

The Top 5 Trails on New Zealand's South Island





You don't just ride through New Zealand - you live it.

Every turn leads to something raw and unforgettable: roaring rivers, wide-open gravel, and mountain passes that make your pulse race.

This is the South Island, built for riders who crave real adventure.

We're Rumbling Adventures, and we've spent years exploring trails, crossings, and hidden valleys this island has to offer.

This guide gives you a taste of our backyard and a glimpse of what's waiting when you twist the throttle and head into the unknown.

Let's ride!



1. Moleworth Station Track

Region: Marlborough / Canterbury High Country

The legendary route through New Zealand's largest working station. Long gravel straights, river valleys, and alpine passes that seem to stretch forever.

Pro Tip from RANZ: Start early - the light over the Awatere Valley at sunrise is unreal.

Want to ride this? We cross it on our Southern Explorer
& 4 Days of Freedom Tours → [Tour Calendar](#)



2. Nevis Road

Region: Central Otago

New Zealand's highest public road, with over 25 river crossings, endless switchbacks, and no shortage of bragging rights.

Pro Tip: Bring waterproof boots - you'll need them!

Ride the Nevis with us on the 5 Days Of Dirt → [Tour Calendar](#)



3. Danseys Pass

Region: Central Otago / North Otago

A classic South Island high-country route that cuts through the Kakanui Mountains, linking Naseby to Duntroon. Expect loose gravel, narrow ridges, and sweeping views that feel straight out of an old-school adventure film.

Pro Tip: Stop at the historic Danseys Pass Hotel - it's been serving dusty riders for over a century.

Ride Danseys with us on the 5 Days Of Dirt → [Tour Calendar](#)



4. Hakataramea Valley

Region: Waitaki / South Canterbury

This stunning valley route rolls through wide open farmland, river flats, and big sky country. It's classic South Island riding - scenic, remote, and full of that "middle of nowhere" feeling we live for.

Pro Tip: Combine Hakataramea Valley Road with Danseys Pass for an unforgettable full-day adventure linking the Waitaki and Maniototo regions.

Ride Hakataramea Valley with us on the Southern Trailblazer
or Southern Traverse → [Tour Calendar](#)



5. The West Coast Wilderness

Region: Westland

Wild weather, thick bush, and alpine passes - pure, untamed New Zealand. Expect changing terrain and some of the most dramatic scenery you'll ever ride through.

Pro Tip: Layer up. Four seasons can hit you in one ride on the Coast.



Ride the West Coast with us on the Southern Escape or 4 Days of Freedom → [Tour Calendar](#)





The South Island doesn't play by the rules - and that's exactly why we ride it.

One moment you're carving through dust under a blazing sky, the next you're powering through rain and river crossings that demand every ounce of skill.

Then it opens up - long, lonely stretches of gravel where it's just you, the bike, and the roar of freedom.

**Every challenge comes with a reward: untouched scenery,
zero crowds, and that pure "this is living" feeling.**



No Tourist Trails

We ride the real South Island - high country stations, remote valleys, rugged backroads. If it's crowded & sealed ... we're somewhere else.

Local Knowledge You Can't Google

We've spent years exploring this land - we've built relationships with farmers, gained access to lands, and found the most amazing passes.

Small Groups. Real Adventure.

We offer an exclusive and personalized small group experience.

You Ride. We've Got the Rest.

Bikes, support truck*, first aid, logistics, accommodation, fuel*, private land access, tolls - all taken care of by us. You can focus on the riding, the trails, and the stunning scenery. Soak it in.

*The 5 Days of Dirt trip does not have a support truck, and fuel is not included.

Adventure starts where the road ends.



Your next big adventure starts here.

Explore our upcoming tours and lock in your New Zealand South Island ride of a lifetime.

www.rumblingadv.com/tour-calendar

Questions? We're happy to chat and help you find exactly what you're looking for.

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