

# Highlights



- Mount Cook National Park
- Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu
- Lake Te Anau
- The Milford Sound and Milford Track
- Haast Pass
- Fox Glacier
- Franz Josef Glacier
- Punakaiki 'pancake rocks' and blowholes
- Arthur's Pass
- Christchurch



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Drive Distance Guide	Drive Distance (kilometres)	Approximate Travel Time
Christchurch to Mt Cook (Day 1)	350 km	4 hrs 25 mins
Mt Cook to Queenstown (Day 2)	258 km	3 hrs 25 mins
Queenstown to Milford Sound (Te Anau) (Day 3)	414 km	5 hrs 30 mins
Milford Sound (Te Anau) to Wanaka (Day 4)	275 km	3 hrs 50 mins
Wanaka to Franz Josef (Day 5)	284 km	3 hrs 45 mins
Franz Josef to Punakaiki (Day 6)	218 km	3 hrs
Punakaiki to Christchurch (Day 7)	299 km	3 hrs 30 mins
TOTAL	2098 km	27 hrs 25 mins

Special Note: All roads in this itinerary are sealed and accessible for motorbikes, however this itinerary does include alpine region/s on the South Island; a region with stunning scenery and fantastic to explore on a motorbike, but some road sections may not be accessible during the winter months (June-August) due to snow or ice on the roads. It is not recommended to take a motorbike on these roads in adverse weather or road conditions. Please check with a local Visitor Information Centre or call 0800 44 44 49 (available daily 24hrs) for local road conditions (or visit: [www.transit.govt.nz/road](http://www.transit.govt.nz/road)) before travelling on these alpine roads in winter.



# Touring Itinerary

## BRITZ SOUTH ISLAND RIDE

Start: Christchurch  
 Finish: Christchurch  
 Duration: 7 days  
 Total Distance: 2098 kms

# Britz bikes



Description:

## Day 1: Christchurch to Mt Cook

Follow the inland route west to the Rakaia Gorge and Methven towards Lake Tekapo. In Geraldine, visit the interesting car museum. After Fairlie you enter the region known as the Mackenzie Country. Have lunch in Lake Tekapo, at the southern end of the lake, an area popular for fishing, kayaking, bike riding, and horse trekking and skiing. Then cross the McKenzie basin to Lake Pukaki and north through to Mt Cook alpine village. From Mt Cook you can explore the popular Mt Cook National Park and Westland National Park. Aoraki/Mt Cook is the highest mountain in New Zealand (Mt Cook - 3755m). This area is popular for mountain climbers, bush walkers, and hikers. The scenery is stunning. Walking trails begin from in or near Mt Cook Village and some only take a few hours.

## Day 2: Mt Cook to Queenstown

Heading south, follow the shore of Lake Pukaki to Twizel. If you're into birdwatching, Twizel is home to the rarest wading bird in the world – the Black Stilt. It is also a great place to try fresh salmon. Continue on to Omarama (watch out for the giant merino sheep statue) and over the beautiful Lindis Pass to central Otago, and along the shores of Lake Dunstan to Cromwell for Lunch. Stop at the Kawarau Gorge on the way to Queenstown. Spend the rest of the day exploring this beautiful alpine resort town, including visiting Lake Wakatipu, do a local wine trail, enjoy gourmet food and wine, take a cruise, a scenic flight, or if you prefer, take a more adventurous activity. Queenstown is a centre for 'action', including bungee jumping, night skiing, jet-boating, whitewater rafting, hot air ballooning, luge, gondola rides, or tandem hang-gliding.

## Day 3: Queenstown to Milford Sound (Te Anau)

Your journey starts by clinging to the scenic shore of Lake Wakatipu, south through Kingston, where you can see the remarkable vintage steam train, and then continue through Garston and Athol, and then head west through Mossburn to Te Anau. This ride includes high country scenery and rivers popular for trout fishing. The township of Te Anau lies on the shores of Lake Te Anau. From here, head north to the Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound, including the start of the famous Milford Track. Your ride today travels through some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. Return on the same road to Te Anau to stay the night (121 km each way between Te Anau and Milford Sound).

