

The Tongariro Crossing Walk



**Dramatic volcanic
landscapes & emerald
crater lakes**

4 Days, 3 Nights

Graded Challenging



Tour Cost (NZD)

2025 / 2026

Tour Cost: \$1950

Single Supplement: \$300

Tour Highlights

- Dramatic volcanic landscapes
- Native beech forest and alpine meadows
- Steaming crater lakes
- UNESCO World Heritage Area
- Experienced attentive guide



Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand



www.tuataratours.co.nz



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The Tour at a Glance

Experience the dramatic alpine and volcanic landscapes of the World Heritage-listed Tongariro National Park on an unforgettable small-group walking tour, led by an experienced local guide.

The 4 day Tongariro Crossing Walk takes you through stark volcanic terrain, native beech forests, steaming crater lakes, alpine meadows, sparkling rivers, and otherworldly lunar landscapes. With its rich cultural heritage and breath-taking scenery, this is a once in a lifetime adventure, made even better by great company and the support of a knowledgeable, experienced guide.

Mt Tongariro, Mt Ngauruhoe, and Mt Ruapehu are active volcanoes, closely monitored by government agencies. Your safety is our top priority—the tour is run in conjunction with a Tongariro National Park approved operator, and updates and volcanic alert levels are checked each day.

Trip Grading: Challenging

Ideal for anyone comfortable walking over 20km on partially formed tracks and roads with some steep inclines. The Tongariro Crossing in particular (Day 2) is a strenuous hike through an alpine environment. Preparation and good fitness are required to fully enjoy this walk.

Pre-tour

We'll pick you up from central Rotorua City or the Rotorua Airport between 8.30am and 9.00am, or central Taupō at 10.00am. To avoid a rushed start after a flight, we recommend you arrive a day early and enjoy exploring the city at leisure.

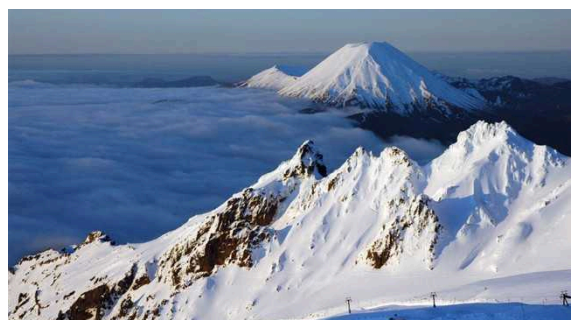
Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1	Arrive at Central Plateau	6km
Day 2	Tongariro Crossing	20.2km
Day 3	Old Coach Road	15km
Day 4	Rainforests & Waterfalls	7km

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.



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Day 1 Arrive at Central Plateau (6km, 2hrs)

Departing Rotorua or Taupo we head south around the North islands largest lake, Lake Taupō and up onto the magnificent Central Plateau.

Warm up with a refreshing walk around Lake Rotopounamu, tucked into the side of Mt Pihanga—a mountain rich in Māori legend. The track winds through lush forest alive with birdsong, where we'll enjoy a picnic lunch on peaceful Five Minute Beach.

Next, a short stroll takes us to Tawhai Falls, better known as Gollum's Pool from The Lord of the Rings.

Driving on to our cosy lodge, we'll toast the trip with a two-course dinner and sunset views over the volcanoes. Soak in the hot tub, enjoy a nightcap, and rest up—adventure awaits!

MEALS INCLUDED: L D

Day 2 Tongariro Crossing (20.2km, 7-8hrs)

Today's the day- Tongariro Alpine Crossing—one of the world's greatest day hikes. This unforgettable trail takes us through lava fields, emerald lakes, steaming vents, and alpine meadows, with epic views of Mt Ngauruhoe and the Central Plateau.

Your guides will bring the landscape to life with stories, legends, and fascinating geology. As Lonely Planet says, it's a "life-changing experience not to be missed!" Good weather and fitness are essential for this hike, if conditions are not optimal, we'll attempt the track on one of the other days on tour.

Back at the lodge this evening, soak in the spa, enjoy some pre-dinner nibbles, then head out for a relaxed meal at a local favourite.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 3 Old Coach Road (15km, 5hrs)

Today we explore the historic Old Coach Road—once a vital horse and coach link between two rail heads on the main trunk line - now a scenic trail rich in pioneering history. Highlights of the 15km trail include cobbled roads, towering viaducts, tunnels, and forested paths with sweeping views.

