

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL

Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



7-DAY NORTH ISLAND TRAIL HUNTER MTB TOUR

Get ready for the MTB adventure of a life-time! Trails like Redwoods, Great Lake Trail and Bridge to Nowhere may seem unfamiliar to you now but we guarantee you will fall in love with them!

We meet at 8am for breakfast at our Auckland accommodation before making our way, bikes on the back, to kick off our first day of riding.

In the evenings on the tour you are welcome to relax at the accommodations, rest your legs and soak in the local hot tub(s), cook in, eat out, have a beer or even some more night riding... whatever takes your fancy.

As you build your tour online, you will see a few optional activities available to add – remember, none of these are compulsory. Not sure which activities to choose? No problem. Once you've paid a deposit and secured your seat you can add activities anytime until 45 days prior to departure.

Activities can also be purchased on the road – just let your tour guide know, they'll be more than happy to help. As we can't always guarantee availability when booking on the road, we do suggest if there are any activities you definitely want to do, that you pre-book them.

As the tour starts early in the morning you can opt to stay at our Auckland accommodation the night before the tour – only having to walk downstairs on Day 1 makes for a stress free morning. Likewise, you can book an extra night at the Wellington accommodation on the last day so you are not in a rush once we go our separate ways. Alternatively you can extend your tour by adding on our **3 Day Nelson Sun Excursion**, giving you the chance to take in the amazing trails of Nelson, ending in Christchurch.

Add an extra dose of awesome by including some of our fantastic add-on options such as a MTB Skills Clinic and skydiving – our customisable business model is totally unique and has won us a swag of awards.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR THE BEST PRICES AND SERVICES

EMAIL US

OR PHONE US NOW

+64 92814481



TOUR INCLUSIONS

ALL MTB TOURS INCLUDE

DETAILED TRAIL ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

we give you the low-down on every location

ALL TRANSPORT PROVIDED

taking you to NZ's best MTB locations

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST EVERY DAY

heaps of options for everyone (you too, vegans!)

HIGH-END HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

dorm share, upgrades available

EXPERIENCED MTB GUIDE

with 2 guides for tours with 5 or more people

SMALL GROUPS

because you're more than just a number!

AWESOME INCLUSIONS

Some of New Zealand's best singletrack, scenic backcountry and thrilling downhill

All shuttles on Redwoods and Bridge to Nowhere

Exclusive Haka Tours riding on backcountry and private trails

Incredible cultural experience night including hāngī dinner and traditional Māori performance

Quality riding lights for the special Haka Night Adventure Ride (if you do not already own some)

Plus many surprise stops along the way!

DISCLAIMER

Tracks can vary depending on the time of year, weather and guests' riding ability



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 – AUCKLAND TO ROTORUA **B** **D**

A North Island classic – the Whakarewarewa Forest

DAY 2 – ROTORUA **B**

Ride the North Island's wonderland –
The Redwoods Forest!

DAY 3 – ROTORUA TO TAUPŌ **B**

A double dose of awesome – Skyline Rotorua Bike
Park followed by Craters of the Moon

