

SOUTH ISLAND EXPERIENCE: A SELF GUIDED MOTORCYCLE TOUR



BEST ADVICE - BEST TOURS - BEST BIKES

The South Island Experience Tour

If you want the best of what the South Island has to offer, then these are the eleven days you need to experience firsthand. Breathtaking alpine passes, snow covered mountains, expansive valleys, rugged coastlines and cool, crisp, shady rivers. Visit the imposing South Island glaciers, experience the 'adrenaline capital of the world', gaze upon the majesty of Mount Cook before visiting the delightful bays, islands and waterways further north.

The intricate Fiordland vistas of the far south will keep you fascinated, the vibrant cities and towns will keep you captivated, and the wonderful, welcoming local residents will keep you intrigued and coming back for more. This is a round-trip with both the start and end point being Christchurch.

Unrivalled scenery and unsurpassed riding through some of the most breathtaking regions of one of the most beautiful countries on earth; all via the best mode of transport known to man ...the motorcycle!



Mount Cook / Aoraki



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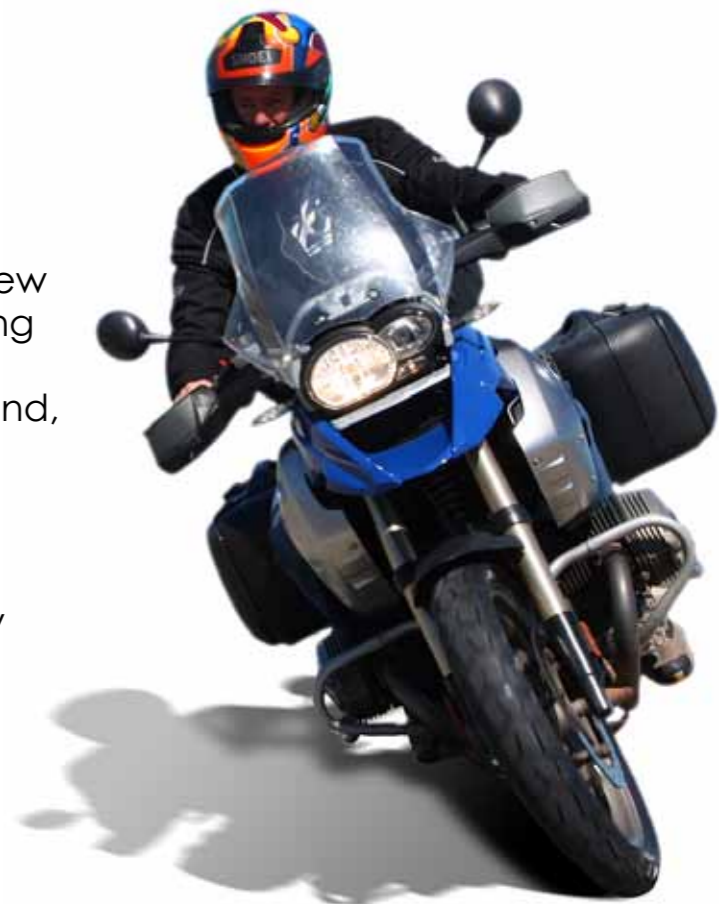


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Mount Cook / Aoraki

One of the first, and arguably most impressive things you will see in New Zealand, Mount Cook will get you in the right frame of mind for riding the fantastic alpine roads which surround this natural marvel. At 3,574 metres high Mount Cook dominates the surrounding area for miles around, gazing down on the 'Four Peaks Range' and motorcyclists alike as they enjoy the twisting roads, turquoise lakes, snow capped mountains and everything else this [World Heritage Area](#) incorporates.

A ski plane flight over the Tasman Glacier would be a good opportunity to get a birds eye view of the sort of terrain you'll be riding over as you explore what New Zealand has to offer.



Dunedin via Lindis Pass



Dunedin via Lindis Pass

Dunedin is the full stop after a full day of fantastic riding, incorporating the spectacular Lindis Pass en-route to the East Coast. A wealth of diverse scenery and more great roads through Central Otago are yours for the taking.