## Day 4: Milford Sound (Te Anau) to Wanaka

Head back to Queenstown along the same scenic route as yesterday. From Queenstown, head north-east over the magnificent Crown Range Rd (the highest main road in New Zealand) to the old Cardrona Pub and Wanaka. This road is the shortest route to Wanaka, and also the most scenically dramatic. The views are amazing and if you're lucky you will see the friendly keas (mountain parrots). Wanaka is a resort town on the shores of Lake Wanaka, it is well-known for its mix of fine dining, cafes, interesting shops and fun and adventure. Don't miss the 3D maze while you are in town. Wanaka is home to the 'warbird' air show, held every two years.

## Day 5: Wanaka to Franz Josef

Today's ride is one of the most spectacular motorcycling roads in the world. Head north along the east shore of Lake Hawea and the northern end of Lake Wanaka towards the west coast. Head over the dramatic Haast Pass, enjoying waterfalls and river scenery before arriving in rainforest country. You will pass through a section of the Mount Aspiring National Park, a hiker's paradise, with the centre piece – Mt Aspiring over 3000m high. The settlement of Haast makes a fun stop for lunch - local pubs make a feature of stuffed animal trophies. North of Haast is pretty Lake Paringa. The Fox Glacier terminal face is just 5km from the township. Both the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers are unique relics of the last ice age. These glaciers are also unique as nowhere else in the world has glaciers advanced so close to the sea at this latitude. Franz Josef Glacier is just a short drive north. Since 1985 the glacier has been advancing at a rate of about 1 metre a day. You can walk to the glacier from town. Stop and stay at either Fox or Franz Josef Glacier villages and enjoy.

## Day 6: Franz Josef to Punakaiki

Head north from Franz Josef through Whataroa and Harihari, to Ross and Hokitika – through native forests and along deserted beaches. At Ross there's a goldfield walkway to explore. A rare White Heron colony near Whataroa is worth a stop. Hokitika was a gold town, settled in 1860, after the discovery of gold on the west coast. The town's more famous these days for greenstone (New Zealand jade) – watch it being carved in town. Hokitika also has a good museum and a historical walk. Follow the road along the wild west coast north between Hokitika and Greymouth, offering fantastic coastal views. Shantytown, just south of Greymouth, is a reconstructed 1880s gold rush town. Greymouth is also an old gold mining town, and is the largest town on the west coast.

Visit the local museum or try panning for gold. North from Greymouth, the road to Punakaiki is breathtaking. Rugged coastal rocks and views are on your left, and mountains on your right. The town of Punakaiki is famous for its 'pancake rocks' and booming blowholes. It is situated in the Paparoa National Park, offering excellent coastal and inland walks. It is estimated that the pancake rock formations are about 30 million years old.

## Day 7: Punakaiki to Christchurch

Head back south via the coastal road again to Greymouth. From here head south-east through Kumara and Jacksons to Arthur's Pass, travelling through the spectacular alpine scenery of the Southern Alps. Arthur's Pass offers stunning scenery, as well as being incredible for its civil engineering feat. Originally, the pass was used as a crossing for Maori tribes searching for pounamu (jade) on the west coast. Arthur's Pass is popular a base for exploring the adjacent National Park. Native birds commonly seen in this area include the kea, tui and bellbird. The road follows the Waimakariri and Bealey Rivers. Passing through Kirwee, Darfield, Sheffield and Springfield, rural scenery will take you across the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. Christchurch lies on the banks of the Avon River, and is the South Island's largest city.

## Best photo spots:

- The Church of the Good Shepherd and the sheepdog statue in Lake Tekapo
- Views of Mt Cook – New Zealand's highest mountain
- The giant merino sheep statue in Omarama
- The city of Queenstown from the lake – on a cruise on Lake Wakatipu
- Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound
- Views from Crown Range Rd (highest main road in New Zealand)
- Haast Pass
- Close-ups of Fox Glacier and Franz Josef Glacier
- The dramatic coastal scenery along the west coast
- The Punakaiki blowholes in action (need to get your timing right!)
- The incredible engineering feat of Arthur's Pass – and the scenery of course!

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