

# GUIDED OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

*Extraordinary journeys, expertly guided*



Great Walks · Kiwi Style Hiking · Alpine Hikes · Hiking Tours

**New Zealand**

July 2026 - June 2027

active  earth  
Adventures

  
**HIKING**  
New Zealand

# OUR EXPERTISE

THE HIKING NEW ZEALAND AND ACTIVE EARTH ADVENTURES TEAM SHARES YOUR PASSION FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE, THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED, AND THE WONDER THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN THE UNTOUCHED WILDERNESS.

For over thirty years, our team of outdoor fanatics have been exploring great walks, hidden treasures and magical nooks and crannies and sharing them with like-minded travellers like you.

Whether you are a seasoned adventurer who runs off-road marathons on the weekends and has a month to explore a new corner of the world, or a keen walker who wants to make the most of a hard-earned week away from the office, we can match you up with your wilderness trip of a lifetime.

Our guides know day-long rainforest rambles that feel a million miles from anywhere or we can take you on a weeks-long hiking, camping and kayaking trip to remote and breathtaking landscapes.

So call or drop us an email to find out more. We love nothing better than to share New Zealand's best wilderness adventure secrets or talk about hiking until the cows come home. It's time for an adventure!



# OUR STORY

IT ALL BEGAN IN THE SOUTH ISLAND BACK IN 1993, WHEN WE FIRST SET OFF AS NEW ZEALAND NATURE SAFARIS, EXPLORING THE RUGGED BEAUTY OF AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND'S LANDSCAPES. TWO YEARS LATER, WE EXPANDED TO THE NORTH ISLAND UNDER THE ACTIVE EARTH BRAND, READY TO SHARE EVEN MORE OF NEW ZEALAND'S HIDDEN GEMS WITH THOSE CRAVING REAL ADVENTURE.

Our very first brochure was printed on recycled brown paper and, in one memorable instance, proudly declared our trips were "guided by a naturalist." We're not entirely sure how that one slipped through, but on a hot summer's day, plunging into a remote river, there may have been a touch of truth to it.

Back in those early days, founders Mark Brabyn (South Island) and Malcolm O'Neill (North Island) solo-guided wild and wonderful trips, tumbling through the wilderness with little more than good humour and a taste for adventure. It was rough, tough, and sometimes downright hilarious—sleeping in caves and tiny huts, navigating unpredictable weather, and occasionally getting stuck behind flooded rivers or storm-battered tracks. But that was the magic of it—every trip was an adventure, and the people we shared it with often became lifelong friends.

In 2005, Daniel and Anne Murphy joined the business, bringing fresh energy and a passion for exploration. With Mark moving on to new adventures, Malcolm stayed on, keeping the spirit of those early days alive. As the team grew, we partnered with local operators to offer even more—including tours with day hiking and comfortable accommodation, lodge-to-lodge Great Walks, and of course, our Kiwi Style experiences.

From those humble beginnings, we are now proud to be New Zealand's premier hiking specialists, guiding travellers through every nook and cranny of this remarkable country.



DANIEL MURPHY

**Co-owner and South Island Operations Manager**

Dan has always been a devotee of the outdoors. His progression from agriculture to tourism started with a role as a hiking guide in Spain in the late 90's, and later a backcountry guide in NZ. Dan occasionally still gets out and about guiding and has the enviable job of tour research and development. He also has a reputation for getting out on a lot of his own adventurous hiking trips. Beyond hiking, Dan is passionate about conservation, dedicating much of his time to restoring ecosystems through conservation projects.



ANNE MURPHY

**Co-owner and Managing Director**

Having grown up in rural New Zealand it was no surprise that this country girl returned to work involving the outdoors. Anne tried life as a city slicker with a commerce degree but packed in corporate life when she met Dan. Anne is the face of Hiking New Zealand at international trade and travel conferences and the strategist in the office. Anne also does a lot of trail running, mountain biking and hiking.



MALCOLM O'NEILL

**Co-owner and North Island Operations Manager**

Even before he could walk, Malcolm was being carried through the New Zealand wilderness in a pack on his father's back. Since those early days, he has hiked, climbed, sea kayaked, and mountain biked throughout New Zealand and the globe. He squeezed in time to get a science degree in physical geography and co-authored a guidebook, Classic New Zealand Adventures. Based in Auckland Malcolm keeps the North Island team singing and itineraries humming.



