The Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk

Walk In Rainforest Enjoying Secluded Beaches, And Stunning Views.

4 Days, 3 Nights Moderate Grade

tour highlights

- Lush rainforest
- Secluded beaches
- Stunning mountain views
- Cultural history
- Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

tour cost:

2020 / 2021 NZD$1530

tours run

November - April
Starting in Rotorua

Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand
Phone: New Zealand: 0800 377 378, Australia: 1 800 044 633, World: +64 3 962 3280
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the tour

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46km (28 miles)
Depart Rotorua

Journey deep into New Zealand's last frontier, a land cloaked in mist, mysticism and primordial forest. This unique ***Great Walk*** is managed by the local iwi, Ngai Tuhoe, offering a chance to get amongst wilderness whilst also exploring indigenous culture!

It is a hut-to-hut walking expedition, circumnavigating beautiful ***Lake Waikaremoana***, with secluded beaches, fascinating history and truly breathtaking views.

at a glance

Day 1	Rotorua to Waiharuru Hut
Day 2	Waiharuru Hut to Waiopaoa Hut
Day 3	Panekire Ridge
Day 4	Panekire Ridge / Rotorua

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 Lake Waikaremoana Track is graded as Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times. For the first 2 days you carry only a day pack, for the last 2 days you carry an overnight pack with a sleeping bag and clothing for one night (approx. weight = 8kg).

about your guides

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 and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.

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itinerary

Day 1 Rotorua to Waiharuru Hut

Your New Zealand guided walk begins with a scenic drive from Rotorua to the start of the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk Track, along one of New Zealand's oldest Maori trails.

Journey through remote villages and dense rainforest, into the heart of Te Urewera and Lake Waikaremoana, the North Islands deepest lake.

Walk alongside an estuary, home to a variety of water birds, then catch the first glimpse of the lake itself and the reason for its name, sea of rippling waters, becomes apparent.

The walk follows the shores of Lake Waikaremoana for most of the afternoon, before crossing a headland where a Kiwi Recovery Programme is successfully increasing the numbers of our threatened national icon. Waiharuru Hut welcomes you with a hot drink and hearty cooked meal. Tonight you may hear the night time calls of the North Island brown kiwi and the morepork / ruru.

Walking Time: 4 hours, 10.5 kms.

Day 2 Waiharuru Hut to Waiopaoa Hut

This is the longest day of walking, but you still have plenty of time to enjoy the bush, birds and lovely beaches of the western arm of the lake. Make the most of the many scenic lakeside and lookout spots for rests and refreshments, and some may indulge in a swim!

After lunch, we can take the 45 minute side track to Korokoro Falls. These stunning falls are worth the detour!

Te Urewera forest is home to many native and endangered birds. You are likely to witness the amazing flights of the fantail and kereru, and hear the melodious calls of the bellbird and tui. Waiopaoa Hut, nestled amongst the lush rainforest that stretches to the lake edge, is our home for the night.

Walking Time: 6-8 hours, 18.3 kms

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itinerary continued

Day 3 Panekire Ridge

Today you tackle the Panekire Bluffs, which have been looming ahead for the last two days.

Plenty of rest stops and breathtaking views make today's climb an enjoyable challenge. Walk through different layers of vegetation: from mixed broadleaf podocarp forest featuring giant rata, rimu and miro trees; to enchanted cloud forest of silver beech trees cloaked in eerie mosses, which dominate the higher altitudes.

At the close of the day relax on the verandah of the beautifully situated hut, and soak up the panoramic vistas right out to the ocean. Watch the sunset over the lake and forest clad mountains, while a birds eye view gives an appreciation of the remarkable terrain you have covered over the last few days.

Walking time: 4 - 5 hours, 7.6 kms, 600 m height gain

Day 4 Panekire Ridge / Rotorua

Wake to be among the first in the world to welcome the day's sunrise over the Pacific Ocean! Continuing along the Panekire Ridge, breaks in the forest offer more magnificent views and fantastic photo opportunities from the colossal rock ledges that form the range.

Look across Onepoto Bay to see the evidence of the landslide that created Lake Waikaremoana over two thousand years ago.

Celebrate completing the Great Walk with a BBQ lunch and drinks. Return to Rotorua approx 6pm.

Walking time: 4.5 hours, 8.8 kms. Driving time: 4 hours - (B,L)

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what is included

Accommodation

Night 1: Waiharuru Hut on the lake edge - (L,D)
Night 2: Waiopaoa Hut on the lake edge - (B,L,D)
Night 3: Panekire Hut on the mountain top - (B,L,D)
Classic New Zealand backcountry huts, located in stunning natural surroundings. They are clean and dry, and provide fresh drinking water, bunk beds with mattresses, outside toilets, separate dining and communal areas, and heating. There is no electricity or hot water. A booking system ensures no overcrowding. The isolation and lack of mod-cons create a very special and social atmosphere for hut-goers!