As the home of the oldest university in New Zealand, it's lively and interesting with plenty of entertainment like theatres and live music clubs and grand Victorian architecture. Why not take a stagger up and a walk back down Baldwin Street, the steepest street in the world.

Make sure you save some energy though, Dunedin South Island and you'll have a great time finding out

also reputedly has the best night life on the if it's true!





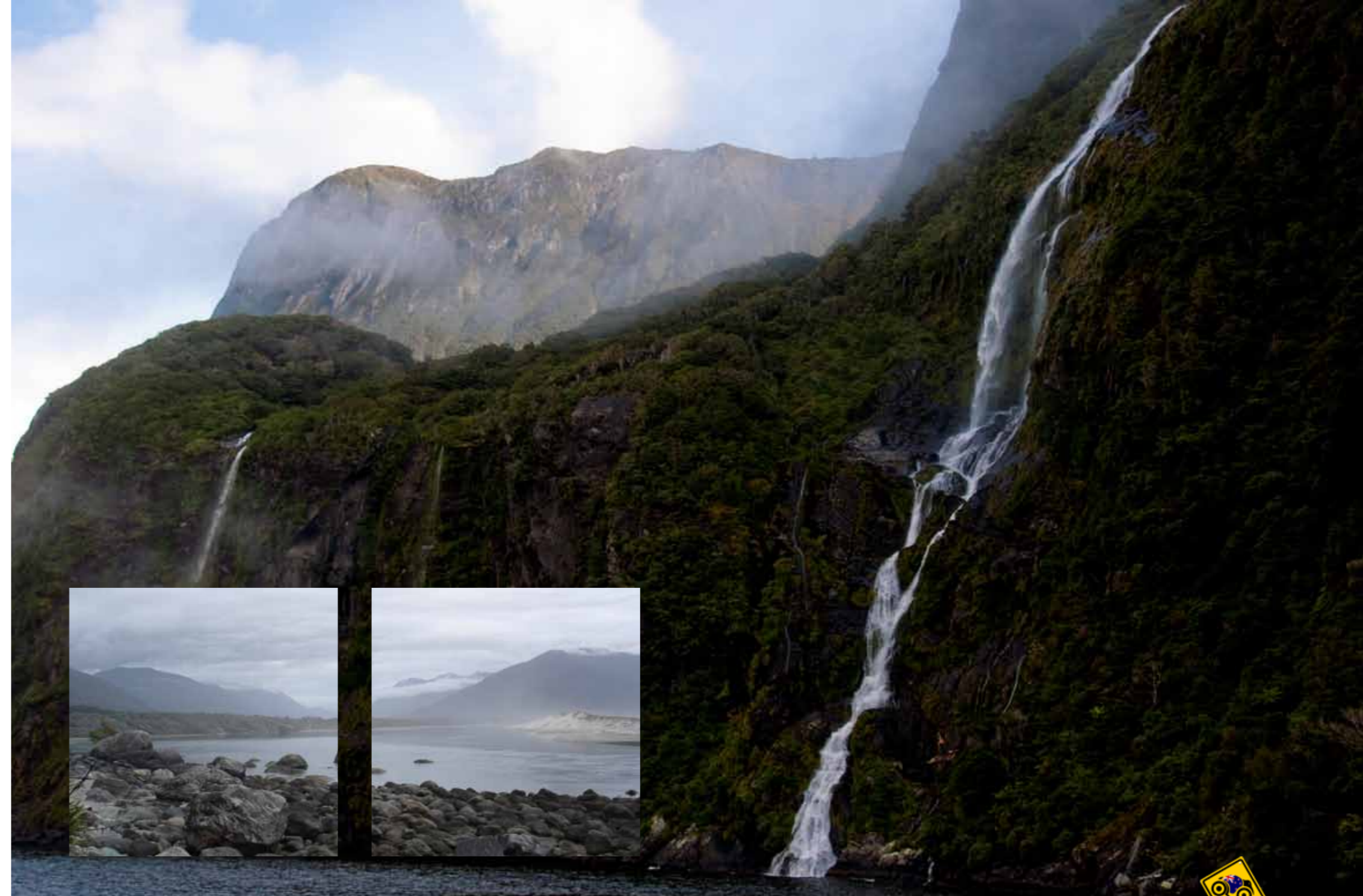
Fiordland

Fiordland

Superb roads and heart arrestingly awesome scenery must mean you're in Fiordland, one of the most dramatic and beautiful regions of New Zealand. This indescribably picturesque area was carved out by glaciers over 100,000 years ago and is on every tourist's agenda.

