

Pedaltours

VACATIONS FOR CYCLISTS SINCE 1985

RURAL AND WINE

North Island New Zealand

9 Days / 8 Nights Tour

Auckland to Rotorua

Pedaltours – Since 1985.

The original New Zealand guided bike tour company.

We specialise in wonderful, fully supported cycling vacations for cyclists of all levels. Our tours highlight the stunning scenery and fabulous lodges of our country. We have the best rental bikes in New Zealand. Our tours are great value and are the easiest way to have a relaxed cycle vacation. Our knowledgeable, friendly local guides take pride in showcasing their country to you, while you cycle as little or as much as you want.

Enjoy friendly Kiwi hospitality, a superb mix of mountain scenery and easy coastal terrain that will delight cycle enthusiasts – knowing that each evening, there is comfortable accommodation and excellent cuisine awaiting you.

North Island is one of New Zealand's two main islands, known for its volcanic activity, national parks, winegrowing regions and cosmopolitan cities. It's home to about three-quarters of New Zealand's population. The Rural and Wine tour is based on the format of staying in one or more hubs and choosing scenic rides out from the hub each day.

We start this tour in the Northern city of Auckland which has two major harbours and is known as the City of Sails and finish in the tourist haven of Rotorua which is famous for its exciting geothermal activity including geysers and mud pools. In between we will enjoy riding around the rich rolling green pastures of the Waikato region, then through to the stunning Lake Taupo, a volcanic crater created by a super volcanic eruption which occurred 26,500 years ago.



From there we transition to Hawkes Bay on the East coast, recognised on the world stage for its award winning wines. The region includes scenic coastal land as well as a hilly interior stretching up into the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges with five major rivers connecting the two. Three days are spent exploring this delightful area, this includes a rest day. Time for both stunning rides as well as other attractions such as the wineries and the Art deco town of Napier. Leaving Hawkes Bay we travel to Rotorua which has a prominent Maori culture and a thriving adventure tourism industry. There is also a range of mountain bike rides around the area.



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Please bring this information with you to the tour start.

Cas = casual, int = intermediate, adv = advanced cyclists

Should you need to contact Pedaltours please call the Auckland office: +64 9 585 1338.

ITINERARY

The tour starts in AUCKLAND, (pop. 1.4 m) New Zealand's largest and most cosmopolitan city. It is situated on a narrow isthmus between two beautiful harbours, the Manukau on the Tasman Sea, and the Waitemata on the Pacific Ocean. Clients will just be met here to be driven to CAMBRIDGE, the first actual cycling hub of the tour so for those wanting to explore the stunning harbours and other attractions of Auckland should arrange to arrive a couple of days early.

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; cycle as little or as much as you wish each day, the minibus will always be available.

MEETING DAY / DAY ONE:

We will pick up from central city hotels between 9.30am-10am – come dressed to cycle.

The first day of our trip is designed to allow visitors to settle in. We will take a short drive to Cornwall Park which is located around one of Auckland's iconic extinct volcanoes. Your tour leader will hold a trip orientation meeting after which there will be time to fit you to your Pedaltours' rental bike or unpack your own and take a short ride in the Park.

A picnic in the park will follow after which we will leave the city by Pedaltours' minibus and head to the pretty country town of CAMBRIDGE, approximately 2 hours slightly south east of Auckland and our first Hub of the tour.

Highlights and Points of Interest

Located in the heart of the Waikato region horse breeding district, Cambridge (pop. 19,200) is known as the 'town of trees and champions'. It is memorable for its leafy streets, heritage buildings, antique shops and thoroughbred horse studs.

In more recent years Cambridge has also become home to a world class velodrome and is the official National Home of Cycling for all four disciplines of the sport – indoor, road, BMX and mountain biking, a reflection of the fantastic cycling in the area some of which we will get to enjoy over the next 2 days.

Day Two:

Cambridge Southern Loop

cas 54 km / 28 mi
Int/adv 79 km / 49 mi

The full ride today heads southeast initially on a wide concrete cycle path towards picturesque Lake Karapiro, an artificial reservoir lake on the Waikato River, dammed to store water for the nearby power station. The lake is regarded as one of New Zealand's best rowing venues and is home to the high performance squad.

We ride past the Lake and the terrain becomes undulating with a couple of testing climbs. From there a relatively flat 10km section as we resight the Lake at Horahora and then pass Lake Arapuni. We turn west along the Arupuni Road for some distance through gently rolling countryside before turning to head North and some last climbs before reaching Rotorangi and the homeward stretch.

Overall an honest ride with some good climbs taking in some fantastic terrain along the way and for most of the ride you'll be facing less than a dozen cars per hour!

A picnic lunch at a picturesque park on the edge of town. Dinner is not included tonight with plenty of options to choose from in Cambridge.



