

Recommended Gear

Bikes and bags

- 29er MTB – the big wheels roll a little easier over rocky roads
- Front suspension for comfort, or rigid forks for speed and simplicity
- Bar ends – the more hand positions the better
- Aero bars – hang a bag, rest a guidebook and give your hands a chance to recover
- 2–3 litre water containers (e.g., 2–3 drink bottles and/or a bladder)
- Seat bag (5–15 litre volume)
- Frame bag – a full frame bag or a half frame bag (which allows you to still carry a water bottle or two)
- Handlebar bag – either a roll bag or dry bag strapped to aero bars
- Feedbag – one or two on the handlebars
- Dry bags and/or plastic bags
- Front and rear lights.

Tools

- Pump
- Tyre levers
- 2 spare tubes
- Multi-tool (with chain breaker and spoke tool)
- Small fold-up knife (e.g., Leatherman or Juice)
- Small bottle of chain lube
- Duct tape (1 metre)
- Tyre boot
- Spare chain link
- Spare derailleur hanger.

Clothes

- Thin riding top
- Thin thermal tops (2)
- Merino riding top (e.g., Ground Effect “Baked Alaska”)
- Thin thermal long johns
- Thin balaclava
- Rain jacket (e.g., Ground Effect “Storm Trooper”)
- Three-quarter overtrousers (e.g., Ground Effect “Helter Skelters”)
- Socks – 2 or 3 pairs
- Lycra shorts (2 pairs)
- Nylon shorts/togs
- Cycle gloves
- Cycle shoes
- Merino or cotton buff

Other gear

- Cash and cards
- ID (driver’s licence or passport)
- Spot tracker and spare batteries
- Waterproof notebook and pen
- Guidebook/cue sheets

- Cellphone and charger
- GPS and batteries
- Sunglasses
- Sunblock
- Toothbrush, paste and floss
- Toilet paper (in waterproof bag)
- Chamois cream (e.g., Sweet Cheeks)
- Spoon and tiny can opener
- First aid kit (antihistamines pain killers, sterile pads, steri-strips, personal meds, tape)
- Sleeping bag
- Lightweight sleeping mat (e.g., Exped threequarter length)
- Bivvy bag or lightweight tent – opens up an array of sleeping options
- Emergency blanket (if you don't have a bivvy bag or tent)
- Plastic bags/dry bags (because bikepacking bags are not waterproof!).

For the South Island

- Extra warm top
- Leg warmers/arm warmers
- Warm full finger gloves
- Swap lightweight sleeping bag for medium weight bag.

Common optional extras

- Cycle computer (to help with using cue sheets)
- Lightweight nylon backpack for extra foodcarrying capacity
- Top-tube bags (e.g., Revelate “Jerrycan” & “Gas Tank”)
- Thule “Pack n Pedal Tour Rack“ with drybags strapped on it
- Headlamp
- Jandals
- Leg warmers/arm warmers
- 6 zip ties
- Small bar of soap and/or shampoo
- Lightweight puffer jacket
- Lip salve
- Water filter or steriPEN (UV water purifier)/ Aquatabs
- A dynamo hub for charging phone/GPS/lights

Less common optional extras

- Front forks bag (e.g., Salsa “Anything Bag”)
- Billy and billy tongs
- Mug and plate
- Stove and fuel
- Lighter/matches
- Pot cleaner
- Camera, with spare battery and memory card
- GoPro camera
- Battery bank (e.g., Outdoor Tech Kodiak)
- Solar charger
- Bluetooth speaker/powerbank/torch
- Apps (e.g., maps, camping sites, tree & bird ID)
- Tiny cable lock
- Tubeless tyre plugs

- Aero bar adapters to vary their position
- Helmet hat – for sunny days
- Helmet cover – for wet days
- Bandana
- Tiny hair comb
- Deodorant
- Ear plugs
- Hand sanitizer
- Antiseptic wipes
- Sweet Cheeks Super Balm (for cuts)
- Clothes pegs
- Spare water bottle bolt
- Needle and cotton
- Short bit of string
- Nail clippers
- Sarong
- Anti-flam cream
- Tennis ball for massage
- Spare tyre
- Spare spokes (stored inside handlebars)
- Maps
- Thermarest repair kit
- Sleeping bag liner
- Bike cleaning gear
- Teddy, lion or similar mascot
- Ukulele