

TE UREWERA



LAKE WAIKAREMOANA



Duration: **3–4 days**
Distance: **46 km (one way)**



Great Walks season:
All year



greatwalks.co.nz

FREE

LAKE WAIKAREMOANA

A refuge amongst prehistoric rainforest with access to some of New Zealand's most iconic birds, this Great Walk around the shoreline of Lake Waikaremoana is truly outstanding.

A visit to the heart of Te Urewera on the eastern side of the North Island will offer a glimpse of how New Zealand used to be.

Nau mai, Haere mai

Ko Te Waikaukau o na Mātua Tupuna

Ko Panekiri Te Mauna

Ko Haumapuhia Te Tipua

Ko Waikaretaheke Te Awa

Ko Te Umuariki Te Tanata

Ko Tūhoe Te Iwi

Welcome to Waikaremoana, home of the Nāi Tūhoe people, the children of the mist. Pay homage to Waikaremoana (sea of rippling waters) as you scale the heights of Panekiri. Learn the legend of Haumapuhia and immerse yourself in the ambience of this special place.

Lake Waikaremoana is a semicircular track that can be walked in either direction. The track is well marked and signposted, but some sections may be steep, rough or muddy. This guide describes a 4-day hike from Onepoto to Hopuruahine for independent, non-guided walkers.

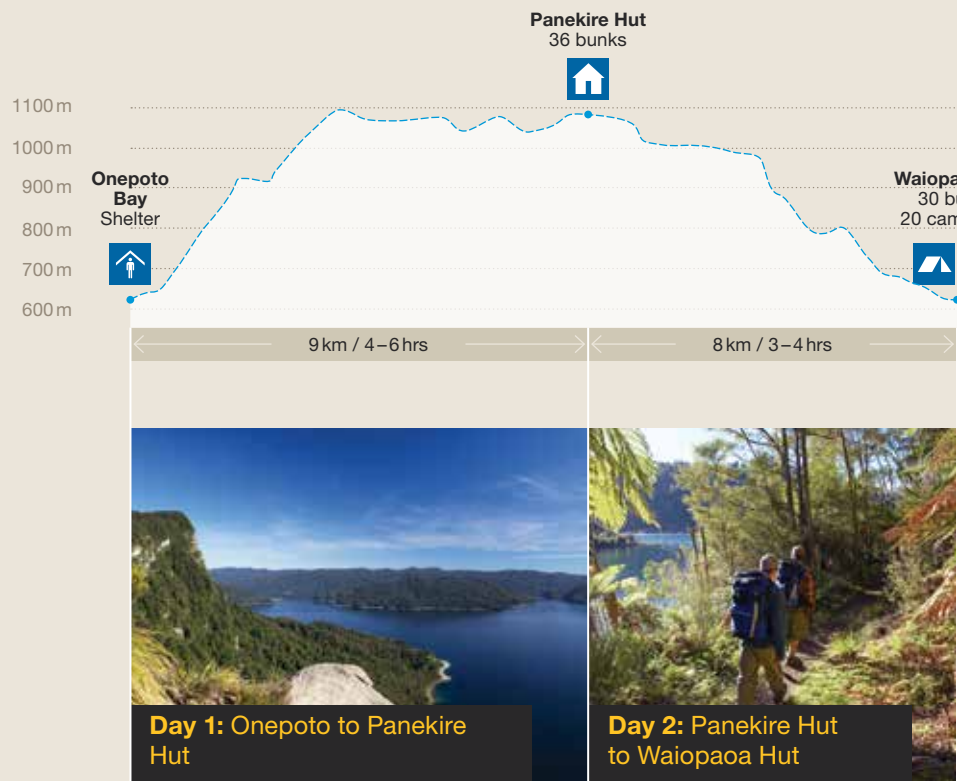


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ELEVATION PROFILE & TRACK GUIDE



