



R I D E & S E E K

Join us on an adventure that takes us across a country that was until 700 years ago still uninhabited. Beginning in the modern city of Auckland and travelling across both Islands to finish in the remote south with its pristine wilderness and spectacular mountains.



AUCKLAND TO QUEENSTOWN | (FEBRUARY 03 - FEBRUARY 26 | 2024)

Māori Overview

TOTAL
DISTANCE:

2014km | 1252mi

ELEVATION:

22,047m | 72,336ft

DURATION:

24
DAYS
23 Nights

NEW ZEALAND

MAKE IT
EPIC


MAORI

GRADING:













Tours
available
from
12 DAYS

LONGER ROUTES
ARE AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT THE TOUR
FOR THOSE WANTING
MORE DAILY RIDING
AND ELEVATION

STAGE 1 | AUCKLAND to WELLINGTON

Tour Day	Destination		Distance (kilometres)	Elevation (metres)	Distance (miles)	Elevation (feet)
1		Auckland	21	253	13	830
2		Thames	130	1020	81	3347
3		Matamata	90	545	56	1788
4		Rotorua	79	882	49	2894
5		Taupo	113	1177	70	3862
6		Tongariro	95	1329	59	4360
7		Tongariro	Rest Day			
8		Whanganui	152	1247	94	4091
9		Palmerton	102	768	63	2520
10		Masterton	118	1328	73	4357
11		Wellington	124	929	77	3048
STAGE 1 TOTALS			1024	9478	636	31097
STAGE 1 AVERAGES		10 ride days	102	948	64	3110

STAGE 2 | WELLINGTON to QUEENSTOWN

Tour Day	Destination		Distance (kilometres)	Elevation (metres)	Distance (miles)	Elevation (feet)
1		Wellington	38	439	24	1440
2		Nelson	117	1453	73	4767
3		Murchison	119	1303	74	4275
4		Westport	97	1462	60	4797
5		Greymouth	101	1494	63	4902
6		Harihari	114	959	71	3146
7		Fox Glacier	93	1407	58	4616
8		Lake Moeraki	89	826	55	2710
9		Lake Moeraki	Rest Day			
10		Makarora	112	1830	70	6004
11		Wanaka	68	791	42	2595
12		Queenstown	80	1044	50	3425
STAGE 2 TOTALS			990	12569	615	41239
STAGE 2 AVERAGES		11 ride days	90	1143	56	3749

		Distance (km)	Elevation (m)	Distance (miles)	Elevation (feet)
EPIC TOTALS		2014	22047	1252	72336
EPIC AVERAGES	21 ride days	96	1050	60	3445

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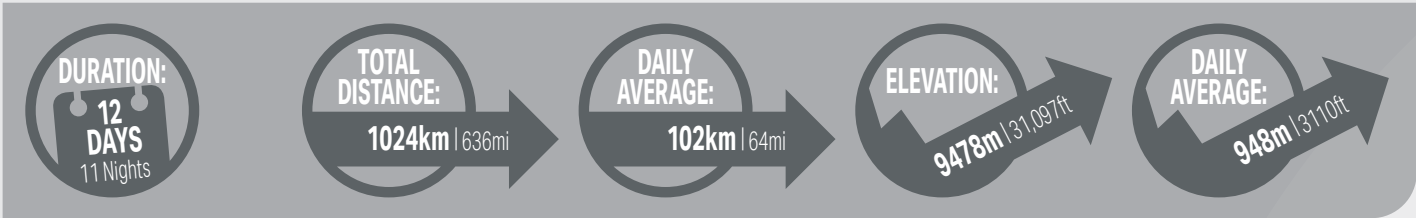
ELEVATION:

