

THE BIG DAY OUT



START: Kawhaka Canal
FINISH: Hokitika
DISTANCE: 53 km
GRADE: Grade 2/easy
DURATION: allow 6-7 hours

Immerse yourself in some of the most spectacular landscapes along the West Coast Wilderness Trail. Create truly memorable experiences as you ride amidst majestic native forest, pedal through a stunning mountain-ringed valley, cross crystal-clear rivers and then discover one of New Zealand's most picturesque lakes, Kaniere.

The trail then plunges back into the bush for a fun cruise along an historic water race and then down the sweeping tree-lined pathway known as the Pipeline. Take a breath while you meander down peaceful Kaniere Road towards Hokitika before the final leg along the historic Kaniere Tramway and the banks of the Hokitika River.



OPTIONAL SIDE TRIPS

- The Cesspool
- Canoe Cove (walk & swim)
- Cowboy Paradise saloon & activities

MAGICAL MAHINAPUA



START: West Coast Treetop Walkway
FINISH: Hokitika
DISTANCE: 15 km one way
GRADE: Grade 2/easy
DURATION: allow 1½ hours one way plus time to experience the Treetop Walkway

So much natural beauty and diversity on offer and only a few kilometres from Hokitika this has to be one of the best half day cycle rides anywhere.

Start your day by strolling amongst the rainforest canopy and enjoying panoramic views from the impressive Treetop Walk before hopping on your bike for a relaxing ride back to town through the magnificent forest and wetlands of the Mahinapua Scenic Reserve.

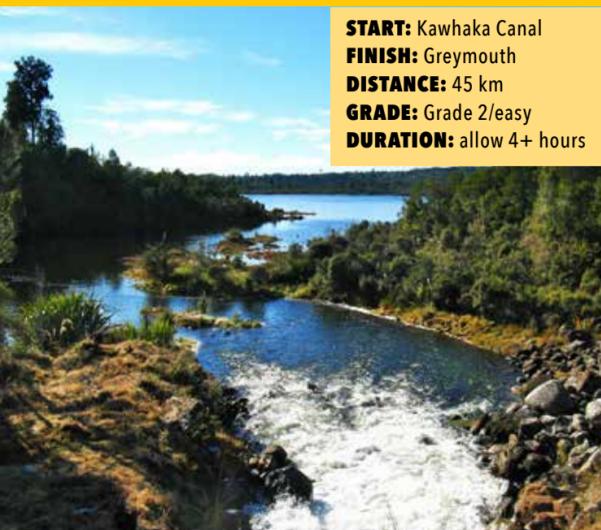
Many species of birdlife including the graceful Kotuku (white heron) make their home in this beautifully preserved area of wetland. After leaving the wetlands the trail climbs up onto a low terrace that offers expansive views over the scenic reserve with the lofty peaks of the Southern Alps as a stunning backdrop. Another section of sublime riding through native forest follows that will eventually bring you up and over the historic Mahinapua Creek railway bridge (1905), a lasting memorial to the line that flourished here last century and provided an important transport link to South Westland. Then cycle alongside Mahinapua Creek before crossing the broad Hokitika River and making your entry into the town. Finish the day by following the river out to Sunset Point and then finally along the promenade for a photo stop at the iconic driftwood "Hokitika" sign on the beachfront.

OPTIONAL SIDE TRIPS

- Picnic Point (walk/swim)
- West Coast Treetop Walkway
- Kayak or Cruise on Mahinapua Creek/Lake Mahinapua with West Coast Scenic Waterways



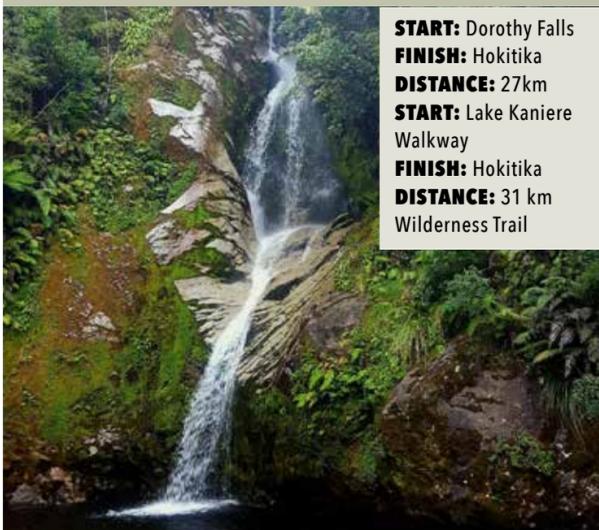
GOLD TRAILS OF KUMARA



START: Kawhaka Canal
FINISH: Greymouth
DISTANCE: 45 km
GRADE: Grade 2/easy
DURATION: allow 4+ hours

Follow in the footsteps of the old prospectors as you ride down historic stagecoach routes and alongside canals and reservoirs that are a legacy from the days when gold fever struck and the area teemed with fortune seekers. Scene of New Zealand's last big gold rush in the 1870s, the area is dotted with mining relics and traces of old workings. At the historic town of Kumara you can partake in fine fare at the grand Theatre Royal Hotel before setting off once again to wind along the old Kumara Tramway over 'The Chasm' swing bridge and on through to the Taramakau River. Its relaxed riding from here as you pass through the small settlement of Paroa and then take the coastal route alongside the wild Tasman Sea all the way into Greymouth. The final stretch of trail turns inland along the mighty Grey River taking in many town sights including the famous Flood Wall.

