

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 

Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

THE ULTIMATE KIWI ADVENTURE



SMALL GROUP GUIDED TOURS. **RATED #1 IN NZ!**



MTB



SNOW



ADVENTURE



PREMIUM



PRIVATE



7-DAY SOUTH ISLAND DIRT SEEKER MTB TOUR

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 
Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

Get ready for an epic MTB adventure of world-class trails and jaw-dropping scenery as we explore the beautiful South Island, from Christchurch to Queenstown, taking in the best riding hotspots along the way.

It's an early start on Day 1 as we meet at 7am for breakfast at our Christchurch accommodation before making our way, bikes on the back, to some 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, or have a beer.

As you build your tour online, you will see a few optional activities available - 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 Christchurch accommodation the night before tour - only having to walk downstairs on the day the tour starts makes for a stress free morning. Likewise, you can book an extra night at the Queenstown accommodation on day 7 to enjoy even more of Queenstown.

FLEXIBLE DEPARTURE DATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



TOUR INCLUSIONS

AWESOME INCLUSIONS

- ▶ Some of New Zealand's best singletrack, scenic backcountry and thrilling downhills.
- ▶ All shuttles on Queenstown Bike Park.
- ▶ Skyline Gondola Pass in Queenstown.
- ▶ Both of your nights at Castle Hill include dinner.
- ▶ Local knowledge and history of each area you ride.
- ▶ Plus many surprise stops along the way!

ALL 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 GUIDES

With 2 guides for tours with 9 or more people.

SMALL GROUPS

Because you're more than just a number!



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - CHRISTCHURCH TO CASTLE HILL

Take on New Zealand's most up-and-coming riding destination: Christchurch.

DAY 2 - CASTLE HILL

Challenging single track and stunning scenery make this one a locals favourite.

DAY 3 - CASTLE HILL TO WANAKA

Amazing multi-line mountain trails.

DAY 4 - WANAKA TO QUEENSTOWN (VIA ALEXANDRA)

The finest South Island singletracks.

DAY 5 - QUEENSTOWN

This is it, the undisputed adventure capital of the world - and MTB heaven.

DAY 6 - QUEENSTOWN

Trails, tracks, activities and nightlife that will hum to the needs of any rider!

DAY 7 - QUEENSTOWN

Get even more of Queenstown with world class trails, and adrenaline pumping activities.





CHRISTCHURCH / CASTLE HILL / OHAU

DAY 1 - CHRISTCHURCH TO CASTLE HILL

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 7am in the lounge of our Christchurch 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 get started. And then getting started is exactly what we'll do!

From a superb winding singletrack around Godley Heads, to tracks such as Flying Nun and Anaconda, you know you will be in for a treat on the perfectly built XC and DH trails that only the locals know. Today you'll be rewarded with panoramic views of the Southern Alps, Banks Peninsula and the Pacific Ocean. In the afternoon, we head to the Christchurch Adventure Park for some lunch and fun laps. After we have ridden our fair share of Christchurch's best, we rally the troops and move onto our next destination: Castle Hill.

We'll be staying at the epic Porters Lodge tonight, and dinner is included. Fancy an evening ride? There are some super fun trails near the lodge to keep you entertained until sundown. Please note: Private accommodation upgrades are not available for this night of the tour due to the limited availability of accommodation in the area. In special circumstances other arrangements may be possible - please contact info@firstlighttravel.com for more information.

TRAIL INFO

Port Hills Trails

Trails available from Intermediate to Advanced
60.5 kilometres of trails
Grades: 3-6

Christchurch Adventure Park

Trails available from Intermediate to Advanced
40 kilometres of trails
Grades: 1-6

DAY 2 - CASTLE HILL

Today starts with a white-knuckle classic: the Craigieburn Edge, home to mystical limestone rocks and gold tussock.

This is a true alpine track, crossing 37-degree scree slopes, dipping in and out of bush.

Pioneered for ski tourism over 70 years ago, these trails were tackled by intrepid cyclists before mountain biking was even a thing!

If you want something more relaxed, there's the newly constructed Hogs Back Track - a perfect blend of natural trails with berms in just the right spots for flow.

Tonight is your second - and final - night at Porters Lodge. Swap trail stories with your new mates over dinner (included) and be ready for more activities tomorrow.

Please note: Private accommodation upgrades are not available for this night of the tour due to the limited availability of accommodation in the area. In special circumstances other arrangements may be possible - please contact info@firstlighttravel.com for more information.

TRAIL INFO

Craigieburn Trails

Trails available from Intermediate to Advanced
24 kilometres of trails
Grades: 3-6



OHAU / WANAKA / QUEENSTOWN

DAY 3 - CASTLE HILL TO WANAKA

It's difficult to leave these views behind, but today we track on to another picturesque South Island MTB haven: Wanaka.

En route we stop off at Mt Hutt for some fun laps on their beautiful network of flowing trails then head towards Geraldine for some lunch.

After lunch we drive along one of New Zealand's most scenic roads, taking in views of Lake Tekapo and Aoraki Mt Cook before winding our way down to Wanaka.

Wanaka is a stunning lakeside town with some incredible bars and restaurants where you can kick back and scroll through the best pictures from your drive to upload to your social media.

TRAIL INFO

Mt Hutt Bike Park

Intermediate to Advanced

36 trails

Grades: 2-6

DAY 4 - WANAKA TO QUEENSTOWN

We start today by riding from the hostel to the local Sticky Forest for some fresh morning laps through the pine trees. Once we've had our fill of fun we head back to the town for a bite to eat before loading the bikes onto the trailer and heading to Alexandra.