22,047m | 72,336ft

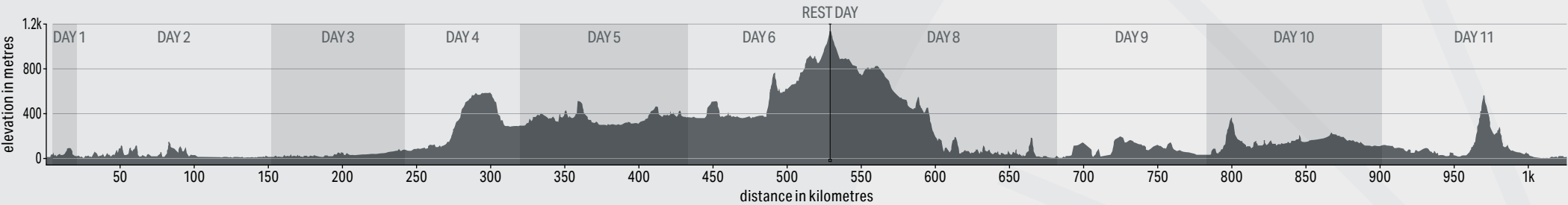
DURATION:

**24
DAYS**
23 Nights

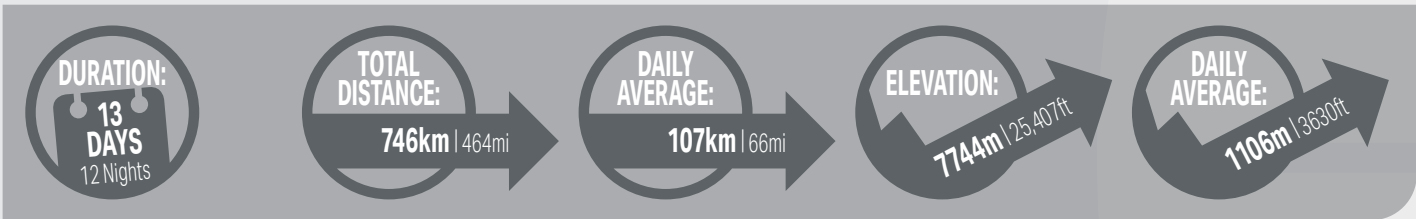
STAGE 1 | NORTH ISLAND



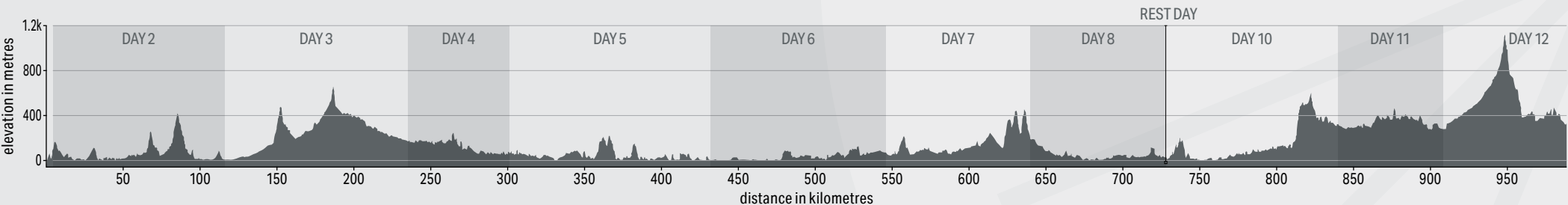
NZ NORTH ISLAND



STAGE 2 | SOUTH ISLAND



NZ SOUTH ISLAND



Please note, the X & Y axis (distance and elevation) vary between each stage shown.

The Māori New Zealand Cycling Tour crosses the length of this spectacular southern land.



Discover this fantastic country sitting on the edge of the world

Our route takes in highlights across both the North and the South Island. From the thermal wonderland of Rotorua, rich with Māori heritage, to the volcano country surrounding Tongariro National Park. From the wild west coast with its pristine nature to the stunning Southern Alps. This Epic Adventure to the southern hemisphere's most beautiful islands ticks all the boxes.



First day guidance

For meeting at the start of each stage please come dressed in regular clothes. Look out for the guides at the appointed time in their Ride & Seek attire or simply ask at the hotel reception where to find the group and they will direct you accordingly. The usual first day format involves grabbing a bite to eat together and the guides talking about the tour. We then focus on fitting bikes and set a time to meet in bike gear for a warm-up ride before catching up for pre-dinner drinks with the rest of the group.

