

otago rail trail family



trip highlights

- Cycle the historic Rail Trail going through tunnels and over old rail bridges
- Check out a high country farm including a Devonshire Tea
- Try your hand at 'curling' - bowls on ice!
- Take a journey on the famous Taieri Express Railway
- Get your fill of sweet things at the Cadbury's Chocolate Factory
- Take a short walk along the beach to explore the wacky Moeraki Boulders
- Dress & dine in period costumes at Living History
- Watch the Blue Penguins worlds smallest penguin come ashore



Trip Duration	6 days
Grade	Introductory level
Activities	6 day cycle
Accommodation	5 nights hotel / motel

Kia Ora from Adventure South

Thank you for your interest in our Otago Rail Trail Family adventure. It's a superb adventure and we hope you can join us. Adventure South has been operating active holidays throughout New Zealand since 1992. Thanks to our experience we're confident to say that we offer the very best cycling, trekking and adventure travel itineraries available in New Zealand today. There's simply no other collection of New Zealand itineraries that can match the geographic coverage, originality and overall quality of our active New Zealand adventure holidays. An Adventure South holiday aims to take you beyond the more popular and busy trails to provide you with a truly unique New Zealand wilderness experience. We're here to show you that there are many, many more trails and cycling routes in our great country that are the new frontiers in adventure tourism - beautiful, scenic, and without the crowds. We aim to explore these delicate environments in a sustainable manner to ensure we leave as little impact as possible from our visit. We'd be honoured to introduce you to the wide variety of natural wonders that New Zealand is famous for. Go forth, go south - join us on this amazing small group, value packed adventure!

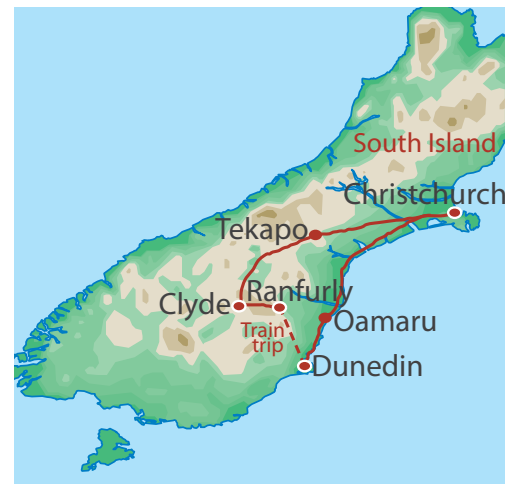
why travel with Adventure South?

"Small groups, Great Guides, Superb Holidays."
 This comment encapsulates an Adventure South active holiday in New Zealand. The phrase was not born from a long and tortuous strategic planning process, it came from a client review! We could not have said it any better. Our client feedback also confirms that what helps make our holidays different are the quality of our professional guides. They share their humour, compassion and wilderness experience to ensure that you have a great vacation and the right degree of personal challenge.
 On an Adventure South tour you can also expect the right, proven equipment is provided for your tour; the food is delicious, plentiful and can be catered to your dietary requests; your guides are all First Aid trained; and that the itinerary you have chosen has been carefully crafted from decades of personal experience in the New Zealand wilderness, not from a guide book recommendation.



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trip dates

Runs on demand

trip cost

Joining Christchurch Adult Price: NZD\$1850 /

options & supplements

Adventure South does not require single travellers pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

We suggest flying in the night before the tour departs, however if you plan to fly in on the morning of the tour then you need to have landed and be in arrivals by 8am. Your guide will then come and collect you as the tour is leaving town.

At the end of the tour if you want to fly home that evening we recommend booking a domestic flight departing at 7pm or after. We will also drop you off at the airport on the way back into town. We don't recommend catching international flights on the same day as the tour departs or finishes.

the trip

Voted #2 'Must Do Adventure' in the most recent edition of Lonely Planet's New Zealand guide book, this adventure will have you cycling back in time to New Zealand's rural past along a trail that has been specifically converted for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders - with no motor vehicles allowed! The Trail follows the old Central Otago branch railway line from Clyde to Middlemarch, passing through many towns along the way. This trip is not just about the cycling but rather exploring the many small towns and abandoned gold diggings as well as meeting the locals. Along the way you can even try your hand at the ancient art of curling (bowls on ice). You can choose to start the trip in either Christchurch or Clyde and finish either back in Christchurch or Dunedin. The adventure culminates with us enjoying one of the world's great train trips on the spectacular Taieri Gorge Railway into Dunedin. This adventure is fully supported leaving you with no concerns about accommodation or luggage.

