



TRIP ITINERARY

NEW ZEALAND: SILVER FERN

TYPE: ALL-MOUNTAIN / CROSS-COUNTRY

A BLOCKBUSTER ROAD TRIP ADVENTURE OF SPECTACULAR NZ, RIDING THE BEST SPOTS FROM QUEENSTOWN TO AUCKLAND. – 12 DAYS, 11 NIGHTS

TRIP DETAILS

Experience all of New Zealand on this road trip extravaganza while being hosted by local guides along the way. A variety of landscapes with trails unmatched. Helicopter drop, boat shuttle and Maori Greeting included...and much, much more! If you are to do one trip NZ in your lifetime then this is it.

2013 DATES: *Tuesday, February 12 to Saturday, February 23*

2013 LAND COST: *\$3945.00 USD*

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: *\$600.00 USD*

MAX GROUP SIZE: *9*

BIKE RENTAL: *\$625.00 USD*

JOINING IN *Queenstown, New Zealand (flying out of Auckland).*

Who has New Zealand on their life's to do list? There's a reason that we all dream of heading down to the South Pacific to visit NZ. It's incredibly diverse and incredibly beautiful. What better way to see the islands than on a road trip with a bunch of like minded mountain bikers while being hosted by locals along the way?

WHAT SETS US APART IN NEW ZEALAND?

Our guides are skilled professionals. They'll fix your bike and tune your bike and chat with locals along the way. They are coaches and trained in first aid. They are courteous, helpful and professional.

We know good singletrack. We design our trips with the ultimate riding experience in mind. You'll never get tired of the same trails or ever have to wait in a lift line with 50 other people at a bike park.

We are pioneers . Our guides and partners know the trails and routes very well. Even some locals don't know asome of the trails that we ride – many are untouched, unmarked and unmapped.

We take care of the little things. There is almost nothing that we won't do to make sure that your trip runs smoothly.

ITINERARY

The following is a general outline for Silver Fern trip.

Big Mountain reserves the right to make alterations and substitutions to the itinerary as weather or terrain conditions dictate or as necessary to improve the trip quality or to accommodate the comfort, convenience, and well-being of our guests.

DAY 1 – ARRIVE IN QUEENSTOWN, TRANSFER TO HOTEL.

Upon arrival in beautiful Queenstown you'll be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. This afternoon we'll set up our bikes and rest up. Tonight we stay in our Queenstown hotel.

*If you choose to arrive early there are excellent trails to be found off the Queenstown gondola that you can self-guide. Not a bad way to get rested from travels and extend your trip.

DAY 2 – RIDE WANAKA VIA HELI DROP.

After our morning briefing we drive 100 km over NZ's highest pass to Wanaka in the heart of the Southern Alps. Then it's in the heli for a 6000-foot descent and a superb all-mountain trail that overlooks three lakes in the valley below. Tonight we stay in a private lodge near Wanaka.

DAY 3 – RIDE ALEXANDRA AND CLYDE, TRANSFER TO OHAU.

This morning we transfer 100 km to Alexandra where the riding is in open country with a mixture of rock sections and super buff singletrack. Alexandra boasts the world's most southern vineyard. Then we transfer to the Ohau Lodge in a spectacular setting just down the road from where the biggest Lord of the Rings battle was filmed.

DAY 4 – RIDE THE SLOPES OF LAKE OHAU, TRANSFER TO SECRET SPOT.

This morning we'll do some fun shuttles above the shores of Lake Ohau, then we hop in the van we go for a 400 km drive north to a small town near Christchurch, kinda. We have to keep tomorrow's ride secret because it's extra special you'll see!

DAY 5 – RIDE SECRET TRAIL, TRANSFER TO PICTON.

Early wake up surrounded by big mountains and start today early with a one-hour climb up an access road to untouched native forests and one hell of a fun trail back down. Then it's back in our trusty bus for a long, albeit beautiful drive to Picton on the north end of the south island. Today's drive goes across the Canterbury Plains, to beautiful Kaikoura and through Marlborough wine country.

DAY 6 – FERRY TO WELLINGTON, RIDE WELLINGTON.

Onto the ferry we go to Welly, the capital of NZ and a vibrant small city with a flourishing arts and nightlife scene. This afternoon we can choose to visit Te Papa, the national museum of New Zealand or go for a pedal on great trails from the edge of the city. Tonight we stay in downtown Wellington.

DAY 7 – RIDE WELLINGTON.

After a well-deserved sleep in we'll explore the green and lush hills around Wellington that are draped in sweet singletrack. You'll start to notice that the plants and weather are more tropical here and by this time you'll be in love with Wellington. Tonight we stay in downtown Wellington.