If weather and group preferences allow, we'll also head higher up Mt Ruapehu to take in its dramatic volcanic landscapes and incredible vistas.

This evening, we'll gather for a relaxed celebration dinner and toast the adventures we've shared!

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 4 Rainforests & Waterfalls (7km, 3-4hrs)

After a hearty breakfast, we say goodbye to the National Park—but not before one last leg-stretcher. If energy levels permit, your guide will choose one of their favourite short walks nearby to round out your National Park experience.

Then its on to our final walk together, the 2-hour Taranaki Falls loop, part of the Tongariro Northern Circuit Great Walk track. Here water tumbles 20 metres over ancient lava into a rocky pool, surrounded by alpine meadows and native forest. It's a final dose of Tongariro magic.

We'll have you back in Taupō by 3–4pm or Rotorua by 5–6pm, ready for your onward journey.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L



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What's Included



Accommodation in a comfortable lodge, rooms with ensuite facilities



All meals during the tour—great local cuisine



Rotorua & Taupō Transfers



Fully qualified, knowledgeable guide



DOC concession fees



Please Note:

Rooms are double or twin, either one queen bed or two separate beds. If you have a preference for a twin room please let us know when you make your booking. Solo travellers can choose to share or pay a single supplement for a private room.

Dietary needs? We're happy to cater for gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian diets—just let us know at time of booking.

What's Not Included

Alcohol - We provide a complimentary glass of local wine or beer per person, each evening; you are able to purchase more with dinner if you wish.

Pre- and post-tour accommodation



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Your travel check list:

The following is a list of recommended items. Please also use your own experience to supplement this list. If you're unsure about anything, feel free to contact us. Raincoats, back packs, and hiking poles can be organised for you at no cost but these need to be pre booked.

Avoid walking in cotton, jeans, or silk — they dry slowly and can leave you feeling damp and cold. Instead, dress in three layers: a moisture-wicking base (merino or polypropylene), an insulating middle layer, and a waterproof outer layer for wind and rain protection. You can handwash at the accommodation if necessary.



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof rain jacket with hood (a must) and waterproof over trousers (if you have them)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boots or sturdy walking shoes with ankle support, spare laces
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thermals (top and bottom) merino or polypropylene are recommended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Polar fleece jacket or top (mid layer)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gloves, warm hat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woolen or thermal hikers socks 3-4 pair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking shorts or zip off long trousers (quick-dry fabric-no jeans). Gaiters, if you have them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drink Bottle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium size (35-40l) day pack with waterproof liner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Camera/ phone and charger/ torch
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sun hat , sun glasses sun block,
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimsuit and small towel
<input type="checkbox"/>	One set of casual wear for the evening, including casual shoes or sandals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal toiletries and essential medications, a small personal first aid kit, insect repellent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking Poles (if you normally use them)



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Frequently asked questions:

How do I book a tour?

A deposit of \$300 per person confirms your place and can be paid via credit card (Visa or Mastercard, no surcharge) through our website: <https://www.tuataratours.co.nz/make-a-payment/>, or by bank transfer to Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd: 01 0797 0308837 00.

When is the balance due?

The final balance is due 90 days prior to departure. A reminder will be sent via email. You're welcome to pay in instalments, as long as the full amount is received by the due date.

What if I need to cancel?

Our cancellation policy for the Tongariro Crossing Walk is:

- Outside 60 days, Non refundable deposit, date changes are possible but deposits are non-refundable
- 60-31 days, 30% cancellation fee
- Within 30 days 100% cancellation fee

These terms are non negotiable so we strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance in case of unforeseen events. This tour is operated in conjunction with a local tour operator, Walking Legends.

How big are the groups? Our tours typically accommodate up to 12 people, though we can cater to larger groups on request.

Do I have to share a room? Tours are priced on a twin-share basis (two people per room). Let us know if you prefer a queen bed or two singles. Solo travellers will be paired with another solo of the same gender, or you can opt to pay a single supplement for your own room.