about your leader

Our guides are one of our biggest assets. We pride ourselves on the standard and quality of these great people who you will be spending your holiday with. They come from all walks of life but they all have a common desire to give you the best possible experience, heaps of fun and lots of fond memories to take home with you. We provide you with the services of two guides for many of our trips, (this may depend on the size of the group). All are certified in first aid and CPR and many are trained bike mechanics. To check out more about our guides see our 'About us' page on our website (www.advsouth.com).

at a glance

DAY 1	CHRISTCHURCH TO CLYDE
DAY 2	CLYDE TO RANFURLY
DAY 3	RANFURLY / WEDDERBURN / RANFURLY
DAY 4	RANFURLY TO DUNEDIN
DAY 5	DUNEDIN TO OAMARU
DAY 6	OAMARU TO CHRISTCHURCH

what's included

- All breakfasts (excluding day 1) and 5 dinners
- A great guide and transport during the Christchurch-to-Christchurch loop
- Taieri Gorge train trip
- Maniototo Curling in Naseby - bowls on ice!
- A high country Farm Tour and Devonshire Tea
- Cadbury World Tour with some sweet treats
- An unforgettable encounter at the Blue Penguin Colony
- Dressing up and dining in period costumes as part of Living History in Oamaru
- Kids bike rental
- Accommodation as detailed based on a twin share basis with en-suite facilities
- Access and concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- New Zealand Good and Service Tax (GST)
- Otago Central Rail Trail passport which contributes funds to the Rail Trail Trust

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Christchurch to Clyde

Important: The night before your tour will depart your guide will call your pre tour accommodation to advise what time (approx 7:15am) they will collect you the following morning. Please make sure you

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have given us the information on where you are staying. If you are not around when your guide calls they will leave a message at reception – its really important that you check with reception if you have not heard from your guide directly. If for any reason you have not heard from your guide by the morning of the tour please call us in the NZ office on 0800 00 11 66 (from within NZ).

Once at our depot, a quick check of your bike or a fitting of one of our fleet of rental bikes will precede the loading of the bike trailer that will see us departing by 8am. We'll pick up lunch along the way in Geraldine then we start our cycling with a quiet ride alongside the Tekapo canal system with spectacular views of Mt Cook & the Southern Alps. Crossing over the Lindis Pass we descend down to Cromwell and travel alongside the scenic river gorge before arriving at the rail head at Clyde. The rest of the afternoon you will be free to explore this old gold mining town or there are other cycling options that your guide can advise you on. The evening will then be finished off with our first group dinner.

Road Cycling - 22kms/14 miles

meals: D

DAY 2 Clyde to Ranfurly

After a hardy breakfast, we start our first day on the Rail Trail. While there are several sections on the today's ride to chose from, we will all start from the Trail head and ride through to Alexandra on the flat, exploring some of the bridges and icons as we go. From Alexandra we have choices but will usually drive through to Lauder and start the 22.5km section through to Otarehua with its stunning viaducts and tunnels. At Otarehua, explore the historic Jamieson's store and enjoy a coffee before either cycling to the trail high spot at Wedderburn, or join the bus for a lift to end today's ride. We then drive through to our accommodation at Ranfurly. Around 4:30pm we drive out to Naseby – a small foresting township, just off the trail. Here you have the option of joining us in playing curling; if you can imagine bowls on ice then you are on the right track – a lot of fun and its at the only dedicated curling rink in the Southern Hemisphere. If curling isn't your thing then you can still come out to Naseby with us and enjoy a relaxing pint at the iconic Royal Hotel, walk around town or in the forest plantation. After the afternoon's activities we head back to Ranfurly for dinner and our night's accommodation.

Rail Trail Ride – Cycling distance up to 44kms/27 miles

meals: B,D

DAY 3 Ranfurly / Wedderburn / Ranfurly

We start the day off the bikes with a short drive back to Wedderburn and a farm tour. It's more then just your standard farm tour checking out sheep with a great insight into the running of a fifth generation high country family operation. Enough history to keep you interested and Devonshire tea at the homestead to finish with. After the local insight its back onto the bikes and a short ride down to Ranfurly for lunch. Continuing on through the heart of the Maniototo Plain we ride through to Daisy Bank where you will meet your guide. We then load up the bikes and head back to Ranfurly. Once back in Ranfurly there is plenty of time to relax at the lodge or to explore more of the township.