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.

All meals and snacks are included.

IMPORTANT

The management & guardianship of the Te Urewera area has recently been passed to the local iwi, Tuhoe. In order to improve the health of the whenua (land) and the spiritual relationship and connectedness that manuhiri (visitors) experience, they have introduced two new policies:
1. No single-use plastic. 2. No alcohol.

An experienced and fully qualified 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.

what is not included

- pre and post tour accommodation
- 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

This tour is operated in conjunction with another operator.

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pre tour checklist

Please ensure you have the following items for your walking tour.

Essential Items

- [ ] Sturdy hiking boots (preferably with ankle support, worn in please!)
- [ ] Light shoes or sandals you can wear with socks (for the evenings)
- [ ] Warm hat
- [ ] Sleepwear
- [ ] Drink bottle or camelback (this can be refilled at the huts each day, please have your bottle full for Day 1)
- [ ] Small torch
- [ ] Personal toiletries and essential medications
- [ ] Sun screen, sun hat
- [ ] Ear plugs (accommodation is communal so these will ensure a peaceful night's sleep)
- [ ] Blister kit & plasters
- [ ] Camera, spare film and batteries
- [ ] Swimsuit and towel (the lake has good swimming – please no soap or shampoo in lake)

The following essential Items may be borrowed from us or you can use your own

- [ ] Back pack (medium size approx. 40 litres, with good harness and waist belt)
- [ ] Waterproof rain coat with hood
- [ ] Sleeping bag (minimum 3 season, preferably down, lightweight, between 1-2kg)
- [ ] Sleeping bag liner
- [ ] Small pillow and pillowcase
- [ ] Waterproof pack liner or plastic rubbish sack (to keep things dry in your pack)

Essential clothing, one set walking, one set for the evenings

Walking clothes: Several layers of wool, polypropylene and/or polar fleece will ensure you remain a comfortable temperature regardless of the weather.

- [ ] No Cotton Shirts please! Cotton gets cold when wet and is difficult to dry
- [ ] Shorts or lightweight trousers (preferably quick-dry)
- [ ] Short-sleeved shirt x 2 (quick-dry, polypropylene or wool, merino wool is ideal)
- [ ] Long-sleeved shirt or jumper (wool or polar fleece)
- [ ] Socks, wool, at least 2 pairs. Well-fitting hiking socks will vastly reduce the chance of blisters
- [ ] Leggings (long johns) wool or polypro) are a good idea especially at the start or end of the season

Evening/ Night clothes for in the huts and for sleepwear:

- [ ] Thermal underwear (wool or polypro, long sleeve and long legged)
- [ ] Another 2 layers for upper body to go over thermals (preferably polypro or wool)
- [ ] Warm wool or polar fleece jumper
- [ ] Shorts or lightweight trousers to wear over thermals
- [ ] Socks

Spare clothing: Extra socks and polypropylene layers are always handy. At 1200 metres above sea level the huts can be cold, even in summer. Spare clothing can be transported by boat, so don't worry about the extra weight – ensure you have enough warm items. Note: there are no drying rooms at the huts

Optional items the following are not essential but may be useful

- Small day-pack (to carry your lunch, water and raincoat etc. for the first 2 days, this can then be swapped for the 40L pack for the last 2 days)

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pre tour checklist continued

- Waterproof pack cover (included with our backpacks)
- Walking poles - highly recommended
- Waterproof over-trousers
- Warm Gloves
- Flannel for washing
- Insect repellent (sandflies /mosquitoes are present at times during the year)
- Fishing gear & licence

HOW TO PACK

For the first two days:

the boat will carry anything you don't need during your day's walk - pack these items in a sturdy sports bag or larger backpack (no loose items please). In your day-pack you should carry your raincoat, water, hat, a spare long-sleeved warm top, and lunch (provided by us). The boat will meet you at the first two huts with the rest of your gear.

For the last two days:

you will need to carry all the above items plus your sleeping bag, personal toiletries, and clothing for one night. Anything you don't need for the last two days may be left in the boat, and will be transported to meet you at the end of the track.

Please ensure important items such as your sleeping bag and clothes are in plastic bags!
Spare plastic bags are useful to store dirty footwear and laundry etc.
Note there are no drying facilities in the huts.
To prevent the spread of noxious weeds and plant diseases, please clean your boots and walking poles thoroughly before the walk.

we supply:

- Lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 4 - All meals, snacks, hot drinks
- Plates, cutlery, mugs etc
- Toilet paper & soap
- Trail map

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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.

