



The Tongariro Crossing Walk



The Tongariro Crossing Walk: A Life Changing Experience!

4 Days, 3 Nights

Challenging Grade



tour highlights

- Stark volcanic landscapes
- Native beech forest
- Steaming crater lakes
- Alpine fields
- Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

tours run

November - April
Starting in Rotorua

tour cost:

2025 / 2026

NZD\$1950

options & supplements

Single Supplement:

NZD\$300



This tour is operated by another operator.

Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand
Phone: New Zealand: 0800 377 378, Australia: 1 800 044 633, World: +64 3 962 3280
Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz, Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz





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the tour

Experience the dramatic alpine and volcanic landscapes of World Heritage Area Tongariro National Park, with a small group and experienced local guide. Walk the unforgettable **Tongariro Alpine Crossing**.

Significant cultural heritage combined with arid badlands, crater lakes, sparkling rivers, breath-taking lunar landscapes, native beech forest and alpine meadows - this New Zealand walking tour is a once in a lifetime experience not to be missed!

47km - (30 miles)

at a glance

- Day 1 Rotorua to Tongariro National Park
- Day 2 The Tongariro Alpine Crossing
- Day 3 Old Coach Road, Ohakune
- Day 4 Rainforests and Waterfalls

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 Tongariro Crossing Walk is graded Challenging: An above average level of fitness: Challenging: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20+km, 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, passenger driving licences and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.



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itinerary

Day 1 Rotorua to Tongariro National Park - Hiking time: 2 hours or 6 kms (4 miles)

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, before heading south through the North Island's geothermal heartland. We'll skirt around the beautiful shores of Lake Taupō, the North Island's largest lake, and then drive up through stunning native forest onto the mighty central plateau. We can also meet you in Tongariro National Park if you prefer, please just ask us for driving directions.

We'll get our first taste of the topography and natural character of the Tongariro National Park with a 2-hour loop walk to Taranaki Falls, which is part of the Tongariro Northern Circuit Great Walk track.

We'll continue to warm-up and stretch out the legs with an easy, 20 minute walk in to see Tawhai Falls, better known as 'Gollum's Pool.' If you're a Lord of the Rings fan, you'll recognise this picturesque, 13 metre-high waterfall, where Faramir and his archers watch Gollum fish.

After settling into our cozy lodgings, we'll share a hearty, 2-course Kiwi-style meal and a cold glass of something to toast the beginning of our Tongariro adventure as we watch the sun set over the magnificent volcanic skyline.

Accommodation: The Park Hotel, National Park Village

Meals included: Lunch & Dinner

Day 2 The Tongariro Alpine Crossing - Hiking time: 6 - 8 hours or 19.4 kms (12 miles) Elevation gain: 900m

This morning we'll set off on one of the world's greatest one-day hikes, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. This trail leads us through an incredible variety of ethereal landscapes - lava fields, emerald coloured crater lakes, steaming vents, alpine meadows, over an alpine pass, amidst the stunning mountain peaks - there's nothing like it anywhere else on the planet! The views across to Mt Ngauruhoe, Mt Ruapehu and the central plateau of the North Island are simply spectacular and worth every step!

After a well-deserved trailend celebration, we'll return to our lodgings where you can revive your weary muscles in the outdoor spa pool, before meeting in the cosy lounge for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles. Tonight we head out to a lively local restaurant and bar for a casual meal with the locals.

Accommodation: The Park Hotel, National Park Village

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner





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Day 3 Old Coach Road, Ohakune - Hiking time: 5 hours or 15 kms (9.5 miles)

Today we travel around the southern side of Mt Ruapehu to experience some of New Zealand's rail history on the Old Coach Road trail. Between 1906 to 1908 the road was used to carry passengers and goods by horse and coach, between two railheads on the main trunk line, and is steeped in interesting pioneering stories from the early days of New Zealand industry.

Heritage features on the trail include a unique cobbled stone road, massive steel viaducts, a curved tunnel, railway bridge remnants and old, workers campsites. The 15km walk takes around 5 hours and passes through some beautiful stands of native forest with sweeping views across the Ohakune district, known for its' fertile soils and market gardens.

In consultation with the group, and if conditions allow, we can squeeze in some extra trails nearby or head up Bruce Road to explore the dramatic, rock-strewn landscapes higher up on Mt Ruapehu. At 2797 metres above sea level, the North Island's highest mountain offers jaw-dropping views over the National Park with various hiking options. Tonight we enjoy a final celebration dinner, to cap off an excellent walking adventure.

