IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICE

Riverton (03) 234 7070
Te Anau (03) 249 7600
Gore (03) 203 9300
Winton (03) 236 6060

INVERCARGILL AFTER HOURS DOCTORS

40B Clyde Street
(03) 218 8821
6pm until late

ROAD CONDITIONS

0800 4 HIGHWAYS
(080044 44 49)

AA BREAKDOWN SERVICE

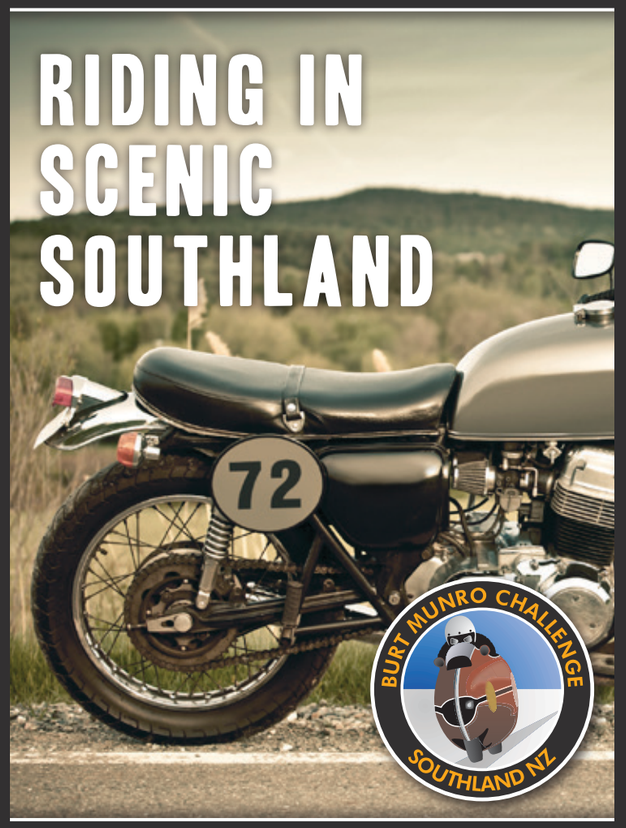
0800 465 537

RIDE FOREVER

www.rideforever.co.nz

roadsafety southland

www.RIDE FOR EVER.co.nz



RIDING IN SOUTHLAND

Southland roads are among New Zealand's most demanding and there are a few challenges that you may not be used to.

It's easy to underestimate travel times in Southland. Although distances may seem short on paper, roads may be narrower than you are used to, cover hilly terrain and vary quickly from sealed to unsealed gravel roads.

ROAD CONDITIONS

Generally Southland roads are in good condition, with good surfaces and most feeding onto the main highway network. Although sealed, these roads can be narrow and without markings. Watch out for gravel verges. If your wheels stray into these stay calm and do not brake. Ride in a straight line and gradually steer your bike back onto the sealed road.

UNSEALED / GRAVEL ROADS

Southland is known for its gravel or unsealed roads that should be avoided, if possible. When riding on unsealed roads the best tip is to SLOW DOWN because, if anything goes wrong, it is likely it will take a long time for anyone to reach you. SLOW DOWN even further if you are approaching oncoming traffic as the dust will obscure you vision. Always ride to the left.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Riding in Southland requires you to be alert to the constant changing weather conditions. Expect conditions to change for the worst without warning. If conditions deteriorate, SLOW DOWN. Southland roads and bridges can quickly become slippery when it is raining and sun glare can be more intense. On all rides don't forget to have wet weather and warm gear handy for quick changes if necessary, the cold can bring on fatigue very quickly.

ONE LANE BRIDGES

Southland has many one lane bridges. At one lane bridges make sure you have the right of way and that vehicles travelling from the other side have seen you. Riding with your headlights on dip is the best option to make sure you are visible to other drivers.

ANIMALS ON THE ROAD

Farming is the largest industry in Southland and riders need to be alert to the possibility of finding livestock wandering on roads. With an increase in dairying we are experiencing a significant increase of crashes with cattle stock wandering onto our roads. If you encounter livestock SLOW DOWN and let the animals go past you or move slowly behind them. If posted, follow the farmer's instructions.

SIGHT SEEING

Take extra care when pulling out onto the road after stopping to rest or admire the scenery. This is when most tourist crashes happen. STOP and think before moving off and give yourself time to adjust.

BE SEEN

Make sure you are as visible as possible with riding gear that makes you visible to other drivers. Always ride with your headlights on dip.

INVERCARGILL LEAVING DIRECTION OF RIDES

RIDING IN SCENIC SOUTHLAND

All rides recommended here are on sealed roads. Please be patient, take care and allow plenty of time for the journey, enjoying both the scenery and the ride. Carry warm gear at all times as conditions can change for the worse and cold can bring on fatigue quickly.

GORE/MANDEVILLE
207km - 3hrs

Recommended for inexperienced riders. This route stays on state-highways therefore road conditions are excellent for the entire ride.

CATLINS/BALCLUTHA
329km - 4-5hrs

Recommended for more experienced riders. This route has many deceptively sharp bends, narrow roads mostly bordered by gravel, rough surfaces, many hidden property entrances, problems with wandering stock and tourists drivers who invariably do unexpected things. There are no fuel stops in the Catlins, so make sure you have sufficient fuel before leaving Invercargill.

RIVERTON/TUATAPERE
192km - 3hrs

This is a fairly straight run to Riverton and then swings out on to the coast Colac Bay to Tuatapere. Here you have a good chance of experiencing gusty winds coming off the west coast. Before you decide on this ride it is advisable to check wind conditions and if strong westerlies are predicted be prepared for very strong gusts. Better still, choose a ride to the east. Once out from the coast the road is relatively sheltered back to Invercargill.

TE ANAU/LUMSDEN
327km - 4hrs

Other than keeping an eye out for wandering stock, this stretch of road is fairly straight forward until you reach Mossburn and head towards Te Anau. From here you should take extra care to predict tourist drivers. Crashes on this stretch of road frequently involve overseas drivers. If you stop to take photos, don't park around bends, too close to the roadside or anywhere it is dangerous to walk or stand.

TE ANAU/MILFORD
118km - 1hr 30min

Double the Te Anau/Lumsden advice if you continue through to Milford Southland from Te Anau. Almost a crash a day occurs on this stretch of road.

BLUFF
27.4km - 30min

Speed crashes are high on this stretch of road therefore it has a high Police focus. If you do not want to go home with a ticket keep you speed down when travelling to Bluff.