



LIFESTYLE self-guided HOLIDAYS – NEW ZEALAND

Banks Peninsula Escape Road Cycle Tour – 2 days ex Christchurch



Christchurch, also known as the Garden City of New Zealand has much to offer. We invite you on our 'two day escape' for a glimpse at what lies beyond. Enjoy wonderful views of the sea and Banks Peninsula as you cycle over the Port Hills to the hidden gem of Taunton Gardens in Governors Bay, where you stay the night. Take the time to stop for lunch at a well-known winery as you meander through the back roads towards the city. We transport your luggage, leaving you free to bike at your own pace on this self-guided bike tour.

Cycle at your pace: The riding is a mix of flat, undulating and hilly sealed roads through a variety of landscapes. We transport your luggage leaving you free to bike at your own pace on this self-guided bike tour. Take time out en route to enjoy the scenery, wildlife and local cafes. On day two there is the opportunity to relax in a local winery.

Explore beautiful Banks Peninsula: The riding takes place over beautiful Banks Peninsula, the remnant of volcanic activity which formed the harbours of Lyttelton and Akaroa. Ride through the seaside suburb of Sumner over the hill to the historic port town of Lyttelton and alongside the beautiful Lyttelton Harbour to Governors Bay. On day two, carry on over Gebbies Pass and skirt around the edge of the peninsula to return to Christchurch.

Ideal for family and small groups: This tour is ideal for a family or small group. The cycling is on tar seal roads with gentle hills making for an enjoyable ride in beautiful surrounds. Ride approximately 25 km on day one and 40 km on day two.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1. Christchurch to Governors Bay

Please make your own way to the Pacific Cycle Tours Christchurch office by 9.00am, where we will fit you to your bikes and have a tour briefing. By mid-morning you are cycling along the Heathcote River and before long, arrive at the seaside suburb of Sumner. You may want to stop for a leisurely beach stroll and a cappuccino or maybe enjoy an early lunch at one of the many cafes and restaurants before the climb over Evans Pass to Lyttelton. From here it is only 10 kilometres on a gently rolling tar seal road to Governors Bay where your accommodation tonight is at the quaint Taunton Gardens.

Meals: Dinner **Cycling: 25 km**

Escape to Taunton Gardens and indulge yourself with peace and quiet. At Taunton Gardens, the roar of urban life is replaced by the gentle melodies of nature's little musicians. Built of locally-quarried stone, the historic homestead gives a sense of permanence and harmony with its surroundings. The original 1852 building has been lovingly extended and renovated, creating a special place whose modern comforts enhance its atmosphere without drowning its character. Wake up to birdsong with the thrill of expectation, rejuvenated by this serene and inspiring hideaway. Over the last 20 years, the gardens have been transformed into a landscape of surprises. Its botanical delights have been nurtured with skill and passion, on a scale that impresses but never oppresses. Lose yourself in nearly eight hectares of tranquil beauty. Relax and let the natural wonders of Governors Bay refresh your spirit.



Day 2. Governors Bay to Rossendale Vineyard to Christchurch

After a hearty breakfast, continue cycling around the bays before turning off at Teddington where a good workout follows as you climb Gebbies Pass. From here it's downhill all the way to Motukarara and flat riding around to the small village of Tai Tapu. Cycling along the quiet Old Tai Tapu Road you arrive at Rossendale Vineyard, one of the region's most established wineries.

We suggest you take a break here and partake in some wine tasting and enjoy a well deserved lunch in their beautiful garden setting. From Rossendale, cycle along the Cashmere foothills back to the Pacific Cycle Tours office in Christchurch by around 4.00pm.

Cycling: 40 km **Meals: Breakfast**

Tour Information



Tour Includes:

- Bike hire and fitting
- Tour briefing and detailed maps
- 1 night's accommodation (share twin basis)
- 1 dinner and 1 breakfast
- Luggage transfers between Christchurch and Taunton Gardens
- Back up vehicle (guided tour only)
- Minimum number: 2 people

Tour Grade

This tour is graded 3/4 Moderate.