Waterfalls cascade into the deep black fiords, immeasurably ancient rainforest clings to the slopes of the mountains and shimmering lakes hold secrets just waiting to be discovered. A region untouched by time, and seemingly crafted specifically for motorcycle touring.

Visit Milford Sound for a spectacular cruise, investigate the smaller fiords by kayak or simply explore the area on your bike. There is only one main road in and out but you won't mind, you'll spend ages pulling over and admiring the scenery.



Queenstown





Queenstown

The aptly titled 'adrenaline capital of the world' has plenty to keep you busy, and is situated right on the shores of the majestic 'Lake Wakatipu' which forms the perfect backdrop to any of the thrilling activities on offer.

If biking round New Zealand wasn't exciting enough as it is, you can choose from bungee jumping, jet-boating, white-water rafting, river surfing, white-water sledging, paragliding, parachuting, canyoning, mountain biking and aerial sightseeing to name but a few of the activities on offer. An extra day spent in the area would ensure you get the best of what's available.

For the more mellow visitor, Queenstown has some of the best restaurants on the South Island, fascinating sightseeing tours, spa treatments, boutique shopping and much, much more...



Westland National Park

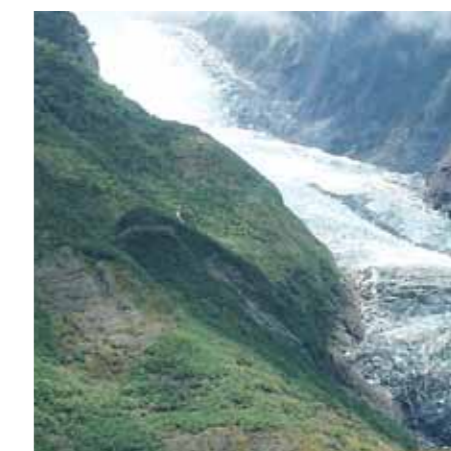


Westland National Park

The ride over the Alps via the beautiful [Haast Pass](#), through the [Westland National Park](#) is probably one of the best motorcycling road you can imagine. The route twists around steep slopes with breathtaking views over the glacier lakes of [Hawea](#) and [Wanaka](#), then down into the lakeside town of the same name. Peaks that are over 3000 metres high relax into lowland rainforest at the edge of the Tasman Sea, this area is an exquisitely beautiful slice of wilderness.

After experiencing the fantastic riding in the area, you'll arrive at two of the fastest moving glaciers in the world - '[Fox](#)' and '[Franz Josef](#)'. Tumbling rivers of ice, streaking down the valleys towards the sea at a rate of up to four metres per year. There are plenty of great bush walks or hikes out onto the ice, but the best way to see the glaciers themselves is via helicopter.

Of course just because the glaciers are in a hurry doesn't mean you should be. An extra day experiencing the delights on offer in the National Park is time well spent.



The West Coast





The West Coast

The West Coast is an untamed place of wild rivers, lush rainforest, glaciers and geological marvels, rugged beaches and high mountain peaks. Hemmed in by the energetic Tasman sea to the west and towering peaks, lush rainforest and bush to the east, the whole area is never more than 50km wide along the whole stretch of the South Island.

The locals are a bunch of independent, fiercely self-reliant, unfailingly friendly and hospitable people. Enjoy their company along the way, but expect a lot of unspoilt wilderness as there are only 31,000 residents in the whole region!

The 'Pancake Rocks' and blowholes at Punakaiki are among the West Coast's most famous sights, formed by the relentless actions of wind and rain over thousands of years they truly are a sight worth seeing.

