



# HUMP RIDGE TRACK

## ITINERARY



Situated on the south-west corner of New Zealand's South Island, the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track is 3-day loop walk that takes hikers along the south coast of New Zealand, up to the sub-alpine zone of the Hump Ridge, and over historic viaducts in the heart of native forest. There are commanding views of the south coast, Lake Poteriteri, Lake Hauroko and mountain ranges deep in Fiordland National Park. Walk through 13 marine coastal terraces in the Waitutu Forest, which Dr David Bellamy described as "probably the most important forest in the world". This ancient terraced forest rises out of the sea with each level being 100,000 years older than the last. It remains pristine and unspoiled. Experienced guides will provide you with an intimate knowledge of the area, enriching your vacation. All the organising will be done for you and your gear helicoptered on day 1 so that you can focus on the delights and make the most of your walking holiday.

LENGTH	4 days
GRADE	C (sub alpine hiking and uneven terrain)
START	Day 1: Pre-track briefing, 5:30pm, at Tuatapere Hump Ridge office, 31 Orawia Rd, Tuatapere. (transfers available from Queenstown/Te Anau and Invercargill)
FINISH	Tuatapere 3pm (transfers available to Te Anau arriving 4:45pm and Queenstown 7:30pm)
DEPARTURES	<b>2025</b> Nov: 3, 6, 10, 13, 20, 27   Dec: 4, 8, 11, 18 <b>2026</b> Jan: 5, 8, 15, 19, 22, 29   Feb: 2, 5, 12, 16, 19, 26 Mar: 2, 5, 12, 16, 19, 26, 30   Apr: 6
PRICE	<b>1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026</b> Adult ex Tuatapere NZD \$2,195.00 Private room upgrade (per room, for both nights) NZD \$300.00 Transfer from Te Anau (return, per person) NZD \$110.00 Transfer from Invercargill (return, per person) NZD \$110.00 Transfer from Queenstown (return, per person) NZD \$195.00 Single supplement (all individual travellers - pre night accommodation) NZD \$30.00

Recommended minimum age: 11 years. Any person under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult. Children book at same rate as adults.

### "AWESOME HIKE

*While this is a challenging track. The fact you don't need to pack cooking equipment and can buy dehydrated meals, snacks and beer wine etc at lodges makes it much more manageable. You get a comfy bed and porridge for breakfast. Hiking in style. First day includes a steep climb but views or enchanted forest make it worth while. At the end of day two you may be lucky enough to see or swim with hectors dolphins. Lodges and hosts are great with options to upgrade to own room. Thoroughly enjoyed all 3 days of hiking.*

~ GriffinLeanne - March, **TripAdvisor**

### "EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS"

*I did the guided walk last weekend and highly recommend it. The walk itself is amazing and so diverse. Loved the bush, the spectacular views, the beaches. Even saw Hector Dolphins. Our guides Dallas and Ant were great! True southern hospitality and they really looked after us. They were very knowledgeable about the environment as well.*

~ MarGrant - Queenstown, November, **Trip Advisor**

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 ARRIVE AT TUATAPERE

### Pre-trip pick up and briefing

Tuatapere is situated 100km from Invercargill and 100km from Te Anau on the Southern Scenic Route. Return transfers from Invercargill, Queenstown or Te Anau can be arranged if needed. Times will be advised. Otherwise make your own way to Tuatapere, arriving at the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track Office (31 Orawia Rd) by 5:30pm for a meet and greet. Your accommodation at the Last Light Lodge is a short walk away.

## DAY 2 TUATAPERE - FLAT CREEK - OKAKA LODGE

### 5-6 hours/12km hiking

We pick you up from your accommodation at 8am. Join the bus ride to the pick up point for your scenic helicopter flight at Rarakau. A helicopter ride over Te Waewae Bay delivers you to the start of your walk. You will climb up to the top of the Hump Ridge, experiencing the diversity of beautiful native bush as it changes dramatically with elevation gain. After a brief rest at Stag Point to take in the views over Stewart Island and the Southern Ocean, you will head to the top of the ridge and walk around the breathtaking Loop Track with 360 degree views of Fiordland. Arrive at Okaka, a lodge 'on top of the world' (890m), and unwind as you admire the views, settle into your room and, of course, take a hot shower. You will feel at home with our lodge manager's home cooking and hospitality.

