

# queenstown otago rail trail



## trip highlights

Explore the Queenstown Cycle Trails

Cycle the iconic Otago Rail Trail

Take a journey on the Taieri Express

Explore historic settlements along the Otago Rail Trail

Cycle the Arrow River trail, voted by Lonely

Planet as one of the top 10 cycle rides.



Trip Duration	5 days	Trip Code: ORQ
Grade	Introductory	
Activities	cycling	
Accommodation	4 nights hotel/motel	

## Kia Ora from Adventure South

Thank you for your interest in our Queenstown Otago Rail Trail 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

**2016** 12 Dec - 16 Dec

**2017** 02 Jan - 06 Jan **HS**  
29 Jan - 02 Feb  
12 Feb - 16 Feb  
13 Mar - 17 Mar  
10 Apr - 14 Apr **HS**  
24 Apr - 28 Apr **HS**  
20 Nov - 24 Nov  
18 Dec - 22 Dec

## important notes

**HS** - Holiday Season

If you are travelling alone, we will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveler 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

Combine two of the South Island's most popular travel experiences, the adventure capital of Queenstown as well as the famous Otago Rail Trail. The cycling will take in a beautiful ride from Arrowtown to the Kawarau 'Bungy' Bridge on the newly established Queenstown Trails before pedalling the country's most famous cycle path, the 150km vehicle free Otago Rail Trail, a specially converted trail along the old Central Otago branch railway line from Clyde to Middelmarc. You'll discover the many small towns and abandoned gold diggings scattered along the trail as well as meeting some intriguing locals before hopping off the bikes to board the spectacular Taieri Gorge Railway into Dunedin, one of the world's great train trips. For those that thrive on adventure and activity during their holidays Queenstown will be a highlight in itself and we encourage you to talk to us about extending your stay here to make the most of the many activities on offer.

## about your leader/escort

Our guides are one of our biggest assets. We pride ourselves on the standard and quality of these great people with whom you will be spending your holiday. 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. We provide two guides for many of our trips, (depending on the size of the group). All are certified in first aid and CPR. Visit our website to learn more about our guides at [www.adventuresouth.co.nz](http://www.adventuresouth.co.nz)

## at a glance

DAY 1	QUEENSTOWN TO CLYDE
DAY 2	CLYDE TO LAUDER
DAY 3	LAUDER TO RANFURLY
DAY 4	RANFURLY TO DUNEDIN
DAY 5	DUNEDIN TO CHRISTCHURCH

## what's included

- 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- 4 nights hotel/motel accommodation on twin share basis, mostly ensuite bathroom facilities
- Professional qualified driver/guide
- Private vehicle transport (except for Taieri Gorge train)
- Taieri Gorge Train trip to Dunedin
- Otago Central Rail Trail passport
- Water bottle, water and snacks while cycling
- Access and concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- New Zealand Goods and Services Tax (GST)

## detailed itinerary

### DAY 1 Queenstown to Clyde

Your guide will collect the group and we will have a tour briefing and then a bike fitting. Then it's time to explore the newly established Queenstown trails. We'll cycling from the historic township of Arrowtown through to rugged Gibbston Valley. We will stop for lunch at a winery where you can also choose an optional wine-tasting and we then drive through to Cromwell and travel alongside the



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scenic river gorge before arriving at the railhead at Clyde. The rest of the afternoon will be free to explore this old gold mining town or there are other cycling options that your guide can advise you on. In the evening we have our first group dinner.

Cycling distance: 35 kms/22 miles

Important: The night before your tour is to depart 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 – 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).

**meals: D**

## **DAY 2 Clyde to Lauder**

The Rail Trail riding starts today as we leave town across the flat rural countryside. From Chatto Creek the trail starts to rise before leveling off to Omakau where we stop for lunch. We then take a drive around the quaint township of Ophir and to the top of the Raggedy Range to get a bird's eye view of the trail and the path that it takes. After lunch the remaining 9kms flow under the wheels until we arrive at Lauder. Late afternoon we will take a drive to the historic gold mining village, St. Bathans for a walk around the beautiful Blue Lake. This evening it is time for a relaxing beer and a game of pool at the local pub before dinner.

Rail Trail Ride: 44 kms/27 miles

**meals: B,D**

## **DAY 3 Lauder to Ranfurly**

Today we ride through the first two tunnels and two rail bridges on the trip. With the willow tree edged gorge below the trail and the welcoming pools beckoning we finally emerge into the scenic Idaburn valley. One last short easy climb takes us to the summit of the trail and the beginning of the downhill descent that take us to the art deco township of Ranfurly. We ride onto our accommodation before wandering downtown for lunch at a local café. You'll have some free time in the afternoon to relax, stroll around Ranfurly or catch up on some washing! Around 4:30pm we drive out to Naseby – a small foresting township, just off the trail – here people have the option of either 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 afternoons activities we head back to Ranfurly for dinner and our nights accommodation.