MICHELLE MCCONNON

**Account/Tour Manager and Women's Group Travel**

Michelle's background is tourism operations & publishing. After a break to look after her children she joined up with the Hiking New Zealand team. Michelle is a cheerful outdoor obsessive and her enthusiasm for anything active is simply contagious. When she's not out mountain running with groups of us free-range adventurers in line. Michelle is our women's group travel specialist.



MARTIN LESLIE

**Head of Guiding and Operations**

Martin has always had a great interest in exploring the outdoors. It is no surprise that this has been the main thread throughout his life. After studying Earth Sciences at University, he began his long career as a high school teacher focusing on outdoor and environmental education. He couldn't be happier to now have a management role at Hiking New Zealand that still lets him get out guiding, where he can practice his biggest hobby: being in the natural world.



ANNA MORRIS

**Sales and Tour Manager**

Anna (Ngāi Tahu) has always loved the outdoors, having grown up camping, hiking and fishing with whānau (family). With a love of the natural environment, sports and adventure, she has spent many nights off the beaten track in the wild Te Wai Pounamu (South Island) back country. Anna has worn many hats, having lived on a rural farm, owned an outdoors shop, travelled the world and being mum to her two children, she is passionate about showing her home to other adventure seekers.



ALANA TORRIE

**Tour and Marketing Coordinator**

Originating from the sunny North, Alana embodies our team's passion for the great outdoors, seamlessly fitting into our shared love for nature. Alana has recently returned from a few years of adventuring in the beautiful British Columbia Canada. Her career spans marketing, design and administration and she's stoked to now be helping travellers explore New Zealand. On the weekends you'll find Alana soaking up the sun in her garden, running, surfing or mountain biking with friends.

# WHY GO GUIDED?

## OPTING FOR A GUIDED EXPERIENCE MEANS YOU CAN SIMPLY RELAX AND ENJOY THE JOURNEY.

Let us handle the planning, logistics, and little details so you can fully appreciate New Zealand's stunning landscapes. Along the way, you'll connect with like-minded travellers, share stories, and build memories that last a lifetime - all while discovering the beauty and history of the places we visit. Our local guides are passionate storytellers, sharing the history, culture, and hidden gems that make each journey unforgettable.

## DISCOVER MORE

The experience of visiting somewhere new is always deepened and enriched by learning some of the history and stories that have shaped the place. Our guides can explain the natural and cultural histories, stories and legends of the places you visit so that you will appreciate and remember your experience in a way you never would if you were there on your own.



## CONNECT MORE

Share stories, make memories, and form lasting friendships with people who love the outdoors as much as you do. On a guided tour, you're surrounded by like-minded travellers, creating opportunities to share experiences and discover hidden gems together. There's something special about exploring breathtaking landscapes with a group, those moments of awe at the top of a mountain, the laughter around a campfire, and the shared excitement of reaching a new destination. A guided trip turns fellow hikers into friends, and sometimes, even lifelong adventure buddies. Whether you're travelling solo, as a couple, or with friends, guided adventures make it easy to connect, not just with nature, but with people who share your passion for exploration.



## STRESS FREE TRAVEL

Imagine sitting back, relaxing, and fully enjoying your adventure without the hassle of planning or logistics. With a guided adventure, all the details are taken care of - accommodation, itinerary planning, and travel arrangements - so you can simply show up and soak in the experience. Our team handles the hard-to-find accommodations, fine-tunes the itinerary, and nails all the logistics, leaving you free to explore, connect, and create lasting memories. No need to worry about navigating local transport, figuring out the best places to stay, or deciding where to eat. Instead of managing the details, you get to focus on what matters most: enjoying your adventure to the fullest.

## ACHIEVE MORE

Relish the sense of achievement when you take on new challenges and push yourself to try new things. Guided adventures provide the safe and supportive environment to do something you have perhaps never done before and would never think of doing on your own.

# WHY GO CUSTOM?

## HAVE IT YOUR WAY WITH A TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY.

Your time is precious, so let us do the work and craft an adventure that suits you perfectly. Sometimes it's simply that our existing departure dates or the length of an adventure don't align with your plans. Other times, you might want to add special interests, adjust the level of adventure, or choose the perfect accommodation to match your style.