Alexandra is a one of a kind of out-of-this-world terrain. This is a mountain biker's dream playground, with multi-line trails allowing riders to take it easy or take on gnarlier drops and rock lines, all within whooping distance of your fellow companions.

After Alexandra we make the short drive to Queenstown to check into the accommodation - your new home for the remainder of the tour. Your guide will show you around the town and point out the bars and eateries not to be missed.

TRAIL INFO

Sticky Forest

Beginner to Advanced

30+ kilometres

Grades: 1-6

Alexandra Trails

Trails available from Intermediate to Hard

|17.5 kilometres of trails

Grades: 3-4



QUEENSTOWN

DAY 5 - QUEENSTOWN

Waking up in the Adventure Capital of New Zealand is an experience in itself, with impressive scenery and colossal peaks towering over the energetic lakeside town. This MTB Mecca has a whole lot to offer.

We look to the skies and see New Zealand's first ever gondola-assisted bike lift, providing direct access to Queenstown Bike Park. Get your suspension ready and heart pumping; there will be no granny gears here! With over 26 world class mountain biking trails and varying terrain for all abilities, in amongst the pine trees of the Ben Lomond Reserve, Queenstown Bike Park boasts over 30 kilometres of tracks and a longest run of 6 kilometres.

A 450-metre vertical rise via the Skyline Gondola gives you easy access to one of New Zealand's best mountain bike parks. Attach your mountain bike to your Gondola cabin at the Skyline Queenstown base and enjoy the leisurely uphill Gondola ride before detaching your bike and taking on the legendary challenges of the Queenstown Bike Park.

Please note: this is a scheduled day of rest for your awesome guide.

TRAIL INFO

Queenstown Bike Park

Trails available from Beginner to Advanced
30 kilometres of trails
Grades: 2-6

OPTIONAL ADD-ON ACTIVITIES

Heli-Mountain Biking	Shotover Jet Boat
Canyon Swing	Canyoning
Bungy Jumping	Horse Trekking
Skydiving	Middle Earth 4WD Tour
Paragliding	Milford Sound Day Trip

DAY 6 - QUEENSTOWN

Today, we'll show you some of our local favourites. The trails descending from New Zealand's first commercial ski resort, Coronet Peak, are world class.

Rude Rock and the Zoot Track have been voted some of the top tracks in Queenstown by locals and visitors alike and, once you blast around and down them, we are sure you will agree! We might even save you from the uphill sections and cart you to the top so you can fly through the downhill without delay.

If you still want more gravity trails we can continue on to areas such as Remarkables DH and Gold Digger. Or for more chilled trails we can loop a few lakeside laps at 7 Mile. There are so many options it is endless, but we guarantee you will have a superb day.

This afternoon is also a great time to get some additional activities under your belt! Want to go up higher into the surrounding mountains? We totally recommend a heli-bike trip. If there's one extra activity you are going to splash out on this trip, heli-biking is one of the most jaw-dropping and exhilarating activities you can do. Take to the skies to ride otherwise inaccessible trails and get all of downhill but none of the uphill. 100% awesome!

TRAIL INFO

Cardrona Mountain Bike Park (Dec 1st - Mar 31st only)

Trails available from Beginner to Advanced
25+ kilometres of trails
Grades 1-5

Coronet Peak (Rude Rock & Zoot Track)

Intermediate to Hard
7+ kilometres
Grades 3 -4

7 Mile Bike Park

Trails available from Intermediate to Hard
17.5 kilometres of trails
Grades: 3-5



QUEENSTOWN

DAY 7 - QUEENSTOWN

Your tour ends this afternoon, but not before you've gotten through a morning of adventure! Queenstown is the perfect place to wrap up your Kiwi adventure.

One last scenic loop in the mountains to end the tour on a high: the classic Moke Lake Loop. This ride is filled with incredible views of several lakes, high in the mountains with some truly awesome scenery.

The options are endless: jump on one of Queenstown's many adventure activities such as jet boating, bungee jumping, luge, skydiving or rafting, or give your tires another spin and shoot out around the extensive and impressive trail network over at 7 Mile Delta, just a short ride from Queenstown on the Awatea and Sunshine Tracks.

While the tour ends this afternoon, the fun doesn't have to! Extend your stay at our lodge here in Queenstown to keep the adventure going; there are many more magnificent trails around the area to experience and explore.

TRAIL INFO

Moke Lake Loop

22km

Grades: 2-3

OPTIONAL ADD-ON ACTIVITIES

Extra nights' accommodation Queenstown

Heli-Mountain Biking

Cardrona Mountain Bike Park

Any other awesome activities in Queenstown



FAQ

WHERE DOES THE TOUR START AND END?

The tour starts in Christchurch at 7am on Day 1 and ends on Day 7 in Queenstown. If you like, you can book additional nights of accommodation before your tour starts and after the tour finishes - just let us know.

WHAT IS THE TOUR BUS LIKE?

We normally use a 22-seater Mitsubishi Rosa, 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.

WHO ARE THE TOUR GUIDES?

Our Tour Guides 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 nine or more people, we ensure that there are two expert 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 us up and we will be able to help you out.

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 if you would like.



FAQ

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, knee pads, 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, 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 awesome trips!

CONTACT US TODAY FOR THE BEST PRICES AND SERVICES

EMAIL US

OR PHONE US NOW

+64 92814481