



# TONGARIRO HIKE

## ITINERARY



Be awed whilst exploring the dual listed World Heritage Area of the Tongariro National Park whilst experiencing some of New Zealand's best day hikes, such as the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. You will be provided with a stunning natural playground bursting with diverse landscapes for you to discover. With arid badlands, crater and alpine lakes, sparkling rivers, breath-taking lunar landscapes, lush rainforest and alpine meadows to be explored, a summer hiking vacation is an utterly unique experience not to be missed. Experienced local guides select the best walks to suit alpine weather conditions on the day to ensure you safely enjoy this area.

LENGTH	4 days
GRADE	C (Track uneven in places)
START	Rotorua 9.00am (airport or central Rotorua), or Taupo 10.00am
FINISH	Rotorua - 6pm (approx)
DEPARTURES	2024: Nov: 17, 27   Dec: 4, 17 2025: Jan 15   Feb: 11, 27   Mar: 11, 25   Apr: 1, 15
PRICE	<b>1 May 2024 - 30 April 2025</b>  NZ\$1,950 Adult NZ\$2,250 Adult with single supplement NZ\$1,300 Child (15 years and under)

### "THE BEST EXPERIENCE"

*This was the best experience my husband and I have had. I honestly felt upset at the end of the day knowing that it was all over! We wanted to do it all over again. I would happily make this hike a yearly trip. Thank you so much*

~ Kaela, Australia, March

### "HIGHLY RECOMMENDED"

*We could not recommend this trip more highly. From the first day of contact at the organisation stage to the day we left them after the walk. The guides were wonderful and caring.*

*Our ages ranged from 43 to 63 and we were all accommodated for and all ages enjoyed the hike. Staying at the Chateau was fabulous and highly recommended too.*

~ Cate, Australia, January

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 ROTORUA TO TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

2 hours hiking

You will be picked up from Rotorua City or the Rotorua Airport between 8.30am and 9.00am, or Taupō central 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 will 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. These falls tumble 20 metres over the edge of an old andesite lava flow, erupted from Mt Ruapehu 15,000 years ago, into a boulder-ringed pool. We'll see a fascinating range of beech forest, alpine meadows full of red tussock, five-finger, umbrella ferns and mountain toatoa. This is a great chance to orient ourselves amongst spectacular views of the Tongariro volcanic massif. 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. Have a soak in the hot tub, nurse an after-dinner tippie at the on-site bar, or just put your feet up and prepare for exciting adventures that await us tomorrow! *Includes lunch and dinner.*

## DAY 2 THE TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING

7-8 hours hiking

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! Lonely Planet recommends a walk amidst the Tongariro Volcanoes as "a life-changing experience not to be missed!"

Your guides make this incredible hike even more memorable by sharing local stories and legends and bringing the extraordinary geological history to life. Fair weather and a good level of fitness are required to undertake this hike as sections are steep, exposed and challenging, including a 200 metre descent down a scree-slope. 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. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



## DAY 3 OLD COACH ROAD, OHAKUNE

### 5 hours hiking

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, glasses raised, to cap off an excellent walking adventure. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

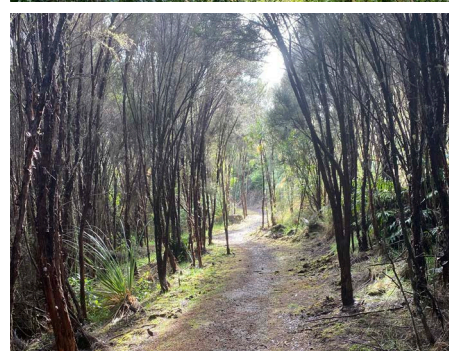
## DAY 4 RAINFOREST AND WATERFALLS

### 3-5 hours hiking

After a final hearty breakfast, we pack up our kit and farewell the National Park and its majestic mountains. If the legs are feeling fresh, we'll begin our day with one of the many short walks nearby. Our experienced, local guides love the chance to select a trail from their catalogue of personal favourites to make this particular trip a unique experience for everyone.

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. *Includes breakfast and lunch.*



# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## GRADE C

- Up to 6 hrs of physical activity per day.\*
- At times carrying a backpack of 5-6kgs.
- Tracks generally in good condition.
- Altitude gains of up to 1000m on harder days.
- No hiking experience necessary.
- Reasonable standard of fitness required

\*A reasonable level of fitness and agility is required for this tour. Walkers need to carry a daypack containing lunch, drinking water and warm clothing for at least 3 hours a day. Track surfaces vary from well-formed paths to rough terrain broken by tree roots, rocks and loose scree.

