

The Heaphy Track

The Heaphy Track: Beauty That Can Never Be Tamed!



tour highlights

- Lush and scenic all the way
 - Pounding surf
 - Nikau forests
 - Tussock lands
 - Great company
- Experienced attentive guide



tours run

Tours run: October - April

tour cost

2018 / 2019

Starting in Collingwood: NZD\$1950

fast facts

Custom Groups: Options are available for this tour*

*Please enquire for further information

the tour

The Heaphy Track at the top of the South is one of 9 official New Zealand Great Walks, and is considered by many to be the most beautiful. Sometimes wild and lonely, sometimes lush and scenic, the track covers 78 km from Collingwood in Golden Bay, to Karamea on the West Coast. There's pounding surf, rivers, rimu forest, tussock land, stunning nikau palms, and classic back country huts. Walk with an expert local guide in this beautiful part of the country. The bird life features a roll call of New Zealand's iconic birds, including kiwi, alpine parrots (kea), rare whistling blue ducks (whio), moreporks (owls/ruru) and bellbirds.

about your guide

Your guides are very experienced, friendly walkers who love to share their knowledge of New Zealand's flora and fauna and local history. They all hold current first aid certificates, passenger driving licences and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.

at a glance

DAY 1 NELSON TO TAKAKA (DRIVE)

DAY 2 TAKAKA TO PERRY SADDLE HUT

DAY 3 PERRY SADDLE HUT TO THE SAXON HUT

DAY 4 SAXON HUT TO THE LEWIS HUT

DAY 5 LEWIS HUT TO HEAPHY HUT

DAY 6 HEAPHY HUT TO KARAMEA

DAY 7 KARAMEA TO NELSON (DRIVE)

Activities: Walking/Hiking **Trip Duration:** 7 Days, 6 Nights
Accommodation: Back Country Huts & Resort **Grade :** Moderate





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frequently asked questions

What do I carry while on my tour and what happens to the rest of my luggage?

On a walking, cycling or kayak tour your extra luggage will be transported for you each day to your accommodation that night. All you need to have with you is your daypack with your lunch, clothing requirements, camera and incidentals. For cyclists, this can be left in the support vehicle while you are cycling as this is always close by for ready access. Please ensure the luggage you are sending on ahead is limited to one item and is packed in an easily transported overnight bag or suitcase.

On a hiking tour where huts and lodges are less accessible by vehicle, you may be asked to carry your own luggage for some or all of the days of the tour, please refer to your checklist for details. For this reason we recommend you pack as lightly as possible and carry only the items suggested on your gear check list. For any of our tours, we recommend the use of a waterproof pack liner to keep your personal items as dry as possible.

Do I really need thermals and a fleece, even in summer?

Yes, as some of the areas visited can be exposed, and New Zealand weather can be notoriously changeable, you must be prepared for all weather conditions.

what's included

- Accommodation
 - Night 1: Annies Nirvana Lodge in Takaka, shared facilities.
 - Night 2 to 5: Department of Conservation back country huts. Heating, outside toilets, cold running water, no showers. Bunk beds with mattress provided, walkers carry a sleeping bag.
 - Night 6: Lodge accommodation, double or twin units with ensuite bathrooms. Licensed restaurant and house bar.
- Food
 - You will enjoy great local cuisine; continental breakfasts and hearty packed lunches during the day, and wholesome home-cooked fare prepared by your host/hostess in the evenings. If you have any dietary issues or food allergies, we are happy to cater for these, please advise the office of details when you make your booking. Alcohol is not included in the tour cost, you are welcome to bring a small amount with you for personal consumption if you prefer. Dinners on night 1 and night 6 are not included in the tour cost.
- Luggage
 - We can transport 1 piece of luggage for you to the Last Resort in Karamea so you have fresh clothes to change into when you finish the walk.
- An experienced guide
- All transport
- Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)
- Safety and Risk Management
 - To ensure maximum safety for all, our guides are certified first aiders and fully qualified drivers. Tuatara Tours operate under a Safety and Risk Management Plan which is regularly audited and approved by a qualified and independent auditor.



