

## TONGARIRO TREK - ALPINE CROSSING & RUAPEHU CRATER WALK

4-day / 3-night medium to challenging guided walking



The Tongariro National Park has dual World Heritage status and includes The Tongariro Alpine Crossing and the Northern Circuit, which are part of the New Zealand Department of Conservation's 'Great Walks' network. This is our most popular and most requested walking area for the North Island and is easily accessed from either Wellington or Rotorua / Auckland.

The three active andesitic volcanoes, Mount Tongariro (1967m), Mount Ngauruhoe (2291m) and Mount Ruapehu (2797m), are majestic, dramatic peaks with amazing textures, colours in a unique landscape. This area has grown over the last 300,000 years, formed for intense volcanic activity from at least six cones and retreating glaciers since the last ice age.

**Cost:** AUD\$950 per person, twin share. Single room supplement on request.

**Departs:** Daily from October 2010 to March 2011

**Includes:** 3-nights lodge accommodation in a premium room with ensuite bathroom, 3-breakfasts, 2-lunches, 3-course dinner each night when staying at the **Bayview Chateau Hotel** (or 2 dinner vouchers if staying at the alternative Park Travellers Lodge), guided day tours with experienced walking guide.

### Suggested itinerary:

#### Day 1 Arrive in the Tongariro National Park

Arrive mid-afternoon & check in to your accommodation – at the Bayview Chateau Tongariro (or The Park Travellers Lodge). You will be in touch with your walk guides to reconfirm your start time for the next day & to answer any questions you may have your Tongariro Crossing.

#### Day 2 Tongariro Alpine Crossing

We commence walking at 8.30am & finish walking at @ 4.30pm – the total walking time is 7-8 hours. After breakfast join your guide for your Tongariro Alpine Crossing. This 19km trek is regarded by many as New Zealand's best one-day walk. The track leads up to the saddle between Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Tongariro and then diverts over Mt Tongariro. Mt Tongariro is not a single volcano, but a complex of craters that have been active at different periods. The landscape on Tongariro is peppered with the different coloured and shaped craters, scoured volcanic rocks, mountain springs, and brightly coloured emerald lakes.

The Tongariro Alpine Crossing starts at the Mangatepopo Valley (1100m), and the first 2-hours of the trek is an upward gentle gradient to Soda Springs. To avoid the crowds we take a sidetrack up to the saddle between Mt Tongariro and Mt Ngauruhoe saddle. This section has a steep gradient and is taken slowly to ensure you all enjoy the spectacle and scenery on the way to the South Crater (1650m).

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Here we take a break and photos, then traverse up the side of Tongariro to the famous Red Crater summit (1882m), which takes approximately one hour. After taking in the view of the active Red Crater with the Otarere and Rangipo deserts in the background, we descend to the Emerald Lakes for lunch and a well-earned break.

From here divert up and over Mt Tongariro to its summit (1967m). The summit has a great photo opportunity of the Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Ruapehu peaks. Once at the top of a mountain, the only way off it is downhill and because the main throngs of walkers have already passed through, we take the main track back over Mt Ngauruhoe's pyroclastic flows with sunset views of Mt Taranaki (150kms away) before returning your accommodation.

### **Day 3 Mt Ruapehu Walk**

We commence walking at 8.30am and finish walking at @ 4.30pm with a total walking time of 7-8 hours. Mt Ruapehu is the largest of the three volcanoes and its last eruption was in 2007. Ruapehu's crater holds about 10-million cubic metres of water with a layer of liquid sulphur lining the bottom. The lake changes colour - from an amazing deep green to pale blue to solid dark grey - depending on the craters temperature. Mt Ruapehu has eight small glaciers on its high flanks and they are the only glaciers in the North Island.

Ruapehu has three ski-fields, and usually a scenic chair-lift ride into the cool crisp air starts today's walk.

### **Day 4 Tour ends**

Depart after breakfast

**Fitness:** A medium to high level of fitness is required for this walk, and you will need to be able to walk 7 – 8 hours per day, over uneven terrain, with some steep gradients. We recommend you have undertaken some training for this walk, including hills and you have well broken in hiking boots, with ankle support & the appropriate gear as follows:

### **Suggested equipment:**

- Walking / hiking shoes – we recommend lightweight waterproof boots with ankle protection
- Small day pack
- Insect repellent and sunscreen, sunglasses, sun hat, warm hat and gloves.
- Walking shorts, light top, 2-3 thermal or warm tops, & a very good waterproof jacket
- 2 pairs of tramping socks
- Water bottle

If you need equipment, our local Tongariro National Park operator does have trekking boots, wet weather gear and trekking gear is available for hire. Extra nights can be arranged at the beautiful Bayview Chateau Hotel



### **Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations**

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