

In Transit

TRAVEL NEWS, DEALS AND TIPS

BRIEFS



THEPIONEER.CO.NZ

Biking near Lake Ohau in New Zealand.

BIKING

Racing in New Zealand

A new mountain bike race is set to hit the rugged trails of the Southern Alps in New Zealand between Jan. 31 and Feb. 6, when it is summer in the Southern Hemisphere.

The seven-day race, called the Pioneer, will string together established bike trails with overland rides across farms and hillsides over 358 miles from Christchurch to Queenstown, with tent villages set up nightly for racers. Open to amateurs, the race requires riders to pair up and cycle as a team of two. Capped at 1,000 riders, the race costs 2,499 New Zealand dollars per person or 4,998 dollars per team (\$1,700 to \$3,400, at 1.47 New Zealand dollars to the U.S. dollar) and includes tents and daily meals. Fitness is a prerequisite; all those mountain climbs account for more than 55,000 feet in elevation gain.

Prizes of up to 7,000 New Zealand dollars will be awarded for the fastest cumulative time for both members of a team. More symbolic daily awards include special jerseys for the leaders.

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