This tour is operated in conjunction with another operator.



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frequently asked questions

How many people are in each group?

Typically, we take a maximum of twelve people on each tour. We feel this gives you the best opportunity to gain as much from your experience as possible and keeps the feel of each tour relaxed and friendly. We are happy to discuss options for groups of more than twelve with you.

Can I come on my own?

Yes.

How fit do I need to be?

The main purpose of a guided tour is to enjoy your surroundings and learn from your local guide, it's not a race, however the more you can prepare for a tour, the better the experience will be for you. As a general guideline we suggest the following activity level guide for our tours.

Easy: An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline.

Mild: An average level of fitness, Walk 12km, Bike 25km on well-formed tracks and roads with average incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20+ km , Bike 50+km on partially formed tracks and roads, some off-road , some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.



itinerary

Day 1 Nelson to Takaka

Pickup in Nelson, drive to Golden Bay (approximately 2 hours) and stay the night at Annie's Nirvana Lodge (all included in price). A chance to explore the shops, galleries, and restaurants of Takaka's eclectic main street.

Day 2 Takaka to Perry Saddle Hut

We drive from Takaka to Collingwood (30 kms) and then on up the Aorere Valley (another 30 kms) stopping en route for a complimentary tea or coffee at the historic Langford Store. The road stops at Browns Hut, the first hut of the track, but we don't stop here. Our first night is at Perry Saddle Hut (26 bunks), a 5 hour walk with a 700m altitude gain.

The wide, well-graded track climbs gently up through the bush, giving views of Mt. Olympus and the thick bush of the Aorere Valley, and on a fine day it is possible to see Mt. Taranaki in the distance.

Day 3 Perry Saddle Hut to the Saxon Hut

An easier day, with only 4 hours walking. The track goes through patches of beech forest before the wide expanse of the tussock covered Goulard Downs comes into view. The track meanders down to Cave Brook, passing the famous 'boot pole' on which trampers over the years have tied their old boots. Then we come to a limestone outcrop, with caves and waterfalls. We visit the oldest hut on the track, the Goulard Downs Hut, then continue on the flatter part of the Downs to Saxon Hut (16 bunks).

Day 4 Saxon Hut to the Lewis Hut

The longest day of the walk, made up of a morning 3- 4 hour walk to McKay Hut and another in the afternoon. The track crosses the Saxon River flats, then onto the broad ridge between the McKay and Goulard Downs, passing an old pole marking the boundary between the Nelson and West Coast provinces.

The vegetation varies between tussock and shrub fringed beech forests, and we get views of the ocean in the distance. We have a leisurely lunch at McKay Hut and then begin the long gentle descent (downhill all the way), with the temperature getting warmer as we descend down towards the coast.

The bush is ever changing from the alpine scrub to taller and taller trees and the welcoming sight of the tree ferns and lowland forest. We stay the night at the Lewis Hut (20 bunks) at the junction of the Heaphy and Lewis rivers with a good opportunity for a swim.





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frequently asked questions

Some tips for training:

Undertake your training using the clothing and footwear you intend to complete the tour in, this will give you the opportunity to make sure they will be suitable for the purpose and to break in your foot wear so as to avoid any discomfort. Train with your pack or day pack on so you get used to bearing the weight and include a variety of terrain in your training including hills and off road. As much as we'd like to we can't guarantee fine weather on your tour so don't hesitate to get outdoors and train on the rainy days as well.

What will the weather be like?

New Zealand is known to have four seasons in a day so you should always be prepared for sudden changes in weather or temperature and have the appropriate gear with you at all times. Rain can be expected at any time throughout the year.

Spring (September-November) and Autumn (March-May) are generally cooler months for experiencing the outdoors with temperatures averaging 15-25 degrees during the day.

Summer (December-February) is usually warmer with averages of 20-30 degrees and longer sunshine hours due to daylight saving. As New Zealand has very little air pollution, UV rays are strong during the summer months and a good sunscreen and a hat are recommended for outdoor activities during the heat of the day.

itinerary cont'd

Day 5 Lewis Hut to Heaphy Hut

The easiest of the days, a leisurely walk along the river flats of the Heaphy River, with its luxuriant rainforest of kowhai, cabbage trees, and nikau and a visit to one of New Zealand's biggest rata trees.

