

# The Lake Waikaremoana Walk



*A Beautiful Lake Walk In Rainforest Enjoying Secluded Beaches, Fascinating History And Stunning Mountain Views.*

## tour highlights

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



## tours run

Tours run: November - April (Weekly on Sundays)

## tour cost

2019 / 2020

Starting in Rotorua: NZD\$1530

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). All other gear will be transported by boat to the end of the track.

A support boat is nearby to carry injured or tired walkers. You are encouraged to walk at your own pace, and to rest and enjoy the many spectacular lookouts as much as possible. We have good quality raincoats, sleeping bags and overnight packs you can borrow.

## the tour

Join us for the **Lake Waikaremoana Walk**, one of New Zealand's official Great Walks. Some say it's the best multi-day walking trip in the North Island. Lake Waikaremoana is deep in the island's largest rainforest, in Te Uruwera National Park. It's famous for its beauty and cultural history, as well as great swimming.

You'll hike from hut to hut around the lake, enjoying secluded beaches, fascinating history, and stunning mountain views.

## 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 TO WAIHARURU HUT

DAY 2 WAIHARURU HUT TO WAIOPAOA HUT

DAY 3 PANEKIRE RIDGE

DAY 4 PANEKIRE RIDGE / ROTORUA

**Activities:** Walking/Hiking  
**Accommodation:** Backcountry Hut

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





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## what's included

- Accommodation  
Based on double / twin share  
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! Spin & Fly trout-fishing can be found at the front door step, so bring your fishing gear & license! All meals, snacks, drinks and nibbles are included.
- 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.

## 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 pre tour checklist 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.

## IMPORTANT

The management & guardianship of the Te Urewera area has recently been passed to the local iwi, Tuhoë. 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 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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## 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 Rotorua to Waiharuru Hut

Rotorua accommodation pick-ups approx. 8:30 – 9 am  
We drive east into the Te Urewera wilderness, passing isolated Maori villages. In the heart of Te Urewera we'll stop for morning tea, before continuing the journey to reach Lake Waikaremoana - the Sea of Rippling Waters. A quick briefing from our guides and then we set off on the trail, which begins by following the shore line of the lake.

We'll weave our way through dense virgin rainforest and around every corner gain a new view of this stunning lake, stopping for a delicious lunch on one of the many beautiful little beaches. After a few hours we'll arrive at Waiharuru Hut, which overlooks the lake. Plenty of time to explore the beach in front of the hut, have a swim, or just relax the afternoon away with a glass of wine and sumptuous pre-dinner nibbles! This hut is situated near a Kiwi Recovery Programme that is increasing the numbers of our threatened national icon. Keep your ears open for the night-time calls of the North Island brown kiwi and morepork that live in the area!

Hiking Time: 4 hours, 10.5 kms. Driving time: 3 hours.

### Day 2 Waiharuru Hut to Waiopaoa Hut

After a hearty breakfast we'll make our way along the fringes of the secluded western arm of the lake, which is lined by native forest right down to the shore. The array of flora in this dense ancient rainforest is simply incredible – giant rimu and miro trees, grand beech and countless varieties of New Zealand ferns are the tip of the iceberg here. Keep an eye out (and an ear) for native birds like the tui, fantail and kaka who dart around the forest canopy protecting their territory.

The skipper meets us at our lakeside picnic spot with the billy on. After lunch there's an optional side track up to Korokoro Falls, a stunning waterfall deep in a moss covered gorge – make sure you have your camera for this one! We'll then head back to the main hiking trail and wander through a towering kanuka forest to Waiopaoa Hut, in a grassy clearing near the lake.

Today is the longest day of walking, however there is an option to have a boat ride so you can shorten the walking time if desired. Tonight you'll stay at the Waiopaoa Hut, nestled in lush rainforest.

Hiking Time: 6-7 hours, 18 kms





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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 Panekire Ridge

This morning we'll sort out the gear we need for the last two days and pack it into an overnight backpack. All our extra gear will stay on the boat and meet us at the track end tomorrow. Ask the guides if you need any packing advice.

We make our way up through the giant rata, rimu and miro trees and watch the vegetation change to silver beech and mountain beech forest. As we hike higher we'll find ourselves immersed in spectacular and eerie moss-covered cloudforest. It's a heart pumping hike up to the Panekire ridge, but the views through the moss covered trees are worth the effort. A 2 hour walk follows the ridge to our home for the night, Panekire Hut, perched 600 metres above the lake with breath-taking views across the endless forest-clad mountains of Te Urewera and east over the Pacific Ocean. Relax with a glass of wine or hot drink and enjoy the sunset!

Hiking time: 4 hours, 7.6 kms, 600 m height gain

## Day 4 Panekire Ridge / Rotorua

Rise early this morning to be among the first in the world to see the sunrise over the Pacific Ocean! From the hut the track weaves through the cloudforest as the morning mist dissolves to reveal astonishing views, especially from the ledges of the monolithic rock formations that form the ridge. From high on these ledges we can look across Onepoto Bay and see the evidence of the massive landslide that created Lake Waikaremoana over two thousand years ago. Views like this are hard to beat!

Soon we'll descend through the cloudforest and back into the lush podocarp forest before arriving at the end of the hiking trail, back at lake level. We'll celebrate completing the Great Walk with a barbeque lunch, drinks and a swim in the lake! Approx. drop-off time in Rotorua: 5pm developed by erosion. The result was a vast dam which collected rainwater and formed the lake we now enjoy.

We'll mark the end of our **Lake Waikaremoana Walk** with a delicious barbeque lunch and drinks. Soon it will be time to say farewell. We'll travel back to Rotorua at about 6 pm.

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





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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 Lake Waikaremoana 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.

## 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 (please see checklist)
- 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 Kaikoura Trail  
The Kenepuru 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 Kenepuru Trail  
The Tekapo Canal Trail  
The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail  
The Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail  
The Otago Rail Trail  
The Queenstown Cycle Trail  
Around The Mountains Cycle Trail  
The Clutha Gold Cycle Trail  
The Roxburgh Gorge Cycle Trail

### Japan Walking Tours

All of these tours and more available at  
[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



## pre tour checklist

Please ensure you have the following essential items in preparation for your walk:

- 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 for walking, one set for 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)
- Lunch-box to protect your sandwiches (otherwise we provide paper bags)

## 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.





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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.

## **pre tour checklist cont'd**

- Waterproof pack cover (included with our backpacks)
- Walking poles - highly recommended
- Waterproof over-trousers
- Warm Gloves
- Wet wipes or 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 hike.

### **WE SUPPLY :**

- From lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 4 - All meals, snacks, hot & cold drinks (a glass of wine with the evening meal, you are welcome to BYO additional alcohol if desired)
- Plates, cutlery, mugs etc
- Toilet paper & soap
- Trail map

## **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.

- ▶ 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)





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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.



## **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.

## **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.







# The Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk

4 Days of Walking

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