

The Telegraph – 20th October 2001

Bikers down under

With winter fast approaching, where better to put a motorcycle through its paces than amid the spectacular scenery of New Zealand?

A tour company called VFR-NZ provides luxury fly-ride holidays to the country's South Island, with its beautiful fjords, mountains and beaches, reached by challenging uncongested roads. As its name suggests, the company uses Honda's class-leading VFR800 sports-tourer and will have examples of the latest model available for this winter (remember that it's now early summer in the southern hemisphere).

Participants fly from London direct to Christchurch and pick up a VFR800 equipped with as much or as little luggage as required. Bikes can be hired for a few days or for more than a month, allowing you to plan a tour to suit your own pace and interests. They cost £700 a week including insurance, with a £50 supplement for pillion. A typical two-week tour, including flights and accommodation costs about £2,750, or about £4,000 for a couple sharing a bike.

For more information or a brochure, contact VFR-NZ on 07779 656253 (www.vfrnewzealand.com). The company will also have a stand at the NEC motorcycle show from November 8 to 18.