Rail Trail Ride – Cycline distance up to 47kms/29 miles

meals: B,D

DAY 4 Ranfurly to Dunedin

We start the morning with a drive back to Daisy Bank from Ranfurly. After riding through one more tunnel you will arrive into Hyde and our lunch spot. After lunch you're on the home straight! From here a final 27kms takes us past the scene of the famous Hyde rail disaster of 1943 and then out onto the rolling plains slowly descending into Middlemarch. This is the end of the trail and time for a celebratory drink at the Kissing Gate Cafe. However the day is not yet finished and if time allows we will visit the local "Stone Sheep Yards" before boarding the famous Taieri Express for a spectacular ride through the gorge described as one of the world's great train journeys. The train journey is



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fast facts

Countries Visited:

New Zealand

Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip*

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:

Expert local leader

*Ask our staff for more information

included in your tour cost. We travel into Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South. Our dinner tonight is in the form of a group celebration at a classic Italian restaurant to acknowledge the 150kms of Rail Trail riding.

Rail Trail Ride – Cycling Distance up to 59kms/37 miles

meals: B,D

DAY 5 Dunedin to Oamaru

The riding is still not finished as we head north to Oamaru. Dunedin is famous for the Cadbury's chocolate factory and our day starts with a tour of this and a generous sampling of chocolate before we finish. The next stop is Baldwin Street, reputedly the "steepest street in the world", for a short but challenging early morning stroll! Then depending on time, the weather and what the group wants to do we will pop into the famous Flier's café in the picturesque Moreaki Village for a coffee. Then its onto Moeraki Boulders – and a chance to explore these wacky creations.! Before turning onto the final quiet 24km coastal ride along the cliff tops and farms that take us into Oamaru. Here in the old warehouse quarter the early buildings are being restored creating a fascinating opportunity to explore the past as you relax at a local cafe. In the evening we have a chance to dress and dine in period costumes before finally joining the visitors who delight in the daily return from fishing of the famous blue penguins.

meals: B,D

DAY 6 Oamaru to Christchurch

Inland from Oamaru is the famous Elephant Rocks, our own limestone version of Stonehenge. The area is also famous for the fossils and bones discovered and on display at a local museum. We cycle the quiet rural roads and explore the area before driving onto Kurow and then a steady drive back to Christchurch dropping you at your accommodation at the end of the trip.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

taieri express heritage train

The 58kms of rail travel into Dunedin is rated as one of the world's great rail trips. The 2-hour route traverses the Taieri Gorge travelling across high iron viaducts and tunnels. All trains feature heritage carriages and you may have a viewing carriage on your trip, which provides even better panoramas. The train arrives at the historic Dunedin railway station at 6.30pm in time for a transfer to our accommodation. A ride on the Taieri Gorge railway is included in your trip cost.

cycling

We believe that cycling is one of the best ways to see a country. Our cycling trips have been well researched to take you on the best route. Our Rail Trail tours travel through historic and scenic countryside on cycle trails based on a disused railway line. With easy gradient cycling and character lodgings these tours are suitable for all level of cyclists. All of this so that you can see the incredible scenery and landscapes, view the main sights and along the way eat delicious food, stay at unique accommodation and meet the locals.

Being on a disused railway line there aren't really any hills – a couple of gradual inclines but nothing that after a good breakfast you couldn't tackle! We have two different styles of bikes available for hire, - or you can bring your own. The Trek 7500 or a low rise/step through Trek 7300. The bikes have 27 speed gears, front suspension and comfortable saddles – full details are on our website: www.advsouth.com/cycle/bikes/

All equipment and luggage will be carried by the support vehicle. If you are hiring a bike it will come with a small front and a rear pannier bag for your camera, wallet, jumper etc. It is



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responsible travel

We all have a responsibility to minimise the impact we have on the environment and communities we visit when we travel.

Since our beginnings this has been a cornerstone of our company. The New Zealand travel industry has become a world leader in developing an external audit process to identify quality, and that process has been extended to now include a 3 level Enviro Mark based on company processes. We're very proud that we've received a Gold rating, the highest category; each year since this initiative began.

Being responsible when we travel isn't about a single process or project but rather a way of thinking and then doing.

