

The Old Ghost Road



In the North West corner of the South Island of New Zealand a ghost has awakened.

tour highlights

- Rugged and dramatic landscapes
 - Tussock lands
 - Alpine panoramas
 - Ancient forests
 - Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

tours run

Tours run:

Our Old Ghost Road Walk depart several times a month, from late October to April. Please enquire for dates available or view our website www.tuataratours.co.nz

tour cost

2019/ 2020

NZD\$2150

options & supplements

Single Supplement: NZD\$50

fast facts

Custom Groups: Options are available for this tour*

Tuatarata 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.



the tour

A long-forgotten gold miners' road has been revived as a walking trail – connecting the old dray road in the Lyell (Upper Buller Gorge) to the mighty Mokihinui River in the north.

Our 6-day package includes 4 nights in huts along the trail and a final night enjoying lodge accommodation on the wild West Coast.

We can tailor a package to suit your requirements and have other adventure options available to enhance your tour.

Join us, to remember the history as we pass old ghost towns along the way. The Old Ghost Road (85kms) leads us through native forest, open tussock tops, river flats and forgotten valleys- an outdoor museum!

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 LYELL TO LYELL SADDLE HUT - 17.5KM

DAY 2 LYELL SADDLE HUT TO GHOST LAKE HUT - 12KM

DAY 3 GHOST LAKE HUT TO STERN VALLEY HUT - 13KM

DAY 4 STERN VALLEY HUT TO SPECIMEN POINT HUT - 25KM

DAY 5 SPECIMEN POINT HUT TO WESTPORT - 17KM

DAY 6 WESTPORT TO NELSON



Activities:

Walking
Accommodation: Doc Huts & Lodge

Trip Duration: 6 Days, 5 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 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

DOC huts on nights 1,2,3 and 4

Includes quality accommodation in Westport on Night 5 – superior en suite (twin share) in Westport with breakfast included (single surcharge \$50).

Includes scenic return drive to Nelson.

Prices include all food, hut passes and transport ex Nelson. We can arrange your accommodation for you in Richmond pre & post tour at a price and style which suits you. We will get you back to Motueka or Nelson on your last day, unless your option is to carry on down the West Coast.

A unique feature of our Old Ghost Road walk is the special meal delivered fresh to the Specimen Hut incorporating local and wild food.

- 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.





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frequently asked questions

How many people are in each group?

Typically, we take a maximum of twelve people on each tour. We feel this gives you the best opportunity to gain as much from your experience as possible and keeps the feel of each tour relaxed and friendly. We are happy to discuss options for groups of more than twelve with you.

How fit do I need to be?

The main purpose of a guided tour is to enjoy your surroundings and learn from your local guide, it's not a race, however the more you can prepare for a tour, the better the experience will be for you. As a general guideline we suggest the following activity level guide for our tours.

Easy: An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline.

Mild: An average level of fitness, Walk 12km, Bike 25km on well-formed tracks and roads with average incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20+ km, Bike 50+km on partially formed tracks and roads, some off-road, some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.

itinerary

Day 1 Lyell to Lyell Saddle Hut - 17.5km

We will collect you from your accommodation in Westport and drive to Lyell car park in the Upper Buller Gorge.

Beginning our walk with a steady climb along the 100+ year old dray road, we will enjoy views across the stunning Lyell Range and pass through beautiful mature beech forest.

We observe relics of old gold mining claims and ghost towns on our way up to Lyell Saddle Hut (875m above sea level) where stay the night.

Day 2 Lyell Saddle Hut to Ghost Lake Hut - 12km

The morning commences with a climb through forest up to the tussock tops of the Lyell Range and onto 'Ghost Lake' and the unique Ghost Lake Hut.

Amazing views and magical mountainous vistas surround us. We will observe an enormous diversity of sub-alpine herbs, grasses, bog plants and mosses in this fragile ecosystem.

Tonight we stay at the Ghost Lake Hut

Day 3 Ghost Lake Hut to Stern Valley Hut - 13km

Departing from Ghost Lake Hut we trek down through the ancient moss covered beech forest and traverse ridge tops marvelling at the Dr Seuss-like 'Skyline Steps'.

Making our way down to our evening accommodation at Stern Valley Hut we enjoy dramatic descents.





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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.

itinerary cont'd

Day 4 Stern Valley Hut to Specimen Point Hut - 25km

This morning we explore the Earnest Valley (northern branch of Stern Creek).

After the twin lakes (Lake Grim and Lake Cheerful), we discover the iconic 'Boneyard', moving onto 'Solemn Saddle' and 'The Hanging Judge'.

Scrub and grass covered valleys lead to the historic Goat Creek Hut and onto podocarp forest.

Our destination is Specimen Point hut which is located at the head of the Mokihinui River Gorge where we stay overnight

Day 5 Specimen Point Hut to Westport - 17km

The Old Ghost Road picks up the old miners' track following the left bank of the mighty Mokihinui River gorge.

A magnificent river still wild and untamed!

While enjoying the privilege of this wilderness area our trek ends all too soon with a drive to Westport to our lodge style accommodation

Celebrate your achievement tonight all the while enjoying the famous West Coast hospitality.

Day 5 Westport to Nelson

We will deliver you back to Nelson approximately 3.30 pm.

Our route will take you through the picturesque Buller Gorge to Murchison before arriving at Nelson airport or your preferred destination.





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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 Old Ghost Road is graded as 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
- ▶ Web: 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.





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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
 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/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 Molesworth 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



pre tour checklist

This is a checklist based on New Zealand conditions with overnight stays in huts. Please feel free to check with us if you are not sure about any of these items, or wonder about bringing additional items not listed here.

Essential personal gear

- Sleeping bag (lightweight bag and liner recommended; huts have bunks and mattresses)
- Pack (large enough for gear listed below plus a modest share of food on specified trips only)
- Rainproof pack cover
- Plastic pack liner
- Rain coat or waterproof parka
- Sun hat
- Warm hat and gloves
- Socks, woollen or thermal (3 pair)
- Tramping or hiking boots (good support needed)
- Light shoes for hut: sneakers, sandals or "water socks"
- Drink bottle (1 litre)
- Small torch (flashlight) and extra batteries
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Personal cleaning and hygiene kit (bio-degradable pack soap)
- Towel (pack towel or small regular towel)

Suggested clothing

Generally avoid cotton in favour of fast-dry synthetics and/or wool
 Tramping or hiking shorts (1 pair)
 Light track pants (e.g. nylon) (1 pair)
 Long johns (polypropylene) (1 pair)
 T-shirt/short sleeve shirts (1 for walking, 1 dry for hut)
 Warm jersey or sweater (woollen or fleece)
 Underwear (2 or 3 pair)
 Gaiters (not essential)
 Pillow slip (to put spare clothing in for pillow)
 Swimming gear
 If you are a light sleeper, you may like to bring ear plugs

Please let us know if there is anything listed which you don't have; we may be able to help. All of these items are also readily available from outdoor stores in Motueka and Nelson

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.