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Day Three:

Cambridge Eastern Loop
cas 39 km / 24 mi
int. 60 km / 38 mi
adv 93 km / 58 mi

After breakfast we leave town and cycle east with three loop courses available, all through quiet rolling countryside. This ride is the route for an annual cycle race called THE REV, which is a must for any cycling enthusiast given it's renowned for its undulating hills, tight corners and notable climbs.

The advanced ride features both category 3 and 4 climbs, including the infamous French Pass, Buckland Road (the home of Hobbiton) and the beautiful Scotsman Valley. The intermediate ride is ideal for those looking for a shorter but still challenging ride with 2 tough climbs and the casual ride may be shorter but is still a delightful ride with some undulations!

Highlights and Points of Interest

The Waikato River is the longest river in New Zealand, running for 425 kilometres through the North Island. It rises in the eastern slopes of Mount Ruapehu, joining the Tongariro River system and emptying into Lake Taupo, Australasia's largest lake.

The town of Taupo sits at the edge of the Lake which is actually a huge volcano with a fiery history. The vast waters of Lake Taupo drain into the Huka Falls whose dramatic, crystal-blue cascades are easily accessible via walking trails.

Surrounding Taupo are hot springs like those filling the Craters of the Moon thermal area, which is a typical acid sulfate geothermal system, with abundant fumaroles, steaming ground, mud pools, explosion craters and colourful soils.

Plenty of good cafes for lunch on our return to Cambridge and afternoon activities available include a trip to Hobbiton or a visit to the brand new, world class velodrome with the opportunity to have a go at riding on the track – remember track bikes have no brakes!

Breakfast included today; lunch and dinner not included so try a couple more of Cambridge's good eating spots.

Day Four:

Whakamaru—Taupo: cas. 45 km / 28 mi
Waipapa river mouth—Taupo: int. 67 km / 42 mi
Wharepapa Sth—Taupo: adv 90 km / 56 mi

Today we leave Cambridge and the Waikato region and head South to Taupo, initially retracing some of yesterday's ride in the minivan before the start of the longest option close to Lake Arapuni. Climbing steadily for 15km we follow the Lake until it flows back out to the Waikato River which we then follow through to Mangakino, a small town on the banks of the river located close to a power station at Lake Maraetai. Just down the road a welcome coffee awaits at The Dam Café, giving us the energy to tackle the long steady climb as we head away from the river and ride South through to Taupo with the last 20km more down than up.

We will be staying right on the lakefront so time for an afternoon stroll along the lake or perhaps a soak in the hot pools or a visit to Huka Falls.



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Day Five:

Crownthorpe Loop:	cas. 48 km / 30 mi
Puketapu to Omaha + Crownthorpe	int. 57 km / 36 mi
Eskdale to Omaha + Crownthorpe	adv 85 km / 53 mi

This morning we drive the highway from Taupo through to Bay View, just North of Napier, arriving mid morning. The full ride starts here and heads inland over undulating rural country through to the Dartmoor Valley which follows the Tukaekuri River. En route includes one testing 3km climb, upto 12% gradient after the initial 10km warm up. Intermediate riders join at the settlement of Puketapu and the group will ride South to the start of the Crownthorpe loop, an inland sub-region of Hawkes Bay with elevated terraces.

A steady 10km climb on a lovely quiet road brings us to the high point from where expansive views of the region open up as we descend down to the plains finishing amongst vineyards with glimpses of the Ngaruroro River. We will drive the last 19kms through the Napier suburbs to our motel on Marine Parade.

Highlights and Points of Interest

Hawke's Bay is one of New Zealand's warmest, driest regions and this has made it one of the country's leading producers of wine; notably red wines – cabernet sauvignon, merlot and syrah – but also some quite stunning whites. Complementing the wines are also some stunning wineries of architectural delight.

Five major rivers flow down into the coast of Hawke's Bay. From North to South, they are the Wairoa, Mohaka, Tukaekuri, Ngaruroro and Tukituki.

On Feb 3, 1931 the region was devastated by New Zealand's worst natural disaster, an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale, which killed 256 people. Napier rebuilt and now the city is world famous for its Art Deco buildings.

Day Six:

Napier Rest Day

Napier, a coastal city on New Zealand's North Island, is set amid the renowned wine-producing region of Hawke's Bay. Rebuilt after a 1931 earthquake, the city is known for art deco landmarks like the zigzag-patterned Daily Telegraph Building. Along the tree-lined waterfront promenade the Marine Parade, the Pania of the Reef statue, which depicts a Maori maiden, is a symbol of the city.

The region offers plenty of options for a Rest Day, including winery tours, a visit to the world's largest gannet colony at Cape Kidnappers, a walking tour of the Art Deco capital of Napier or enjoy a game of golf.