In the afternoon there is the option of a swim in the lagoon, walk along the beach, or an off track visit to the very special Field's Cave.

We stay at the Heaphy Hut for the night (30 bunks).

Day 6 Heaphy Hut to Karamea

The final day is a 5 hour walk along the magical West Coast, with high cliffs, pounding seas, nikau and karaka tree forests and wild scenery. After a few hours of walking, the distinctive cone of Kohaihai Bluff may be seen in the distance, our destination for the day*.

At Kohaihai our vehicle is waiting (along with luggage transferred from Takaka) for the short drive into beautiful Karamea (15 minutes), where the group enjoys well-deserved hot showers and a relaxing night at The Last Resort. One night of quality lodge accommodation and breakfast at The Last Resort is included in the price.

Here we can share a drink at the bar, enjoy an evening meal together and of course celebrate our achievements and experiences over the last 5 days together.

Day 7 Karamea to Nelson

After breakfast, we deliver you back to Nelson by 2:30pm (approximately) in time for an afternoon flight/bus or we drop you at your accommodation.





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responsible travel

None of us could deny the benefits of travel in broadening our horizons and our way of thinking about the world we all share; travel breaks down barriers and provides valuable insights into other ways of life, it challenges us to step outside our comfort zone and to learn from those around us.

Our responsibility as participants in this journey is to acknowledge our impact on the environment and the communities in which we travel and to consider our individual contribution now and for the benefit of future generations.

We are Qualmark endorsed; New Zealand tourism's official benchmark for environmental standards and quality control. Wherever possible our company utilises local products and services, we support conservation efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage and we respect and care for the unique environment we travel in. Make your commitment to responsible travel with us.

trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors.

These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip.

The Heaphy Track is graded Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise.

If you are uncertain about your suitability for this tour, speak with us and we can help guide you in the right direction



pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation we can help

Contact us at

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
- ▶ Australia: 1 800 044 633
- ▶ World: +64 3 962 3280
- ▶ Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz
- ▶ Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

what's not included

- alcoholic drinks with meals
- personal expenses
- gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service
- dinner in Takaka and Karamea

custom tours

▶ We Can Customise Existing Tours To Suit.

You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add kayaking to your tour!

▶ We Can Design A New Tour Just For You.

We have years of experience in creating custom-made tours for groups, so if you are planning a tour for your friends, family, club, corporate workplace.....Contact us now.



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have you considered?

New Zealand Walking Tours

The Akaroa Walk
The Franz Josef Trail
The Mesopotamia High Country Walk
The Queen Charlotte Walk
The West Coast Trail
The Kaikoura Trail
The Kenepuru Trail
The Hump Ridge Track Walk
The Coromandel Explorer Walk
The Tongariro Crossing Walk
The Lake Waikaremoana Walk
The Abel Tasman Walk - 3 Days
The Abel Tasman Walk - 5 Days
The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 3 Days
The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 5 Days

New Zealand Hiking Tours

The Heaphy Track
The Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk
The Stewart Island Track
The Tongariro Crossing Walk

New Zealand Cycling Tours

The Hanmer Cycle Trail
The Kaikoura Trail
The Kenepuru Trail
The Tekapo Canal Trail
The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
The Molesworth Cycle Trail
The Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail
The Otago Rail Trail

Japan Walking Tours

All of these tours and more available at
www.tuataratours.co.nz



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pre tour checklist

To help you plan your trip, we offer the following list of what to pack

You need to supply a pack, sleeping bag and comfortable footwear. The weather can change quickly on this track so you must be prepared for adverse conditions. It is a good idea to make your pack as light as possible for your own comfort.