Accommodation: The Park Hotel, National Park Village

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 4 Rainforests and Waterfalls - Hiking time: 3-4 hours or 7 kms (4.5 miles)

After a final hearty breakfast, we pack up our kit and farewell the National Park and its majestic mountains.

On our journey out of the park, we'll finish things off with a rejuvenating hike around the glistening Lake Rotopounamu (Greenstone Lake) nestled in the side of beautiful Mt. Pihanga, a mountain maiden central to the Māori legend that describes how this area was formed. From the carpark, we'll make our way up a small incline to reach the lake level itself, where the track evens out to circumvent the lakeshore. We'll enjoy our final picnic lunch on Five Minute Beach in the peace and serenity of lush, native forest.

We'll have you safely back in Taupo between 3-4 pm or Rotorua around 5-6pm to meet your onward travel arrangements.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch





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what is included

Accommodation The 3 star Park Hotel in National Park Village.

Rooms are studio twin or double with ensuites.

For a private room upgrade a single supplement of \$300 applies

- All rooms have an ensuite, fridge, TV, tea & coffee facilities, hairdryer and heater
- Drying room
- On-site restaurant and bar
- Outdoor heated spa pool

Food

You will enjoy great local cuisine; breakfasts and hearty packed lunches during the day and restaurant meals 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. Alcohol is not included in the tour cost, but is available for purchase most nights.

Luggage

We transport 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.

This tour is operated in conjunction with another operator.

what is not included

- pre and post tour accommodation
- 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





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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 (these are essential for walking in an alpine environment)
- 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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FAQ's - frequently asked questions

How do we book a tour? The deposit is \$300 per person to confirm your place and can be paid with a credit card through our website at <https://www.tuataratours.co.nz/make-a-payment/> (we accept Visa or Mastercard with no card surcharges) or by internet banking or bank transfer (New Zealand bank account holders only) to Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd account: 01 0797 0308837 00. Please use your surname or tour booking number as a reference when making a payment so we can identify it as yours.

When is the balance due? Your final balance is due 90 days prior to departure. We will email you a reminder when this is due. You are welcome to pay in instalments as long as your tour is paid in full by the due date. Please email us each time you make a payment so we can confirm receipt.

What if I need to cancel? Please see our Terms and conditions for our cancellation policy: <https://www.tuataratours.co.nz/terms-conditions/>. We do recommend you purchase travel insurance to cover you in the case that something unexpected happens and you cannot proceed with your tour.

How big are the groups? Normally we take a maximum of 12 people on a tour but are happy to cater to larger groups on request if you are planning to get a group together.

Do I have to share a room? The tours are priced on a twin share basis (2 people to a room), please let us know at the time of booking if you prefer a queen room (one queen bed) or a twin room (2 separate beds). If you are a solo traveller we will room you with another single person of the same gender, or you may wish to pay an additional single supplement to reserve a private room to yourself.

Am I fit enough? As a general guideline we suggest the following activity level guide for our tours:

Walking Tours:

Easy/Mild: An average level of fitness, you should be comfortable walking 12km on well-formed tracks and roads with a small amount of incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, you should be comfortable walking 20km, on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, you should be comfortable walking 20+ km, on partially formed tracks and roads, some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.

Cycle Tours:

Previous cycling experience is necessary to comfortably complete a multi-day cycle tour.

Easy/Mild: An average level of fitness, you should be comfortable biking 25km on well-formed tracks and roads with a small amount of incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, you should be comfortable biking 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, you should be comfortable biking 50+km on partially formed tracks and roads, some off-road, some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.

If you have any concerns about your fitness level, or ability to complete a tour, please call our office staff and we can discuss this further with you.

Can you pick me up for the tour? Yes, if your tour starts in Nelson, Christchurch, Queenstown or Rotorua pickups and drop offs are available at most central city hotels and motels. Pick-ups are not possible at Airbnb properties or in residential suburbs. Please check with our office before you book accommodation if you are not sure about the location of your stay. If your tour departs from Picton we ask you to make your own way to the meeting point on the wharf for the tour departure.



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FAQ's - frequently asked questions - continued

What's the best time to do a trip? New Zealand is known to have four seasons in a day. Rain can be expected at any time throughout the year, and we depart rain, or fine so you should always be prepared for sudden changes in weather or temperature and always have the appropriate gear with you. Gear lists are in our trip notes for each tour.

