



LAKE WAIKAREMOANA

ITINERARY



Lake Waikaremoana is situated in Te Urewera National Park, the largest area of untouched natural wilderness remaining in the North Island of New Zealand. Journey deep into New Zealand's last frontier, a land cloaked in, mist, mysticism and primordial forest. This unique Great Walk circumnavigates the lake shore for two days, before climbing to the top of Panekiri Ridge for breathtaking views of the endless mountains of Te Urewera, the lake, and the Pacific Ocean. Enjoy this hut-to-hut hiking expedition, with secluded beaches, fascinating history, opportunities to hear the native kiwi and truly breathtaking views.

LENGTH	4 days
GRADE	C (Track uneven in places)
START	Rotorua (pick up from your accommodation) - 8:30am to 9am
FINISH	Rotorua - 5:30 pm (approx.)
DEPARTURES	2023 - 2024 (Dates not confirmed, please contact us) 2023 Oct: Nov: Dec: 2024: Jan: Feb: Mar: Apr:
PRICE	1 Jun 2023 - 31 May 2023 Please contact us for rates

“ONE OF THE BEST TRIPS I’VE DONE”

This was one of the best trips I have ever done, everything about it exceeded my expectations. We were so lucky with the weather, having no rain for the entire trip, and good sunsets and sunrises when we needed to have them. The team looked after us with good food and drinks, plus the trip was a way to meet some really nice people, both on the trip and who we encountered independently doing the walk. I would recommend this trip to anyone.

~ Alan - New Zealand, February 2019

“DEFINITELY WORTH DOING”

The scenery was beautiful and it was made special by our guides who were friendly and helpful. Their enthusiasm and passion for the environment was impressive. Our guides skills, extended to the kitchen and they whipped up very good food considering the cooking facilities. The Lake Waikeremoana walk is definitely worth doing

~ Diane - Wellington, New Zealand, January 2019

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ROTORUA TO WAIHARURU HUT

10.5 km/4 hours hiking

Your adventure begins with a scenic drive from Rotorua to the track start, along an old Maori trail. Journey through remote villages and dense rainforest into the heart of Te Urewera National Park and Lake Waikaremoana. At first the track follows the edge of an estuary – home to a variety of water fowl. Shortly after, catch your first glimpse of the lake, and the reasoning behind its name (sea of rippling waters) becomes apparent. The track follows the lake edge for most of the afternoon before reaching the comfortable Waiharuru Hut. Where you are welcomed with a hot drink and hearty cooked meal. The hut is situated near the Puketukutuku Peninsula, where a Kiwi Recovery Programme is successfully increasing the numbers of our threatened national icon. Visitors may delight in hearing the night time calls of the North Island brown kiwi and morepork.

DAY 2 WAIHARURU HUT TO WAIOPAOA HUT

18.3 km/6-8 hours hiking

This is the longest day of walking, but there is still plenty of time to enjoy the bush, birds and beaches of the western arm of Lake Waikaremoana. Make the most of the many scenic lakeside and lookout spots for rests and refreshments, and you can choose to indulge in a swim. After lunch an optional boat cruise reduces walking time, and makes the side track to Korokoro Falls more achievable. Te Urewera forest is comprised of a huge range of tree and plant species, which provide homes for many native birds. You are likely to witness the amazing flights of the fantail, tomtit and kereru, and hear the melodious calls of the bellbird and tui. For the last part of the day, walk through kanuka forest, which forms a tunnel-like trail on the lake shore. Waiopaoa Hut, nestled amongst the luxuriant rainforest that stretches to the lake edge, is your home for the night. NB: Some departures we will spend this night at Waiharuru Hut again.

DAY 3 WAIOPAOA HUT TO PANEKIRI HUT

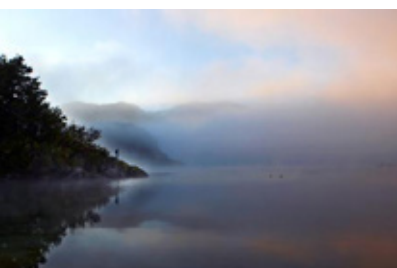
7.6 km/4-5 hours hiking

Today you will tackle the Panekiri Bluffs, which have been rising ahead on the walk for the last two days. Plenty of rest stops and breathtaking views make today's steady climb an enjoyable challenge. Following the Panekiri ridge you will pass through several different layers of vegetation: from mixed broadleaf Podocarp forest featuring giant rata, rimu and miro, to enchanted cloud forest of silver beech trees, cloaked in vibrant green mosses, which dominate the higher altitudes. At the close of the day relax on the verandah of the beautifully situated Panekiri Hut, and soak up the panoramic vistas right out to the Pacific Ocean. This special place offers truly spectacular views on a clear day. Watch the sun set over the forest clad hills of Te Urewera National Park, while a bird's eye view bestows an appreciation of the amazing terrain you have covered over the last few days.