Day Seven:

Tuki Tuki Loop (exc. Te Mata peak):	67 km / 42 mi
Tuki Tuki Loop (inc. Te Mata peak) :	79 km / 49 mi

Today's ride starts from the motel and heads south on a bike path which is a combination of tarmac and hard packed shingle and follows the coast with lovely views of Hawke's Bay and Cape Kidnappers, a headland at the southeastern extremity of the Bay. There are also wetlands with interesting birdlife to enjoy along the way.

We switch to riding on quiet roads and follow the Tuki Tuki river before an optional climb up Te Mata Peak, which stands 400m above the Heretaunga Plains and is both a visual feature and an integral part of Hawke's Bay history, Maori and European. The climb offers stunning and varied scenery, unique topography, geology, flora and fauna, a worthwhile reward for the 5kms of climbing which briefly lifts to 15% gradient but is mostly between 5-8%.



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Those opting not to climb the Peak can head straight to the pretty, country town of Havelock North for lunch and the climbers can follow once the Peak has been conquered. From there riders can choose to ride the 20km back to Napier via a different route or spend time exploring Havelock North before hitching a ride back in the van.

Day Eight:

Taupo to Reparoa int/adv: 43 km / 26 mi

In the morning we drive to Taupo and then set of for a ride in rural farmlands. The ride has a slight uphill gradient for the first 7kms and then descents gently for another 13kms with the remaining being flat. From Reparoa we transfer by van the last 30 mins to our Lakeside hotel in Rotorua. As soon as you enter Rotorua you will notice a faint scent of sulphur and escaping curls of steam.

Rotorua has much to offer: Geysers and bubbling mud pools, a 4WD trip up Mt Tarawera, white water rafting, the luge rides, jet boat rides, the Buried Village, the Green and Blue Lakes (a 32km cycle ride), fishing, relaxing thermal spas. You can also experience Maori culture through one of the Maori Villages. See and hear about Maori art forms and Maori foods, horticulture, songs and traditions.

Day Nine:

The tour ends after breakfast. We choose to stay on in Rotorua to make the most of the plentiful activities or we can transfer you to Auckland this morning. It is here we must say farewell, a safe journey home and hope to see you again.

Highlights and Points of Interest

Near Porangahau in Hawke's Bay is an unassuming hill known as "Taumata whakatangi hangakoauau o tamatea turi pukakapiki maunga horo nuku pokai whenua kitanatahu", one of the world's longest place names. It translates into English as "the place where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, who slid, climbed and swallowed mountains, known as 'landeater', played his flute to his loved one." Tamatea's beloved was in fact his brother who was killed during a battle in the area. Locals simply call it Taumata Hill.



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What's included

- Mostly 3 and 4 star accommodation
- 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 4 dinners
- Full minibus support
- Experienced guides
- Pedaltours souvenir cycle jersey
- Daily route directions and coloured maps with profiles
- Thirty years of experience in offering guided and fully supported cycle tours in New Zealand

Route rating

Moderate and Advanced rides available each day

Accommodation Meal Details

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

Key

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Bar |  Gym |
|  Guest Laundry |  Swimming Pool |
|  Internet Access |  Spa Pool |
|  Restaurant |  Sauna |

Day 1 (L, D)

Cambridge Mews ★★★★★
 20 Hamilton Road, Cambridge 3434, New Zealand
 07 827-7166 , www.cambridgemews.co.nz
 Originally designed to compliment the English theme that personifies Cambridge the stone and cedar cladding along with the motel layout reflect mews stables and dwellings that were once prolific in the United Kingdom



Day 2 (B, L)

Cambridge Mews ★★★★★

Day 3 (B)

Cambridge Mews ★★★★★

Day 4 (B, L, D)

Millennium Hotel and Resort Manuels ★★★★★
 243 Lake Terrace, Lake Terrace, Taupo, New Zealand
 07 378 5110, www.manuels.co.nz

The Millennium Hotel and Resort Manuels Taupo is only minutes from the many Taupo attractions and activities including Huka Falls, hot thermal pools etc



Day 5 (B, L, D)

Beach Front Motel ★★★
 373 Marine Parade Napier, New Zealand
 0800 778 888, www.beachfrontnapier.co.nz
 Location is unbeatable on Napier's famous Marine Parade which runs alongside the magnificent Pacific Ocean.



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Day 6 (B)

Beach Front Motel ★★★

Day 7 (B)

Beach Front Motel ★★★

Day 8 (B, L, D)

Novotel Rotorua Lakeside Hotel ★★★★★

Lake end, Tutanekai Street, Rotorua

07 3463888, www.novotelrotorua.co.nz

Situated on the picturesque shores of Lake Rotorua, the Novotel Rotorua Lakeside offers tranquil surroundings with sensational views.



Day 9 (B)

Depart. We look forward to seeing you on another Pedaltours adventure one day.