaps
- Hat with a wide brim.
- Comfortable clothes for the evening.

### What to bring:

- A warm change of clothes, if you feel the cold polyprop / thermal underwear is a good idea on Spring and Autumn rides
- personal toiletries, face cloth and towel.
- **Sleeping bag (also available for hire)**
- insect repellent
- gloves
- swimsuit
- Sunglasses
- sunblock
- Drink bottle
- Hip Flask
- camera and plenty of spare film
- small torch and batteries.

**Maximum baggage weight allowed is 12kg**

### What we provide:

- Horse, tack & guide
- Meals and accommodations (double or twin share)
- Transfers to & from Christchurch
- Oilskin riding coat
- Saddle Bags

### General Notes

- On our rides we prefer to treat you as our guests rather than tourists.
- The land we will be riding over is mainly private land where we travel as a privilege rather than as of right.
- As guests we have responsibilities to our hosts along the way, to the environment and to each

other to help ensure that your adventure is all that you want it to be.

- Getting involved is one of the key elements of these rides and for most people adds much to their experience.
- You will be responsible for the grooming and saddling of your own horse each day.
- Your guides will instruct and assist you in this and check your horse before you set out each day.

### For safety and courtesy please observe the following:

- Walk and lead your horse out of camp in the morning.
- **Stay at the pace set by the trek leader. We will often trot or canter, but this will be solely at the discretion of the trek leader, based on terrain, weather conditions, rider experience level, presence of livestock, etc**
- Let your horse drink when he wants to
- Always wear footwear you would be comfortable walking a long distance in
- Listen to your guide's instructions and respect them
- Use environmentally friendly soaps & shampoos
- Use wash bowls provided and empty onto ground away from rivers and lakes.
- Respect the homes of our hosts along the way and remove your shoes when entering.
- Please do not bring cellphones as there is no cell phone coverage in the area
- Please ask for clarification if you do not understand any instruction from your guides
- Should you need to adjust your girth while mounted please ask a guide to assist.
- Do not follow too closely to the horse in front.
- Ride alongside by all means but keep at least a horse length between you and any horse in front.
- Do not ride off before the last rider is mounted or the last horse has drunk at a water stop
- Do not hold your horse back so you can trot / canter up to the rest of the group
- Do not drop rubbish along the way; Our motto is "If you take it in, you take it out"
- Do not smoke on your horse. If you must smoke at other times please consider your fellow travellers.
- Cigarette butts must be handed to the guide as there is always a fire risk.
- Do not leave a campsite without informing a guide of your intentions

## “The Hurunui” Trek (8 days - 9 nights)

A true high country adventure, exploring the magnificent scenery and station life that surrounds the awesome Hurunui River. This ride uses a Four Wheel Drive support vehicle instead of pack horses. Our gear and refreshments await us at the end of each days ride.

### ITINERARY

**Day 1:** After arriving at Christchurch you will transfer to Lazy Acres farmstay near Hurunui Horsetreks base where your guides will join you for dinner. (Dinner, bed & breakfast).

**Day 2:** After introduction to your horse and equipment we have a safety brief, then saddle up and ride up through the Waitohi River, under the shady willows, stopping for lunch and a swim along the way.

Then after following the old goldtrail to the West Coast for a while, we ride over steep hill country and down to a local homestead. We dine with the farm owner and spend the night in his comfortable cottage. (Comfortable beds but sleeping bags are required).

Approx 4 .5 - 5hrs riding.

**Day 3:** We follow the Waitohi River up through some spectacular country to Mt Mason station.

Passing under Mt Noble and Gola Peak we ride on to Mt. Noble Station, a High Country sheep and cattle station.

Arriving late afternoon, we take care of our horses, enjoy cool refreshments and then have a barbeque dinner with the station owners.

Accommodation is in a small cottage with optional camping in tents.

Approx 7.0 hrs riding.

**Day 4:** After a hearty breakfast we saddle our horses and continue through Mt Noble station, rising up and over the spectacular Windy Ridge with magnificent views of the mountains in all directions.