Am I fit enough? The Tongariro Crossing Walk is graded challenging, suited to walkers with an above average fitness level. You should feel confident walking over 20km on partially formed tracks and roads with some steep inclines and possible stream crossings. Day Two of the Tongariro Crossing Walk includes the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, a strenuous walk of 7-8 hours in an alpine environment. Good walk fitness and preparation, including stair climbing will be good preparation for this walk. Not sure if it's right for you? Just give our team a call — we're happy to chat.

How much luggage can I bring?

Space is limited, so we ask that you bring one small day pack and one overnight bag or suitcase (maximum 20kg). Complimentary hire of raincoats, backpacks, and hiking poles is available by prior arrangement.

When is the best time to do the tour? Our season runs from November to April. Tours run in all weather, so come prepared. Please refer to our gear list for what to bring.

Can you pick me up for the tour? We offer pick-ups and drop-offs from selected locations in central Rotorua and Taupō. Unfortunately, we cannot collect guests from Airbnb properties or private homes in residential suburbs. If you prefer to self drive to Tongariro National Park, we can provide instructions on where to meet the group.

What time do we return to Taupō and Rotorua on the last day? On the final day, we aim to drop you back in Taupō between 3-4pm, and in Rotorua between 5-6pm—perfect timing for your onward travel or a relaxed evening back in town.



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Frequently asked questions:

Is breakfast included on the first day?

Please have breakfast before your pick-up on the first day, as the tour begins immediately afterward. From then on, all meals are included as per your itinerary.

What kind of meals are provided?

You'll enjoy nourishing meals crafted from fresh, local ingredients, plus packed picnic lunches with the nourishing sandwiches or wraps, trail snacks, chocolate, fresh fruit, and plenty of hot drinks to keep you fuelled. Start your day with a delicious cooked or continental breakfast, and each evening, unwind with a complimentary glass of local wine or a refreshing craft beer.

What facilities are available at the lodge?

All three nights are spent at the same comfortable lodge, so you can really settle in. Each room has a fridge, hair dryer, tea and coffee making facilities, and a TV. While there's no air conditioning, the rooms have plenty of windows you can open to let in the fresh air. Your bed will be made up with fresh linen, and we'll provide plenty of bath towels to make sure you're well looked after during your stay. There are also 2 outdoor hot tubs for guest use. This is complimentary and they are maintained daily, with the water changed weekly so make sure to bring your swimsuit for a soak.

Is WiFi available?

The National Park Village is well connected, with reliable power, Wi-Fi, and mobile phone coverage and all rooms have unlimited Wi-Fi. However, internet speeds can slow down during peak times.

Is there a drying room at the Lodge?

Yes, There is a drying room available as well as plenty of wide, covered verandahs for drying wet gear.

Is alcohol included?

A complimentary glass of New Zealand wine or local beer is included with your evening meal and you are also welcome to purchase extra from the in-house bar if you wish.

Do I need hiking boots?

We strongly recommend well-fitting walking boots with good tread and ankle support. The track surfaces vary widely from well-formed paths, to sections of rough terrain broken by tree roots, rocks and loose scree.

Do I carry a full pack?

No! You'll only need to carry a day pack with the essentials, wet weather gear, lunch, a drink bottle, sunhat, and anything else you'd like for the day. Since you return to the same lodge each night, there's no need to bring your full luggage on the trail.

Are the tours guided?

Yes, the Tongariro Crossing Walk is a fully guided experience. Your guide will bring local knowledge to enhance your journey and ensure your safety and comfort along the way. They understand the terrain and carry emergency beacons. You'll be able to walk safe in the knowledge that we've got your back if something unexpected was to happen.



