

The Great Barrier Island Escape



**Remote beauty and
rugged wilderness**

4 Days, 3 Nights

Moderate Grade



Tour Cost (NZD)

2026 / 2027

Tour Cost: \$2,250

Single Supplement: \$300

Tour Highlights

- Pristine panoramas
- Ancient forests
- Golden beaches
- Trails through volcanic peaks
- Experienced attentive guide



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



www.tuataratours.co.nz



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AUSTRALIA
1800 044 633





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The Tour at a Glance

Great Barrier Island (Aotea) is a wild little slice of paradise — remote, rugged, and full of that classic Kiwi charm. With only about 1,000 locals, it's one of the most peaceful and laid-back spots in the South Pacific.

Breathe in the salty ocean air mixed with the earthy scent of native bush. Every breath feels like a reset. Spend your days exploring winding trails through volcanic peaks, lush forests, golden beaches, and crystal clear waters. Adventure and relaxation go hand-in-hand here. On Great Barrier Island, Nature runs the show and we wouldn't have it any other way.

Getting there is part of the fun too! It's just a 30 minute scenic flight from Auckland (note: flight not included in the tour price).

Trip Grading: Moderate

Ideal for anyone comfortable walking up to 20km on formed tracks and trails with some average to steep inclines at times.

Pre-tour

Please come dressed ready to walk and make sure you've got a full drink bottle, as we head straight into our first walk as soon as you land.

The breath-taking flight from Auckland and the sparkling, island-dotted waters of the Hauraki Gulf sets the perfect scene for what's to come. As you step off the plane, your friendly guide will be there to welcome you. You've officially arrived in paradise!

Day-by-Day Itinerary


Day 1	Southern Shores	8-10kms
Day 2	Heart & Soul - Mt Hobson	16kms
Day 3	Northern Shores	8-10kms
Day 4	Left of Centre	8-10kms

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 Southern Shores (8-10kms, 3-4hrs)

Come ready to walk, bring a full drink bottle and let the adventure begin! A stunning flight over Auckland and the turquoise waters of the Hauraki Gulf sets the scene. Your friendly guide welcomes you to paradise!

We head to Whangaparapara for a warm-up walk on the Te Ahumata / White Cliffs Track, following an old mining road to a summit with rare orchids and panoramic views. If you're up for more, stroll the golden sands of Blind Bay or visit Kauri Falls for a refreshing dip in a natural swimming hole.

Then it's time to unwind at the lodge with a drink and a grazing platter on the deck, followed by a delicious two-course Kiwi-style dinner.

MEALS INCLUDED: L D

Day 2 Heart & Soul - Mt Hobson (16kms, 6-7hrs)

Today we take on the island's most spectacular hike—The Aotea Track. We'll start with a magical walk through mossy Windy Canyon, then climb through lush native forest, across bridges and stairways, all the way to the summit of Mt Hobson/Hirakimata. Along the way, wander through wetlands home to rare birds and towering podocarps, and explore relics from the island's logging past.

At 621 metres, Mt Hobson is the island's highest point—and the 360° views are incredible. On the way down, we pass through the delicate Kaitoke Wetlands, alive with orchids and birdlife, before unwinding in natural hot pools nestled in the bush.

Back at the lodge, we'll enjoy a hearty home-cooked dinner on the deck, overlooking the calm waters of Whangaparapara Harbour.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 3 Northern Shores (8-10kms, 5hrs)

Today we head north to Port Fitzroy, where lush hills meet crystal-clear water. We hike through nīkau forests and across swing bridges to the secluded Bush's Beach.

Next, a short climb up Warren's Creek Track leads to a waterfall and deep forest pools — perfect for a refreshing swim. After lunch, we explore the island's largest white sand beach, with a scenic coastal walk past bird colonies and a historic shipwreck. Swim, stretch out, and soak up the beauty.

We end the day back at the lodge with a homemade meal and a cold drink — well-earned after an epic day out.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 4 Left of Centre (8-10kms, 3-4hrs)

We finish our Aotea adventure with a stunning walk down to the island's southern coast. From the Whalers Lookout track, we'll enjoy sweeping views and may even spot Bryde's whales cruising the calm waters of the Hauraki Gulf. After a relaxed picnic, we follow a scenic ridgeline trail through puriri trees and nikau palms, with views stretching to both coasts.

Our final stop is the gorgeous Medlands Beach—pure white sand, tidal rock pools, and the iconic Memory Rock. Take time to explore, reflect, or simply soak it all in.

Before heading to the airport, there's time for a quick visit to the island museum or a coffee at the local gallery. Then it's off to Claris Airport for your 5pm flight, full of memories from an unforgettable trip.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L



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What's Included



All Accommodation at a comfortable lodge, rooms with ensuite facilities



All meals during the tour—great local cuisine



Airport Pick Up and Drop off at Claris Airport, Great Barrier Island.



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. A solar power array makes the lodge completely off the grid for a low impact, sustainable travel experience.