There are plenty of opportunities to stretch your legs off the bike along the way. Scenic walks that explore the surf pounded beaches, native forest, lakes and natural hot pools will ensure that there's never a dull moment.





Abel Tasman

Abel Tasman

Once little known region of New Zealand the Abel Tasman National Park is a place that well deserves its new found reputation. A perfect blend of physical exertion and beach life make Abel Tasman a highlight of the South Island.

Golden beaches washed clear by crystal blue waters, fringe an area liberally sprinkled with caves, potholes and rolling limestone hills. Sunbathing, swimming and snorkelling can be a welcome break from the saddle, or if you're hankering after something a little more challenging, there are plenty of walking trails close at hand.



Marlborough



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Marlborough

Being located at the very top of the South Island, Marlborough enjoys a high number of sunshine hours and a pleasing temperate climate, meaning you can enjoy what the area has to offer whenever you visit.

Intricate waterways liberally dotted with delightful bays and islands, coupled with a beautifully surfaced, twisty, scenic coastal road makes for motorcycling nirvana. The [Marlborough Sounds](#) themselves are an area best explored off the bike and on the water. Cruise, paddle or swim, whatever takes your fancy.

Marlborough is New Zealand's largest wine producing region, famed for its [sauvignon blanc](#) and [chardonnay](#). With over 40 'cellar doors' to choose from, you'll find something for every taste. Stay off the wine if you're riding though!



Kaikoura



Kaikoura

The coastal highway leads you to Kaikoura, where snow-capped mountains spill towards the ocean. This fantastic partnership of ocean and mountains offers some stunning coastal scenery to serve as the backdrop to whatever you choose to do in the region.

'Eco-tourism' abounds here, with a range of activities from swimming with dolphins, hiking the rugged coastal trails and what Kaikoura is most famous for, [whale watching](#).



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Self Guided Tours HOW THINGS WORK

Self Guided Tours are designed to make it as easy as possible for you to arrange your bike tour in New Zealand.

We take away all the trouble and time needed to research and plan the tour, and you can be confident that you'll make the most of your time, see the best the route has to offer and have somewhere nice to stay each night. It makes for stress free days on the bike and leaves you to simply enjoy the freedom of riding, marvel at the scenery and soak up the atmosphere.

Tour costs include the bike, accommodation in nice quality 3.5 to 4 star B&Bs/motels/resorts and a very detailed itinerary with maps that will tell you the best biking route and things to see on the way.

We know what works on these trips and the pace has been designed for people that like to make good use of the bike but also enjoy stopping to admire the spectacular scenery, take short walks to things of interest and enjoy local hospitality with a great coffee or lunch at cafés and restaurants on the way.

A typical day is around 350km but on some days it will be less and others a little more depending on what there is to see. The maps provided with the itinerary will take you from one overnight stop to the next. You won't ride the most direct route, where's the fun in that in a country like New Zealand? The maps combined with the incredibly detailed itinerary document will take you on the best biking roads, tell you all about the background and history of each area and highlight things to see on the way.

'Rest' days are built into some of the longer tours in places of particular interest. For example, you can't see the delights of Milford Sound without a trip on a boat and so time is allowed in the tour for this if you wish. You don't have to take these days out but if you'd like to then we can book the excursions for you too so that you simply turn up and enjoy your day out.

It means we tailor the tour to your dates and preferences and can even book your accommodation before and after the trip if it helps. If there are other aspects of your tour in New Zealand where some expert advice and help would be useful then just ask! We love New Zealand, know most areas intimately and hope that our advice helps you leave with the same passion for the country as we have.

Thanks for your interest in these tours and we hope to share New Zealand with you sometime soon!

Warmest regards



Mark

For more information on this, or any of our other tours please visit:

www.bikeroundnz.com

or contact us directly at:

info@bikeroundnz.com

Photographs IMAGE CREDITS

The majority of the images used in this material were kindly provided by [Andras Ilkadi](#), with some additional photographs being provided by [Christian Anderson](#).

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