



# The Great Barrier Island Escape



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

4 Days, 3 Nights

Moderate Grade



## tour highlights

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

## tour cost:

2022 / 2023

NZD\$1990

## options and supplements

Single Supplement:

\$200

**tours run:** 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](http://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/>



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

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## the tour

30-40km (18-24 miles)

**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.

## at a glance

Day 1	Southern Shores	3-4 hours walking
Day 2	Heart & Soul - Mt Hobson	6-7 hours walking
Day 3	Northern Shores	5-6 hours walking
Day 4	Left of Centre	3-4 hours walking

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

## about your guides

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 and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.



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## itinerary

### Day 1 Southern Shores

Please come ready to walk and make sure that you have a full drink bottle. The breathtaking flight over Auckland and the turquoise, island-studded waters of the Hauraki Gulf sets the scene for a remarkable trip! Your friendly guide greets you as you step off the plane – welcome to paradise!

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 in to our charming lodge for aperitifs on the deck overlooking the tranquil harbour.

3-4 hours walking (Lunch, Dinner)

### Day 2 Heart and 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 and 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 crake, 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 hotpool.

6-7 hours walking (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)





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## itinerary continued

### 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, 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.

5 hours walking (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

### 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.

3-4 hours walking (Breakfast, Lunch)



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## what is included

### Accommodation

The colonial-style Shoal Bay Estate is located in the beautiful and tranquil setting of Shoal Bay, Tryphena with a charming, rustic 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 \$200



### 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.

Dinner and Breakfast are served in the lodge dining room. All meals and snacks are included. Complimentary drink with dinner, additional drinks available for purchase.

### Luggage

Transport of 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 and fully qualified 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.

## what is 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



This tour is operated in conjunction with another operator.

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# The Great Barrier Island Escape



## pre tour checklist

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

### 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
- 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
- Book, trip journal etc
- Water-proof over trousers
- Down or windproof jacket
- Blister kit
- Head torch or small hand held torch

### We Supply

- All meals, snacks, hot & cold drinks
- 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.

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 polypropylene to trap warmth against the skin, a middle layer, and a top waterproof layer to protect from rain and wind.





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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.

### 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.

### How do I train for my upcoming tour?

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.



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## how to book

Go to [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz), click the make an 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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## pre and post tour accommodation

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

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## custom tours

We Can Customise Existing Tours - You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add an 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.

## 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 go to the newsletter sign up in the footer of any page.



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## TuataraTours-experienced and innovative

Tuatara Tours is an experienced and innovative walking and biking 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 understand the outdoors and we revel in the country, people and climate that we work with

## our team is here to provide you with 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

## 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 Gold 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.

## 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.

## NZ 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
- Great Barrier Island Escape
- 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

## NZ Hiking Tours

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

## NZ Cycling Tours

- Around The Mountains Cycle trail
- The Tekapo Canal Trail
- The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
- The West Coast Wilderness Cycle Trail
- The Queenstown Cycle Trail
- The Otago Rail Trail
- The Tasman Great Taste Trail and Golden Bay Explorer

## Overseas Tours

- Bhutan Tours
- Japan Walking Tours
- Australia Walking Tours

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



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## 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 380,000 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 (hiking), 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.



## 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.



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## TUATARA TOURS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Tuatara Tours NZ Limited accepts bookings subject to the following conditions:

### Contract

This contract is between Tuatara Tours and you the client being any person travelling or intending to travel on a tour supplied by Tuatara Tours as the operator. The contract, including all matters arising from it, is subject to New Zealand law and the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts. Only Employees and Directors of Tuatara Tours have authority to vary or omit any of the terms.

### Price

The price is quoted in New Zealand dollars and includes GST of 15%. The price is based on prices at time of publishing and Tuatara Tours hereby reserves to modify without notice those prices in any way considered necessary or desirable.

Organised tour accommodations are based on a twin/double share accommodation. Individual travellers will be placed in rooms together with other individual travellers of the same sex. A single supplement is available on request.

### Confirmation of Booking

Bookings are confirmed upon receipt of the full tour price and become definite from that date. Tuatara Tours or their agents reserve their right to decline any booking at their discretion.

### Cancellation

If a client wishes to cancel a tour the following charges will be applied: (Unless stated otherwise at time of confirmation of the tour)

1. 91+ days prior to departure – no fee
2. 90-60 days prior to departure – NZD\$100.00 per person applies
3. 59-30 days prior to departure – 30% of total package cost applies
4. 29-0 days prior to departure – 100% of total package cost applies
5. After tour commencement – no refund available.

If a client fails to join the tour, or joins after the tour departure date, no refund will be made. These cancellation fees are not negotiable, therefore we strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance.

### Insurance

Tuatara Tours recommends that the client take out tour cancellation insurance together with all other necessary travel insurances. Obtaining all necessary insurances is the responsibility of you the client and Tuatara Tours can not held liable for any failure on your part to get insurance.

### Medical conditions

When you book you must notify us of any medical condition, medical history or medication that you are on.

### Changes to Tours

Tuatara Tours will use its best endeavours to ensure that all tours are operated as advertised. It may be that reasonable changes in the itinerary may need to be made where is deemed necessary or advisable by Tuatara Tours. Changes will be advised to the client as soon as is reasonably possible. Where a tour service needs to be changed, a substitute or similar quality or standard will be provided.

### Weather

Adverse weather conditions may mean that planned activities cannot proceed as intended. A decision to change an advertised tour based on the weather conditions will be made by a tour guide at the time and is made in the best interest of the group and their safety. Tuatara Tours and or their contracted suppliers can not be held responsible to any changes as a result of the weather.

### General conditions

Tuatara Tours, its agents, contractors and guides do not accept responsibility or liability for loss, damage to, or theft of personal belongings (owners risk) or for any expenses, including medical and transport expenses arising from a personal accident, injury, illness, or hospitalisation. Tuatara Tours and their guides reserve the right to make any alterations to the itinerary in the interest of safety, or unforeseen circumstances due to causes such as weather, illness or misadventure. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to keep to published schedules but no guarantee is given. Tuatara Tours will not be held liable for costs incurred by change, delay or the missing of connecting services. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to exclude a person from a tour at any time, if in the opinion of the guide or operator, that person may be likely to risk the health, safety or comfort (including unsociable behaviour) of other clients, him or herself or the environment. In such circumstances, Tuatara Tours will not be obliged to offer any refund or transfer ticket. These terms and conditions apply to each participant including in a group booking. Where a booking is made on behalf of a group or two or more people then each participant in the group must be made aware of and accept these terms and conditions