So, talk to us about designing your perfect adventure. You won't get lost in a big organisation, we're small enough to truly look after you, while still having the expertise to make it all work seamlessly. We take immense pride in planning outdoor adventures. In fact, if we're designing one for you, chances are it becomes our number one lunchtime topic, with the whole team pitching ideas until we get the mix just right. This is our passion, and we thrive on the opportunity to share New Zealand's stunning wilderness with you, your family, and your friends.

We can tailor your itinerary to include hiking, sea kayaking, mountain biking, white-water rafting, Māori culture, geothermal wonders, the options are endless! Tell us what your interests are, what you love to do, what you've heard about, and what you've enjoyed on other holidays, and we'll create an itinerary just for you.

Adventures can be customised to your budget, and depending on the size of your group and when you want to travel, you may even catch a pretty sharp deal!

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\*Prices and information correct as of May 2026 and could be subject to change.

# NEW ZEALAND WIDE TOURS

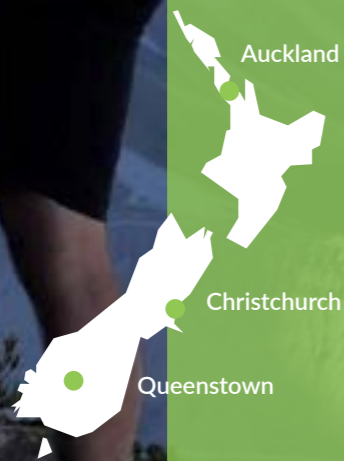


VISITORS TO NEW ZEALAND FREQUENTLY REMARK UPON THE AMAZING DIVERSITY OF ITS LANDSCAPES, FROM GOLDEN BEACHES TO SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS, FROM VOLCANIC MOONSCAPES TO LUSH RAINFOREST.

No matter how seasoned a traveller you are, New Zealand's scenery is sure to take your breath away.

New Zealand also has a fascinating blend of cultures — from native Māori, Pakeha (descendants of Europeans) and sixth-generation descendants of Chinese gold-miners to more recent immigrants from all over the world. We are renowned as a diverse and friendly nation where tourists receive a warm welcome.

With so much to see and do, it's essential to build your itinerary carefully so that you make the most of the time you have to see New Zealand. We can help you see the most famous sights, while still getting off the beaten track and experiencing our pristine wilderness. You'll be amazed at how much you can pack into a well-designed trip. So, take advantage of our local knowledge and let us organise the logistics so you maximise the time you have here. You're sure to appreciate a guide's value as you tap into their extensive knowledge about the flora, fauna and history of the regions you explore.



# CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND



THIS LARGE REGION STRETCHES OVER HUNDREDS OF KILOMETRES AND INCLUDES NATIONAL PARKS WHICH OFFER A VAST RANGE OF ACTIVE ADVENTURES.

You'll discover scores of ancient volcanic lakes, smoking volcanoes, virgin forests and lots of clear water. To the east is the spiritual heartland of the North Island — Lake Waikaremoana in utterly remote Tuhoe-Māori tribal country with bright blue waters and forests of a thousand greens. There are no towns here, just stunning wilderness like nowhere else. Out west, the Whanganui National Park has a mighty river that snakes through it, flowing 300km from Tongariro National Park to the Tasman Sea through wild lowland forests. And sandwiched between these two lush lowlands is the world-renowned Tongariro National Park — a World Heritage Site with ancient forests and other-worldly landscapes of steaming craters, old lava flows and thermal lakes. The Tongariro Alpine Crossing is considered the best one-day hike in New Zealand, and one of the best in the world, but there is plenty more to explore in this wonderland.