We started this journey many years ago, and acknowledge we still have a lot to learn. We invite you to join us!

trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors. These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip. The Otago Rail Trail Family is graded introductory. You will need a reasonable level of fitness and we suggest 30 minutes of aerobic type exercise, (either cycling or jogging) three times a week for the three months leading up to your trip. The main factor for the rail trail is that the cycling is on hard packed gravel - if you can get in some cycling on gravel before your tour it will make the experience a lot more fun.

important to remember that these cycling journeys are not designed to be a marathon event and no one needs to feel under pressure to ride – everyone rides at their own pace. If at any point you do not wish to ride, the vehicle is always available for you and your bike.

Remember that cycling involves some physical exertion and some pre trip preparation will help towards making your cycle tour an enjoyable experience. Cycling, of course, is an active pursuit and to maximise your own personal protection in case of a tumble or fall, the wearing of a bicycle helmet is compulsory at all times whilst cycling.

country information

Stretching North to South for over 2000 km, and split into two main islands - the North and the South Islands - New Zealand is a country of diverse landforms. From the Pacific Island beaches and rolling farmlands in the north, to the volcanic plateau and then onto the soaring mountains within view of the sea in the south, and the sub-Antarctic islands that dot the South Island coastline, the contrasts are many.

The South Island is the 12th largest island in the world. The west coast is dominated by the Southern Alps, which contain more mountains than the European Alps altogether, and home to New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki Mount Cook (3754m / 12,316 ft). The Main Divide, the chain of peaks that forms the backbone of the Alps from Arthur's Pass to Fiordland, splits the South Island into east and west. Several ice ages, and the fact that two continental plates are sliding past each other forming the Southern Alps, means that the scenery is as rugged as the New Zealand fauna and flora is unique. The largest city in the South Island is Christchurch.

The North Island is the smaller of the two main islands of New Zealand. Its northern location means it enjoys a warmer, more temperate climate than much of the South Island, and is much more vastly populated. The centre of the island is primarily a volcanic landscape with vast forests, volcanic peaks, and picturesque lakes. The eastern side of the island is covered with vineyards. Auckland, also known as the 'City of Sails', is the largest city of New Zealand and found on the North Island.

With a population of 4.0 million people, the wilderness areas of New Zealand are many as most 'Kiwis' now live in an urban situation near the coast. The Maori are the indigenous people of the land and they named it Aotearoa 'Land of the Long White Cloud' upon their arrival 1000 years ago. Europeans settled in the early 1800s and the country is alive today with a market driven economy and a blend of European and Asia/Pacific influences to create a buoyant South Pacific culture.

climate

As a general rule, November to April are the most ideal months for travelling in New Zealand's stunning outdoors. One of the most important things travellers need to know about the New Zealand climate is that it's a maritime climate, as opposed to the continental climate typical of larger landmasses.

Thanks to its position in the path of the 'Roaring 40s' and mountainous terrain, New Zealand's weather can frequently change with amazing rapidity. Because the weather can change so unexpectedly you should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions. This basically means having a good waterproof jacket and some warm clothing. You don't need to bring your winter wardrobe but a good fleece/jumper and good thermals are a must.

The temperature during the South Island summers range from 10-30 °C, with a pleasant 40-50% humidity. Higher altitudes are always considerably cooler and snowfall is not uncommon even in summer. The Southern Alps act as a barrier to the moisture laden winds coming west across the Tasman Sea, creating a wet climate on the west side of the mountains and a drier climate on the east side. The geography also creates a wind pattern, which can in summer be very hot, dry and fierce. Maximum temperatures we may encounter range up to

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adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote areas and other countries do not expect the standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may need to be altered as a result. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

30°C. Minimum temperatures expected in the Southern Alps in Summer time are around -5°C. Weather is an integral facet of any mountain range and getting to understand and work with this major environmental factor is what will make you more prepared for your tour – any questions about what to expect on your tour talk to one of our sales team.

accommodation on the trip

During the tour we stay at character accommodation. The rooms are based on a twin / double share with shared facilities for the first two nights and with en-suite facilities for the last three nights. Due to the historic design of some of the accommodation en-suite facilities cannot be allocated on every night. On the first and second nights on request (depending on availability) we can offer en-suite facilities. The cost of the upgrade to en-suite facilities for the first two nights is NZ\$130 AUS\$108 for either a double, twin or single.

pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation speak to our staff as they can help with different suggestions.

joining instructions

The night before your trip departs your guide will call your pre tour accommodation to advise what time they will collect you the following morning. (Please make sure you have given us information as to where you are staying). If you are not around when your guide calls they will leave a message at reception. It's really important that you check with reception if you haven't heard from your guide directly. If for any reason you have not heard from your guide by the morning of the trip please call us in the office on 0800 00 11 66 (from within NZ).

