

# Explorer Trail (3 days riding), New Zealand

## Itinerary

This information sheet highlights specific information about the Explorer ride with three days riding. Please also read our general information sheet on the Alpine Horse Safari rides which contains general information on the riding, area and horses.

Please note that the following itinerary is an example for the ride. The actual route and the overnight stops may vary from ride to ride depending on local weather conditions and will be confirmed to you on arrival.

This ride uses pack horses for support and everything needed for the trail is carried on the horses

**Day before the ride starts:** You are collected from Christchurch between 2pm and 4 pm and transferred to the horse base Waitohi Downs.

Meet the riding group at the horse base at Waitohi Downs. Relax in the garden and recover from your journey or sit with an afternoon cup of coffee looking out over the fields that make up part of Waitohi Downs.

Later be transferred to your homestay for dinner. That evening pack your swags. You will probably repack it several times before getting it right. You will be amazed at what you decide to leave behind when you work out what you really need for the next few days.



### Day 1

After a hearty breakfast you are introduced to your horse. Once everyone is comfortable with their stirrups and horses you set off in the direction of the Hurunui River. You cross the Hurunui River and ride up Mandamus River onto the road, passing Glens of Tekoa Homestead and buildings onto Island Hills

Station. This station covers an area on 6,850 hectares (17,000 acres) running 5,000 sheep and 300 cattle.



Continue on over the saddle to the Glencoe River, passing hill country of native scrub and scattered silver tussock on the way. Then on towards the Mandamus River once more, you travel up the east bank, crossing it for the last time and then following the track through dense Manuka scrub into Organ Stream where you stay for the next two nights at Valley Camp Hut.

### Day 2

Today is a scenic ride up to the Organ Range. After leaving the Valley Hut you head up the pack track through beech bush onto a saddle and down to Darkies Gully. You will follow the pack track through a beech forest on to Gorge Creek Saddle and descend down a steep face into Gorge Creek.



Continuing down the creek for approximately ½ mile you will head along the west side of Gorge Creek and ride onto the top of the Little Organs Range. From here a magnificent view of Glynn Wye Station, the

Lewis Pass Road, and also views up the Doubtful and Hope Rivers with the Southern Alps in the background.

After lunch we ride back down to the Valley Camp and spend the night.

### **Day 3**

Today is your final day of riding. After leaving the Valley Hut behind you retrace your steps back to the stables crossing the Hurunui River before arriving back at the stables.



The horses get a well-deserved hose down and turned out into their familiar home paddocks.

Tonight you will again have a hearty home cooked meal and relive the memories of the past few days.

Sleeping in a real bed will send you off into dream land very peacefully.

### **Day after the ride ends**

A leisurely start to the day as no swags to roll. After breakfast you bid farewell to your hosts and transfer back to Christchurch for your onward travel arrangements.