Stage 1 - North Island

Saturday 3rd February – Wednesday 14th February

For Stage 1 we will meet you at 12:00, Saturday 3rd February, at the M Social Auckland (196-200 Quay Street, Auckland CBD, 1010): **Click for M Social Hotel website.**

Both the Auckland domestic and international airports are located approximately 25km drive south of our hotel and are a short walk or free bus shuttle from one another. A taxi or Uber will take you between 25 to 50 minutes depending on the traffic. Skybus operate an express bus service into the city that finishes 300m from our hotel. Its normal operating hours are every 15 minutes throughout the day and every 30 minutes during the night. It takes approximately 45 minutes followed by a 5 minute walk.

We finish Stage 1 in the country's capital, Wellington on Wednesday 14th February. The airport, which services both national and international flights is 10km drive from our hotel, the InterContinental Wellington (2 Grey Street, Wellington, 6011): **Click for InterContinental Wellington website.**

A taxi or Uber will take between 15 to 30 minutes to the airport, alternatively the bus takes approximately 45 minutes, which includes 10 minutes walking. If you enjoy long (11 hours) train journeys, The Northern Explorer runs 3 times a week between Wellington and Auckland. To find out more information: **Click to access Northern Explorer website.**

Stage 2 - South Island

Wednesday 14th February – Monday 26th February

For Stage 2 we will meet you at 12.00, Wednesday 14th February, at the InterContinental Wellington (2 Grey Street, Wellington, 6011): **Click for InterContinental Wellington website.**

The airport is located approximately 10km drive from our central hotel and will take approximately 15 to 30 minutes with a taxi or Uber. A local bus also goes to the airport and takes 45 minutes, which includes 10 minutes walking time. If travelling through Auckland arriving by train is another option, The Northern Explorer runs between the two cities on an 11 hour journey, 3 times a week. Find out more information here – **Click to access Northern Explorer website.**

Tour Conclusion

Monday 26th February

We will ride into Queenstown on Sunday afternoon on 25th February. The final hotel of the tour is QT Queenstown, (30 Brunswick Street, Queenstown 9300) – **Click for QT Queenstown website.**

After breakfast on Monday 26th February the tour concludes with the guides departing with the support vehicle and hire bikes. For those travelling back to, or through Australia, it is possible to fly internationally from Queenstown Airport, which lies 8.5km from our hotel, a 15 to 20 minute taxi ride. Alternatively a bus departs approximately 7 minutes walk from the hotel and takes 25 minutes. Most people however will fly domestically via Auckland to return home departing from the same small airport in Queenstown.

Queenstown is considered the adventure capital of New Zealand and offers no-end of outdoor experiences. If you are considering extending your holiday by a few days post-tour have a look at **Click to access Discover Queenstown.**

Māori | New Zealand

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22,047m | 72,336ft

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STAGE 1 - Auckland to Wellington

The North Island of New Zealand is known for its national parks, volcanic activity and cosmopolitan cities, the largest of which is Auckland.

**TOTAL
DISTANCE:**
1024km | 636mi

ELEVATION:
9478m | 31,097ft

DURATION:
12
DAYS
11 Nights



STAGE 2 - Wellington to Queenstown

The South Island of New Zealand is renowned for its mountains, lakes and glaciers. The Southern Alps is home to Mt. Aoraki at 3,724 metres high.