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.

How do I train for my upcoming tour?

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.

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how to book

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz, click the make an 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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pre and post tour accommodation

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

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custom tours

We Can Customise Existing Tours - You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add an 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.

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 go to the newsletter sign up in the footer of any page.

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TuataraTours-experienced and innovative

Tuatara Tours is an experienced and innovative walking and biking 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 understand the outdoors and we revel in the country, people and climate that we work with

our team is here to provide you with 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

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 Gold 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.

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.

NZ Walking Tours

The Akaroa Walk
The Franz Josef Trail
The Mesopotamia High Country Walk
The Queen Charlotte Walk
The West Coast Trail
The Hump Ridge Track Walk
The Coromandel Explorer Walk
The Tongariro Crossing Walk
The Lake Waikaremoana Walk
Great Barrier Island Escape
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
Bucket List Walk
The Old Ghost Road

NZ Hiking Tours

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

NZ Cycling Tours

Around The Mountains Cycle trail
The Tekapo Canal Trail
The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
The West Coast Wilderness Cycle Trail
The Queenstown Cycle Trail
The Otago Rail Trail
The Tasman Great Taste Trail and Golden Bay Explorer

Overseas Tours

Bhutan Tours
Japan Walking Tours
Australia Walking Tours

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

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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 380,000 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 (hiking), 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.

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.

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TUATARA TOURS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Tuatara Tours NZ Limited accepts bookings subject to the following conditions:

Contract
This contract is between Tuatara Tours and you the client being any person travelling or intending to travel on a tour supplied by Tuatara Tours as the operator. The contract, including all matters arising from it, is subject to New Zealand law and the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts. Only Employees and Directors of Tuatara Tours have authority to vary or omit any of the terms.

Price
The price is quoted in New Zealand dollars and includes GST of 15%. The price is based on prices at time of publishing and Tuatara Tours hereby reserves to modify without notice those prices in any way considered necessary or desirable.

Organised tour accommodations are based on a twin/double share accommodation. Individual travellers will be placed in rooms together with other individual travellers of the same sex. A single supplement is available on request.

Confirmation of Booking
Bookings are confirmed upon receipt of the full tour price and become definite from that date. Tuatara Tours or their agents reserve their right to decline any booking at their discretion.

Cancellation
If a client wishes to cancel a tour the following charges will be applied:
(Unless stated otherwise at time of confirmation of the tour)

1. 60 days or more from departure date - 20% of the tour cost;
2. 21 to 59 days from departure date - 35% of the tour cost; and
3. 20 days or less - no refund will be given.

If a client fails to join the tour, or joins after the tour departure date, no refund will be made. These cancellation fees are not negotiable, therefore we strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance.

Insurance
Tuatara Tours recommends that the client take out tour cancellation insurance together with all other necessary travel insurances. Obtaining all necessary insurances is the responsibility of you the client and Tuatara Tours can not held liable for any failure on your part to get insurance.

Medical conditions
When you book you must notify us of any medical condition, medical history or medication that you are on.

Changes to Tours
Tuatara Tours will use its best endeavours to ensure that all tours are operated as advertised. It may be that reasonable changes in the itinerary may need to be made where is deemed necessary or advisable by Tuatara Tours. Changes will be advised to the client as soon as is reasonably possible. Where a tour service needs to be changed, a substitute or similar quality or standard will be provided.

Weather
Adverse weather conditions may mean that planned activities cannot proceed as intended. A decision to change an advertised tour based on the weather conditions will be made by a tour guide at the time and is made in the best interest of the group and their safety. Tuatara Tours and or their contracted suppliers can not be held responsible to any changes as a result of the weather.

General conditions
Tuatara Tours, its agents, contractors and guides do not accept responsibility or liability for loss, damage to, or theft of personal belongings (owners risk) or for any expenses, including medical and transport expenses arising from a personal accident, injury, illness, or hospitalisation. Tuatara Tours and their guides reserve the right to make any alterations to the itinerary in the interest of safety, or unforeseen circumstances due to causes such as weather, illness or misadventure. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to keep to published schedules but no guarantee is given. Tuatara Tours will not be held liable for costs incurred by change, delay or the missing of connecting services. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to exclude a person from a tour at any time, if in the opinion of the guide or operator, that person may be likely to risk the health, safety or comfort (including unsociable behaviour) of other clients, him or herself or the environment. In such circumstances, Tuatara Tours will not be obliged to offer any refund or transfer ticket. These terms and conditions apply to each participant including in a group booking. Where a booking is made on behalf of a group or two or more people then each participant in the group must be made aware of and accept these terms and conditions