

## Tongariro Hiking Tour Information



**Duration:** 4 days / 3 nights. Trips depart Rotorua by 8am, or Taupo by 9am. Return to Taupo by 5pm or Rotorua by 6pm. We pickup from all central Rotorua and Taupo accommodations. Transport from National Park Village can also be arranged.

**Fitness Required:** A reasonable level of fitness and agility is required for this tour. You will need to be able to carry a small pack containing your 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 high level of fitness is required to undertake both the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and the Ruapehu Crater Lake Climb, which are strenuous hikes of 5-8 hours, with a climb and descent of around 1000 metres and 600 metres respectively through an alpine environment. Both tracks cross sections of loose scree and rocks. Your guide will provide advice on fitness and weather conditions. There is always the option of doing shorter hikes or relaxing in the lodge instead. A vast network of hiking trails of varying length and difficulty make this area a hiker's paradise.

**Food:** From the time you are picked up all your food and drinks are provided.

Picnic lunches are made fresh daily and include delicious sandwiches, fresh fruit of your choice, and energy snacks to keep you sustained throughout the day. At most of the lunch stops you will also have the comfort of a hot or cold drink.

After an exhilarating day outside you will have worked up an appetite. Scrumptious nibbles and pre-dinner drinks will greet you when you return to the lodge. A hearty dinner follows: a traditional New Zealand main; seasonal vegetables or fresh garden salad; and no Kiwi meal would be complete without pudding (dessert), and tea or coffee. Enjoy a selection of NZ wines with your evening meals.

Breakfast offers a selection from fruit, cereal and toast, to a cooked breakfast of bacon and eggs, pancakes or porridge. Just what you need to start a great day in the outdoors!

Any special dietary requests or requirements are happily provided for. Please let us know at the time of booking and we will do our best to cater for your needs.

**Accommodation:** For the Tongariro Hiking Tour we stay in an alpine ski lodge (2-3 star) high up on Mt Ruapehu (1700m). The lodge is simple but comfortable and warm, with great views of the mountains and central plateau, right out to Mt Taranaki. The lodge has a large, relaxing lounge and dining area, looking up at Mt Ruapehu. Rooms have single or double bunk-beds and can sleep 4. We sleep just 2 per room, so you are guaranteed a bottom bunk. Single supplement available on request. Full linen provided. Drying room available. Separate men's and ladies bathrooms.

The lodge is a 5-minute walk from the carpark over rocky terrain. Therefore your gear needs to be packed in a backpack or easy to carry bags. We can lend backpacks on request.

The lodge is used by our group only, and its remote and dramatic location amidst the mountains adds to the friendly group atmosphere created on these small-group tours in this special region.



**Note:** Hiking tours based in the regal historic Tongariro Grand Chateau (4 star) are also available. Please enquire about our packages.

**Group Size:** Maximum group size is 14 walkers and 2 guides. Minimum number required to run a trip is 4 walkers. Small groups enable us to provide a personal and friendly service with plenty of scope for flexibility. Larger groups may be accommodated on a custom tour. Please contact us to discuss this. Our trips tend to attract likeminded people, so the small groups provide a very enjoyable social environment.

**Guides & Safety:** Your safety is of paramount importance to us. Our guides are trained outdoor enthusiasts, who take pride in providing a safe, efficient and friendly service. All guides are trained in first aid, and carry first aid kits and emergency radios. Guides provide everything from a warming cup of tea or coffee to an evening briefing on the next day's walk. Having a professional guide experienced in local conditions is especially important in an alpine environment such as Tongariro National Park. If circumstances require, your guides have the skills and expertise necessary to adapt your day's walk to suit fitness, weather or track conditions.

Your New Zealand guides will enhance your journey by using their local knowledge to help select appropriate walks, provide company, interpret the features you encounter, and take care of all your meals, transport, accommodation and other logistics.

**Weather:** It is essential to be well prepared when walking in New Zealand, as the weather can change rapidly. Although you may be walking in our summer season, rain, cold, wind and even snow can occur at any time of year. Tongariro National Park is an alpine environment, with extreme weather conditions to match. We provide good raincoats and recommend wearing hiking boots so you will be comfortable in any weather conditions.

**What to bring:** Although you won't require any specialist gear for this trip, you will require warm and wind-proof clothing, good hiking boots and a raincoat. We lend raincoats or you can use your own. A detailed equipment list will be supplied on confirmation of booking.

**Trip Includes:** 3 nights alpine ski-lodge accommodation; experienced guides; chair-lift tickets; all meals, snacks and drinks etc; NZ wine & beer with the evening meals (you are welcome to BYO additional alcohol if desired); return transport from/to Rotorua or Taupo, and from the lodge to all walks.

**Trip Excludes:** With the final celebration dinner at the Grand Chateau one drink per person is included. Further drinks are to be paid for personally.

**Bookings:** We require a NZ \$250 per person, non-refundable deposit to confirm a booking, with the balance due one month prior to trip departing. Please use our online booking form or phone us to make a reservation.

**Cancellation Fees:** 50% if cancelled between 30 and 8 days prior to departure. 100% if cancelled within 7 days of departure.

Walking Legends assumes no responsibility for any injury, damage, loss or delay. We reserve the right to cancel or alter any trips and departure dates for any reason. We recommend that you take out travel insurance. This standard precaution does not reflect any likelihood of any incident occurring during your walk.

In the unlikely event that Walking Legends cancels a trip before departure due to insufficient numbers, extreme weather conditions, or any other circumstance, a full refund of all payments will be given.

**Feel free to contact us!**

Walking Legends Guided Walks.

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