



New Zealand is a great destination to explore on two wheels, with a variety of unforgettable cycling trails within easy reach of most cities and towns.

NEW ZEALAND'S GREAT RIDES

Collectively known as the New Zealand Cycle Trail and spreading from north to south, the Great Rides vary from a leisurely few hours to multi-day rides.

Mostly off-road and predominantly easy to intermediate, they traverse a remarkable range of landscapes.

They are a memorable way to reach some of New Zealand's major sights including world-famous natural landmarks, as well as cultural sites, historic settlements, museums and galleries.

A world of possibility awaits, whether you're looking for a fun way to see the sights, or a keen mountain biker up for a challenging adventure.

WHEN TO GO

New Zealand enjoys a temperate climate with mild temperatures, moderate rainfall and many hours of sunshine.

Most trails are open year round, with the busiest season being from October to March.

FITNESS & EXPERIENCE

There are cycle trails to suit all levels of fitness and experience, including novice riders and families. Follow the New Zealand Cycle Trail's grading system to choose the perfect ride.



GRADE 1 (Easiest)

Suitable for all riders. Mostly off-road trails wide enough for side-by-side riding, with some gentle climbs.



GRADE 2 (Easy)

Suitable for most riders. Mostly off-road trails wide enough for riding two abreast, some sections may require riding single file. Surfaces are generally smooth, with some gentle hills.



GRADE 3 (Intermediate)

Suitable for reasonably fit and capable riders. Most of the trail is single file, and/or the surface is rough, with hills. Some sections may be on-road with open road traffic.



GRADE 4 (Advanced)

Suitable for experienced cyclists with good skills, and a high level of fitness. Off-road trails are narrow with steep climbs and unavoidable obstacles. Hill climbs and possible gravel sections.



The Timber Trail, Central North Island



Alps 2 Ocean, Canterbury



Hawke's Bay Trails



Tasman's Great Taste Trail, Nelson

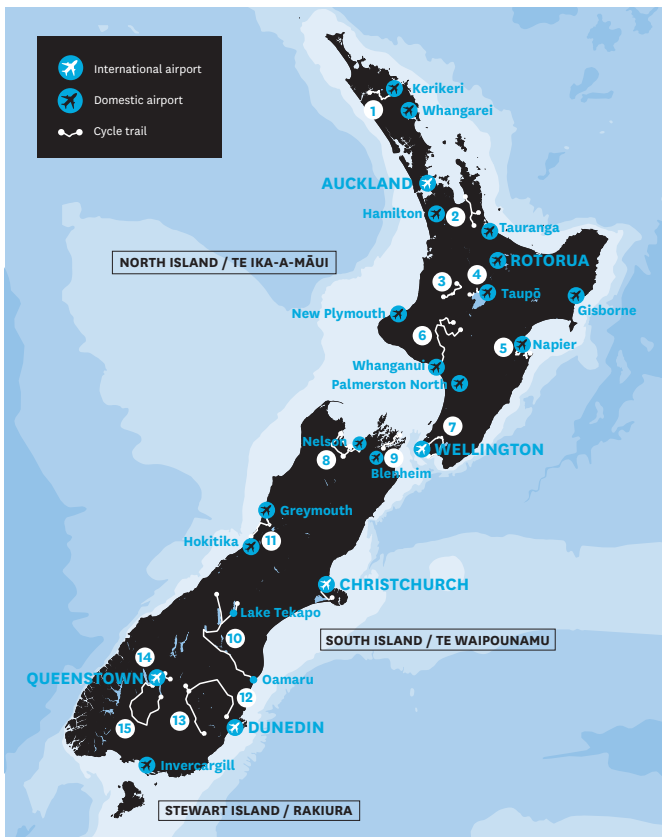


Queen Charlotte Track, Marlborough Sounds



Otago Central Rail Trail

A SAMPLE OF NEW ZEALAND CYCLE TRAIL GREAT RIDES



- 1 TWIN COAST CYCLE TRAIL**
Duration: 2 days (84km) **Location:** Northland
 Cycle through rural farmland and enjoy beautiful views of Hokianga Harbour.
- 2 HAURAKI RAIL TRAIL**
Duration: 2 days (82km) **Location:** Coromandel/Waikato
 Ride through stunning Karangahake Gorge and follow historic railway lines.
- 3 THE TIMBER TRAIL**
Duration: 2 days (87km) **Location:** Central North Island
 The views offered from this forest trail's eight large suspension bridges are nothing short of spectacular.
- 4 GREAT LAKE TRAIL**
Duration: 2 days (71km) **Location:** Taupō
 Trace the shores of beautiful Lake Taupō.

- 5 HAWKE'S BAY TRAILS**
Duration: 1-4 days (200km) **Location:** Hawke's Bay
 Three distinct cycling experiences are on offer: the Landscape Ride, the Water Ride and the Wineries Ride.
- 6 MOUNTAINS TO SEA**
Duration: 4-6 days (217km) **Location:** Central North Island
 Cycle, drive and jet boat from the mountains of the Central Volcanic Plateau to the sea in Whanganui.
- 7 RIMUTAKA CYCLE TRAIL**
Duration: 2-3 days (115km) **Location:** Wellington, Wairarapa
 Cycle from the head of Wellington Harbour, over the Rimutaka Mountain Range, to Wairarapa.
- 8 TASMAN'S GREAT TASTE TRAIL**
Duration: 1-4 days (175km) **Location:** Nelson Tasman
 Combine scenic cycling with the great tastes of food, wine, beer, and even local art.
- 9 QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK**
Duration: 2-3 days (70km) **Location:** Marlborough
 Ride through lush coastal forest, around historic bays and along skyline ridges.
- 10 ALPS 2 OCEAN CYCLE TRAIL**
Duration: 6 days (310km) **Location:** Canterbury, Otago
 Discover a World Heritage National Park, glacial fed lakes, hydro dam lakes, limestone cliffs and Māori Rock art.
- 11 WEST COAST WILDERNESS TRAIL**
Duration: 4 days (139km) **Location:** West Coast
 Traverse spectacular landscapes of dense rainforest, and glacial rivers and lakes.
- 12 OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL**
Duration: 1-5 days (150km) **Location:** Otago
 New Zealand's original rail trail offers a scenic and historic journey into the Central Otago heartland.
- 13 CLUTHA GOLD TRAIL**
Duration: 2 days (73km) **Location:** Otago
 Discover the area's history of Māori moa hunters, Chinese gold miners, European pastoral farming, mining and rail.
- 14 THE QUEENSTOWN TRAIL**
Duration: 2-3 days (120km) **Location:** Queenstown
 Enjoy cycling within Queenstown's spectacular Wakatipu Basin.
- 15 AROUND THE MOUNTAINS**
Duration: 2-3 days (180km) **Location:** Southland
 Enjoy back country cycling around Queenstown and Northern Southland.