

Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking



Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.

tour highlights

- Aqua coloured glacial rivers and lakes
 - Vast wide open expanses
 - Rich in history
- Experience high country life
 - Unsurpassed hospitality
- Some home cooked meals
- Varied and exciting riding
 - Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

official partner



Tuatara Tours is proud to be in an official partnership with The New Zealand Cycle Trail. The objective of the partnership is to create a nationwide network of cycle trails that connect the Great Rides with the rest of New Zealand



tours run

Tours run: November - March

tour cost

2019 / 2020

Starting in Christchurch: NZD\$3995

options & supplements

Single Supplement:	NZD\$870
Bike Hire	NZD\$190
Electric Bike Hire	NZD\$450

fast facts

Tuatara Tours does not require single travellers pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share, a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above. We suggest flying in the night before the tour departs, however if you plan to fly into Christchurch on the morning of the tour then you need to have landed and be in arrivals by 8:30am. Your guide will then come and collect you as the tour is leaving town. We don't recommend catching flights on the same day as the tour departs or finishes.

*Please enquire for further information



the tour

The **Mesopotamia High Country Walk** is an awe-inspiring four day fully guided walking tour, which includes Mesopotamia High Country Station and the spectacular Peel Forest Scenic Reserve. You will be captivated by the grandeur of soaring landscapes, snow-capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock-covered tundra. Be inspired by stories of hardship and survival, explore the land New Zealand's pioneers fought to tame, and enjoy the peace and isolation of one of this country's most iconic high country farms- the true Middle Earth. Explore the **Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail**, which makes some of the South Island's most dramatic scenery accessible to cyclists. There's nearly 300 km of cycling from the tussocky alpine Mackenzie Country with its turquoise lakes, through rural towns to the Pacific Ocean in historic Oamaru. Your fully guided tour starts and ends in the South Island's largest city: Christchurch, with all accommodation, meals, and support vehicles provided.

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

DAY 1 CHRISTCHURCH TO MESOPOTAMIA STATION

DAY 2 MESOPOTAMIA STATION

DAY 3 MESOPOTAMIA, PEEL FOREST, MT SOMERS

DAY 4 MT SOMERS, HAKATERE, MT SOMERS

DAY 5 MT SOMERS TO TWIZEL

DAY 6 LAKE PUKAKI TO LAKE OHAU

DAY 7 LAKE OHAU TO OTEMATATA

DAY 8 OTEMATATA TO DUNTROON

DAY 9 DUNTROON TO OAMARU TO CHRISTCHURCH





Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking

Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.

Walking Terrain

The Mesopotamia High Country Walk takes you across Mesopotamia High Country Station, a privately owned, family run farm originally established by the English writer Samuel Butler in 1860 and purchased by the current family in 1945. This is not a public trail; we walk over farm tracks, paddocks and tussock lands as we explore the farm. Walks can include some hill climbs, small stream or creek crossings and walking on varied and uneven terrain, so is classified moderate.

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
 - Nights 1 and 2: Farm Cottages on Mesopotamia Station. Originally housing farm workers, the cottages now host hunters, tramping parties and family groups. Each cottage has 3 bedrooms, a communal lounge and kitchen, and a shared bathroom. Basic but comfortable high country accommodation in keeping with the location and feel of the tour.
 - Night 3 & 4: Private stand-alone studio chalets with ensuite bathrooms, in a quiet rural setting. Restaurant and bar on site.
 - Night 5: Comfortable Country Hotel, large private rooms with ensuite bathrooms and tea/ coffee making facilities.
 - Night 6: Lakeside Alpine Lodge. Private rooms with queen and single bed, ensuite bathrooms.
 - Night 7: Comfortable Country Hotel, large private rooms with ensuite bathrooms and tea/ coffee making facilities.
 - Night 8: Comfortable accommodation in a historic setting. Double twin rooms with ensuite.
- 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 for nights 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 but is available for purchase with your evening meal. We supply beer and wine on nights 1 and 2 at Mesopotamia Station.
- Luggage
 - Tuatara Tours transports all your luggage for the duration of the tour. All you carry is a small day pack with your personal gear, drink and lunch. We do the rest
- Tour Kit Bag - Exclusive to Tuatara Tours
 - To ensure you get the very best out of your journey with the least of fuss, we provide you with a calico kit bag full of useful goodies. This will be given to you at the start of your tour.
- An experienced guide
- All transport - support vehicle for the duration of the tour
- 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.





Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking

Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.



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.

The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail does include some low level mountain biking.

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.

Do you have bikes I can hire?

We have cycles for hire and recommend you use them as they are tried and true in the areas we operate. All of our cycles are fully maintained and serviced before they leave. We also supply you with a cycle helmet and safety vest in the cost of your cycle hire. You may use your own cycle, but please ensure it is well maintained and fully serviced before your tour starts.



itinerary

Day 1 Christchurch to Mesopotamia Station 8km of Walking



After meeting your fellow walkers and bikers and your guide, you depart Christchurch and enjoy a scenic drive out across the Canterbury Plains to Mesopotamia High Country Station, situated at the headwaters of the mighty Rangitata River.