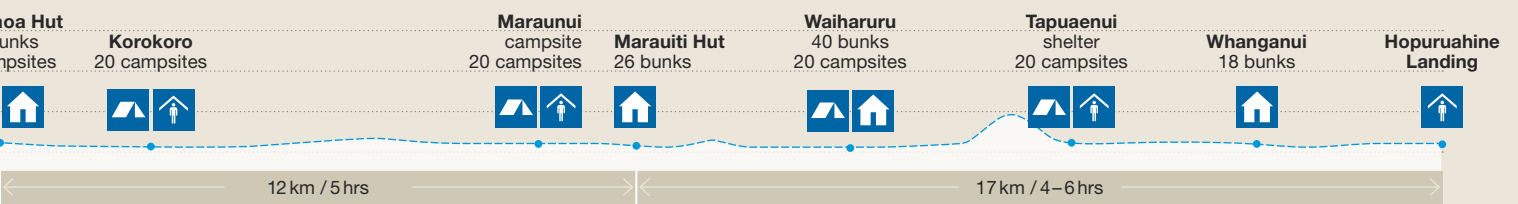
↗ 4–6 hours, 9 km

This is the most strenuous part of the trip, but the views from Panekiri make it worthwhile. The track starts from the Onepoto Shelter and leads you through the former Armed Constabulary Redoubt Parade Ground before climbing steadily up to the top of Panekiri Bluff. You'll enjoy spectacular views across the lake as you follow the undulating ridgeline before reaching Puketapu Trig (1180 metres) and onto Panekire Hut.

↘ 3–4 hours, 8 km

From Panekire Hut, the track heads southwest down the range to the top of the Panekiri descent. From here the track drops steeply off the range into rolling valleys of beech, podocarp and kāmahī forest and the lake.






Day 3: Waiopaoa Hut to Marauiti Hut



Day 4: Marauiti Hut to Hopuruahine Landing

 5 hours, 12 km

Head up the Waiopaoa Stream a short distance before crossing grassy flats and heading through kānuka forest on the lakeshore. The track, while undulating, weaves its way through rimu wooded areas and along the lake edge to Marauiti Hut. A worthwhile side trip on this day is a 1-hour return trip to the amazing Korokoro Falls.

Instead of staying at Marauiti Hut, you may like to continue to Waiharuru Hut—take a walk at dusk to the edge of Puketukutuku peninsula and listen out for the call of kiwi.

 4–6 hours, 17 km

This is another moderate day of walking with plenty of fantastic photo opportunities and chances to relax beside the lake's edge. From Waiharuru Hut, the track climbs over the Pukehou ridge following the kiwi enclosure fence line all the way down to Tapuaenui Campsite, and leads on to Hopuruahine Landing.

HIGHLIGHTS

1



Photo: Kathrin & Stefan Marks (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Air New Zealand partners with Tūhoe and DOC to help bring native birds back to this beautiful Great Walk.

AIR NEW ZEALAND 



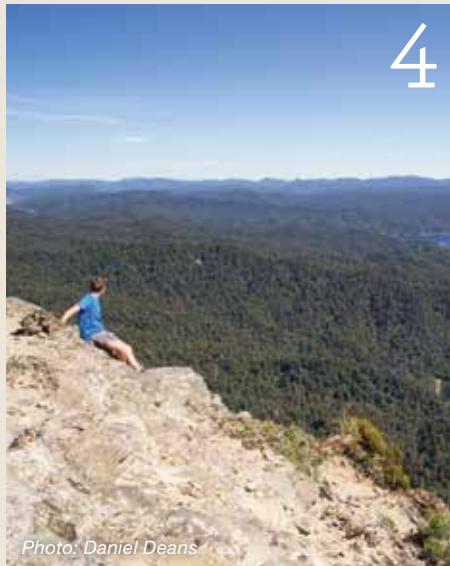
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Photo: Chris McLennan



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Photo: Chris McLennan



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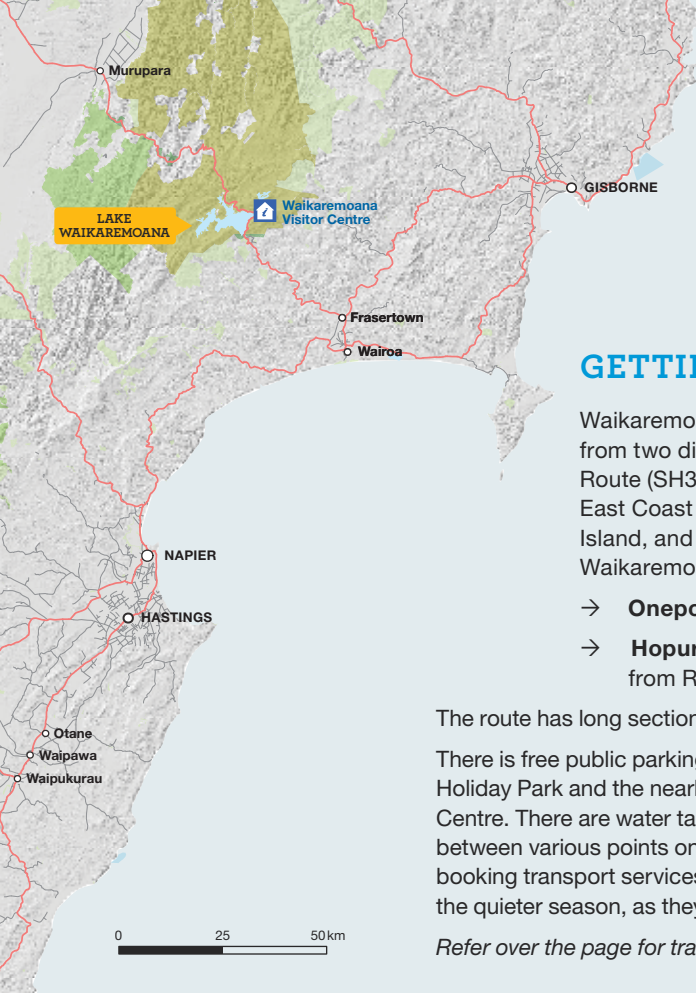
Photo: Daniel Deans



