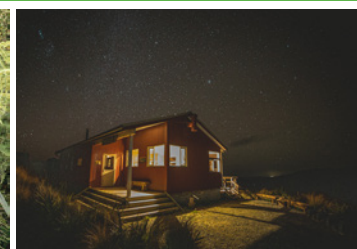




PAPAROA TRACK

ITINERARY



Step into the heart of Paparoa National Park and experience the stunning wilderness that reveals hidden gems, native wildlife, and breathtaking views. Whether you're seeking tranquility or adventure, the Paparoa Track connects you deeply with nature.

Virgin temperate rainforests, tussock mountaintops, pristine rivers, immense limestone cliffs, and crashing oceans. If you seek big country, new wilderness frontiers and untamed trails, this is the adventure for you.

Capture the essence of the untamed West Coast on this very special hike.

LENGTH	4 days
GRADE	C (Up to 8 hrs of physical activity per day)
START	9.00am, Tarapuhi Street Greymouth
FINISH	2.30pm, Punakaiki or 3.15pm, Greymouth
DEPARTURES	November 2026: 2, 13, 22, 29 December 2026: 13, 14, 19 January 2027: 4, 14 February 2027: 1, 3, 8 March 2027: 24, 29 April 2027: 7, 8, 14
PRICE	1 Jul 2026 - 30 Jun 2027 Adult NZ\$2,179.00

"A FANTASTIC GUIDED WALK!"

"A fantastic guided walk, with a small and friendly group, knowledgeable and experienced guide Lauren and absolutely delicious food. Everyone could go at their own pace, and we learnt a huge amount about the local flora and fauna, particularly the alpine species."

Zoe ~ Trip Advisor

"THE WALK WAS REALLY MEMORABLE"

"We thoroughly enjoyed our Paparoa walk with our fabulous guide Janae. Whilst the weather was not the best we did get to see the wonderful scenery in between mist and clouds that made the bush come alive. Janae was the best and highlighted many features of interest that we would have missed if on our own, making the walk really memorable."

Tim ~ Trip Advisor

ITINERARY

DAY 1 GREYMOUTH - PAPAROA NATIONAL PARK

Up to 10.3 km (6.4 miles), 4-5 hours hiking, +/-730m (2395 ft) elevation

We begin our adventure with a scenic drive from the Greymouth base along the Māwhera River, through the historic mining town of Blackball to the Smoke-ho car park, and the beginning of the Paparoa Track.

This first section has been in use for years. Known as the Croesus Track, it rises gently alongside Blackball Creek past gold mining ruins and relics to our first nights' accommodation at Ces Clark Hut. The hut is right on the bush edge and offers magnificent views of the Grey Valley and Southern Alps. If time allows, we will walk a side track to Garden Gully (45 minutes return) where you can cross a suspension bridge and explore a century-old quartz crushing battery and collapsed mine site. *Includes lunch and dinner*

DAY 2 CES CLARK HUT TO MOONLIGHT TOPS HUT

9.7km (6 miles), 3-4 hours hiking, +/- 280 m (918 ft) elevation

Today, we will be rewarded with expansive views of Māwhera Grey River to the east, and the Tasman Sea to the west. The trail climbs through alpine scrub and tussock to the ridge of the Paparoa Range and follows this north above the Roaring Meg and Moonlight Creek catchments. On a fine day, we'll have views of Aoraki/Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner*

DAY 3 MOONLIGHT TOPS HUT TO PORORARI HUT

19.1km (11.8 miles), 6 - 8 hours hiking, +/- 690m (2263ft)

Today, the open tops give way to alpine forest stunted by the harsh environment and includes the dramatic escarpment – a gigantic sandstone bluff towering above the Punakaiki headwaters and extending 2km along the main range. The track winds along the top of the escarpment, where the landscape is striking with stunning views down the Pike Stream in the east, stretching west to Punakaiki and north-west to Westport.

About halfway to Pororari Hut, we descend below Mt Hawera to walk through ancient podocarp forest under towering cliffs following the spine of the Tindale Ridge to Pororari Hut. As we traverse the ridge, we look north to see the Lone Hand (947m), a curious and gnarled outcrop of bedrock and sweeping views out to the Tasman Sea.

Roroa (great spotted kiwi) are endemic to the South Island and known to inhabit the surrounding bush, often heard at night. Be sure to have a red light on your headtorch for your best chance to see them! *Includes breakfast lunch and dinner*

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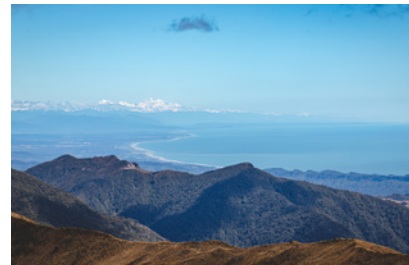
DAY 4 PORORARI HUT - GREYMOUTH

16km, (10 miles) 5 - 6 hours hiking, +/-540m (1771 ft) elevation

After a final hearty breakfast together, we descend down the upper Pororari River valley, joining an old pack track (built to establish settlement in the upper valley). The track then sidles a spectacular gorge and descends towards the coast through beech forest interspersed with northern rātā. From here we catch glimpses of the lower Pororari River.

