

Andrew & Sue Hall's Magical Tour of NEW ZEALAND

Suggested Itinerary

Christchurch - When you collect your bike from NZ Express in Christchurch visit the French settlement of Akaroa – a great days ride around Banks Peninsular

This trip can be done at the end of your stay in NZ if you arrive back in Chch a couple of days before the loading date.

ride Christchurch to Kaikoura to Picton (4hr 30min ride) stop off in Kaikoura for a night and see the Whale Watch catch Picton ferry to Wellington 3 hrs - Need to be at ferry terminal 1 hour before departure time
<http://www.interislander.co.nz/> you may need to book in advance during the Summer months.

Wellington -ride to Waitomo via Wanganui & Wanganui River Valley is a great ride. Don't miss Len Southwards amazing motor museum at Otaihanga Rd Paraparaumu. Just North of Wellington - 2 hour stop minimum
Check out Waitomo Glowworm Caves & cave museum. Try black water rafting or just relax in the quiet natural environment of Waitomo Valley. Beautiful bush walks include the Ruakuri natural tunnel walk. Do this at night and witness awesome glowworm displays in a natural bush and river setting.

ride Waitomo to Thames - Thames is not that inspiring to stay apart from one good Fish & Chips shop Coromandel or Whitianga (just beautiful) are good to stay – plenty of hostels and holiday parks

Make sure you ride around the Coromandel Peninsular while in this area. Several small country pubs on Coromandel's East Coast are good lunch stops.

ride Thames to Whangarei or further North to the Bay of Islands/Keri Keri – you could spend several days in this area. Well, I could live there!

Leaving that area and heading North to Kaitaia then head South to Kaikohe and then to Opononi and down to Dargaville – this stretch of road has the best Kauri forests in NZ – worth seeing

Dargaville to Taupo to Rotorua to Opotiki and through the Waioeka Gorge to Gisborne (or around the East Cape to Gisborne) or do both as a round trip. Then Gisborne to Napier to Wellington over the Rimutakas Wow! Back to Wellington....and across to Picton

In Picton you can do a wine trail around the Blenheim vineyards – ph 03 573 8843 Sounds Connection – they will collect you from where ever you are staying in Picton and take you on a half day wine trail. Tell 'em I sent you. taste samples are included. Yum!! Mudhouse Sauvignon Blanc is sublime!!

Picton to Motueka and over the Takaka Hill to Collingwood and then to Westport (down the amazing Buller Gorge)and down the coast to Greymouth and Franz Josef. Collingwood or Takaka are nice places to stay.

Takaka to Westport via Motueka

Westport to Franz via the coast road and the Punakaikai Rocks & blow holes

Franz Josef to Wanaka or Queenstown via the Haast Pass and Lake Hawea - it's the only bloody road, but you'll love it!

Queenstown to Dunedin via Central Otago – any route's a good 'un.

Or go Queenstown to Te Anau and stay a night or two and visit Milford Sounds – do the coach & boat trip.

Then Te Anau to Invercargill via Riverton and Invercargill to Dunedin via the Catlins Rd.

Dunedin to Fairlie via Oamaru & the Waitaki Valley to Omarama. Stop at the lookouts for Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo

Fairlie to Greymouth via the Arthur's Pass

Greymouth to Hanmer Springs (Yes, thermal springs) via the Lewis Pass

Hanmer Springs to Christchurch

This is as good a ride around New Zealand as you could do – look at this itinerary in conjunction with the Top 10 Accommodation map. See us at one of the Motorcycle shows – we usually have copies of this excellent accommodation map – alternatively check out the Top 10 Caravan Park chain web site <http://www.top10.co.nz/> they have over 50- parks around NZ and the cabin prices are very good as is the quality.