## DAY 3 OKAKA LODGE - PERCY BURN VIADUCT - PORT CRAIG VILLAGE

### 7 - 9 hours/20km hiking

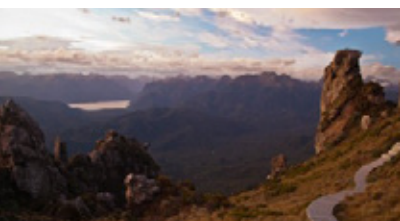
After breakfast you will wander down the Hump Ridge, enjoying stunning views of Te Waewae Bay, the South Coast, Waitutu terraces and mountains of Fiordland. While you are walking over the two mighty wooden viaducts (and around the Percy Burn viaduct) on the way to Port Craig Village, consider the men who built them almost a century ago. The guide will share many stories from the days when Port Craig was a bustling sawmill town. During the 1920s Port Craig had the largest and most modern sawmill in New Zealand. The milling company employed over 150 men and produced up to 1800 cubic metres of timber a month. Logs were transported to the mill along a tramway from the terraced forests to the west, between Port Craig and the Wairaurahiri River. Large hardwood viaducts were constructed to carry the tram lines over ravines. The Percy Burn Viaduct is 125 metres long and 36 metres above the creek bed. It was fully repaired in 1994. The other viaducts were refurbished in 1999. Timber was shipped directly from Port Craig and the old wharf piles remain, along with old building materials and the Port Craig School. Milling ceased in 1932.

If you are interested in the history that surrounds Port Craig, take the interpretive trail and explore relics from the sawmilling days. Alternatively just meander down to the beach and watch the resident Hector's Dolphins playing in the bay. At Port Craig lodge, the friendly lodge manager will welcome you to your room and you can once again enjoy their hospitality while taking in your new coastal backdrop.

## DAY 4 PORT CRAIG VILLAGE - RARAKAU - TUATAPERE

### 5 - 7 hours/20km hiking

Mornings at Port Craig start (weather permitting) with a chorus of bellbirds and tuis. Fantails, brown creepers, rifleman, grey warblers, moreporks, silver eyes and tomtits are also abundant. To complete the track, your group and guide will meander through native bush canopy, then along the beautiful golden beaches – one named Blowholes because of the waves that are blown up by the outcrop ring of rocks. To finish your day, walk along Bluecliffs Beach and out to Rarakau Car Park where you will be driven back to the office in Tuatapere arriving there 3pm (approximately) in time to meet the shuttle to Te Anau/Queenstown. The shuttle arrives in Te Anau just before 5pm. Those continuing on to Queenstown will arrive there 7.30pm. Transfer to Invercargill is also available.





# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## GRADE C

- Up to 9 hrs of physical activity per day.
- At times carrying a backpack of 5-7kgs.
- Tracks generally in good condition.
- Altitude gains of up to 800m on harder days.
- No hiking experience necessary.
- Reasonable standard of fitness required

No previous hiking experience is required, but you need to be reasonably fit and enthusiastic.

You will be carrying a medium sized daypack for up to 9 hours. The first day on the trail you climb over 800m.

The second day you go down again. The track is a mixture of boardwalk and steps, natural tracks and remains of the old tramline. The descent from the Hump Ridge is steep and can be muddy at times.



## GUIDES AND SAFETY

The guides are dedicated to your safety and satisfaction. They have been chosen for their special knowledge and receive additional training on the local flora, fauna and history. They are trained in first aid and are in radio contact with each other, the lodges and the Tuatapere base at all times.



## FOOD

All food is included for you while on the track, including breakfast on the first morning in your Tuatapere accommodation. Gourmet dinners and wine with a distinctive New Zealand flavour, breakfasts and picnic lunches (which you carry) are provided. Additional NZ wines are available for sale at the lodges.

Please advise the office if you have any dietary needs at the time of booking. This is essential: due to the remoteness it is unlikely to be able to provide other food options at short notice. If speciality foods are needed to meet your needs there will be an additional charge of \$50 per person (correct at the time of publishing).

## TRANSPORT

Return transfers are available from Queenstown, Te Anau and Invercargill, and can be booked through us.

Queenstown: The Tracknet shuttle departs Queenstown at either 10.45am (arriving in Te Anau at 2.45pm) or at 2pm (arriving in Te Anau at 4.15pm), in time to connect with the 4.30pm Hump Ridge Shuttle to Tuatapere (arriving 5.45pm).

Te Anau: the Hump Ridge Shuttle departs from Te Anau for Tuatapere at 4.30pm, arriving at 5.45pm.

Invercargill: the Hump Ridge Shuttle departs Invercargill at 12.30pm, arriving Tuatapere 2pm. If returning to Invercargill, the shuttle departs Tuatapere at 10.30am so an overnight stay (not included in price) is required in Tuatapere following your hike. Please contact us if you would like to book an Invercargill transfer.

