



Walking Legends Guided Walks

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Lake Waikaremoana Guided Walk Info Sheet

What to Bring...

Due to restrictions in our luggage capacity, if you are returning to the same accommodation in Rotorua after your walk please store any excess luggage with them.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS:

- Boots (worn in please!)
- Light shoes or sandals you can wear socks with (for the evenings)
- Warm hat & gloves
- Sleep wear
- Drink bottle or camel bak - 600ml + (water can be filled at the huts from rainwater tanks. Please have bottle full before being picked up on Day 1)
- Small torch
- Personal toiletries and medications
- Sunscreen & Sunhat
- Ear plugs (accommodation is communal so these will ensure a peaceful night's sleep)
- Blister kit & plasters
- Camera & spare batteries (no facilities for charging batteries on the track)
- Bathing suit & towel (the lake has good swimming – please no soap or shampoo in lake)

The following items may be borrowed from us, or you can bring your own:

- Back pack (medium size, approx 40 - 45 litres, with good harness & waist belt)
- Raincoat (water proof with hood)
- Sleeping bag (minimum 3 season, preferably down, lightweight, between 1 - 1.5 kg)
- Sleeping bag liner
- Small pillow & pillowcase
- Pack-liner or plastic rubbish sack to keep things dry inside your backpack

CLOTHING – one set for walking, one set for evenings:

Walking clothes: Several layers of wool, polypropylene and/or polar fleece will ensure you remain a comfortable temperature regardless of the weather **No Cotton Shirts Please!** Cotton gets cold when wet and is difficult to dry

- Shorts or lightweight trousers (preferably quick-dry)
- Short-sleeved shirt x 2 (quick-dry, polypropylene or wool: merino wool is ideal)
- Long-sleeved shirt or sweater (wool or polar fleece)
- Socks (wool, at least 2 pairs. Well-fitting hiking socks will vastly reduce the chance of blisters)
- Leggings (wool or polypropylene) are a good idea especially at the start or end of the season

Evening clothes:

- Thermal underwear (wool or polypropylene, long-sleeved and long-legged)
- 2 more layers for upper body to go over thermal underwear (preferably polypropylene or wool)

- Warm wool or polar fleece jersey
- Shorts or lightweight trousers to wear over thermal underwear
- Socks

Spare clothing: Extra socks and polypropylene layers are always handy. At 1200 metres above sea level the huts can be cold, even in summer. Spare clothing can be transported by boat, so don't worry about the extra weight – ensure you have enough warm items. Note there are no drying rooms at the huts

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Small day-pack (to carry your lunch, water and raincoat for the first 2 days, this can then be swapped for the 40L pack for the last 2 days)
- Lunch-box to protect your sandwiches (otherwise we provide paper bags)
- Waterproof pack cover (included with our backpacks)
- Walking sticks - highly recommended
- Waterproof over-trousers
- Wet wipes or flannel for washing
- Insect repellent (sandflies and mosquitoes are present at various times of the year)
- Trout fishing gear & licence
- A few \$\$ for an ice-cream on the way home. Also there will be an opportunity to purchase Walking Legends shirts and caps after the walk. Otherwise everything else is included.

WE SUPPLY:

- From lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 4 - All meals, snacks, hot & cold drinks (a glass of wine with the evening meal, you are welcome to BYO additional alcohol if desired)
- Plates, cutlery, mugs etc
- Toilet paper & soap
- Trail map

HOW TO PACK:

For the first two days: the boat will carry anything you don't need during your day's walk - pack these items in a sturdy sports bag or larger backpack (no loose items please). In your day-pack you should carry your raincoat, water, hat & gloves, a spare long-sleeved warm top, and lunch (provided by us). The boat will meet you at the first two huts with the rest of your gear.

For the last two days: you will need to carry all the above items plus your sleeping bag, personal toiletries, and clothing for one night. Anything you don't need for the last two days may be left in the boat, and will be transported to meet you at the end of the track.

Please ensure important items such as your sleeping bag and spare clothes are in plastic bags!

Spare plastic bags are useful to store dirty footwear and laundry etc.