## New Zealand Grand Hikes



- **Days:** 15 days
- **Start/Finish:** Auckland / Queenstown
- **Accommodation:** Hotels, Lodges
- **Hike style:** Day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag

## Ultimate New Zealand



- **Days:** 24 days
- **Start/Finish:** Auckland / Queenstown
- **Accommodation:** Backcountry Huts, Cabins, Camping, Lodges
- **Hike style:** Multi-day and day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag or overnight pack

## Tongariro Hike



- **Days:** 4 days
- **Start/Finish:** Rotorua return
- **Accommodation:** Lodges
- **Hike style:** Day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag

## Whanganui River Canoe



- **Days:** 4 OR 5 days
- **Start/Finish:** Ohakune return
- **Accommodation:** Lodges, Camping
- **Hike style:** Relaxed pace paddling and short hikes
- **Carry:** Carry luggage in canoe

# NORTH ISLAND TOURS



IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR TRAVELLERS TO UNDERESTIMATE THE VARIETY ON OFFER IN THE NORTH ISLAND. IT CAN BE OVERSHADOWED A LITTLE BY THE SOUTH ISLAND'S (DESERVED) REPUTATION, BUT THE NORTH'S WILDERNESS IS STILL PHENOMENAL.

There are plenty of relatively little-known places here that will reward the well-informed traveller with scenery and experiences to rival anything in the South.

In the North Island, you can get up close to New Zealand's most famous volcanoes, hike through ancient rainforests, see vast volcanic crater lakes and marvel at impressive geothermal displays, the likes of which can only be seen in a few places around the globe. Learn the ways of the tangata whenua (Māori, the people of the land) and their history. And discover our two most lively and cosmopolitan cities: Auckland, where European, Asian, and Pacific cultures blend in a way seen nowhere else, and Wellington, the coolest little capital in the world, described by some as the San Francisco of the south for its scenic harbour, steep hillsides clad with Victorian era houses, and thriving urban scene.

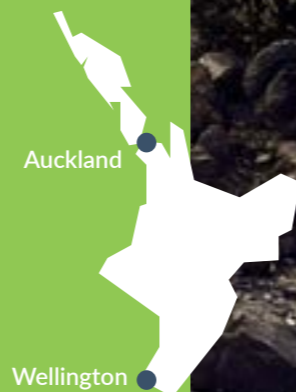


Image: Howard Klac

# SOUTH ISLAND TOURS



MAJESTIC AND DRAMATIC ARE WORDS OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE THE SOUTH ISLAND LANDSCAPE.

It is the larger of the two main islands of New Zealand but has less than a quarter of the country's population, which gives it a vast, unspoilt quality. The island is divided by the imposing Southern Alps which run from north to south for 500km. West of the range, pristine rivers tumble down through virgin rainforest to the wild and windswept coastline. East of the divide, the landscape is completely different, but no less dramatic, with sweeping vistas of alpine grasslands, turquoise lakes and snow capped peaks which will have you constantly reaching for your camera. Above it all, towering over the vast permanent ice plateaus of the Alps, is the imposing peak of Aoraki/ Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. These are landscapes you will never forget.



## North Island Grand Hikes



- **Days:** 5 days
- **Start/Finish:** Auckland / Wellington
- **Accommodation:** Hotels, Lodges
- **Hike style:** Day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag

## Ultimate North Island



- **Days:** 8 days
- **Start/Finish:** Auckland / Wellington
- **Accommodation:** Backcountry Huts, Camping, Lodges
- **Hike style:** Multi-day and day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag or overnight pack

## North Island Adventure



- **Days:** 5 days
- **Start/Finish:** Auckland return
- **Accommodation:** Lodges
- **Hike style:** Day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag

## South Island Grand Hikes



- **Days:** 10 days
- **Start/Finish:** Nelson / Queenstown
- **Accommodation:** Hotels, Lodges
- **Hike style:** Day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag

## Ultimate South Island



- **Days:** 15 days
- **Start/Finish:** Nelson / Queenstown
- **Accommodation:** Backcountry Huts, Lodges, Cabins, Camping,
- **Hike style:** Multi-day and day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag or overnight pack

## South Island Adventure



- **Days:** 14 days
- **Start/Finish:** Christchurch return
- **Accommodation:** Hotels, Lodges (Backcountry Huts optional)
- **Hike style:** Day hikes (with multi-day option)
- **Carry:** Day bag (or overnight pack)

# BEACHES OF THE SOUTH

## THE NORTHERN END OF THE SOUTH ISLAND OFFERS A RICH DIVERSITY OF COASTAL LANDSCAPES.

The sheltered waters of the Marlborough Sounds feature peninsulas cloaked in forest that go right to the water's edge. It does not take a lot to imagine that the Sounds, home to the gorgeous Queen Charlotte track, was once a mountainous area that slowly sank over the last million years or so, causing the sea to flood its valley systems.