At the junction with the historic Inland Pack Track, walkers and mountain bikers diverge: walkers follow the Pororari River Track which sidles the lower gorge with its striking limestone cliffs and the gorge is lined with lush rainforest, a confusion of nīkau palms and kiekie hanging off giant podocarps that leads us back to the Punakaiki.

Our group will be collected from Punakaiki and take the short 40-minute drive down the Coast Road back to Greymouth. If you choose, you have the option to stay on in Punakaiki (vehicle relocation available). *Includes breakfast and lunch*



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE C

- Up to 8 hours hiking per day
- Pack weights of 8-10kgs (17-22 lbs) on some days
- Altitude gains of up to 800m (2600ft)
- Some uneven, steep and muddy track surfaces
- No multi-day hiking experience necessary
- Reasonable agility and fitness required
- No technical hiking experience required



GUIDES AND SAFETY

Hike with the expertise and support of a local, knowledgeable, and qualified guide who not only ensures your safety and comfort but also enriches your experience with insights into the flora, fauna, and history of the area.

Their personalised care includes consideration of group members' abilities and pacing, and encouragement throughout the journey—making the walk accessible and enjoyable for a wide range of ages and fitness levels.

FOOD

All meals, freshly prepared and carried by the guide, including hearty breakfasts, packed lunches, delicious dinners, and snacks.

All meals from lunch on Day One until lunch on Day Four are included in your trip price.

TRANSPORT

Transport to and from the track, including shuttles from Greymouth.

ACCOMMODATION

There are no private huts on the Paparoa Track, we will stay in the large well maintained Department of Conservation (DoC) huts with comfortable bunks and heating. There are no shower facilities.

NATURE AND WILDLIFE

Paparoa National Park sits at a fascinating crossroads of climates and ecosystems. As you climb from the coast through lowland rainforest, you'll move through a living timeline of New Zealand's natural diversity. The lush undergrowth of nīkau palms, northern rātā and cabbage trees give way to silver beech forest, which eventually merges with sub-alpine shrubs as you gain elevation. Higher still, the landscape transforms again. Cushion plants like vegetable sheep nestle alongside alpine tussocks, daisies, gentians and a remarkable variety of endemic orchids that splash colour across the mountainous ranges. Some of these plants exist nowhere else on earth, a reminder that this landscape served as a botanical refuge during the last ice age, when sea levels were 120 metres lower than today.

The park's birdlife is equally remarkable, with species moving seasonally between the lowland forests and upland ranges. You may encounter tūī, bellbirds, kākā, kererū and kākārīki as they migrate through the park's different zones. Keep your ears open on the Paparoa Track, particularly around the three huts, where you might hear the distinctive call of the roroa (great spotted kiwi), the largest of New Zealand's kiwi species and a real privilege to encounter in these mountainous regions.

Among the rarer treasures you might spot is the whio (blue duck), which inhabits the forested upper catchments of clean, fast-flowing streams like Blackball Creek on day one of the walk. The park is also home to powelliphanta, a native carnivorous snail found nowhere else, though these fascinating creatures have become increasingly rare due to predation, climate change and habitat loss. Every step through Paparoa reveals layers of natural history, a reminder of why this corner of the West Coast deserves such careful protection.

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

INCLUSIONS AND ADDITIONAL COSTS

The price includes all food, hut passes, some complimentary equipment and transport to the track.

There are no additional costs.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Payment

For bookings made four or more months prior to the departure date, a 25% deposit is required, with the remainder due 95 days before your trip. For bookings made within four months of the departure date, full payment is required at the time of booking.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made in writing, and sent to info@hikingnewzealand.com.

- ☐ More than 30 days prior to departure: deposit forfeited and no further payment due.
- ☐ 30 days or less prior to departure: deposit forfeited and remaining balance only payable if the departure proceeds with an unsold vacancy.

The tour price is all-inclusive. There will be no partial refunds or credits for unused services within a tour. Any unpaid, forfeited amount may be pursued as a debt.

Travel Insurance

We highly recommend comprehensive travel insurance.

Notes

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

"FABULOUS EXPERIENCE"

We had a fabulous experience. Janae our guide created culinary masterpieces that were the envy of all the other hut guests. She was absolutely delightful and knowledgeable. Janae turned a great walk into A Great Walk! Would do it again in a heartbeat

Tony

PACKING LIST

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- ☐ Good quality waterproof rain jacket
- ☐ 1 pair of hiking boots/running shoes
- ☐ 1 pair of lightweight footwear for evenings
- ☐ 1 pair light trousers for evenings
- ☐ 1 pair walking shorts
- ☐ 1 or 2 t-shirts/shirts for walking in
- ☐ 1 woollen jersey or polar fleece
- ☐ 1 down/lightweight puffer jacket
- ☐ 1 spare shirt for evening
- ☐ 3 pairs walking socks
- ☐ Spare underwear
- ☐ Warm gloves
- ☐ Warm hat
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Sunhat
- ☐ 40-50L backpack

AVAILABLE OF NEEDED

- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ 40-50L backpack
- ☐ Hiking poles

OPTIONAL

- ☐ Personal snacks (homemade scroggin provided)
- ☐ Rain/weatherproof pants
- ☐ Swimming togs & micro-fibre towel
- ☐ Charging cord (USB charging facilities at accommodation)
- ☐ Gratuity for guide