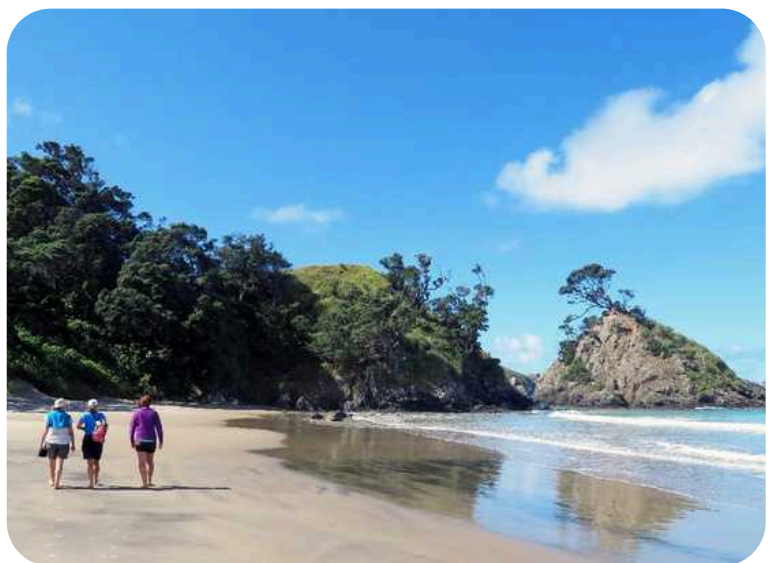
Dietary needs? We're happy to cater for gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian diets—just let us know at time of booking.

What's Not Included

Alcohol - Two complimentary glasses of New Zealand wine or craft beer per person are included each evening, you are most welcome to bring your own beverages if you wish.

Pre- and post-tour accommodation

Airfare to Great Barrier Island. The tour start and finish aligns with Barrier Air's 10am service from Auckland, and the return 5pm flight from Claris. Let us know if you need help with flights.



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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 Great Barrier Island Escape 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 Great Barrier Island Escape is graded Moderate, suited to walkers with an above average fitness level. You should feel confident walking 20km on formed tracks and roads with average to steep inclines at times. 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?

For the flight from Auckland Airport to Claris Airport with [Barrier Air](#), you'll have a carry-on luggage limit of 7kg per person. If you have booked a Premium ticket for your flight this comes with a 20kg luggage limit for checked-in bags (excess baggage fees will apply if you exceed this). Once you land at Claris Airport, we'll stow your gear in our vehicles and it'll be waiting for you at the end of the day when we get back to the lodge. 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 October to January and we can also offer tours in April. We cannot offer tours in February and March due to peak demand. 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?

Most walkers fly from Auckland airport on the morning of the tour. Your guide will meet you at 10:30am at Claris Airport, Great Barrier Island for an 11am start.



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Frequently asked questions:

What time do we return to Claris Airport for the flight back to Auckland?

On the final day you are dropped back to Claris Airport in time for a 5pm flight back to Auckland.

Can you help with air ticket bookings? If you need assistance with booking airfares to the Island, just let us know. If you are happy to book your own airfares, we recommend a 10.30am arrival (or earlier) and a 5pm departure on the last day (or later). These times work best for the start and finish of the walk.

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?

Enjoy fresh continental breakfasts with tea and good plunger coffee (barista coffee available for purchase). Packed lunches are made daily with a variety of nutritious options, and dinners are two-course, Kiwi-style meals featuring seasonal produce, veggies, and salads. Two complimentary drinks are included with dinner each night, and you're welcome to bring your own beverages.

What facilities are available at the lodge?

All three nights are spent at the same comfortable lodge, so you can really settle in. The lodge runs on a solar power system with a backup generator, making it an ideal choice for sustainability and low-impact travellers. Each room includes a small refrigerator, tea and coffee making facilities, and a well-equipped kitchenette. We recommend leaving hair dryers and straighteners at home, as they can overload the power system.

Is WiFi available? Wi-Fi is available throughout the lodge and in your room, though speeds may vary during peak times. The service is turned off overnight to conserve lodge battery capacity. There is intermittent service while we are out on the trails.

Are there drying facilities at the Lodge? There are no laundry facilities available for guests at Great Barrier Lodge. There are plenty of wide, covered verandas for drying wet gear.

Is alcohol included? Two complimentary glasses of wine or craft beer per person are offered each evening and you are most welcome to bring your own beverages if you wish.

Do I need hiking boots? We strongly recommend well-fitting walking boots with good tread and ankle support. After periods of rain certain sections of trail can be muddy, so hiking boots will be best to tackle this. On the day where we do the Hirakimata/Mt. Hobson track hiking boots are a must-have as the terrain can be challenging.

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. We have raincoats, day packs and pairs of hiking poles that you are welcome to borrow for the trip, just let us know in advance.

Are the tours guided? Yes, the Great Barrier Island Escape is a fully guided experience. Your guide will bring local knowledge to enhance your journey and ensure your safety and comfort along the way.



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Pickup Point


The best thing to do is fly! Aotea/Great Barrier Island is only a 30 minute, scenic flight from Auckland Domestic Airport to Claris Aerodrome. We recommend the 10.00am GB103 service from Auckland Domestic which lands at Claris Airport where your guide will meet you. We are happy to help with flight bookings, just let us know if you'd like us to do this for you.





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



New Zealand free dial 0800 377 378

Australia free dial 1800 044 633

World +64 3 962 3280



Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz

Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

You might also like these other North Island tours....

Coromandel Explorer Walk

Tongariro Crossing Walk

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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