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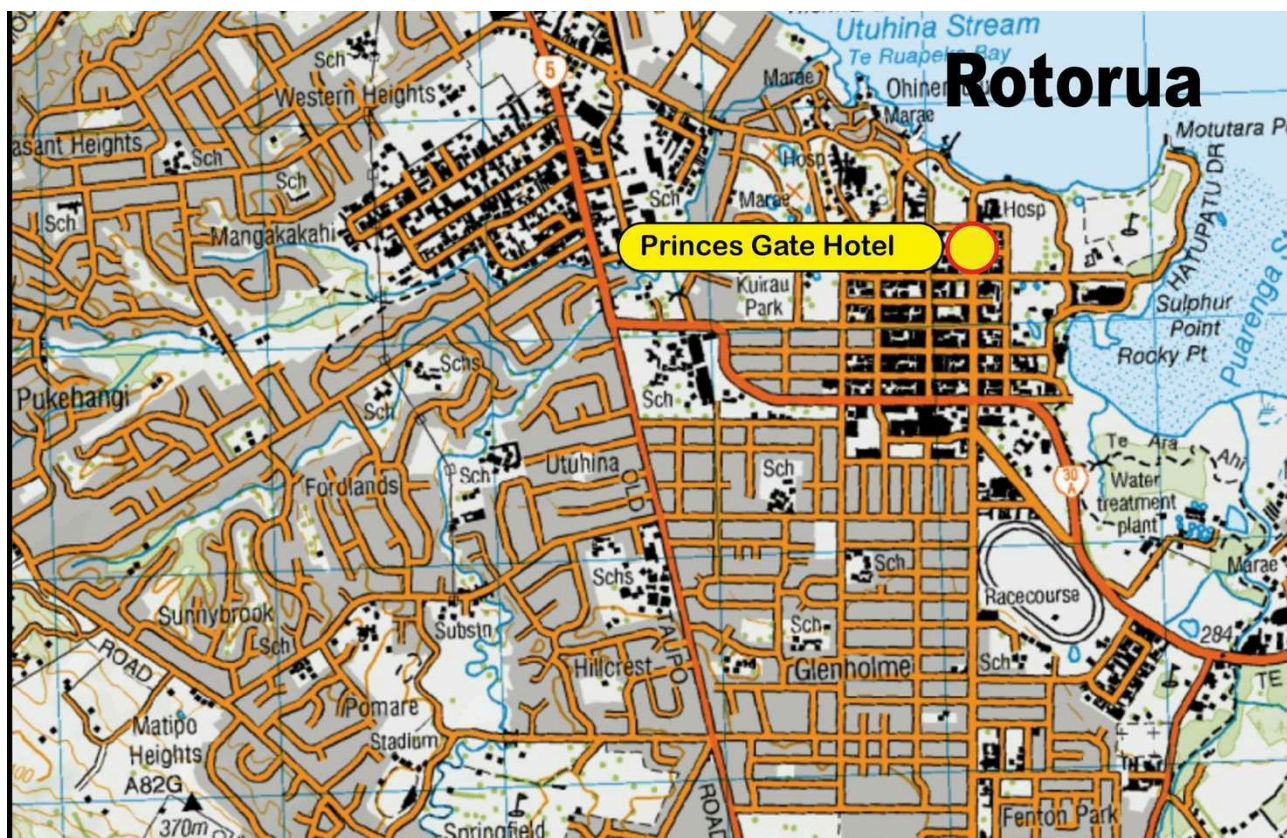


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Pickup Points

Please contact us to confirm the nearest pick-up location to your accommodation.
Unfortunately, we are unable to collect guests from Airbnb properties or private residences outside the central city.



Prince's Gate Hotel
Central Rotorua

The Prince's Gate is a centrally located, mid-range hotel—perfect for a pre- or post-tour stay. We're happy to meet you there, or at another central Rotorua hotel or motel of your choice. Just let us know where you'll be staying, and we'll confirm your pickup time.

Tuatara Conservation

We're proud supporters of tuatara conservation.
We've adopted "BP"—a juvenile tuatara at Orana Park in Christchurch, helping ensure the future of this amazing native species.



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TERMS & CONDITIONS

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

Contract

This contract is between Tuatara Tours and you, the client—defined as any person travelling or intending to travel on a tour operated by Tuatara Tours. The contract, including all matters arising from it, is governed by New Zealand law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts. Only employees or directors of Tuatara Tours have the authority to vary or omit any of the terms stated herein.

Cancellation Policy Due to Travel Restrictions

If your trip is impacted by travel restrictions imposed by the New Zealand government or any other government, Tuatara Tours will either work with you to transfer your trip to a future date at no additional cost, or provide a full refund.

Price

All prices are quoted in New Zealand dollars and include 15% GST. Prices are based on rates current at the time of publishing. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to modify prices without notice if deemed necessary or appropriate.