The drive takes approximately 2 hours and on arrival at Mesopotamia High Country Station you will collect your packed lunch and your walking gear and head out for today's walk, a journey across "The Brabazon", one of the large blocks of farmland on the Mesopotamia property. Your walk takes you up and back into the hills behind the Mesopotamia Homestead, with stunning views back down the Rangitata River Valley, over the surrounding mountain ranges and on to the Southern Alps in the distance. You will enjoy your picnic lunch beside one of the many small streams or on a comfortable tussock cushion as you take in the view.

After lunch, you continue to explore Mesopotamia Station. Keep your eyes peeled for a variety of small sub alpine plants, birds and butterflies, and if luck is on your side, a sighting of a deer in the wild.

Returning late afternoon to the cottages, you will have time to freshen up before a hearty home cooked dinner prepared by your hostess and a relaxing evening in front of the fire with your fellow walkers.

Day 2 Mesopotamia Station 16km of Walking



After breakfast we head out to continue exploring Mesopotamia Station. Today's walk concentrates on the trails around the homestead, and along the top terraces of the station, with a backdrop of the majestic "Two Thumbs" mountain range of the Southern Alps. From here you can admire the views that attracted the writer Samuel Butler to the region, and which was the inspiration for his satirical novel "Erewhon".

Mesopotamia Station covers an area of 25,000 acres and is home to over 11,000 merino sheep, 3,000 farmed deer and 500 beef cattle. The circular route today will take you from your accommodation, through the game park where you are likely to see magnificent fallow deer, red deer, chamois, thar and elk, and back to the cottages mid-afternoon, where you can relax until dinner. For those keen to explore further, the farm outbuildings, the local school house and the site of Butler's house all make for interesting historical landmarks.

You will again be accommodated in the cottages of the Mesopotamia Station.





Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking

Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.



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 3 Mesopotamia, Peel Forest, Mt Somers 9km of Walking



After breakfast we take a short walk to the final resting place of Dr Andrew Sinclair, botanist and Colonial Secretary to the New Zealand Government. Dr Sinclair was travelling with his good friend, the geologist Julius Von Haast, when he was swept away and drowned in the flooded Rangitata River, beside which he now lies.

Mid-morning we prepare to leave Mesopotamia Station and drive to Peel Forest, where you will walk the trails of the Peel Forest Scenic Reserve. Many of the original settlers of the region are buried in the small stone church that the original owner of Mt Peel Station, J.B.A Acland, gifted to the community. We make a short stop at the church on our journey through to Peel Forest this morning.

Your walk today takes you on a journey through the Reserve, with its canopy of towering podocarps, rich in bird life. The Reserve has 500 hectares of virgin native forest, with several totara trees said to be around 1000 years old. Its mild moist climate is also ideal for ferns and around 36% of all native ferns grown in New Zealand are found in this area. You will be refreshed by the sound of birdsong and the fresh, cool air of the forest.

This evening we relax and dine at a comfortable country lodge and chalets in Mt Somers

Day 4 Mt Somers, Hakatere, Mt Somers 16km of Walking



Today is our last day in the High Country, and our longest day of walking. After an early breakfast in your chalet, we journey by coach to the head of Lake Clearwater, travelling up the northern side of the Rangitata River Valley. Originally Butler's Mesopotamia Station stretched over both sides of the river and today we explore the area at the top of the river, referred to more commonly these days as Middle Earth. Our walk takes us out from Lake Clearwater, up into a tussock covered mountain valley to the shoreline of Mystery Lake, where we picnic beside the lake. Keep your eyes peeled for brown trout, the lake is a well-kept secret for local fisher folk.

Returning from Mystery Lake we follow the ridgeline down above the Potts River, with amazing views of the valley below, a fantastic panorama back over Mesopotamia Station and the area we have travelled over the last 4 days.

This evening you relax and dine again at the comfortable country lodge and chalets in Mt Somers.





Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking

Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.



Day 5 Mt Somers to Lake Pukaki Info Centre 30.4km



This morning you drive from Mt Somers to the iconic Mackenzie Country, a rugged mountain valley basin, past two turquoise alpine lakes: Tekapo and Pukaki where you will start your cycling from Braemar Station, a large sheep farm on the shores of Lake Pukaki. You're on the edge of the Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park, with close-up views of New Zealand's highest mountain.



You'll follow the Lake Pukaki shoreline on a new purpose-built track, finishing at the Lake Pukaki Information Centre. It's flat and mostly downhill, through tussock grasslands with beautiful lake and mountain views.

Day 6 Lake Pukaki Info Centre to Lake Ohau 49.6km



This morning we'll cycle 10 km on a flat trail to the former hydroelectric town of Twizel, now a water sports and winter sports mecca. En route: amazing views over the Mackenzie basin and the dramatic Benmore Range.

From here you'll follow an undulating trail with short, steep sections to tonight's destination: beautiful, glacial Lake Ohau, in the Mackenzie High Country. You'll stay at the lovely Lake Ohau Lodge.