DAY 4 – TAUPŌ TO OHAKUNE **B**

"Fun-dulating" riding on the shores of our greatest
lake, Lake Taupō

DAY 5 – OHAKUNE **B**

Stunning scenery and an exhilarating shuttle on the
The Bridge to Nowhere Track

DAY 6 – OHAKUNE TO WELLINGTON **B**

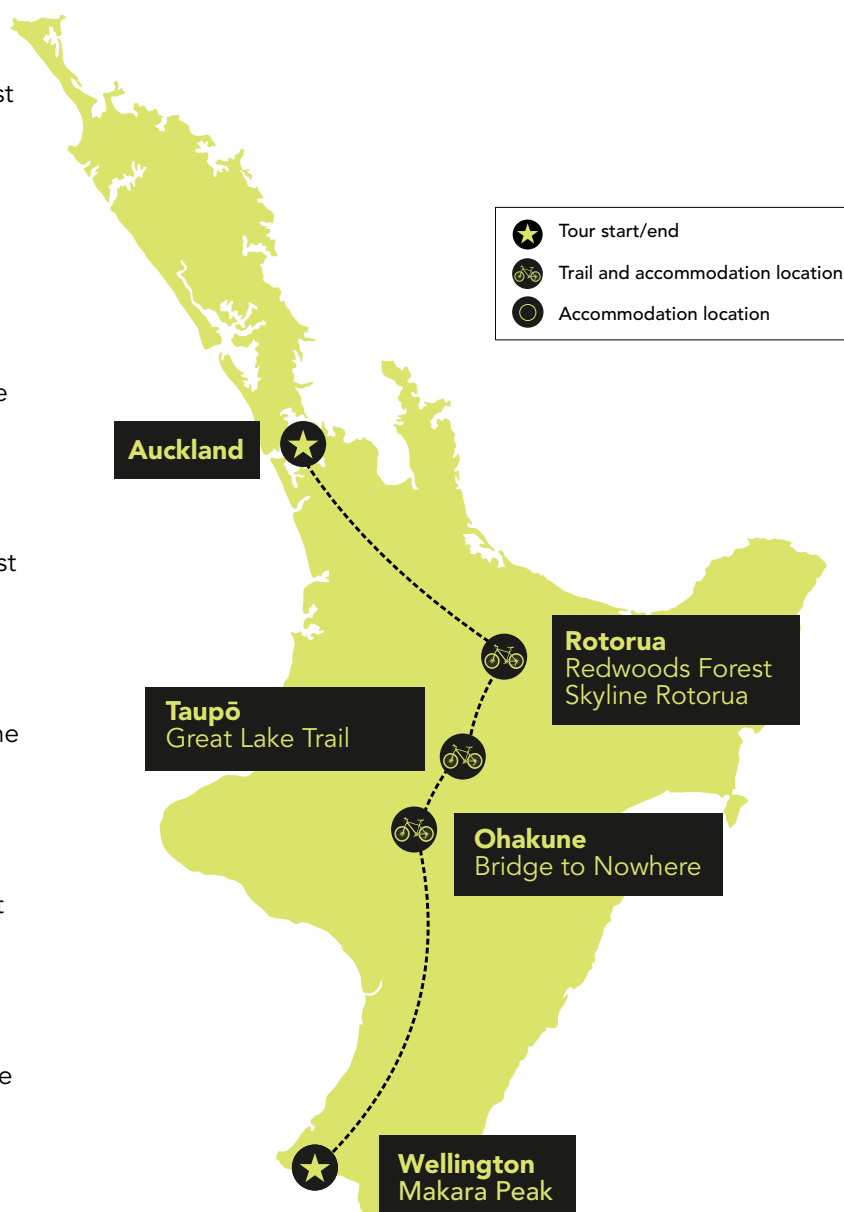
Today we cruise down to the nation's capital to hit
Makara Peak Bike Park

DAY 7 – WELLINGTON **B**

Take in Wellington's trails or join us en route to the
South Island

B Breakfast included

D Dinner included





AUCKLAND | ROTORUA

DAY 1 – AUCKLAND TO ROTORUA

Kia ora, and welcome to New Zealand, where you'll find some of the best mountain biking anywhere in the world!

We kick things off early, meeting at 8am in the lounge of our Auckland accommodation, where your guide will have set up continental breakfast. Over breakfast your guide will introduce everyone to the group and run through everything you need to know to maximise your time in New Zealand!

When we're ready to go, we leave the hustle and bustle of Auckland behind us and head to Rotorua for some top-quality riding in the Whakarewarewa forest. With over 160 kilometres of trails, you'll get a taster of what is to come for the rest of our time in this world-famous corner of New Zealand.

Afterwards, head into town for the feed of your choice before settling down for the first of our two nights in Rotorua.