Rail Trail Ride: 47 kms/29 miles

**meals: B,D**

## **DAY 4 Ranfurly to Dunedin**

It's out of bed and back onto the bikes for our longest ride today, but it is some of the best riding on the trip. From Waipiata the trail follows the edge of the old lake before entering the Taieri Gorge. The trail crosses through further tunnels and bridges before a fast downhill to the lovely café at the old hotel at Hyde. 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 Middlesmarch. This is the end of the trail and time for a celebratory drink at the 'Kissing Gate Café'. 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



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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

train journeys. The journey is 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: 59 kms/37 miles

meals: B,D

## DAY 5 Dunedin to Christchurch

This morning after breakfast we say good bye to any passengers leaving us in Dunedin, and we visit Baldwin Street, reputedly the "steepest street in the world", for a short but challenging early morning stroll! Then we set off on our drive northwards and depending on time, weather and what the group wants to do we will pop into the famous 'Fleur's Place' café in the picturesque Moreaki Village for a coffee. We also can visit the Moeraki Boulders – there should be time to do both. Here we unload the bikes and enjoy our final quiet coastal ride, along the cliff tops and past farms, that takes us into Oamaru. We can wander around the old Victorian Precinct where the historic buildings have been restored creating a fascinating opportunity to explore the past and relax at a local cafe. We reload the bikes onto the vehicle and continue our journey northwards across the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch, where we will deliver you to your chosen accommodation. Trip concludes on arrival at approx 6:00 pm.

Coastal Ride: 24-40kms/15-24 miles

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. You can enjoy incredible scenery and landscapes, view the historic sights and along the way eat delicious food, stay at unique accommodation and meet the locals. The best thing about cycling on a disused railway line is that 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 are welcome to bring your own bike. The Trek 7500 hybrid bike (available in a step through version) has 27-speed Shimano gears, 700c wheels, front suspension and comfortable saddles.

We are pleased to offer a new fleet of Avanti Discovery e-Bikes providing people who might need a little pedalling assistance the opportunity to enjoy our cycling holidays. e-Bikes are simple to operate, and more gentle on the knees and joints than using a traditional bike. Please note that you still need to pedal and an e-Bike is a much heavier bike overall than a regular bike, if needing to push it. Most e-Bikes provide up to 80kms of pedal assistance before requiring a recharge.

Please see our website for the cost of bike hire, all our rental bikes can be fitted with flat pedals, toe clips or SPD pedals. We can also fit your own pedals and seat if you have a



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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 Introductory

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 Queenstown Otago Rail Trail 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.

favourite. Bike helmets will be supplied with your rental bike, along with a water bottle and a 15L saddle bag for any personal items you might need in the day.

All equipment and luggage will be carried by the support vehicle. These cycling journeys are not designed to be a marathon event and no one needs to feel under pressure to ride, everyone is able to ride 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 a more 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. We also highly recommend wearing bright, fluoro cycle clothing to increase your visibility on the road.

## 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



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## 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.

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 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.

## dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

## 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 two 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. Additional cost applies - please ask for current rates.

## 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 you at 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).

Pick up time on Day 1 is usually between 7:30am and 8:30am. We will collect you from central Queenstown lodgings, but if you are staying on the outskirts of town or at a residential address we may ask that you make your own way to a central pick-up location (to be advised by your guide).

This tour starts in Queenstown and finishes in Christchurch. If you wish to return to Queenstown we can arrange a shuttle bus on the last day of the tour to take you from Dunedin back to Queenstown (own expense).

## equipment provided

HYBRID BIKE (Additional Charge)



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Our Trek hybrid bikes blend the best characteristics of both road and mountain bikes into a comfortable bike ideal for riding on both sealed roads and gravel cycle trails.

The hybrid design allows you to sit upright in a position that provides the best control of the bike with well-placed centre of gravity and in a posture that reduces strain on the rider's neck and back. Also meaning you can take in the amazing scenery you'll see along the way.

We have low rise, also known as step through bike frames, as well as standard frame styles.

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## ELECTRIC BIKE (Additional Charge)

Our Avanti Discovery low step e-Bike is perfect for cyclists that may require a little assistance on their travels. Pedalling our e-Bikes is easier on knees and joints than riding a traditional bike. They provide up to 80kms of pedal assistance before requiring recharging. Very simple to operate and they provide people with varying levels of cycling experience, health and fitness levels the opportunity to enjoy our cycling holidays.

For bicycle specifications please contact us for more details.

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## ACCESSORIES

Bikes can be fitted with flat pedals, toes clips or SPD pedals. A bicycle helmet and drink bottle will be included with your bike rental, along with a 15L saddle bag for personal items you might need in the day.

## 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 rear pannier bag with 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 arrange to store it until the end of the trip.

## what's not included

- International or domestic flights and taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- All beverages, other than breakfast
- Bike hire (including helmet)
- Optional activities (eg. Curling)
- Personal expenses (eg. phone calls, internet, laundry, shopping etc)
- Travel insurance
- Visa (if required)
- Tips

## 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.



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## 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.adventuresouth.co.nz](http://www.adventuresouth.co.nz)

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

## follow us

Follow us on Facebook at:

<https://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 or you will need to complete a booking form (found at the back of our brochure). You can also download a copy from [www.adventuresouth.co.nz/Contact/How-to-Book](http://www.adventuresouth.co.nz/Contact/How-to-Book). On completion, please fax, scan/email 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 contact your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent for assistance with your travel arrangements including flights, travel insurance and additional accommodation or just for some information in your time zone.

### ADVENTURE SOUTH CONTACT DETAILS

Toll Free from New Zealand: 0800 00 11 66

Toll Free from Australia: 1800 10 70 60

Toll Free from the USA: 866 479 9827

All other countries please dial: +64 3 9421 222

Australian Travel Agents: 1300 904 454

Email: [info@adventuresouth.co.nz](mailto:info@adventuresouth.co.nz)

### WORLD EXPEDITIONS WORLDWIDE OFFICES

UK: Toll free within UK 0800 0744 135 or + 44 (0)20 8545 9030

North America: Toll free 1800 567 2216 or 613 241 2700

Australia: 1300 904 454