5

Photo: Andrew Walmsley (andrewwalmsleyphotography.com)

- 1 Take a dip in the **cool, crystal-clear water** after a long day's hike. There are plenty of spots along the track, and at most of the huts and campsites.
- 2 Soak up the **rich spiritual history** of the area, which is home to Nāi Tūhoe, the local Māori people, who are also known as Nā Tamariki o te Kohu—'the children of the mist'.
- 3 Take a short walk (1 hour return) up the side track from Korokoro Campsite to the beautiful **Korokoro Falls**. This is a must-see!
- 4 Climb to the top of the Panekiri Bluff to enjoy the **breath-taking panoramic views** of Lake Waikaremoana.
- 5 Be served up an auditory treat as native birdsong echoes across the forest—those staying at Waiharuru Hut may hear **kiwi** calling at night.



GETTING THERE

Waikaremoana can be approached from two directions. Te Urewera Route (SH38) links Wairoa and the East Coast with the central North Island, and passes the lake and Waikaremoana Visitor Centre.

- **Onepoto**, 64 km from Wairoa.
- **Hopuruahine Landing**, 155 km from Rotorua.

The route has long sections of unsealed gravel road.

There is free public parking at the Waikaremoana Holiday Park and the nearby Waikaremoana Visitor Centre. There are water taxi services available between various points on the lake. We recommend booking transport services in advance, especially in the quieter season, as they operate on demand.

Refer over the page for transport options and services.

PLACES TO STAY



Waiharuru Hut. Photo: Daniel Deans

5 huts and 5 campsites operate along Lake Waikaremoana, which **must be booked in advance all year round**. Campers are not permitted to use hut facilities.



Great Walks huts

\$32 per adult per night; 17 years and under stay free.

The huts have bunks, mattresses, a water supply, sinks, toilets, hand-washing facilities and heating with fuel (firebox and wood). A hut ranger may be present. Gas cooking, toilet paper and lighting is not provided so please ensure you carry your own gas cooker, toilet paper and torch.



Great Walks campsites

\$14 per adult per night; 17 years and under free (booking required).

These offer basic facilities including toilets, sinks and a water supply. Some also have picnic tables and cooking shelters. Great Walks campsites can only be accessed on foot and are not accessible by vehicle or by boat.

Bookings are essential all year round. Great Walks huts and campsites must be booked in advance.

Sign me up! What do I do next?



- 1 Start off at greatwalks.co.nz/waikaremoana for more information.



- 2 **Book your huts and campsites** online or at a Visitor Centre.



- 3 **Book your transport** to and from the track – operators are listed online and in this brochure.



- 4 Buy your food and **pack your bags** – download the Great Walks packing list and make sure you have everything you need for a 4-day independent unguided walk.



- 5 Read up on **safety** and make sure you're well prepared for your journey and changeable weather at greatwalks.co.nz/waikaremoana. Make sure you have left your intentions with a trusted contact at adventuresmart.org.nz.



- 6 Visit the Waikaremoana Visitor Centre to **pick up your tickets**, and chat with the friendly staff for the latest weather forecast and track conditions.



- 7 **All set!** Lace up your boots and get hiking. Don't forget to share your experience on [facebook.com/GreatWalks](https://www.facebook.com/GreatWalks).

Waikaremoana Holiday Park

Take time to get connected – it's in your nature!