TRAIL INFO

Redwoods Forest

Trails available from Beginner to Extreme
130 kilometres of trails
Grades: 1–5

DAY 2 – ROTORUA

This is it: the Big Kahuna, El Grande de Nueva Zelanda; the place dreams are made of. After waking in "Rotovegas", munching on some brekky and with the iconic geothermal sulphur aroma tingling your senses, you will be chomping at the bit to get in a full day amongst some of the finest riding New Zealand has to offer.

On a recent visit, Australian Mountain Bike (AMB) magazine declared that these are the world's best mountain bike trails. As locals, we can tell you they aren't wrong, and today you get to see why!

With master crafted trails, unbeatable riding surfaces, well draining volcanic soils, varying topography and fantastic panoramic scenery, it's no wonder Rotorua is renowned among mountain bikers as one of the world's premier riding destinations. There is something to cater for all levels of rider, from beginners starting out through to experts looking for extreme action.

Using South Star Shuttles to get you from bottom to top is a leg-saver and is included in the tour, but we also highly recommend the add-on of one of the famous MTB Skill Clinics, run by top NZ MTB pros, for those that would like to work on their form.

After an exhilarating day's riding, you will be well fed and entertained with a Māori Cultural evening where you will experience our proud Māori heritage and fill your puku (stomach) with a traditional hāngi.

TRAIL INFO

Redwoods Forest

Trails available from Beginner to Extreme
130 kilometres of trails
Grades: 1–5

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

MTB Skills Clinic



ROTORUA | TAUPŌ | OHAKUNE

DAY 3 – ROTORUA TO TAUPŌ

Waking up bright and early, we head for our first gondola-accessed bike park, Skyline Rotorua. The park is used for the legendary Crankworx Slopestyle World Tour each year. There's a fantastic range of tracks here – some of the most well-made you've ever seen.

Then we hit the road for the hour-long drive to Taupō, grabbing lunch and taking a peek at the impressive Huka Falls or Awatea Dam, before having a bit of free time in Taupō for you to get out there and try an add-on: from bungy jumping and skydiving, to jetboating and kayaking, or even try your hand at Hole-in-One golf; there's something for everyone.

After grabbing dinner in town, prepare for one of the highlights of Haka Tours MTB trip – the famous night rides! Starting at Spa Park, we go on an epic night ride guided by lights provided by your guide. This is guaranteed to put a grin on your face, so too will the hot soak in the thermal stream. Buenas noches... there is a big day tomorrow.

TRAIL INFO

Skyline Rotorua

Trails available from Beginner to Expert
10.5 kilometres of trails
Grades: 2–5

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Skydiving over Lake Taupō
Water-touch Bungy

DAY 4 – TAUPŌ TO OHAKUNE

After resting your legs yesterday afternoon, you will be pumped and eager to ride the beautiful, scenic and undulating terrain of the W2K and Headland Loop – part of the Great Lake Trail around Lake Taupō.

The Great Lake Trail is an epic journey to invigorate your senses. It follows the shores of beautiful Lake Taupō, and takes in the stunning views across the water to the majestic volcanic mountains beyond.

Enjoy extensive native bush, dramatic scenery, serene lake views, powerful waterfall, beautiful bird song, some sweet, sweet purpose-built MTB tracks – and more!

Following this, it's time to head through the Tongariro National Park, where we can cycle the Old Coach Road straight to your accommodation on the slopes of Mount Ruapehu. We can even stop at the pump track for a blast if you're keen.

TRAIL INFO

Great Lake Trail

Intermediate trail
22.5-kilometre ride
Grade: 3



OHAKUNE | WELLINGTON

DAY 5 – OHAKUNE

The mountains greet you this morning when you wake up in Ohakune and we grab a bite to eat (and maybe some pictures next to the 'big carrot') before retracing our steps slightly north to what seems like the middle of the wilderness. Here, another one of New Zealand's most iconic and incredible one-day adventure rides awaits!

