

Great Barrier Island Escape

Great Barrier Island (Aotea) is a place of remote beauty and rugged wilderness, with a distinctive Kiwi flavour.



tour highlights

- Pristine panoramas
 - Tranquility
- Fantastic meals
- Ancient forests
- Great company

tour cost

2019 / 2020

NZD\$1850

tour dates

2019 / 2020

Our Great Barrier Island Escape trips depart several times a month, from late October to April. Please enquire for dates available or view our website www.tuataratours.co.nz

Most walkers fly from Auckland airport and meet us at the Great Barrier airport. We advise you to book early so you don't miss out on the most convenient flights.

The following are the links for booking your flights.

<http://www.barrierair.kiwi/>
<http://www.flymysky.co.nz/>

Carry a day pack only

Join a small group, or have an exclusive trip for your own group

30 minute scenic flight from Auckland (not included in the tour price)



Great Barrier Island (Aotea) is a place of remote beauty and rugged wilderness, with a distinctive Kiwi flavour.

With just 900 residents, it is one of the most tranquil and laid-back places you'll find in the South Pacific.

The warm salty breeze mingled with the rich forest air makes every breath a pleasure, while it's winding trails through volcanic peaks, native forests, golden beaches and crystal-clear waters ensure your daily quota of exercise and adventure.

On Great Barrier Island, Nature is King.

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 AUCKLAND TO GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

DAY 2 HEART & SOUL: MT HOBSON

DAY 3 NORTHERN SHORES

DAY 4 LEFT OF CENTRE



Activities: Walking
Accommodation: Shoal Bay Estate
Trip Duration: 4 Days, 3 Nights
Grade : Moderate

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Shoal Bay Estate

what's included

- **Accommodation**

The colonial style Shoal Bay Estate is located in the beautiful and tranquil setting of Shoal Bay, Tryphena with a charming interior decor and harbour views. There are plenty of sunny, private decks to relax on, plus large pohutukawa trees for shade. Double and twin rooms with shared bathroom facilities. Single supplement is available.

- **Food**

- Dinner and breakfast are served in the lodge dining room.
- All meals, snacks and nibbles, hot and cold drinks are included.
- A glass of wine each evening; you can purchase more wine with dinner. The lodge does not have credit card or eftpos facilities, please bring cash from the mainland.



- **An experienced guide**

- **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.



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Getting to Great Barrier Island

There are regular flights from Auckland to Great Barrier Island. When you book your flights to Great Barrier Island, please ensure you arrive at Claris Airport by 10:30am on the first day of your tour.

The following are the links for booking your flights.

<http://www.barrierair.kiwi/>

<http://www.flymysky.co.nz/>

If any flights are cancelled or delayed the cost of unplanned accommodation and other expenses will be the responsibility of the ticket holder.

Travel insurance is highly recommended.

When booking connecting flights or onward travel, please allow a generous window of time to account for unforeseen delays.

frequently asked questions

How fit do I need to be?

Moderate fitness is required for the Island Escape walk. The walking trails are of easy or moderate difficulty, with varying terrain. The trails range from well formed paths to tracks broken with tree roots, rocks, mud and small stream crossings. Some of the walks can be varied slightly to provide easier options. Walking times vary between 3 to 7 hours per day. You will need to carry a daypack with your lunch, water, raincoat and jersey. We have good quality raincoats and daypacks you can borrow.

Some tips for training:

Being well prepared for this hike will increase your enjoyment of the experience. Your pre trip training should consist of several walks per week of 1-2 hours, with at least 1 longer walk per week (3 to 6 hours).

Make sure you include some hilly terrain or stairs, and carry a daypack. Train in the clothing and footwear you intend to wear during the trip. Contact us if you would like some more advice on fitness and training.



itinerary

DAY 1 – Auckland to Great Barrier Island

Meet your guide at 10:30am at the Great Barrier Island Claris airport. Please be dressed to start walking straight away! For information on getting to the Island please see the information on the left.

We head west to Whangaparapara and the Te Ahumata Track. Follow an old mining road, marvel at wind shorn bonsai-like plants and try to spot orchids at the summit. It's all views, views, views from atop the white cliffs!

After lunch we head down to explore the beautiful southern coast. Explore the 'Whalers Lookout' track, aptly named for its' advantageous viewpoints – perfect for spotting Brydes whales.

Settle into our charming lodge for aperitifs on the deck overlooking the tranquil Tryphena harbour. Enjoy a sumptuous home-cooked meal using locally grown ingredients including freshly caught fish, free-range eggs, grass-fed beef and complimentary glass of wine or beer with dinner. Non-alcoholic drinks also available.

Accommodation: Shoal Bay Estate -
(Lunch, Dinner)
Hiking time: 3-4 hours.
Driving time: 45 mins.

DAY 2 – Heart & Soul: Mt Hobson

Stride through 'Windy Canyon' in the central mountainous area of Great Barrier to the summit of Mt Hobson. This challenging track is a combination of easy walking trails, steep climbs, stairways and bridges. Traverse a range of spectacular landscapes... streams lined with beautiful native bush, peaceful wetlands, forests of kauri, rimu, kahikatea and more. Discover the historical remains of the early Kauri industry.

At 621 metres and the highest point of the island, the 360 degree views from the summit of Mt Hobson are worth the climb!