**TOTAL
DISTANCE:**
990km | 615mi

ELEVATION:
12,569m | 41,239ft

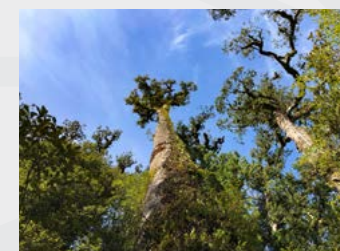
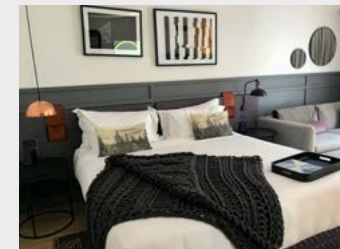
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CLICK to see the Ride & Seek website for details of tour dates and prices

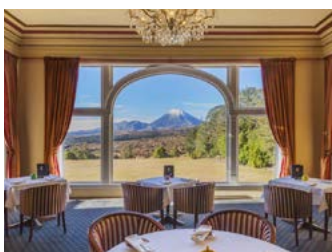
Auckland to Queenstown

- Exploring the geothermal wonderland around Rotorua with its geysers, fantastically coloured steaming pools and bubbling mud pools.
- Cycling through the land of volcanoes made famous through the Lord of the Rings films.
- Cycling up Mt. Mount Ruapehu, a still active volcano and the biggest ski field in the southern hemisphere in winter.
- Māori Culture, with its fascinating oral history rich in song and dance and seen throughout the country by the distinct wood carvings adorning the local Marrees (sacred local meeting halls) and places of cultural importance.
- The new world gastronomy with the incredible choice of local produce makes dining a real highlight throughout the tour.
- New Zealand Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc rate with some of the best in the world, but it also has a growing reputation for chardonnay, pinot gris, riesling, merlot and methode traditionnelle wines that are all worth tasting!
- Riding through pristine nature in numerous World Heritage National Parks.
- New Zealand wildlife is like no other, literally! 80% of its species aren't found anywhere else in the world. A couple you may have heard of are the Kiwi bird and the Kea, the world's only alpine parrot.
- Cycling along the rolling coastline of Queen Charlotte Sound.
- Our ferry ride from the North Island across the Cook Strait to the South Island through Marlborough Sounds framed by lush forested hills.
- The west coast and the Southern Alps, with their snow-covered peaks, glacier-filled valleys, spectacular array of waterfalls and rugged pristine coastline.
- Rest day at Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki. A premier nature lodge offering an experience like no other. Walk from your room into a natural paradise of ancient rainforest, kayak pristine lakes and hike rugged beaches.



We carefully select the places where we stay based on their personality and the hospitality of our hosts.

New Zealand is a young country so you won't find any castles or centuries old monasteries converted into hotels, instead we have modern hotels, many of them set amongst beautiful forest more ancient than anything you could find in Europe.



M Social

Inspired by New Zealand's landscape and culture and boasting panoramic views of Waitemata Harbour, this beautifully designed hotel is a true landmark destination. Superbly located on the waterfront in the heart of Princes Wharf.

Château Tongariro Hotel

This historical hotel impresses with its grand architecture, interiors and facilities. These include a 9-hole golf course and a cinema. Located within a dual World Heritage National Park, providing a stunning natural playground with diverse landscapes to explore on our rest day.

Te Weheka Boutique Hotel

Situated beneath the Southern Alps on New Zealand's West coast within walking distance from the impressive Fox Glacier, Te Weheka Boutique Hotel offers modern spacious rooms with balconies overlooking the lush native forest.

Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki

Discover wilderness in comfort and style at New Zealand's premier nature lodge, offering an experience like no other. Walk from your room into a natural paradise of ancient rainforest, kayak pristine lakes and hike rugged beaches.

QT Queenstown

Incomparable views over the crystal clear Lake Wakatipu and breathtaking peaks of the Southern Alps set the scene at QT Queenstown. Sitting pretty in nature's playground, this lush lakeside resort emulates nostalgic alpine and après-ski ambience – perfect for our final night on tour.

We choose our restaurants because they are exceptional and unique.

New Zealand is world renowned for its seafood, coffee culture, dairy and lamb as well their Marlborough Sounds South Island Sauvignon Blanc. The good news is that New Zealand isn't defined by what they export so what's locally available is even better.



Edgewater Restaurant

Our signature lake front restaurant. In this elegant Taupo restaurant the food is as fabulous as the views over the lake. Savour its award-winning local and international cuisine, crafted with the freshest ingredients daily.