Taking in the the Mangapurua Track, the ride along the Bridge to Nowhere trail is nothing short of amazing! This mountain bike ride boasts all the characteristics of a first-class adventure: amazing native bush, rivers, suspension bridges, intriguing history and a variety of tracks once used by pioneers.

At approximately 34 kilometres long, this breathtaking trail showcases the Bridge To Nowhere as the iconic symbol of the failed pioneering settlement of the Mangapurua Valley in the 1930s. The remoteness is outstanding – this is classic New Zealand backcountry at its finest! The ride includes mainly downward sloping single-track and 4WD which will have you deciding whether to put your hands on your camera or your brake levers!

After riding through the bush for 4–5 hours to the Bridge to Nowhere, you will arrive at the bubbling Whanganui River. Rather than make you ride all the way back up the hills, you can sit back and relax (or not) as a jet-boat pickup is at your service. The scenic jet-boat trip will take you down the Whanganui river all the way to Pipiriki, where you will no doubt be nodding off in the bus on the return to Ohakune for a well-deserved rest.

TRAIL INFO

Bridge to Nowhere

Intermediate trail
34 kilometres of trail
Grade: 3

DAY 6 – OHAKUNE TO WELLINGTON

After a few massive days of back-to-back riding, taking in some of the best New Zealand has to offer, we make a beeline towards the capital – Wellington.

Moving south through NZ's only desert, filled with geological history, look out for the wild Kaimanawa horses... and maybe even a few hobbits searching for Mordor! But the fun doesn't stop just because the bikes are in the trailer. En route to Wellington, there are classic Kiwi-style stops and activities to get your competitive spirit up.

Cruising into Wellington in the afternoon, we have the option of a ride around Mount Victoria or Miramar – or take some time off wheels to get to know the city.

There are lots of awesome places to grab dinner in wonderful and windy Wellington, known for its funky bars and eateries. If you have enough energy and are looking for a great night out, head to Courtenay Place and its array of bars for a guaranteed night of fun.

DAY 7 – WELLINGTON

On our last day, we try and beat the sun up this morning for a trip to the local MTB park at Makara, where a steady climb takes us to over 40km of perfectly-made, flowing trails with a backdrop of the country's coolest city.

If you want to extend your trip, you've got the option of the **3-Day Nelson Sun Seeker Extension** for some amazing days of trails at the top of the South Island.

TRAIL INFO

Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park

Trails available from Beginner to Extreme
Over 40 kilometres of trail
Grades: 1–6



3-DAY NELSON SUN SEEKER EXTENSION

So you've experienced the thrilling rides of the North – why not add in a dash of some truly awe-inspiring trails in the beautiful Nelson region?

DAY 1 – WELLINGTON TO NELSON

This extension commences in Wellington on the afternoon of Day 7 of the North Island Trail Hunter tour, after the morning's riding at Makara Peak. We kick off the afternoon with a scenic ferry ride from the capital city to Picton at the top of the South Island.

From the decks of the ferry, Wellington will fade from view – but before long, we'll be greeted with views of vast blue waters and occasional dolphins for company if we're lucky!

After arriving in Picton, we travel the vineyard-scattered road to Nelson. A bikers' paradise on the outskirts of Abel Tasman National Park, riders are truly spoiled for choice and face a feast of cycling options tomorrow.

DAY 2 – NELSON

After a hearty breakfast, wide-eyed and eager to get out there, we embark on another of the Nga Haerenga Trails (New Zealand Cycle Trails): The Dun Mountain and Coppermine Loop.

Starting only 3 kilometres from the center of town, it is not hard to see why this spectacular ride is one of the most epic in the country. This alpine route winds its way through the Codgers Mountain Bike Park where we rode yesterday, along the route of New Zealand's first railway, before emerging into the alpine mineral belt near the summit of Dun Mountain (878m).

From the top, you are faced with a professionally built singletrack descent that drops for over 10 kilometres, emerging at the Maitai Dam. The last stretch of the ride follows the Maitai river right back into the heart of Nelson.