Notes:

- Sorry, there are no drying rooms in the huts.
- Have you returned your Customer Declaration Form?
- Special diets are happily catered for - provide details on your Declaration Form.

What to Expect...

The Lake Waikaremoana Guided Walk is a four-day, all-inclusive, Rotorua to Rotorua, nature hike on NZ's Great Walk through Te Urewera National Park. Tramp through the North Island's largest untouched native forest, circumnavigating pristine Lake Waikaremoana with a small group. Inspiring views, abundant bird life, tranquil lakes and lush rainforest – Experience one of NZ's "Great Walks", while having to carry only a small pack! Our guides are New Zealanders with a passion for the area and extensive knowledge of the flora, fauna and history you will encounter. All equipment provided.

Region: Departs Rotorua. 150km, 3 hours drive to Lake Waikaremoana.

Duration: 4 days / 3 nights - pickup from Rotorua accommodation approx 8am, drop off by 6pm.

Fitness: Moderate hike, reasonable level of fitness and agility essential. 4-6 hours walking each day over varied terrain. For the first 2 days walkers carry only a day pack, for the last 2 days walkers carry a backpack containing a sleeping bag and clothing for one night (6 - 8kg). Pack cartage for the final 2 days is available by prior arrangement. All other gear will be transported by boat to the end of the track. A support boat is nearby throughout the trip to carry injured or tired walkers.



Accommodation: We stay in public Department of Conservation huts. These are authentic NZ bush huts, located in stunning natural surroundings. They are clean and dry, and provide fresh drinking water, bunk beds with mattresses, outside toilets, separate dining and communal areas, and heating. There is no electricity or hot water. A booking system ensures no overcrowding.

Trip includes: All meals, snacks, hot and cold drinks, wine with evening meal; Rotorua return transport (pick-up from accommodation); park fees; hut accommodation fees; gear cartage by boat; support boat; hiking equipment (packs, raincoats & sleeping bags); knowledgeable and experienced guides.



Lake Waikaremoana Guided Walk 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. The Lake Waikaremoana Track follows the lakeshore for 2 days, before climbing to the top of the Panekiri ridge for breathtaking views of the endless mountains of Te Urewera, the lake, and Pacific Ocean.

DAY ONE

10.5 kms - 4 hrs hiking. (Lunch, Dinner)

Pick-up from Rotorua accommodation 8am. A 3-hour scenic drive follows an old Maori trail to the track start. We 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 waterfowl. Shortly we catch our 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, which welcomes you 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 hear the nighttime calls of the North Island brown kiwi and morepork.



DAY TWO

18.3km – 6 hrs hiking (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

This is our longest day of walking, but we still have plenty of time to enjoy the bush, birds and beaches of the western arm of Lake Waikaremoana. We make the most of the many scenic lakeside and lookout spots for rests and refreshments, and some may indulge in a swim.

After lunch there is an option to take the boat across an inlet, which will reduce walking time by 1 hour. This makes the sidetrack to Korokoro Falls more achievable, which is great because the falls should not be missed.

The 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 we walk through kanuka forest, which forms a tunnel-like trail on the lakeshore. Waiopaoa Hut, nestled amongst the luxuriant rainforest that stretches to the lake edge, is our home for the night.



DAY THREE

7.6km - 4 hrs hiking (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Today we tackle the Panekire ridge, which has been rising ahead of us for the last two days. Plenty of rest stops and breathtaking views make the morning's steady climb an enjoyable challenge. After about 2 hours of climbing, we then reach the Panekire ridge, where the track undulates up and down for a further 2 hours to the hut.

Following the Panekire ridge we 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 with a glass of wine on the verandah of the beautifully situated Panekire 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 birds eye view bestows an appreciation of the amazing terrain we have covered over the last few days.



DAY FOUR

8.8km – 4.5 hrs hiking (Breakfast, Lunch)

Continuing along the Panekire ridge, breaks in the forest offer more magnificent views and we have fantastic photo opportunities from the ledges of the monolithic rock formations that form the range. From here we 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 we descend back to lake level and understand why this walk is considered one of NZ's "Greats". On completing the track we take 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 6pm.