A higher level of fitness is required to undertake the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, which is a strenuous hike of 7-8 hours, with a climb and descent of around 1000 metres through an alpine environment. The guide will provide advice on fitness and weather conditions. There is always the option of doing shorter hikes or relaxing in the lodge instead.

## GUIDES AND SAFETY

The guides are trained outdoor enthusiasts who take pride in providing a safe and friendly service. They will explain the natural and human history of the area you are walking in, and provide everything from a hot cup of tea or coffee to advice and support for your walk. Your guide will give you briefings on each day's walk. All guides are trained in first aid and carry extensive first aid kits.

## FOOD

All meals & snacks; hot and cold drinks throughout the day; evening aperitifs are included in the price.

Dinners are delicious 2 course restaurant meals with a focus on NZ style cuisine, with generous pre-dinner nibbles and drinks. Wine and other beverages can be purchased with dinner. Breakfasts have cooked and continental options. Packed lunches are made fresh daily.

Any special dietary requests or requirements are easily provided for. Please let us know at the time of booking.

## TRANSPORT

You are transported to the start of the track by mini coach. Pick up from Central Rotorua accommodation or airport. Your return transport to Rotorua is also by mini coach. Pickup and drop off to Taupo also available.

## ACCOMMODATION

Double or twin rooms with small economical ensuite in The Park Hotel. Single supplements are available. The Park Hotel is a 3-star hikers and skiers lodge with beautiful views of the mountains and National Park. A cosy lounge area provides the perfect place to relax and socialise with the group at the end of each day. The outdoor hot tub is ideal for tired muscles!



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# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

There are no additional costs. Minimum group size 4, maximum 15.

Single supplement - for solo travellers who would like their own room, you can request a single supplement for an additional NZ\$300.00

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

### Payment

For bookings four or more months before the departure, a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 95 days before your trip. For bookings within four months of the departure, full payment is required.

### Cancellations

31 days or more: Full refund.

30 - 15 days: 50% of tour price forfeited.

14 days or less: 100% of tour price forfeited.

Bookings can be transferred to another date (subject to availability) for the following charges:

31 days or more: no penalty. 30 - 15 days or less: \$200 fee per person. 14 days or less: booking cannot be transferred.

Transfers beyond the existing season may be subject to new season's rates. The maximum number of transfers per person is two. Transferred bookings can be carried over from the current season to the next calendar season, but must be completed within 18 months of the original date of tour departure. If a transferred booking is cancelled outside the new 60-days prior to departure point, cancellation fees will be calculated using the original date of departure.

Please note that due to circumstances out of our control, itineraries may change at any time. The operator will always endeavour to ensure that where changes are made, clients are notified as soon as possible.

### Travel Insurance

It is suggested that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

### Notes

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

## PACKING LIST

### EQUIPMENT PROVIDED AND REQUIRED

You may borrow a 40-litre backpack and/or waterproof raincoat, or you can use your own. Weather conditions are highly variable so it is essential to have clothing that keeps you warm, even when wet. For this reason, polypropylene or wool clothing is recommended to walk in, and not cotton.

### ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- ☐ Daypack
- ☐ Warm hat & gloves
- ☐ Drink bottle - 2 litre capacity
- ☐ Sunhat, sunglasses & sunscreen
- ☐ Personal toiletries and medications
- ☐ Camera and charger

### ESSENTIAL CLOTHING FOR WALKING

- ☐ Shorts or light weight trousers. Preferably quick dry fabric
- ☐ Socks, at least 3 pairs, preferably wool
- ☐ Hiking Boots (worn in please!)
- ☐ Raincoat (we lend raincoats by prior arrangement)
- ☐ Thermal leggings or long-johns to wear while walking (these are essential for walking in an alpine environment)
- ☐ Thermal long-sleeved shirt (polypropylene 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
- ☐ Clothes & shoes for the evenings - smart / casual
- ☐ PJ's / sleepwear
- ☐ Small torch/flashlight

### OPTIONAL ITEMS

Walking sticks, swimsuit, mobile phone, waterproof over-trousers, down jacket &/or wind-proof shell, lunchbox to protect your sandwiches and blister kit.