Transport to our depot: pick up time is around 7:15am. We will collect you from your central city lodgings, but if you are staying on the outskirts of town we ask that you make your own way to our depot at 29 Iversen Terrace, Waltham.

Our standard tour is a Christchurch to Christchurch return loop. You have the option of starting in Queenstown if you would like to. There is a shuttle option departing Queenstown at 11:50am arriving into Clyde at approx 1:30pm. The shuttle is NZ\$30pp and NZ\$10 extra if you are bringing your own bike. At the end of the tour you can finish in Dunedin after breakfast on the final day of the tour. If you have a tight time frame and need to look at other start or finish options let us know and we can help with options.

equipment provided

If renting from our fleet of bikes you will be using either a Trek 7500 hybrid or a low rise/step through Trek 7300 hybrid. The surface on the Rail Trail is a hard packed gravel so suits a hybrid bike. The bikes are a 27-speed bike with bull bar ends, high quality componentary and comfortable seats. On the morning of the tour we can adjust the bike to suit you. The bikes will come with a small front and a rear pannier bag, helmet and water bottle. Full details and specs of our bikes can be found on our website www.advsouth.co.nz/cycle/bikes/ You can bring your own bike if you wish - please let us know pre tour so we can check it would be suitable for the tour. If you don't want to bring your whole bike you can just bring your helmet, seat and pedals - whatever will make the cycling more comfortable for you. If using one of our bikes we can fit SPD pedals to the bike for you or you are welcome to bring your own.

We have a small number of kids bikes available plus others available to rent. Bikes will need to vary according to your child's size of course but be aware that we can also rent a tag-a-long which is attached behind the seat post on the parents bike. Dependant upon the fitness and competency of the riders, we can of course offer the support of the back up coach. Talk with us if you have any issues regarding bikes.

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what you carry

The tour is fully supported so you won't have to carry anything! If hiring one of our bikes it will have a small front and a rear pannier bag. Enough space to put an extra layer, your camera, wallet, phone etc. We recommend you pack your luggage in a soft sports bag for easy stowing in the trailer/vehicle. We urge you to keep your luggage to a minimum. If you have extra luggage you do not require for your holiday we can easily arrange to have it stored until the end of the trip.

what's not included

- 6 Lunches – we stop at cafes along the way
- Cycle hire – NZ\$180 AU\$140
- Alcoholic and soft drinks with meals
- Personal expenses
- Gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochures, and on our website, are just a starting point. Planning and providing special group departures is something we do exceptionally well. Over the past 18 years we have developed some exceptional itineraries, from cycling to hiking or combination multi-adventure trips. School groups, charities, work colleagues and cycling buddies have all been part of our experience. Our team can assist you with all aspects of your private group to ensure the trip is tailored just right for your group. Contact our team today.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

To keep up to date with the new and exciting trip releases, special offers plus more please subscribe to our free e-newsletter at www.advsouth.com

Or why not view past travellers images and join in on the conversation at <http://www.facebook.com/AdventureSouthNZ>

trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability. A popular reason to travel with Adventure South is because of our small group sizes. These can fill quickly so it is important to check your availability well in advance. We always need to ensure other services, like train tickets or accommodations, are also available before we can confirm your place on our tours. To ensure we can assist you onto your New Zealand adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

To book an Adventure South holiday, you can book directly online (<http://www.advsouth.com/booking.aspx>) or you will need to complete a booking form (found at the back of our brochure). You can also download a copy from www.advsouth.com . On completion, please fax or post the form to Adventure South or your nearest World Expeditions office, along with your non-refundable deposit. If you're coming from outside New Zealand call your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent for assistance with your travel arrangements including flights, travel insurance and additional accommodation. If you're unsure what would be the best option for you call us NZ free phone 0800 00 11 66, AUS free phone 1800 10 70 60, USA free phone 1866 479 9827 anywhere else +64 3 942 1222 or email us on guide@advsouth.co.nz