Further west, the golden beaches and turquoise waters of the Abel Tasman National Park are pristine yet surprisingly accessible. Such is its warm climate and picturesque forest that it can feel like a piece of the tropics magically transported southward. It's no wonder that it's New Zealand's most popular coastal national park for hikers, kayakers and boat enthusiasts.

Less well-known is Kahurangi, given national park status in 1996, which spills out onto the West Coast with similarly sub-tropical-seeming bays giving way to wild rocky coast. Kahurangi's majestic interior features sheer mountains with fascinating limestone geology and remote lakes. Here, in one of the country's newest national parks, you will find its oldest rocks which formed part of the ancient Gondwana supercontinent.

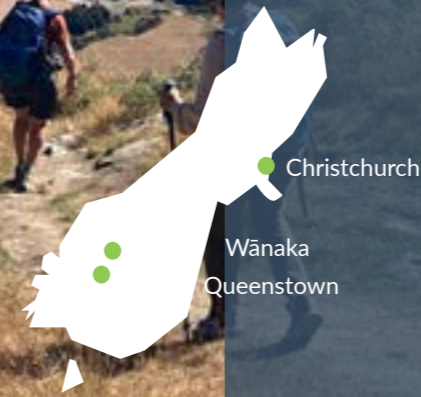


# QUEENSTOWN & WĀNAKA

## THESE TWO BEAUTIFUL TOWNS IN THE SOUTHERN LAKES REGION ARE JUST AN HOUR'S DRIVE APART.

Queenstown, which sits on the edge of Lake Wakatipu, is known as the adventure capital of the world, offering a plethora of adrenaline-inducing activities from bungee jumping and skydiving to high-speed jetboat tours. And, in the winter, this region is New Zealand's premier skiing destination.

Wānaka is slightly more laidback, though there is nothing modest about the scenery of either town, the Southern Alps providing a dramatic backdrop to alpine lakes and forests. For slightly more serene adventures, both towns have great options for hiking and mountain-biking right on their doorsteps. You can put on your boots or grab a bike for a day out or venture a little further into the stunning wilderness areas of Aspiring and Fiordland National Parks for a longer multi-day trip. This region has adventures awaiting travellers of all levels of experience and fitness.



## Abel Tasman Track



- **Days:** 3 or 5 days
- **Start/Finish:** Nelson return
- **Accommodation:** Lodges
- **Hike style:** Multi-day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bags only - lodge to lodge luggage transfers

## Queen Charlotte Track



- **Days:** 4 or 5 days
- **Start/Finish:** Picton return
- **Accommodation:** Lodges
- **Hike style:** Multi-day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bags only - lodge to lodge luggage transfers

## Heaphy Track



- **Days:** 6 days
- **Start/Finish:** Motueka / Motueka or Nelson
- **Accommodation:** Backcountry Huts
- **Hike style:** Multi-day hikes
- **Carry:** Hiking pack

## Pure South Adventure



- **Days:** 7 days
- **Start/Finish:** Queenstown / Queenstown
- **Accommodation:** Hotels
- **Hike style:** Day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag

## Milford, Hollyford & Stewart Island



- **Days:** 7 days
- **Start/Finish:** Queenstown / Queenstown
- **Accommodation:** Hotels, Lodges
- **Hike style:** Day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag

# THE SOUTHERN ALPS

THE SOUTHERN ALPS, A MOUNTAIN RANGE EXTENDING ALONG MUCH OF THE LENGTH OF THE SOUTH ISLAND, FEATURING NEW ZEALAND'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN, AORAKI/MT COOK AND THE ALPINE VILLAGE OF ARTHUR'S PASS, IS A HIKER'S DREAM DESTINATION.

Unlike the intense greens that characterise much of the New Zealand landscape, this area is big on blues, with wide open skies and dramatic lakes providing a breathtaking counterpoint to the high country grasslands that lead up to the snowcapped mountains.