DOROTHY FALLS



START: Dorothy Falls
FINISH: Hokitika
DISTANCE: 27km
START: Lake Kaniere Walkway
FINISH: Hokitika
DISTANCE: 31 km Wilderness Trail

Nestled in dense native bush on the edges of Lake Kaniere, Dorothy Falls is a delightful place to visit as a side trip off the West Coast Wilderness Trail. Begin your journey with a shuttle trip through the lush farming area of the Kokatahi Valley and then towards the rainforest cloaked mountains that sit at the foot of the Southern Alps and surround Lake Kaniere. Linger at the falls before starting your ride and take a short stroll down to the lake edge. There is a definite peace and tranquillity about the place that puts you in the perfect mood for the cycle back to Hokitika. The first part of your ride is through magnificent native forest alongside the lake edge before emerging at Hans Bay, a popular holiday spot with the locals that offers plenty of options to picnic or swim. Leaving Hans Bay you will soon join the West Coast Wilderness Trail near Canoe Cove (another great short walk option) and then its onto the ever popular Kaniere Water Race section of the cycleway.

OPTIONAL SIDE TRIPS

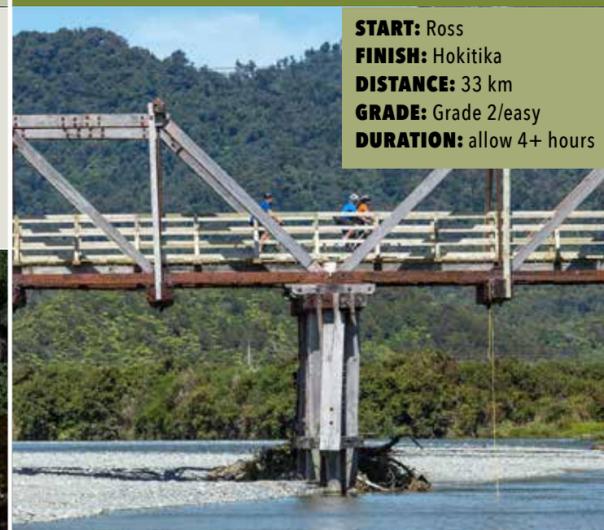
- Larrikins Loop and Londonderry Rock
- Shantytown



SHUTTLE DRIVER'S TIP:

Get dropped off at the Lake Kaniere Walkway and take a 50 minute return stroll up to the lookout to be rewarded with magnificent views of the lake. Dorothy Falls is 4 km cycling from the walkway start.

LAST TRAIN TO ROSS



START: Ross
FINISH: Hokitika
DISTANCE: 33 km
GRADE: Grade 2/easy
DURATION: allow 4+ hours

This ride down the old Ross Railway Line conjures a bygone era when the railway was vital to the district's economy. Touted as one of the most scenic in New Zealand, the railway line cuts a cross-country path between the mountains and sea, passing unique wetland habitats and crossing many fine bridges constructed in the early 1900s. The ride starts at Ross, an authentic old gold town with character in spades. This ride can be enjoyed in either direction, and is also a great extension to the Magical Mahinapua ride for those with a few more hours to spare.

OPTIONAL SIDE TRIPS

- Picnic Point (walk/swim)
- West Coast Treetop Walkway
- Ross heritage walks
- Totara River & Lagoon
- Ross Goldfields Information & Heritage Centre



MTB TRAILS IN WESTLAND



For more seasoned riders wanting to add a little extra to their West Coast Wilderness Trail experience there are plenty of easily accessible MTB trails close to Hokitika.

INFORMATION

The Westland MTB Club have produced an excellent brochure that gives full details of the trails they have constructed and maintain with a number of suggested itineraries based on time and riding experience. Brochures are available from Hokitika i-Site and Hokitika Cycles and Sportsworld and all proceeds from the sale of this publication go towards trail maintenance.

The Club regularly posts on its Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/WestlandMountainBiking/> and will respond to any inquiries posted there.

Check out the Trail Forks website <https://www.trailforks.com/search/hokitika/> This site offers comprehensive trail data and maps of all the MTB rides in the Hokitika area.