

TONGARIRO HIKE

ITINERARY





Discover the wild volcanic beauty of Tongariro National Park, a dual-listed UNESCO World Heritage Area.

This all-inclusive guided adventure showcases some of New Zealand's finest day hikes, including the world-renowned Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Each day reveals new landscape to explore, from arid volcanic slopes and turquoise crater lakes to alpine meadows and tumbling rivers. Stay in cozy lodgings, toast your adventure and watch the sun set over the volcanic skyline. Have a soak in the hot tub and enjoy a delicious meal with the company of your small group.

This trip is an ever-changing journey through one of the most unique and awe-inspiring landscapes in the world, come and enjoy it in comfort and style.

LENGTH	4 days
GRADE	C (Track uneven in places)
START	Rotorua 8.30am (airport) or 9.00am (central Rotorua), or Taupō 10.00am.
FINISH	Rotorua - 6.00pm (approx)
DEPARTURES	2026: Mar: 9, 23 | Apr: 6, 20 | Oct: 26 | Nov: 6, 24 | Dec: 4, 16, 27 2027: Jan: 8, 26 | Feb: 5, 23 | Mar: 5, 23 | Apr: 9, 27
PRICE	**1 Jul 2026 - 30 Jun 2027** Adult NZD $2,100.00 Single Supplement (optional) NZD $300.00 Child NZD $1,300.00

"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











DAY 1 ROTORUA TO TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

6km (4 miles), 2 hours hiking

You will be collected from Rotorua or Taupō and head south through the North Island's geothermal heartland. We'll skirt around the beautiful shores of Lake Taupō, the North Island's largest lake, then drive through stunning native forest onto the mighty central plateau. We can meet you in Tongariro National Park if you prefer, please just ask us for driving directions.

We'll kick things off with a rejuvenating hike around the glistening Lake Rotopounamu (Greenstone Lake) nestled on 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 a fresh picnic lunch on Five Minute Beach in the peace and serenity of lush, native forest and enjoy time amongst the abundant native birdlife.
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 tipple 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

20km (13 miles), 6-8 hours hiking

This morning we'll set off on one of the world's greatest day hikes, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. The 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

15km (9.5 miles), 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 camps.

The walk takes 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

7km (4.5 miles), 3-4 hours hiking

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

We'll get our final 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 which erupted from Mt Ruapehu 15,000 years ago into a boulder-ringed pool. You'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 drink in one last moment amongst spectacular views of the Tongariro volcanic massif.

We'll have you safely back in Taupō between 3:00pm - 4:00 pm or Rotorua around 5:00pm - 6:00pm 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

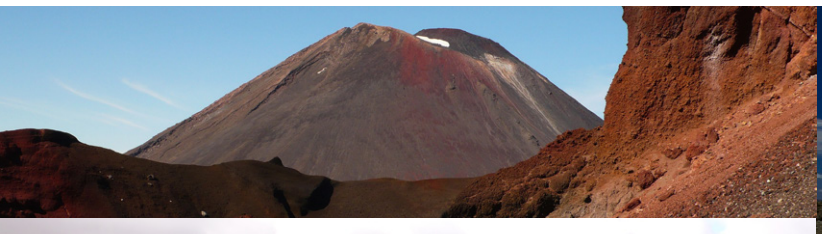
All meals, snacks, hot and cold drinks throughout the day and evening aperitifs are included in your trip price. Dinners are delicious 2-course restaurant meals with a focus on NZ style cuisine, wine and other beverages can be purchased with dinner. Enjoy a cooked or continental breakfast each morning and a fresh packed lunch for your day.

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!







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 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. NZD$300 of the deposit is non-refundable.

Cancellations
60 - 31 days: 30% of the tour price is forfeited
30 – 0 days: 100% of tour price forfeited.

Transfers
Customers may transfer their booking between departure dates up to 60 days prior departure without fees.

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 40L
- ◻ 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.