

# The Hump Ridge Track



*A UNESCO World Heritage Site - mountains, rivers, birdlife, and virgin podocarp forests.*

## **tour highlights**

- Historical viaducts
- Helicopter transport
  - Fantastic flora
  - Sawmilling relics
  - Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

## **tours run**

Tours run: November - April ( Weekly)

## **tour cost**

**2018 / 2019**

Starting in Tuatapere: NZD\$1845



## **the tour**

The Tuatapere **Hump Ridge Track Walk** in the Fiordland National Park, is tucked away in the Waitutu forest, an ancient native forest on marine terraces. The Waitutu Forest was famously described by botanist Professor David Bellamy as 'probably the most important forest in the world'. This guided walk over moderate terrain is in the heart of south-west New Zealand's Te Wahipounamu area — a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Mountains, rivers, birdlife, and virgin podocarp forests abound. Come and enjoy one of New Zealand's wildest and most beautiful areas.

## **about your guide**

Our guides are very experienced, friendly walkers and bikers 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**

TUATAPERE

**DAY 1** TUATAPERE TO OKAKA LODGE

**DAY 2** OKAKA LODGE TO PORT CRAIG LODGE

**DAY 3** PORT CRAIG LODGE TO TUATAPERE

**Activities:** Walking

**Accommodation:** Country Hotel & Lodge

**Trip Duration:** 3 Days, 3 Nights

**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 itinerary 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  
Double or twin share. If single room accommodation is requested, an additional fee per person is payable to cover this requirement for the duration of the walk.  
Night 1: A traditional country hotel, simple but comfortable private rooms, shared bathrooms, restaurant, guest lounge and bar facilities.  
Night 2: Purpose built walkers lodge. Double/twin rooms with shared bathroom, communal lounge and kitchen.  
Night 3: Purpose built walkers lodge. Double/twin rooms with shared bathroom, communal lounge and kitchen.
- Food  
You will enjoy great local cuisine; continental breakfasts and hearty packed lunches during the day, and either restaurant meals or 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, but is available for purchase most nights or you are welcome to bring a small amount with you for personal consumption if you prefer.
- 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.

### **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

### **Tuatapere**

Welcome! Aim to arrive at Tuatapere at about 5 pm at the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track office to meet your guide and your fellow walkers for a briefing on your itinerary. Your experienced local guide will explain the measures in place for the next 3 days, to ensure your safety in this wild part of New Zealand.

Later, you can return to your hotel, to relax ahead of tomorrow's walk. You may like to try some local Fiordland fare, such as the famous Blue Cod. Dinner tonight is at your own expense.

### **Day 1 Tuatapere to Okaka Lodge**

You'll start your day with an unforgettable helicopter ride over Te Waewae Bay. Then your walk begins. The first stage involves hiking up a ridge to Stag Point. It's a challenging but rewarding climb through beautiful bush, and features stunning views. Near the top you'll see the islands off the South Coast, as well as the many mountains and lakes of Fiordland.

Tonight you'll stay in Okaka Lodge (890 m), just below the ridge summit. It's a memorable place to stay, and features commanding views eastwards. Unwind with a hot shower and a glass of wine, or, if you're in the mood for more walking, follow the fully board-walked loop track above the lodge. This walk has spectacular 360° views over the Southern Fiordland lakes and mountains, Solander and Stewart Islands and Te Waewae Bay.

The lodge is also a great base for botanical exploration around the Hump. This area features mountain daisies, alpine buttercups, hebes, and a wealth of orchids. Another iconic local species: the distinctive 'pineapple shrub', which looks like the top of a pineapple.



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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.

## **Day 2 Okaka Lodge to Port Craig Lodge**

We strongly suggest you rise early to catch the famous spectacular sunrise the ridge is famous for! After breakfast, you'll head downhill down the Hump Ridge, with great views of Te Waewae Bay, the South Coast, the Waitutu terraces and the mountains. You'll then walk over 3 huge wooden viaducts en route to Port Craig Village and your lodge.

The viaducts were built in the early 1920s to open up the Western Southland forests to logging. The viaduct at Percy Burn (36 m high, 125 m long), is the world's largest surviving wooden viaduct.

Today, Port Craig Village is virtually deserted apart from its old schoolhouse, now a Department of Conservation hut. However, in its 1920s heyday, it hosted a bustling sawmilling industry, including the country's largest and most modern sawmill. The Marlborough Timber Company employed over 200 men, and produced up to 1800 m3 of timber a month. Logs arrived via a tramway. Unfortunately, the business went bankrupt.

Port Craig Lodge is an ideal base for exploring the local history. A 5-minute walk takes you to Mussel Beach, with further sawmilling relics including an old pier. Rare Hector's dolphins are often seen in the bay. Maybe you'd like to brave a dip in the Southern Ocean!

## **Day 3 Port Craig Lodge to Tuatapere**

Today you'll walk under native bush canopy and along beautiful golden beaches to your final destination. Near the coast are dense forests of native rimu, miro, totara and rata. There are rocky structures offshore, and fossilised forests formed through tidal and weather variations over millions of years. You'll see Blowholes Beach, named for its ring of rocks that waves blow through. You will finish this wonderful walk via wild, lonely Bluecliffs Beach. You'll then be transported from the Rarakau Farm carpark back to Tuatapere.





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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 Hump Ridge Track Walk 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](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)
- ▶ Web: [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

## **what's not included**

- pre and post tour accommodation
- 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 night 1

## **custom tours**

### **▶ We Can Customise Existing Tours To Suit.**

You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add another element 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](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



## pre tour checklist

The following is a list of items that we highly recommend you bring on your walk.

- Day pack with waterproof liner
- Waterproof rain jacket with hood
- Boots or sturdy walking shoes, preferably with ankle support
- Woollen (merino) or polypro thermals (top and bottom)
- Polar fleece jacket or top
- T shirt for fine weather
- Warm hat and gloves-fleece or woollen
- Pair of shorts / trousers
- Woollen or thermal socks-three pairs
- Pair of light shoes or sandals for the lodges
- A change of clothing for the evening
- Sunscreen, insect repellent
- Personal first aid items-including blister block or foot fleece
- Personal toiletries
- Small torch
- Camera
- Drink bottle

**The following are recommended: You will be carrying your own gear on days 2 and 3 so please keep your bag to around 10kgs**

- Walking poles
- Gaiters
- Swimsuit
- Sun hat and sun glasses
- Spare boot laces

We do not recommend you walk in cotton garments, jeans or silk. These fabrics take much longer to dry after perspiration or wet weather and you may feel damp and cold, even inside the best raincoat. On day 1 your bags are transported by helicopter, however as the helicopter is unable to fly in fog or high winds, as such, on very inclement days we cannot guarantee that your luggage will reach you. Whilst the Lodge Managers will make every effort to make sure you are as comfortable as possible, you will greatly assist your own comfort by carrying a few extra essentials, such as items of personal medication and spare thermals, in your day pack.





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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](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz) and click the free subscription button.

## ***how to book***

Go to [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz), 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 Humpridge Track

3 Day Walk

Lake Monowai

Lake Hauroko

Lake Poteriteri

Te Waewae Bay

Tuatapere Day One

Waikoaia River

Rarakau

Stoney Creek

Blowholes Beach

Port Craig Lodge

Percy Burn Viaduct

Shannons Gully

Stag Point

Okaka Lodge

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