Dockside Restaurant & Bar

Situated at the heart of Queens Wharf this is one of Wellington's most diverse venues with the ability to cater to every need. Housed in a historic waterfront shed it enjoys stunning views from every aspect, with a maritime theme throughout.

BAZAAR, Queenstown

Adventurous foodies will be enticed by the rousing hustle and bustle of its interactive marketplace. The space is alive, tempting you to take part in the delicious and theatrical mosaic of international cuisines. Chefs cook before your eyes in a buzzing setting. Their creations draw inspiration from the fresh, local produce.

Tamaki Māori Village

Journey to an authentic Māori village in a Rotorua forest and be formally welcomed onto sacred grounds. Amidst crackling fires, discover Māori art forms, take part in ancient rituals, learn fascinating Māori traditions and share impressive song and dance routines, before enjoying a traditional feast cooked beneath the ground on hot stones.

Ride & Seek Picnics

We pride ourselves on providing the best picnics. These are always in spectacular locations, be it at a historical site or a breathtaking view. The produce will always be local, fresh and exceptional.



From volcanos to glaciers

The Māori New Zealand Cycling Tour follows the journey of a fascinating and inspiring people as they travelled across the ocean 700 years ago to arrive on the North Island near the start of our tour.

The Māori, as they came to be known, with only what they brought with them adapted well to a land that had never seen humans.

Isolated from other landforms for 80 million years it had moved further east away from Australia and grew through volcanic activity in the North Island and mountain ranges in the South Island. A process that continues today.

This strange land was the last to be discovered of all the habitable land masses in the world and was different in that, apart from bats that had managed to fly there, it was completely devoid of mammals. New Zealand was and still is a land of birds and reptiles.

As the newly formed settlements grew the Māori travelled south down through the land of volcanoes, geysers and colourful bubbling hot pools.

This geologically active part of New Zealand became an important part of the mythology of Māori culture. While the culture may be young, it is rich, diverse and has built on its Pacific island origins to become unique in its own right.

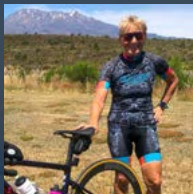
Using their impressive boat building skills the Māori continued south crossing the Cook Strait to reach the South Island where they settled the coastlines and mountain valleys right to its most southern point.

The Māori population in the South Island remained much lower than in the North Island as the winters are difficult and the terrain tough. This is as true today as it was 150 years ago, with three-quarters of the New Zealand population residing in the North Island. It's for this reason the South Island is thankfully still a part of the world that showcases how the earth once was with its largely untouched nature.

We hope you can come and explore it on the best form of transport of all, your bike!

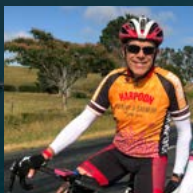


What our guests have to say...



The Maori Epic showcases the best of New Zealand from the road. In both Islands, we were treated daily to the amazing landscapes: thermal and volcanic regions in the north, glaciers rivers and lakes in the south. Add to this the extraordinary route planning, support, opportunities to explore the areas in which we stayed, to experience the value placed on conservation, to understand the history and culture of the diverse peoples who have settled there, and of course to enjoy the locally produced food and wine with a group of wonderful people who are proud to be part of the growing R&S family.

Cathy V



A fun ride through New Zealand. We stayed at great hotels, stopped at unique cafés and ate good food. The sites ranged from big cities to small towns through rolling pastures and over volcanic mountains. We learned about Maori history and saw the extent to which Maori culture has been incorporated into everyday life.

Jack N



It is fair to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the trip even though I parachuted in halfway. The course was excellent. The guides were also first-class leaving nothing to be desired.

Tom B

www.rideandseek.com



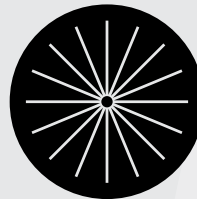
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Find out more information, a recommended reading list, testimonials and much more.

Alternatively, [Email us](#) or call us on **+61 (0) 2 8007 3161**



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Māori Overview