DAY 4 PANEKIRI HUT TO ROTORUA

8.8 km/4-5 hours hiking

Continuing along the Panekiri ridge, breaks in the forest offer more magnificent views and you will have fantastic photo opportunities from the ledges of the monolithic rock formations that form the range. From here you can look across Onepoto Bay and see the evidence of the landslide that created Lake Waikaremoana over two thousand years ago. Experience the changing landscapes as you descend back to lake level and understand why this walk is considered one of New Zealand's "Greats". On completing the track you have time to celebrate your walking achievements, new friends, and enhanced knowledge and appreciation of the natural and cultural history of Waikaremoana. Return to Rotorua by 6 pm.



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 600m on harder days.
- No hiking experience necessary.
- Reasonable standard of fitness required

The Lake Waikaremoana Guided Walk is graded as a moderate hike. The track surfaces vary from well-formed paths to rough terrain broken by tree roots, rocks and mud. Walkers need a reasonable level of fitness, agility and sense of adventure! The terrain is undulating while the track follows the lake edge, and there is a moderate climb and descent of about 600 metres over the Panekiri Ridge. The walk is a challenge that people of all ages and abilities will relish. While most of your gear will be transported to each hut you will be required to carry a medium sized backpack (average weight 6kg) for the last two days. You are encouraged to walk at your own pace and the daily schedule allows ample time for slow walkers. The guides offer support and advice, and you can take plenty of rest and refreshment breaks each day.



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, and demonstrate their culinary skills in the kitchen. All guides are trained in first aid and carry extensive first aid kits. A support boat is nearby which the guides are in radio contact with.



FOOD

From the time you are picked up in Rotorua all food is included. Breakfast offers a selection from fruit, cereal and toast, to a warm breakfast of bacon and eggs, pancakes or porridge. Just what you need to start a great day in the outdoors! Picnic lunches are made fresh daily and include delicious sandwiches, fresh fruit of your choice, and energy snacks to keep you sustained for the day. Hot and cold drinks are also available throughout the day. Dinner is comprised of an authentic New Zealand main with seasonal vegetables or fresh garden salad; and no kiwi meal would be complete without pudding (dessert), and tea or coffee. Pride is taken in preparing quality New Zealand style food, especially with fresh local produce, e.g. venison, kumara and sweetcorn. Alcohol prohibited by local iwi.

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. For the first two days your luggage is transported between the huts by boat. If required walkers may be transported sections of the track by boat. Your return transport to Rotorua is by mini coach. Includes pick-up and drop-off to your Rotorua accommodation.



ACCOMMODATION

You will stay in authentic Department of Conservation bush huts, which are situated in stunning natural surroundings. These huts are simple but dry and clean with heating. All have fresh drinking water, toilets, separate kitchen/communal areas, outdoor patio/picnic areas, bunk beds and mattresses. Clean sleeping bags, liners and pillows are supplied or you can bring your own. These huts are public so we are likely to be sharing with other hikers, but a booking system ensures no over-crowding.

Please note: There are no drying rooms in the hut.

Please let us know where you are staying in Rotorua. We can book this for you or you can book yourself.

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

ADDITIONAL COSTS

After the hike there may be an opportunity to buy ice-creams and drinks, etc. from a small store, so it is a good idea to take a small amount of cash or a card. Otherwise there are no additional costs.

Minimum group size: 4, maximum 13

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Payment

For bookings 4 or more 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

More than 60 days before departure date: \$85 administration fee.

59 – 30 days before departure date: \$200 fee applies.

29 – 10 days before departure: 50% of full fare in forfeiture.

Within 9 days of walk departure date: 100% of full fare in forfeiture.

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, waterproof raincoat and/or 3-season sleeping bag and liner free of charge, 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. Extra clothing can be stored in the boat. Pack your spare clothes and sleeping bag inside plastic bags to keep dry.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- Daypack approx. 40 litres
- 3-season, lightweight sleeping bag and liner
- Raincoat, waterproof with hood
- Small pillow and pillow case
- Pack liner
- Strong broken-in hiking shoes, preferably hiking boots
- Light shoes or sandals for evenings
- Warm hat & gloves
- Drink bottle 600mls plus (please have it full before departing on day 1)
- Camera, plus spare film/memory cards & batteries
- Sunhat & sunscreen
- Small torch
- Personal toiletries and medications
- Blister kit
- Bathing suit and towel

ESSENTIAL CLOTHING FOR WALKING

- Shorts or light weight trousers. Preferably quick dry fabric
- Short sleeved shirt (merino is ideal)
- Long sleeved shirt or light sweater
- Thermal underwear, long sleeved and long legged, polypropylene or wool
- Socks, at least 2 pairs, preferably wool

CASUAL CLOTHING

- Warm wool or fleece jersey/sweater
- Trousers
- Warm long sleeved shirts
- Thermal underwear, as above
- Socks
- Sleepwear

OPTIONAL ITEMS

Walking sticks, gaiters, waterproof over-trousers, Lunchbox to protect your sandwiches, book, trout fishing gear and licence, insect repellent and a few dollars for an ice-cream on the way home.