DAY 3 – NELSON TO CHRISTCHURCH

This morning we have a group continental breakfast, pack up the bikes and leave sunny Nelson to head back over to the coast for a scenic drive to our final destination of Christchurch.

We pass through the heart of the South Island, over the Southern Alps via the native bush-covered Lewis Pass and onto the eastern side towards Christchurch. The day ends right in the heart of the Garden City, where you might have a final meal and drinks with your guide and new Haka MTB whānau!

TRAIL INFO

Codgers MTB Park

Trails available from Beginner to Double Black
27 kilometres of trail
Grades: 2–5

Coppermine Loop

Intermediate trail
39 kilometres
Grades: 3–4

Dun Mountain Trail

Intermediate trail
30 kilometres
Grade: 3

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FAQ

WHERE DOES THE TOUR START AND END?

The tour starts in Auckland at 8am on Day 1. You can book accommodation with us Auckland before your tour starts through us, which means you'll be in amongst it to kick things off! The tour ends in Wellington on Day 7. We can book accommodation for you in Wellington for that evening, or if needed, arrange for you to fly back to Auckland. However, Wellington is also an international airport so you may be able to fly home directly from there.

WHAT IS THE TOUR BUS LIKE?

We normally use a 22-seater Toyota Coaster, with a trailer for all your gear and bikes. As we only fill the bus to a maximum of 14 people, there are always some extra seats to spread out a bit!

WHO ARE THE TOUR MANAGERS?

Our Tour Managers are passionate MTB-enthusiasts with heaps of experience in guiding – and they love hitting the trails hard themselves. They are there to ensure you have the best time possible, feel free to ask them any questions. For tours with five or more people, we ensure that there are two guides on tour.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A TRACK IS CLOSED OR THERE IS VERY BAD WEATHER?

We make amendments to our tour route on the rare occasions that any tracks, parks or activities are shut or have very poor conditions – going to a different, but still awesome track is usually the compromise. If not possible, we will refund the wholesale rate for your activity pass.

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF EACH TOUR GROUP?

The maximum size of a Mountain Bike Tour is 14 people. We book out in advance for during these summer seasons so our average passenger number can be very close to 14.

WHAT ABILITY DO I NEED TO BE TO GO ON THE TOUR?

Our tours are aimed towards all the MTB enthusiasts out there, so most of the day's rides are graded 2–3+, meaning there might be a few technical sections and/or steep climbs and descents and a couple of long days. If you are an intermediate-to-advanced rider, or can handle a bike well, these tours are ideal. If you have any questions regarding your skills and suitability for the tour, don't hold back, ring up Haka Tours and we will be able to help you out.

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FAQ

DO I NEED TO BRING MY OWN BIKE?

Everybody generally has their own trusty steed that they love as much (if not more!) than their own loved ones. Our tours are designed for riders to bring their own bikes, or we are easily able to sort out great quality, late model full suspension Specialized bikes for the duration of your tour. Just get in touch!

WHAT IS THE STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION?

Regardless of where we go, accommodation absolutely has to meet our standards and we have hand-picked every place we use. Standard accommodation is dorm share, with the option to upgrade to a private room.

WHAT ARE THE RENTAL BIKES LIKE?

Our Specialized Stumpjumper bikes provide the latest technologies developed by our friends at Specialized. When you need to blend ruggedness, efficiency and downright nimbleness into one trial bike, it's hard to beat the construction of the Stumpjumper!

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

Your reliable bike (if you aren't renting one), a few personal repairs (spare tubes/ tyres/puncture kit/portable pump), helmet, riding shoes, water bottles, daily riding snacks, daypack, swimming togs – as well as a positive attitude and sense of humour! Your guides will be able to provide you with a foot bike pump, lights for night riding (if you don't have your own), and an unforgettable experience with NZ's best mountain biking.

I'M TRAVELLING ALONE, CAN I JOIN THIS TRIP?

Definitely! Across all our tours, the majority of our guests are solo travellers, so absolutely jump on board this tour – or any of Haka Tours' awesome trips!

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