

# The Tongariro Crossing Walk



## The Tongariro Crossing Walk: A Life-Changing Experience!

### tour highlights

- Stark volcanic landscapes
  - Native beech forest
- Steaming crater lakes
  - Alpine fields
  - Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

### tours run

Tours run: November - April (Weekly on Tuesdays)

### tour cost

2019 / 2020

Starting in Rotorua: NZD\$1650



### the tour

Experience the dramatic alpine and volcanic landscapes of World Heritage Area Tongariro National Park, with a small group and experienced local guide. Hike the unforgettable Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

Significant cultural heritage combined with arid badlands, crater lakes, sparkling rivers, breath-taking lunar landscapes, native beech forest and alpine meadows - this New Zealand hiking tour is a once in a lifetime experience not to be missed!

### 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 ROTORUA PICK-UP AND DINNER

DAY 2 CROSSING THE TONGARIRO

DAY 3 MT RUAPEHU AND VARIOUS

DAY 4 WATERFALLS AND RAIN FORESTS

**Activities:** Walking

**Accommodation:** Chateau Tongariro

**Trip Duration:** 4 Days, 3 Nights

**Grade :** Challenging





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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 checklist. 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  
The Chateau Tongariro is a 4-star historic hotel with AMAZING views of the mountains and National Park. An elegant lounge area provides the perfect place to relax and socialise with the group at the end of each day. The heated plunge pool and sauna are ideal for tired muscles! Rooms are studio twin or double with ensuite - single supplement and upgrades to executive spa suites are available on request.
- 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.
- 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
- 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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## Itinerary

### 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.

## Day 1 Arrive Central Plateau

Pick-up from Rotorua central or airport approx 1:30pm, or Taupo 2:30pm.

Arrive in Tongariro National Park and become acquainted with the area and your guide with a short walk. Settle in to your accommodation with a glass of New Zealand wine, while the sun sets over the impressive Tongariro volcanoes.

Relish a delicious New Zealand style restaurant meal while you get to know the other members of your small group. Retire to a cozy bed and hot shower, ready to tackle the world's best day hike tomorrow - the Tongariro Alpine Crossing!

## Day 2 Tongariro Crossing

Hike the Tongariro Alpine Crossing - known as the best one-day walk in New Zealand and possibly the world. A challenging hike leads through stunning volcanic landscapes, past steaming craters, quirky coloured lakes and impressive dome volcanoes. Fantastic views over central North Island. Fair weather and a good level of fitness are required to undertake this hike.

If conditions allow we will have an early start on the track, so we can enjoy the pre-dawn solitude of the mountains and watch the sunrise over the volcanoes – a truly magical experience!

Lonely Planet recommends a walk amidst the Tongariro Volcanoes as “a life-changing experience not to be missed!” Your guides make this unforgettable hike even more memorable by sharing their local knowledge, setting a relaxed pace, and providing a well-earned celebratory drink and snack at the end of the track.

Return to our lodgings to soak your weary muscles in the hot plunge pool, before having a casual pub dinner with the locals.





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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 3 Mt Ruapehu Hikes**

Travel around the southern side of Mt Ruapehu to experience some of New Zealand's rail history on the Old Coach Road trail. Between 1906 to 1908 the road was used to carry passengers and goods by horse and coach, between two railheads on the main trunk line.

Heritage features on the trail include a unique cobbled road, massive steel viaducts, a curved tunnel, railway bridge remains, and old campsites. The 15km walk takes around 5 hours, and also passes through some beautiful stands of native forest with sweeping views across the district.

If conditions allow we will explore the dramatic, rock-strewn landscapes higher up Mt Ruapehu. At 2797 metres above sea level, the North Island's highest mountain offers jaw-dropping views over the National Park with various hiking options or catch a chair-lift up to NZ's highest café. Tonight we enjoy a final celebration dinner in The Chateau's elegant Ruapehu Restaurant.

## **Day 4 Rainforests & Waterfalls**

After breakfast we pack up and explore more of Tongariro National Park with a walk to the Taranaki Falls. Tumbling 20 metres over the edge of an old lava flow, which erupted from Mt Ruapehu 15,000 years ago, the falls plunge into a boulder-ringed pool. The track passes through an interesting range of alpine meadows and beech forest, with spectacular views of the mountains.

Then hike around the glistening Lake Rotopounamu, which is nestled in the side of an old volcanic mountain and totally fringed with lush forest.

Drop off in Taupo approx 4 - 5pm or Rotorua 5 - 6pm





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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 Tongariro Crossing Walk is graded 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

## **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

## **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.





# The Tongariro Crossing Walk



## 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 Keneperu 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 Keneperu 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)



## The Tongariro Crossing Walk: A Life-Changing pre tour checklist Experience!

### Essential Items:

- Day pack
- Warm hat & gloves
- Drink bottle or camel bak – 2 litre capacity
- Personal toiletries, shampoo, and any essential medications
- Sunscreen, sunglasses & sunhat
- Camera & charger

### Clothing:

- Hiking Boots (sturdy boots, preferably with ankle support, worn in please!)
- Waterproof rain coat with hood (we lend raincoats by prior arrangement)
- Socks (about 3 pairs, wool is best)
- Shorts or light weight trousers for walking
- Thermal leggings or long-johns to wear while walking (these are essential for walking in an alpine environment)
- Thermal long sleeved shirt (polypro or wool)
- Short-sleeved shirts (preferably polypropylene or wool: merino wool is ideal)
- Long-sleeved shirt or light sweater
- Warm wool or polar fleece jersey
- Smart/Casual clothes for the evenings
- PJ's / sleepwear

### Optional items, these are highly recommended but not essential:

- Swimsuit & towel (river and hot-pool swimming opportunities may exist)
- Walking poles (highly recommended) \
- Light running/walking shoes or sandals for easy walks
- Mobile phone (highly recommended for safety, good cell phone reception throughout the park)
- Book, trip journal etc
- Water-proof over trousers
- Down or windproof jacket
- Lunch-box to protect your sandwiches (otherwise we provide paper bags)
- Blister kit
- Head torch or small hand held torch

### We supply:

- All meals, snacks, hot & cold drinks
- Pre-dinner drinks and nibbles – wine can be purchased with dinners
- Linen & bath towels
- Toilet paper & soap

### Please ensure....

- Ensure you have plenty of warm clothing - be prepared for cold mountain weather.
- To prevent the spread of noxious weeds and plant diseases, please clean your boots and walking poles thoroughly before the hike.





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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**

*Experience!*

### **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 Tongariro Crossing Walk

3 Days of Walking