Shuttle bookings are essential, as the shuttle does not run if there are no bookings for a particular day.

The Hump Ridge Track has an understanding with Rent a Dent Queenstown and Rent a Dent Invercargill. Please let them know you are walking the Hump Ridge Track to receive a discount.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation on the track is provided in modern backcountry lodges featuring gas heating and cooking, solar lighting, flush toilets and drying rooms. Bedding, linen and hot showers are provided. Rooms are bunkroom accommodation with pillows, fitted sheet, sleep sheet and covered duvet. Private premium rooms upgrades are available for NZ\$300 per room. These rooms accommodate a maximum of two people, either double or twin king singles. All cutlery, utensils and bedding are provided.

Pre tour accommodation in Tuatapere provides twin share and double rooms with a shared bathroom.

# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

The Lodges have a licensed bar and shop where you can purchase a range of New Zealand wine and beer, as well as additional snacks and refreshments. Take some cash or a credit card (sorry, no EFTPOS available).

Non-walker helicopter transfers between lodges are charged per sector. Please contact us for price.

Please advise the office if you have any dietary needs at least 7 days prior to your arrival. This is essential: due to the remoteness it is unlikely to be able to provide other food options at short notice. If speciality foods are needed to meet your needs there will be an additional charge of \$50 per person.

## Price includes

- Pre-walk B&B accommodation in Tuatapere
- Transport from Tuatapere to the start of the track and pick up from the end of the track
- Helicopter flight from Rarakau across Te Waewae Bay
- Heli-pack of your pack up the hill to Okaka on the first day of hiking (max 15kg)
- Multi-share accommodation on the track, or private room upgrade
- All linen supplied
- Hot showers
- All meals on the track and snacks
- Guide

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

If the management/operator declares the walk unfit due to severe weather and track conditions, a full refund will apply. The management/operator reserves the right to alter prices, times, itineraries and, if necessary, arrange alternative transportation and walking arrangements.

## Payment

For bookings 4 or months in advance of the departure a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 95 days prior to your trip. For bookings within 4 months of the departure, full payment is required.

## Cancellations

If you wish to cancel a booking for any reason, including medical, the cancellation must be forwarded in writing.

8 weeks or more – 25% of the total trip cost

8 to 6 weeks – 50% of the total trip cost

6 weeks or less: No refund available

No refund on any portion of the trip can be given after departure.

## Travel Insurance

We suggest clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

## Notes

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

Any person under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult. The track is not recommended for children younger than 10. If the track is closed due to bad weather or track conditions, a full refund will be given. Cancelled groups will be able to depart on the track only if there are vacancies available once the track reopens. This is a wilderness trip with an element of danger attached. The operators and its agents will not be liable for any injury, damage, loss or delay by reason of weather or defect.

# PACKING LIST

Your personal belongings will be carried on the first day only, by helicopter, arriving at your destination before you, so that you will be able to walk carrying the minimum of weight. On Day 2 and 3 you will need to carry your pack so please keep the weight to a minimum. The maximum allowance of weight for the helicopter luggage is 15kg. In the rare event of weather conditions preventing prompt delivery of your luggage, emergency equipment and supplies are available at the huts.

## ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- ☐ Pair of shorts/trousers (quick-dry highly recommended)
- ☐ Polar fleece jacket or top
- ☐ 2 sets of Woollen (merino) or polypropylene thermal underwear (top and bottom)
- ☐ Woollen or thermal socks (three pairs), underwear and handkerchief
- ☐ Small towel or flannel
- ☐ Warm hat (fleece or woollen) and light gloves
- ☐ Waterproof raincoat with hood
- ☐ Hiking boots or strong walking shoes, preferably with ankle support
- ☐ Pair of light shoes or sandals
- ☐ T shirt for fine weather
- ☐ Change of clothes for evenings
- ☐ Day pack (20 litres) with waterproof liner

- ☐ Small personal torch or headlamp
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Personal medicine and toiletries
- ☐ Second skin or Footfleece for blisters
- ☐ Insect repellent, sunscreen
- ☐ Small personal torch

## OPTIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Camera and film/memory cards
- ☐ Gaiters, walking poles
- ☐ Sun hut and swim wear
- ☐ Money as there is an opportunity to purchase wine and beers at the lodges.

You can leave any luggage you are travelling with, but do not need for the hike, at the Hump Ridge Track Office in Tuatapere.