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 has longer sunshine hours due to daylight saving. We typically see more activity on the trails over February, March and April so September to December can be a quieter time to travel if you prefer trails less busy.

Do I have breakfast on the first day or is this included? Your tour starts after we pick you up on the first day so please come having had breakfast. After this all meals on tour are included for you as per the trip inclusions in your itinerary.

What sort of food do you provide? We provide continental breakfasts, either café or packed lunches, and an evening meal either in-house at your accommodation, or dining out at a local restaurant. We can cater for vegetarian, vegan, gluten free and dairy free diets, and most food allergies, however these need to be advised at the time of booking.

Do you provide alcohol? No but this can be purchased each evening with your meal, or you are welcome to bring a small amount for your own personal consumption. BYO is not available when dining at licensed premises.

Do I need to come ready to walk or cycle? Yes, please come dressed ready to walk or cycle with your overnight bag packed ready for the transport. During the day you will not have access to your overnight bag so please make sure to have all the items you require for use during the day, packed in a day pack for easy access. For some of the tours there is a ride of up to several hours in the bus to get to your start location, if you are not comfortable travelling in full walk or cycle gear, please have this readily available to change into before the walk /ride starts.

Can I fly in/fly out the same day? Ideally, we recommend you arrive the day prior to your tour and depart the morning after the tour finishes just in case there are any unexpected delays or cancellations to your flights.

Can I bring my own bike for the cycle tours? Yes, please make sure it has been serviced and is fit for purpose for the trail you are undertaking. If you are not sure, please check with our office staff on booking.

What comes with the hire bikes? Our hire E bikes, and standard bikes all come with a comfortable memory foam saddle and a rack bag for carrying your jacket, phone, and a drink bottle. Helmets and hi-vis garments are issued with each bike, and as helmets are required by law in New Zealand, we ask riders to wear these at all times while riding. The support vehicle is never far away if you need access to other items of your clothing or equipment.

How much luggage can I bring on tour? Space is limited so we would appreciate if you could please keep your luggage to one hand carry and one overnight bag or suitcase max 20kg. For the Abel Tasman we provide a bag for you to pack into (please see trip notes for the Abel Tasman tours) and for Queen Charlotte tours please limit luggage to 15kg as there are restrictions on the size and weight of bags that can be transported on the water taxis. On some of the hiking tours you may be required to carry your own pack, this is specified in the packing list for your trip

Are all your tours guided?

Our walking tours, with the exception of the Queen Charlotte Boat stay tour, are all guided by a knowledgeable local guide, they provide information on the terrain you are passing through as well as logistical support.

On a cycle tour we provide a support vehicle and driver-guide throughout to help with any bike issues, first aid, trail instructions and to set up for meal breaks. On occasion they will bike a section of the trail with you to highlight places of interest or point out directions, but they do not guide the full trail. If anyone needs to take a break from the riding, you are welcome to make use of the vehicle at any stage.

If there is something we have not covered in these FAQ's please feel free to call **0800 377 378** or email our office team for further assistance.



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making an enquiry

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz, click the make an enquiry button and submit your enquiry 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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- Australia: 1 800 044 633
- World: +64 3 962 3280
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- Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

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



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TERMS & 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.

Cancellation Policy due to travel restriction that is imposed by either the New Zealand government or any other government.

Should your trip be impacted by a travel restriction that is imposed by either the New Zealand government or any other government, we will either work with you to transfer your trip to a future date at no additional cost, or provide you with a full refund.

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 which is payable 90 days prior to the commencement of the tour. 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)

Non refundable deposit

Outside 60 days, date changes are possible but deposits are non-refundable

31-60 days, 30% cancellation fee

Within 30 days 100% cancellation fee

These cancellation fees are not negotiable, therefore we strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance.

Travel 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.





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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.

Tongariro National Park is an active volcanic area, and eruptions from any of the volcanoes can happen at any time. Early warning systems and alarms are in place that indicate times of increased volcanic activity, however events can occur without any warning.

The staff and management of TuataraTours 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. You shall indemnify the Operator in relation to such costs.

NZ Walking Tours

The Akaroa Walk
The Queenstown Ben Lomond Walk
The Queen Charlotte Walk
The West Coast Trail
The Hump Ridge Track Walk
The Coromandel Explorer Walk
The Tongariro Crossing Walk
The Waikaremoana Discovery
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

NZ Cycling Tours

Around The Mountains Cycle 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