The alpine village of Mt Cook, nestled at the base of the Southern Alps, provides a front-row seat for viewing this special landscape, and serves as a base for exploring the area via alpine walks of various lengths, or sightseeing by air above nearby Tasman Glacier.



# FIORDLAND & STEWART ISLAND

OF ALL THE WORLD-BEATING SCENERY NEW ZEALAND HAS TO OFFER, FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK, WITH 1.2 MILLION HECTARES OF DENSE NATIVE FOREST, IS A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR MOST SPECTACULAR OF ALL.

Ancient glaciers carved deep fiords among the mountains here, creating a landscape of almost surreal beauty. The hiking is phenomenal in this World Heritage Site, and you can also explore the area by kayak, boat, helicopter, or plane. When you visit Fiordland, you'll see why Rudyard Kipling declared it to be the 'Eighth Wonder of the World.'

Just 30km south of the South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura feels even more remote than Fiordland. New Zealand's third-largest island is truly a wilderness paradise, with more than 85% of its land included in Rakiura National Park. With a single town with a permanent population of fewer than 400, and more than 280km of walking tracks compared to 28km of road, Stewart Island offers virtually unlimited opportunities for the nature lover to get off the beaten track and explore deserted beaches and untouched forests. Native birds like kiwi, kaka, and yellow-eyed penguin thrive here, undisturbed by civilisation and many of the predators found on the main islands. If virgin wilderness is your thing, Stewart Island will not disappoint.



## Scenic South Hike and Bike



- **Days:** 8 days
- **Start/Finish:** Christchurch / Queenstown
- **Accommodation:** Hotels, Lodges
- **Hike style:** Day hikes and cycling
- **Carry:** Day bag

## Arthurs Pass Alpine Hike



- **Days:** 4 days
- **Start/Finish:** Christchurch return
- **Accommodation:** Backcountry Huts
- **Hike style:** Multi-day hike
- **Carry:** Hiking pack

## Hollyford Track



- **Days:** 4 days
- **Start/Finish:** Queenstown / Te Anau
- **Accommodation:** Hotels, Lodges
- **Hike style:** Day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag and lightweight overnight pack

## Hump Ridge Track



- **Days:** 4 days
- **Start/Finish:** Tuatapere / Tuatapere, Te Anau or Queenstown
- **Accommodation:** Lodges
- **Hike style:** Day hikes
- **Carry:** Hiking pack

## Stewart Island Track



- **Days:** 5 days
- **Start/Finish:** Invercargill return
- **Accommodation:** Backcountry Huts, Camping, Lodges
- **Hike Style:** Multi-day and day hikes
- **Carry:** Day bag or overnight pack



## CONSERVATION

At Hiking New Zealand, our passion for the outdoors goes hand in hand with our dedication to preserving it. Since our inception in 1993, we've embraced a strong environmental ethic rooted in kaitiakitanga—the Māori principle of guardianship for the land, sea, and sky. This sense of responsibility runs deep through everything we do.

Back in 1998, we established a wildlife fund to support New Zealand's unique ecosystems. Since then we have contributed over \$100,000 to various conservation projects, reflecting our commitment to giving back to the environment that enriches our adventures.

The global pandemic in 2020 presented unprecedented challenges but also opportunities. With international travel halted, we turned our skills to hands-on conservation work. This pivotal moment led to the creation of Southern Rewilding, our dedicated conservation business. Southern Rewilding supports restoration projects, working closely with the Department of Conservation, local iwi, Hokotehi Moriori Trust, and private partners we help restore ecosystems through planting, predator control, and protection of vulnerable species.

But conservation doesn't just happen behind the scenes. Every Hiking New Zealand trip is a chance to connect with the natural world in a meaningful way. We introduce people to wild places in a way that sparks wonder, connection, and care, reminding us all of our place in the ecosystem and the power of shared stewardship.

As proud supporters of the Tiaki Promise, we are committed to protecting and respecting Aotearoa. Through our actions and our adventures, we strive to live this promise - to protect, to respect, and to preserve.

When you travel with us, you join this promise - walking softly, learning deeply, and helping ensure New Zealand's wilderness remains wild and thriving for generations to come.

[ActiveEarthAdventures.com](https://ActiveEarthAdventures.com) [HikingNewZealand.com](https://HikingNewZealand.com)

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