Accommodation on organised tours is based on twin or double share. Solo travellers will be paired with another traveller of the same sex. A single supplement is available upon request.

Confirmation of Booking

Bookings are confirmed upon receipt of the full tour price, which is due 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Tuatara Tours and its agents reserve the 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)

- Non refundable deposit Outside 60 days, date changes are possible but deposits are non-refundable
- 60–31 days, 30% cancellation fee
- Within 30 days 100% cancellation fee

These cancellation fees are non-negotiable. We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance.

Travel Insurance

Tuatara Tours strongly recommends that clients take out travel insurance, including tour cancellation cover and any other relevant insurances. It is the client's responsibility to ensure adequate coverage. Tuatara Tours cannot be held liable for any failure to obtain appropriate insurance.

Medical Conditions

You must inform us at the time of booking of any medical condition, history, or medication you are currently taking.

Changes to Tours

Tuatara Tours will make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. However, reasonable changes to the itinerary may be made if deemed necessary or advisable. Clients will be informed of any changes as soon as reasonably possible. Where a tour service must be substituted, a service of similar quality and standard will be provided.

Weather

Adverse weather may prevent planned activities from proceeding as scheduled. The tour guide may decide to alter the itinerary based on weather conditions, prioritising group safety. Tuatara Tours and its contracted suppliers are not responsible for changes resulting from weather-related circumstances.



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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 of two or more people then each participant in the group must be made aware of and accept these terms and conditions.

RISK DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In any adventure activity, there is an element of risk involved. Risks in undertaking this activity include (but are not limited to): hypothermia, heat exhaustion, physical injury caused by environment i.e. rock falls, and physical injury caused by self, i.e. falling over.

The staff and management of Tuatara Tours and any of its agency partners take all practicable steps to identify and minimise potential dangers. The Operator makes all arrangements for all tours on the condition that it shall not be liable for any sickness, injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, either directly or indirectly, by reason of any defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, by weather, by any other cause, or through acts of default of a company or person engaged in conveying the passengers, or in carrying out arrangements for these activities.

We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance prior to your trip.

By participating in this activity, you are expressly assuming those risks and responsibilities and are, to the maximum extent permitted by law releasing the Operator, its officers, employees, directors, agents and any other person associated with us, from any liability, claims, loss, damages or expenses (whatsoever and irrespective of whether direct, indirect or consequential) caused by any event including but not limited to: personal injury or death; property loss or damage; acts which may be construed as negligible or accidental; any other loss, damage, suffering, emotional or nervous disorder suffered by you or any other person in relation to this activity. You accept that you have been advised to obtain adequate travel insurance for all persons named on the booking.

In participating in the activity, the customer agrees to be bound by the following conditions:

- My successors, executors and administrators are bound by the Terms and Conditions;
- I agree not to commence any litigation proceedings in any country in relation to the risks and liabilities set out above and to indemnify the Operator against any claims;
- I confirm and warrant I am physically fit and suffer no medical conditions, which may affect my ability to participate in the activity;
- I confirm I am aware that professional medical assistance may be difficult and/or take some time to access due to the remote areas in which we are travelling;
- I consent to receive medical treatment in the case of injury, accident or illness during the activity and to indemnify the Operator against any claims, costs or expenses in respect of the treatment;
- I agree that any film, sound, video or other recordings taken of or during the activity will not be used in any production, or advertising without prior consent of the Operator, however the Operator may use such recordings itself at its complete discretion without any prior approval; and
- I agree to listen to my driver/guide/host, follow their instructions and make sure any children in my care do the same. Furthermore, the Operator will not be responsible for any personal injury and or property damage caused by you and any costs for such injury / damage will be your responsibility.



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Custom Tours Available

Want to change the itinerary or create something entirely new? We enjoy designing custom adventures for friends, families, work groups and clubs. Get in touch!

Keen to join a tour? Enquire now



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Australia free dial 1800 044 633

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You might also like....

Coromandel Explorer Walk
Great Barrier Island Escape
Bucket List Walk



Official Partner

Tuatarata Tours is proud to be in an official partnership with Ngā Haerenga The New Zealand Cycle Trail.

The objective of the partnership is to create a nationwide network of cycle trails that connect the Great Rides with the rest of New Zealand.



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Space for your own notes:



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