DAY 8 – TRANSFER TO TAUPO, RIDE TAUPO

This morning we will pack up and head 400 km north to Lake Taupo, NZ's largest lake and a favorite holiday spot for New Zealanders. This afternoon we load up a boat and cruise to the beginning of a killer trail that ends on the edge of the lake, a perfect spot for a swim. Stay in Taupo.

DAY 9 – RIDE TAUPO, TRANSFER TO ROTORUA

This morning we hit the Craters of the Moon trails, a super-buffed network near town. After a leisurely soak in the local hot springs and swim in the river we drive 45 minutes north to Rotorua. Tonight we stay in Rotorua.

DAY 10 - RIDE ROTORUA

Thermal activity is what brings most people to Rotorua – it's geysers, bubbling mud-pools and hot springs. It's also NZ's Maori cultural heartland. After our stay here, you'll put mountain biking on this list – the riding here is worldclass and they hosted the World MTB Championships in 2006. Expect ripping trails in spectacular old growth forest like you've never seen. This afternoon we'll be treated to a traditional Maori greeting. Stay in Rotorua.

DAY 11 – RIDE ROTORUA, TRANSFER TO AUCKLAND

Sleep in? Quick morning ride? Then we pack the bikes and drive 250 km to NZ's biggest city, Auckland for some last minute shopping and last night celebrations.

DAY 12 – FLY HOME

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

DETAILS

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert Leadership.
- Hotel, lodge and cottage accommodation.
- All breakfasts and eight dinners (three on own).
- Airport pick-up / drop-off, bike box shipping to Auckland or Queenstown.
- Traditional Maori greeting.
- All transportation including a helicopter drop and boat shuttle.
- Detailed pre-departure information and trip extension assistance.
- Big Mountain t-shirt.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

Three dinners and all lunches; airfare; personal travel and medical insurance; optional tipping to guides; airport taxes and excess baggage charges (if any); your bike and related equipment needed to ride; personal items like drinks and snacks. We recommend approx \$25 USD per day for lunches and extras.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

The **technical ability** required for Silver Fern is rated as Level II and higher. In other words, the trails are mildly technical at times. Please call us to further clarify the technical ability needed. For **fitness level**, this trip is a Level II and higher. The fitter you are the more fun you'll have. **This trip can be demanding as we ride daily and travel quite often, but there are options to not ride!**

BIKE AND EQUIPMENT

The perfect bike for this trip is a 5-inch all-mountain dual suspension with disk brakes. All participants are required to have their **bikes in excellent working order** before the trip begins. We will send you a detailed list of required equipment and clothing before departure. High-performance rentals are available. Please inquire with us.

LODGING AND FOOD

We've designed this trip to showcase accomodation that captures the true experience of New Zealand. Expect unique properties on the Silver Fern – from private lodges in spectacular settings, to downtown city hotels to motels. The food is typical of the area. Please let us know if you have any dietary needs.

CLIMATE

In mountains, weather can change quickly and drastically - it could be 30 degrees celcius one day and then freezing on a mountain top the next day. We need to be prepared for a wide range of weather. The average high temperature in Queenstown (South Island) in February is 22 celcius (73 f), average low is 10 celcius (51 f) and Rotorua (North Island) is very similar.

YOUR SAFETY

Our trips take place in remote to very remote regions with limited evacuation options available and there are always risks and hazards on the trails that we ride. If you choose to participate in our trips, it is up to you to ride well within your limits, to ride conservatively and to be safe as mountain biking is a dangerous sport. Participants must keep their bikes in good working condition, they must be hydrated and rested and alcohol and drugs are not permitted while riding. Our guides have basic first aid training and if a serious injury is suspected they will call helicopter search and rescue at the cost of the participant. Personal medical travel insurance is mandatory.

THE NEXT STEP

Call us toll free at 1-866-894-0220, or email at info@ridebig.com to confirm that there is space on this trip. Then, fill out our secure online registration form on our website. Make sure that you have read and understand our Terms and Conditions and Waiver. Upon booking, we will send you detailed pre-departure information to make sure that you are well prepared for the adventure ahead.

WHY BIG MOUNTAIN IS YOUR CHOICE

Big Mountain Bike Adventures is the pioneer for performance XC, all-mountain, DH and freeride mountain biking adventures. We know that to find the very best trails, you have to ride with locals. All of our trips are designed in part by local riders and often guided with local riders and professional Big Mountain guides. We aim to provide safe, quality trips and the best customer service to our participants.

REFERENCES

We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travellers.

QUESTIONS

Feel free to call us at 1.866.894.0220 or email info@ridebig.com if you have any questions. We are here to help!

CONTACT US

Big Mountain Bike Adventures
PO 922, Whistler, BC, CANADA V0N1B0

Phone 604.902.1807 || Toll Free 1.866.894.0220 || Email info@ridebig.com
Web www.ridebig.com