Walk through the precious fragile Kaitoke Wetlands where delicate orchids and sundews sprinkle either side of the track. Listen out for the distinctive "u-tick" call of the rare fernbird or spotless crane, the presence of which indicates high wetland health and abundance of food sources.



Finish off this sensational hike with a rejuvenating soak in a natural thermal hot spring.

Accommodation: Shoal Bay Estate
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
Hiking time: 6-7 hours.
Height gain: approx. 300 metres.
Driving time: 1.5 hours.



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DAY 3 – Northern Shores

Travelling north we start our day driving into the spectacular scenery of Port Fitzroy a stunning combination of crystal clear water and bush covered hills. Enjoy swing bridges and glorious Nikau forests on the half day walk down to Bush's beach.

Next up, Warren's Creek track which gently climbs to a waterfall. There are deep swimming pools in the stream, surrounded by kauri and nikau forests.

After lunch we head to the largest white sand beach on the island, where a spectacular coastal walk reveals fascinating coastal bird life and shipwreck history. Take a dip in the Pacific or stretch out on the sand and soak up the island's natural beauty.

This evening we might head to the pub to share a beer with some locals, or take a stroll along the harbour waterfront.

- Accommodation: Shoal Bay Estate -
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
- Hiking time: 5 hours.
- Driving time: 2 hours.

DAY 4 – Left of Centre

Begin your last day on Aotea with a beautiful trail that follows a central ridgeline, offering views of both coasts, while strolling through gorgeous puriri trees and nikau palms. That spectacular white sand beach you saw on your flight in is one of our final destinations, Medlands Beach. Share a moment on Memory Rock, before exploring the rock pools or walking the beautiful white sands.

Depending on how the body is feeling at this point, you can do some more walking along the old tramline track to see the serene Kauri falls or we can leave you to relax in the local art gallery / café to soak up the island atmosphere one last time before your flight home.

Your guide will drop you off at the Great Barrier airport in time for a **5pm** flight back to reality / the mainland.

- (Breakfast, Lunch)
- Hiking time: 3-4 hours.
- Driving time: 1 hour - (B,L)

Please note this itinerary may be modified. We like to keep the trip flexible to make the most of weather conditions, & tailor the trip to suit the group. To maximise your experience and minimise drive times the guide may shuttle the vehicle, so some sections of trail may be walked without a guide. Your guide will ensure you are well-prepared for this.



frequently asked questions

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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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 Great Barrier Island Escape is graded moderate. above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

adventure travel

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

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



pre and post tour accommodation

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

Contact us at

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

what's not included

- flights to and from Great Barrier Island
- 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.



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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 Hump Ridge Track Walk
The Coromandel Explorer Walk
Great Barrier Island Escape
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
Bucket List Walk
The Old Ghost Road
Fiordland With Helicopter Flight From The Fiords
Fiordland Southwestern Tour with 2 Helicopter Flights
Fiordland Scenic Journey
Fiordland Southern Discovery Experience
Queen Charlotte Walk and Boat Stay

New Zealand Hiking Tours

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

New Zealand Cycling Tours

Around The Mountains Cycle trail
The Tekapo Canal Trail
The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
The Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail
The Otago Rail Trail
The Tasman Great Taste Trail

Bhutan Tours

Japan Walking Tours

Australia Walking Tours

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

Essential Items

Please ensure you have the following items for your walk:

- Day-pack
- Warm hat
- Reuseable drink bottle
- Personal toiletries, shampoo, and medications
- Sunscreen & sunhat
- Camera & charger

Clothing:

- Boots or good walking shoes (worn in please!)
- Raincoat (we lend raincoats by prior arrangement)
- Hiking Socks (about 3 pairs, wool is best. Well-fitting socks will greatly reduce the occurrence of blisters)
- Shorts or light weight trousers
- Thermal underwear (full set, long-sleeved & long-legged, polypropylene 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
- Casual clothes & shoes for the evenings (include warm layers for alfresco dining)
- Pyjamas / sleepwear
- Spare clothing: Extra socks and thermal layers are always handy. In New Zealand you must be prepared for cold conditions at any time of year - ensure you have enough warm items.

Optional Items:

- Bathing suit & towel (beach and hot-pool swimming opportunities)
- Walking sticks (highly recommended for those with weak knees, ankles or hips)
- Sandals or jandals
- Insect repellent (insects are rarely a problem)
- Small Torch

We supply:

- All meals, snacks, hot & cold drinks
- A glass of wine each evening; you can purchase more wine with dinner (please bring cash for this)
- Bed linen, bath towels, pillows & blankets
- Toilet paper & Soap

Extra Notes:

- Most of the planes have a strict 15 or 18kg per person luggage restriction.
- There are no drying rooms at the lodge.
- To prevent the spread of noxious weeds and plant diseases, please clean your boots and walking sticks thoroughly before the hike.
- 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.
- Plan around three layers of clothing, your inner or core layer which should be wool (merino) or polypro to trap warmth against the skin, a middle layer, and a top waterproof layer to protect from rain and wind.



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Tuatara Tours - experienced and innovative!

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

our team is here to provide the best experience

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

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

subscribe to our newsletter

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

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

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

how to book

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz, 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.