Tonight be sure to head outside after dinner for some of the most spectacular star gazing on earth. The Mackenzie Basin has recently been named an international dark sky reserve, as its night skies are amongst the world's cleanest, driest and darkest.



Day 7 Lake Ohau to Otematata - 65km



An undulating path today, with some short, steep sections. We'll follow a newly built off road trail traversing the lower slopes of the Ruataniwha Conservation Park, enjoying views back over the Benmore Range. From here you climb to the high point on the trail, then it's a steady downhill through the Quailburn, a historic sheep-farming area where early musterers lived a harsh life with many hardships.

Next, we'll follow State Highway 8 passing through Omarama township, at the southern end of the Mackenzie Basin, for the final stretch to the village of Otematata, set between two hydro dam lakes. With today's cycling completed, it's on board your coach for a short journey back to Omarama and your night's accommodation.

Tonight, relax with a cold drink at your hotel, or perhaps try the local outdoor hot tubs for a relaxing night's sleep.





Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking

Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.



Day 8 Otematata to Duntroon - 71km



We'll leave tiny Otematata behind with a short, steep climb and follow the Benmore Dam, past the power station. We'll skirt the shores of pretty Lake Aviemore and follow the Waitaki River to Kurow in the Waitaki Valley.

After lunch, it's off to Duntroon, another quiet inland country town that harbours big surprises: geological formations that interest researchers worldwide, and fossils of sea creatures which lived here millions of years ago, including two extinct penguin species.

Nearby are fossilised whale bones, and Maori rock drawings, hundreds of years old. There may be time to visit the excellent Vanished World Museum. We return to Kurow where we stay the night.



Day 9 Duntroon to Oamaru - 55km



Today, it's into the home stretch through the North Otago countryside to historic Oamaru.

At your guides discretion there are 2 routes to choose from. If you don't feel up to a ride that is over rolling hills on the trail proper, we can offer a ride on an easier route directly to the small town of Windsor where we pick up the trail again and ride to the completion of the trail in Oamaru.

Both routes pass unusual limestone plateaux or 'tables', including the unusual Elephant Rocks, well-known as one of the locations used in filming the movie "The Chronicles of Narnia". Our route takes us through the Awamoko Valley to Ngapara (Maori for 'the tables') and tiny Enfield.

Our journey ends in Oamaru, the largest town in the district. We'll cycle right up to the heart of Oamaru: the picturesque harbour in the middle of its remarkably preserved Victorian precinct, featuring beautiful 19th century buildings carved in the local white Oamaru stone.

We've made it... we've cycled almost 300 km and walked approximately 40 km from the high country to the sea! After a small celebration, we'll drive you back to Christchurch, or you may wish to continue your adventures from Oamaru.





Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking

Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.



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 Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail and Mesopotamia High Country 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. There is some low level mountain biking on this trail.

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

- pre and post tour accommodation
- alcoholic drinks
- 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

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.





Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking

Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.



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 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 Tasman Great Taste Trail
 The Queenstown 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



pre tour checklist

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

Gear will be checked prior to departure.

Medium size day pack (this can be transported for you in the support vehicle while you are cycling)

- Waterproof rain jacket with hood
- Comfortable walking/riding shoes, we suggest lightweight walking shoes suitable for cycling and for any extra short walks you may choose to do.
- Boots or sturdy walking shoes, preferably with ankle support for the main walk
- Woollen (merino) or polypro thermals (top and bottom)
- Polar fleece jacket or top or woollen jumper
- Gloves-fleece or woollen or cycle gloves if you have them
- Pair of shorts (preferably quick-dry fabric, no jeans) or cycle shorts if you have them.
- Woollen or thermal socks-three or four pairs
- Personal first aid items and any essential medications

The following are highly recommended

- Walking poles (we have these available if you need them)
- Waterproof over trousers
- Gaiters
- Swimsuit and small towel
- Sun hat , sun glasses, sun block
- Pair of light shoes or sandals for the evenings
- Casual attire for the evenings
- Personal toiletries
- Personal first aid items-including blister block or foot fleece
- Insect repellent
- Camera
- Drink bottle (we supply you with one bottle, but you may wish to bring another)
- Torch for the tunnels

If you are bringing along your own bike, you must ensure your bike has been fully serviced and is in a roadworthy and safe condition to ride. You must also ensure you bring spare tyres or tubes as we only carry a basic stock for the bikes we hire out.



All our hire bikes come with helmet, hi-vis safety vest and have a standard "gel-tech" seat however you are welcome to bring your own helmet or gel seat cover if you prefer.



Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking

Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.



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, 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.

- ▶ 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





Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking

Experience soaring landscapes, snow capped mountain ranges and wide open tussock covered tundras. Ride and walk from the mountains to the sea.



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.





Southern Alps

Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking 4



-  Day 1
-  Day 2
-  Day 3
-  Day 4

Mesopotamia Walk & Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

4 Days Walking & 5 Days Biking



🚴 Day 5 🚴 Day 6 🚴 Day 7 🚴 Day 8 🚴 Day 9