- 1 Comfortable backpack
- 1 Plastic inner pack liner
- 1 Good quality sleeping bag in a plastic bag
- 1 Sleeping bag liner (optional)
- 1 or 2 walking poles (optional)
- 1 Good quality weatherproof jacket
- 1 Good quality pair of weatherproof pants (optional)
- 1 Pair of comfortable shoes
- 1 Pair of gaiters (optional)
- 1 Rain poncho (optional)
- 1 Pair of lightweight sandals/jandals/crocs for evenings
- 1 Pair light trousers for evenings
- 1 Pair walking shorts (non denim)
- 1 Woolen jersey or polar fleece
- 1 Polypropylene/merino leggings/long johns
- 2 Polypropylene/merino long sleeved walking shirts (non-cotton)
- 2 Pairs walking socks
- Spare woolen socks
- Spare underwear
- 1 Spare shirt for evening
- 1 Pair gloves
- 1 Warm hat
- 1 Sunhat (in summer)
- 1 Simplified toilet bag (eg toothbrush + toothpaste)
- 1 Small micro-fibre towel
- 1 Sun block
- 1 Head torch (with full batteries)
- 1 Insect repellent
- 1 One litre drink bottle
- 1 Camera (optional)
- Ear Plugs
- Travel pillow (optional)
- Personal nibbles (optional)





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Tuatara Tours - experienced and innovative !

Tuatara Tours is an experienced and innovative walking and cycling adventure company, based in the South Island of New Zealand. The vision at Tuatara Tours is to encourage as many people as possible to be involved in fun, adventure and the outdoors. We ourselves walk, run, mountain bike, road bike and occasionally participate in multi-sport adventure races... to the best of our ability. We are not champions – but we are out there! We understand the outdoors and we revel in the country, people and climate that we work with.

our team is here to provide the best experience

We only have one world and we have to share it with each other. Much of the attraction for our clients is to experience unspoiled and un-crowded landscapes. It is our challenge to ensure that in this sharing of the experience, we minimise where possible, the impact of our business.

Through the introduction of strict environmental guidelines, we minimise our impact on the environment we live and work in.

subscribe to our newsletter

Our newsletter will be emailed to you monthly on the first working day of every month.

- latest trips
- travel advice
- events & attractions
- and more!

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz and click the free subscription button.

how to book

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz and click the enquiry button and submit your booking request using the form provided.

We enjoy talking to people about their travel interests. So feel free to contact us directly if you'd rather not fill out a form.

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Tuatara Conservation

Tuatara Tours are proud to be actively involved in Tuatara Conservation.

Tuatara Tours has formally adopted "BP" a male juvenile tuatara who resides at Orana Park in Christchurch and is part of the conservation programme to ensure the safe future of these amazing reptiles.



country information

Culture

New Zealand has a diverse multi-cultural population, the majority of whom are of British descent. New Zealand's indigenous Maori make up around 14 percent of the population. The culture of its indigenous Maori people affects the language, the arts, and even the accents of all New Zealanders.

New Zealanders embrace new technology and culture, but they also have a background of quiet but rugged individualism, self-reliance and a passion for invention. Many New Zealanders travel extensively and thrive on learning and experiencing other cultures. They are renowned for their openness, ingenuity and "easy-going" nature.

Environment

Fourteen spectacular national parks preserve New Zealand's natural heritage enshrining a huge variety of landscapes, vegetation and wildlife. New Zealand encompasses rich farmland, mountains, rivers and unsurpassed scenery. The country is slightly bigger than the UK in size. Three-quarters of the population live in the North Island with more than a third of New Zealand's population living in the largest city, Auckland.

The South Island - with its lakes, fiords and spectacular outdoor scenery is the most popular destination for tourists. The gateway to the South Island is Christchurch - a city of approximately 340,000 people.

Recreation

New Zealand's stunning landscapes, lush forests, amazing wildlife and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities, and a great place to relax and enjoy life. New Zealanders love the outdoors, especially tramping, camping, skiing and snowboarding. Sailing, surfing and swimming are also favourite pursuits. New Zealand's sports and recreation facilities are inexpensive, abundant and very accessible.





The Heaphy Track

5 Days of Walking



Collingwood

Browns Hut

Perry Saddle Hut

Saxon Hut

Goutland Downs

James Mackay Hut

Heaphy River

Lewis Hut

Heaphy Hut

Kohahai Bluff

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

