

tākaro trails

Cycle Tours Hawke's Bay

'HEART OF HAWKE'S BAY' LUXURY GOURMET TOUR – 6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS (125kms)

DAY ONE: Arrive Hawke's Bay.

On arrival at Hawke's Bay airport you will be met and transferred to **The Crown Hotel**, Ahuriri, Napier for your overnight stay.

DAY TWO: Cycle Ahuriri to Breckenridge Lodge, Taradale (35 kms)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel's Milk and Honey Café before walking the short distance to the Takaro Trails base to collect your bike and have a pre-tour briefing with the friendly Takaro Team before setting off.

Departing the historic port village of Ahuriri you cycle past boats unloading their catch and friends laughing over coffee at one of the quaint cafes. Following the coast north along Westshore, a popular surfing beach, the easy concrete pathway takes you to the community of Bay View (10km). Morning tea at the coastal Snapper Café is always a popular option, as is a visit to Crab Farm Winery with its bohemian style.

The trail then continues through the Ahuriri Station, a working sheep farm. The packed limestone surface of the rural trail makes for smooth cycling as you enjoy the view.

Joining the Ahuriri Estuary Trail, a low-lying wetlands area which is home to protected birdlife, take some time to read the information boards and learn the fascinating history of this unique landscape. It is especially sobering to reflect that up until the 1931 earthquake this entire area was a vast tidal inlet encompassing thousands of hectares of wetland, marshes and mud banks.



On reaching the suburb of Taradale (15km) visits to the Mission Estate, New Zealand's oldest winery, and the much awarded Church Rd winery await. Both offer excellent choices for lunch. A 'Behind the Scenes' tour of the Church Rd Winery is a highlight before cycling the final 10kms to your accommodation at **Breckenridge Lodge**.

Your cycling efforts will be rewarded tonight with a 5 course degustation dinner prepared by your host and chef Malcolm Redmond.

DAY THREE: Cycle The Puketapu Loop (20kms)

The Puketapu Loop is a favourite trail for locals and visitors alike. Visits to the historic Otatara Maori Pa site and the Silky Oaks Chocolate Factory and Café are popular starts to the day before joining the Tutaekuri River trail west. The first section of the trail is shaded by pine trees and the scent of wild fennel often perfumes the air.



Continuing past kiwifruit orchards and farmland you arrive in the rural community of Puketapu. We recommend a visit to Moana Park Winery, renowned for their range of naturally low allergen wines made with a minimal intervention philosophy. Here it's all about quality fruit producing quality wine!

Lunch at the iconic Puketapu Pub is the next 'must do'. A member of the Classic N.Z. Pubs network this is an excellent place to enjoy a hearty lunch in relaxed style before completing the cycle loop back to Breckenridge Lodge on the opposite side of the river.

There's time to relax and enjoy the gardens and grounds of the lodge before another unforgettable degustation dinner to end a great day. Overnight Breckenridge Lodge.

DAY FOUR: Cycle Breckenridge Lodge to Gimblett Gravels (35kms)

Departing Breckenridge Lodge you join the Tutaekuri River trail and cycle through beautiful orchard, market gardening and vineyard country to the coast at Awatoto (10km).



Crossing the bridge at the Horseshoe Wetlands you turn back inland on the Ngaruroro River trail for a further 8kms of scenic cycling, passing by the Pakowhai Country Park, before leaving the trail on the outskirts of Hastings to visit Oak Avenue. One of the scenic features of the area the trees were planted in the 1860s as a driveway to one of Hastings original homesteads. These magnificent, old trees leave a rich legacy and the shady mile is certainly enjoyed by cyclists. The 'wineries ride' trail then takes you around the fine wineries of the Gimblett Gravels appellation where you can spend the afternoon sampling the wine and enjoying the ambience of the many cellar doors open for tastings. Those offering tastings include Ngatarawa, Salvare, Trinity Hill and Te Awa. At the end of the day you and your bikes will be transferred the short distance to **Greenhill Lodge or The Manse**. A 4 course Table d'hote dinner is included tonight.

DAY FIVE: Stay Put Day

A day off the bike to rest the body today!

We have included a 4 hour private car tour, customised to your particular interests, to showcase the 'Best of the Bay'. Delicious foods, fruit and wine, Maori elder and artists all set in beautiful rural Hawke's Bay. Meet our wonderful characters, hear their stories and have fun. Walk amongst the diverse collection of art deco buildings in Napier. Visit creative food producers on their land where you can taste, touch and smell the myriad of tantalizing products they make from the deep soils. This tour is customized for each client and will take the client on a special journey to find the true essence of this beautiful country.

Spend the afternoon at leisure at Greenhill or The Manse before enjoying another culinary treat dinner tonight.



DAY SIX: Cycle Havelock North to Ahuriri (35kms)

This morning you will be collected from your accommodation and be transferred to the charming village of Havelock North. From here you follow the Tuki Tuki river trail, cycling through stunning apple orchard and vineyard country which is so typical of the region. You may even have 'frisky' cattle joining you on the trail as you make your way towards the coast (10km).

It's worth taking some time to sit on one of the viewing benches along the East Clive Wetlands to observe the many native birds and flocks of black swans which inhabit the area. Refreshments in the village of Clive at the quirky Zeppelin Café is a popular respite before continuing on the coastal trail with its stunning views out towards Cape Kidnappers.



On reaching the outskirts of Napier you follow Marine Parade, lined with the iconic Norfolk Palm trees that are so recognized as a symbol of Napier. As you get closer to town you'll pass by the statue of the 'Spirit of Napier' which represents the city rising from the ashes of the 1931 earthquake and also David Trubridge's magnificent 'Ecliptic' monument celebrating the new millennium. There's an opportunity to visit the MTG Museum in the city centre, a world acclaimed Art Deco treasure. Lock up your bike and take a stroll around to see the fascinating facades and distinctive architectural styles of the 1930's.

From here a short cycle around the port brings you back to Ahuriri and the end of your Hawke's Bay Escape. A transfer to the airport is provided for those leaving the region this evening. Alternatively we can arrange a final night at The Crown Hotel.

just for the fun of it