Then after following the road for a short time to the junction of the North and South branches of the Hurunui River we ride up through the bush in Boulder Gully to a low saddle. Dropping down into Starvation Gully we follow it out to Lake Taylor Station where we spend the night in the shearers quarters. We dine with the family who own Lake Taylor Station. (Bunkhouse, showers, flush toilets and kitchen) Approx. 6 hrs riding.

**Day 5:** Today we ride out past Lake Taylor and over the Munro Saddle back into the wide, tussock-terraced upper valley of the Hurunui's South Branch. We follow the South branch up as far as the Mason Stream and ride up over the terraces to discover Lake Mason, secluded amid native beech forest, where we have lunch. Leaving Lake Mason behind we ride through a Beech forest with some trees up to 400 years old, around a swamp and up over the Catherine saddle to the top of Lake Sumner, where there are spectacular views of Mt.Longfellow(6227ft.),Mt.Emerson(5998ft), Niggerhead(4564ft),The Nelson Tops and Main Divide. We carry on past Loch Katrine and Lake Shepherd to our home for the night, the shearer's quarters at The Lakes Station (Bunkhouse, showers, flush toilets and kitchen).

Approx. 8 hours riding.

**Day 6:** After the long day yesterday we give the horses (and riders!) a bit of a rest with a shorter ride around the picturesque Lake Shepherd. There may be an opportunity here for a swim. Approx 3 hours riding.

**Day 7:** Today we ride around the Three Sisters hills and visit the outfall of Lake Sumner into the Hurunui River. We return again to Lake Taylor Station and the hospitality of David and Rosemary Gunn. Approx 5 hours riding.

**Day 8:** After leaving Lake Taylor Station we ride up through Starvation Gully and its sub-alpine vegetation to the Eskhead Saddle on the Oronoko Range. We stop for a while to take in the breathtaking views, then lead our horses down a tussock ridge and have lunch beside the South Branch of the Hurunui River.

Crossing the South Branch and Seaward River once again, we ride down through the Hurunui's scenic gorge to the Seven Hills woolshed above the Hurunui River. From here we are transported to our accommodation for the night (comfortable cottage). Approx. 5 hours riding.

**Day 9:** Returning to our horses at the woolshed, we ride along the banks of the Hurunui River, gentle after its wild ride through Maori Gully, under the impressive Hooligan Range with Mt. Mizar, Ben Cliberick, Phyllis Fell and Mount Catherine on the opposite side of the river.

We lunch below Mt. Self beside the Hurunui, after which we head across country again, up and over the Kanuku Saddle (approx.770metres.) with its panoramic views of the Amuri Basin.

On reaching our base we unsaddle, unpack, wash the horses down after which you will be transferred to your Farmstay. Approx. 4.5 hrs riding.

**Day 10:** Morning transfer to Christchurch

### **Highlights**

No pack horses, more varied pace, scenery, station life, beech forest, native birds, river crossings, mountain passes, lakes

**Ability required** = Intermediate

**Pace** = varied

**Average hours riding per day** = 5.5

**Maximum number of riders is ten unless by prior arrangement**

**Note:** This ride is supported by 4 wheel Drive vehicle, not packhorses, so the weight limit for gear is 12kg Refreshments are served after the horses are taken care of at the end of each days riding.

**Routes described can vary due to seasons and weather conditions**

## **CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING**

We have organized an optional activity on the third day of the trek. This is clay pigeon shooting, directed by one of the local station owners. It is very safe and great fun. The cost is \$20 per person. Please let us know if you do/do not wish to take part.

## **TRANSFERS**

You will be collected by Hurunui Shuttle on the first day. We have two collection points:

3.00pm outside the Information Centre in Cathedral Square, Central Christchurch.

Or

3.30pm at the Visitor Information area in the domestic terminal, Christchurch International Airport.

Return shuttle is on the morning of the last day of the trek, with arrival in Christchurch or the airport late morning.

**Please email us to confirm which collection point you wish to be collected from and returned to.**

If you encounter any problems please phone the shuttle driver, Ian McPhail, on 027-6080-459

If you wish to combine your ride with additional pre or post trek accommodation, alternative transport is available at an additional cost. Contact us for further details.