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Escape

TRAVEL LEISURE ADVENTURE

RIDING RICH TRAILS

CLASSIC RUN

Every skier should do Tasman Glacier at least once

SHOPPERS BEWARE

Lessons for unwary in booming Chinese city





Riding rich trails



Crisp country: A freezing but clear winter morning is part of what Mike Hyde rates as one of his five favourite South Island rides – beside the Tekapo Canal.

OUR OWN BACKYARD

A new two-wheel touring guidebook gives **Ken Fraser** a fresh appreciation of New Zealand's range of wonders.

Long-distance motorcyclist Mike Hyde, 57, previous author of books about his epic rides around Australia and through 50 states of the United States, has now picked an obvious topic – New Zealand – for his third *Twisting Throttle* publication. Less predictable perhaps is the style. He does not bother with listings such as best cafes or museums, but concentrates on the nitty-gritty for his top 50 rides from Ninety Mile Beach to the Catlins. Just over half are road rides, the other 23 being what he classifies as “adventure rides” – all designed to be ridden in a day. His interest once in a Christchurch rental company brought him knowledge of foreign riders with no route guidance. Many followed a red line in their atlas down to Dunedin without knowing that only an hour or two away to their right were mountain passes, glacial lakes and the rainforested West Coast. New Zealand's greatest motorcycling advantage, says Hyde, is that in one day you can

ride through rainforest, alpine beech forest, barren tussocklands, green rolling farmland and craggy coastal scenery. Just one million people live in the South Island, and yet its area is larger than Greece and the equivalent to England and Wales combined. For riders, he says, that means wide open spaces, often deserted roads, and purist off-roading in a safe, clean and green environment. His favourite South Island rides are a sunset jaunt out to French Pass, Marlborough; crashing through the twinkling fords of the Nevis, Central Otago; emerging out of the Homer Tunnel on the way to Milford Sound; and riding the canal roads near Tekapo on a clear blue winter's day. North Island favourites: the sweepers near Hicks Bay on the East Cape; riding into the setting sun and dusky haze descending Pori Rd, Puketoi; the tunnels of Kiwi Rd in the King Country; and the Taihape-Napier Rd. Christchurch-based Hyde, who describes himself as a “user and abuser” of Suzuki V-Strom

COVER PHOTO

Mt Nicholas Rd, Von River Valley, Wakatipu.

motorbikes, took hundreds of high-quality colour photos for the book, which also has maps, side trips and GPS settings for the sort of publication he wished had been available for his Australian and American odysseys. His quirky sense of humour embraces subjects such as roadkill and pies. As a dedicated pie consumer, he supports Jimmy's Pies from Roxburgh after having said “some negative things” about the Australian Mrs Mac's pies in *Twisting Throttle Australia*. After 8000 kilometres of research, 35 motel rooms and 74 pies, Hyde in his latest book succeeds in making it an extremely worthwhile guide for anybody contemplating a memorable ride. **NOW AVAILABLE** *Twisting Throttle New Zealand*, by Mike Hyde; HarperCollins, 262pp, full colour, \$39.99.



Down the hatch: Mike Hyde enjoys Jimmy's Pies from Roxburgh, whereas in *Twisting Throttle Australia* he had some negative things to say about Australian Mrs Mac's pies.



Icing on gateau: Black Forest Rd has Lake Benmore in the background.