



TRIP ITINERARY

NEW ZEALAND: SILVER FERN

TYPE: ALL-MOUNTAIN / CROSS-COUNTRY

A BLOCKBUSTER TOUR OF SPECTACULAR NEW ZEALAND, RIDING IN COMMUNITIES FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER – 12 DAYS, 11 NIGHTS

TRIP DETAILS

Experience all of New Zealand on this road trip extravaganza while being hosted by local guest guides along the way. A variety of landscapes and trails unmatched. Helicopter drop and penguin sighting included!

2011 DATES

March 1 to March 12, 2011

2011 LAND COST

\$3450 USD

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$600 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 New Zealand. It's incredibly diverse and incredibly beautiful. What better way to see the island 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 . We are proud to say that we are the first to explore some of the best rides in the Alps, especially big bike descents. Even most locals don't know about 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 get some needed rest. Tonight we stay in our Queenstown hotel.

DAY 2 – RIDE WANAKA VIA HELI DROP

After our morning briefing we drive 100 km to Wanaka in the heart of the Southern Alps. Then it's in the heli for a 5000 foot descent and a superb all-mountain trail that overlooks three lakes in the valley below. Tonight we stay in Cardrona.

DAY 3 – RIDE ALEXANDRA

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. Today's ride will be all day. Tonight we stay in Clyde, population 918.

DAY 4 – TRANSFER TO METHVEN, RIDE METHVEN

In the van we go for a 400 km drive north to the small town of Methven, near Christchurch. Today's drive is across the South Island where we'll see a spectacular mountain landscape. This afternoon we'll head out for a short pedal and check out some trails. Stay in Methven, population 1326.

DAY 5 – RIDE METHVEN

Situated on the edge of the Canterbury Plains with the backdrop of the Southern Alps, Methven is where Narnia and Lord of the Rings was filmed. And guess what? The riding is amazing, through native bush and exposed mountain landscapes overlooking jaw-dropping scenery. Stay in Methven.

DAY 6 – RIDE CHRISTCHURCH, TRANSFER TO KAIKOURA

Off to NZ's second biggest city and flowy singletrack that is but meters from the South Pacific Ocean. Then we head just north to the coastal town of Kākara which is home to three species of penguin including the little blue penguin, the rare yellow-eyed penguin, sperm whales and albatrosses. We drive a total of 200 km today and stay in Kaikoura.

DAY 7 – TRANSFER TO WELLINGTON

This morning we'll drive 300 km to picturesque Picton in the North end of the South Island, and take the ferry 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 Museum of New Zealand. Tonight we stay in Wellington.

DAY 8 – RIDE WELLINGTON

Today is a full day exploring the green hills around Wellington that are draped in sweet riding. You'll quickly see why this city is so beautiful. Tonight we stay in Wellington.

DAY 9 – TRANSFER TO TAUPO, RIDE TAUPO

This morning we will pack up and head 400 km north to Taupo, on the shores of Lake Taupo, NZ's largest lake. Taupo is a centre of volcanic and geothermal activity and boasts several hot springs in the area which we'll hit after our ride. Stay in Taupo.

DAY 10 - TRANSFER TO ROTORUA, 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 actually hosted the World MTB Championships in 2006. Expect ripping trails in spectacular old growth forest like you've never seen. Today's drive is 100 km. Stay in Rotorua.

DAY 11 – RIDE ROTORUA, TRANSFER TO AUCKLAND

Wake up to a traditional Maori greeting before our last ride of the trip. Then we pack the bikes and drive 250 km to NZ's biggest city, Auckland.

DAY 12 – FLY HOME

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

DETAILS

MAX GROUP SIZE: 9

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert Leadership
- Hotel accommodation
- Dinners and breakfasts, except lunches
- Airport pick-up / drop-off
- All transportation including a helicopter drop
- Detailed pre-departure information and trip extension assistance
- Big Mountain t-shirt

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

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. For **fitness level**, this trip is a Level II and higher. The fitter you are the more fun you'll have. This trip will be quite demanding as we ride nearly daily and travel quite often.

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. **We can offer limited rentals bikes for \$40-50 per day. Inquire with us for more information.**

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. 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) for 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

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