A great place to stay – start your Great Walk refreshed, or relax and soak up the scenery after you've finished

- Self-contained 1 and 2 bedroom units, cabins, tent and powered sites
- Well-stocked general store and fuel stop
- Only lakefront accommodation
- Beautiful lake views
- Great Walk transport pick-up/drop-off point
- Free secure overnight parking

Book now

Ph: 06 837 3826/0800 400188
 Email: waikaremoanahp@doc.govt.nz
 www.waikaremoana.info

Accommodation on the shores of Lake Waikaremoana

The gateway to Te Urewera



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Lake Waikaremoana, Tongariro, Coromandel



1 to 12 day guided hikes in style & comfort with small packs. Lodge or hut based. Request a free brochure:

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Big Bush

- Accommodation
- Camping
- Café and Bar
- Water taxi and Shuttle Services- to and from Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk Track
- Shuttle Services- Between Waikaremoana and Wairoa
- Free Vehicle Storage

Big Bush is situated between Tuai and Lake Waikaremoana, 4km from the start of the Great Walk Track, also approx 45 min drive from Wairoa.

BIG BUSH HOLIDAY PARK
 RD 5 Wairoa 4192

email: bigbush1@xtra.co.nz
 phone: 0800 525 392 or (06) 8373 777
www.lakewaikaremoana.co.nz

LAKE SHUTTLES



Water taxi – pack drops – scenic trips

Road shuttle to/from Wairoa

www.nztroutfishing.co.nz

email: fishdods@xtra.co.nz
 phone: 0800 LAKE(5253) 88

LOTS TO DO... RUAPEHU



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Great Walkers deserve great hostels

YHA Gisborne and YHA Napier

Affordable comfortable accommodation pre and post Great Walk



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TELL SOMEONE YOUR PLANS
 IT MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

www.adventuresmart.org.nz



OTHER GREAT WALKS

Tongariro Northern Circuit

Duration: 3–4 days | **Distance:** 43 km | **Season:** 21 Oct 2016 – 30 Apr 2017

Winding its way past Mount Tongariro and Mount Ngauruhoe, this Great Walk lets you explore dramatic volcanic landscapes including craters, glacial valleys, native beech forest, alpine meadows and emerald-coloured lakes in this World Heritage area.



Huts:
\$32*
adult/night

Location: Tongariro National Park, central North Island
Nearest towns: Taupo, Turangi, Ohakune, Waiouru

Whanganui Journey

Duration: 3–5 days | **Distance:** 145 km | **Season:** 1 Oct 2016 – 30 Apr 2017

The Whanganui River winds its way from the mountains to the Tasman Sea through countless hills and valleys. This journey lets you take a multi-day canoe or kayak trip to experience its most remote scenic beauty, history and cultural significance.



Huts:
\$32*
adult/night

Location: Whanganui National Park, south-west North Island
Nearest towns: Whanganui, Taumarunui, Ohakune

Abel Tasman Coast Track

Duration: 3–5 days | **Distance:** 60 km | **Season:** All year

Blessed with a mild climate, golden beaches and coastal forest, the Abel Tasman Coast Track has it all. Choose to walk the whole track or water taxi or kayak between different locations at any time of the year.



Huts:
\$32*
adult/night

Location: Abel Tasman National Park, north-west South Island
Nearest towns: Nelson, Motueka, Takaka

Heaphy Track

Duration: 4–6 days | **Distance:** 78.4 km | **Season:** All year

From forest to coast, the Heaphy Track combines all of New Zealand's scenic beauty into one Great Walk. Travel through expansive tussock downs, lush forests and nīkau palms to the roaring seas of the wild West Coast.



Huts:
\$32*
adult/night

Location: Kahurangi National Park, north-west South Island
Nearest towns: Nelson, Westport, Collingwood

Routeburn Track

Duration: 2–4 days | **Distance:** 32 km | **Season:** 25 Oct 2016 – 3 May 2017

The Routeburn Track traverses the Southern Alps of New Zealand and passes through ice-carved valleys and beech forest. Walk alongside pristine rivers and glistening alpine lakes offering breathtaking views and mountain scenery.



Huts:
\$54*
adult/night

Location: Mount Aspiring & Fiordland Nat. Parks, South Island
Nearest towns: Queenstown, Glenorchy, Te Anau and Invercargill

Kepler Track

Duration: 3–4 days | **Distance:** 60 km | **Season:** 25 Oct 2016 – 3 May 2017

An adventure above the clouds! The Kepler Track takes you from the gentle, beech-forested shores of Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri to the exposed tussock lands and the summit of Mount Luxmore for spectacular alpine views.



Huts:
\$54*
adult/night

Location: Fiordland National Park, south-west South Island
Nearest towns: Queenstown, Te Anau and Invercargill

Milford Track

Duration: 4 days | **Distance:** 53.5 km | **Season:** 25 Oct 2016 – 3 May 2017

Experience the stunning grandeur of the Milford Track including rugged mountain peaks, breathtaking sheer canyons and majestic waterfalls. Walk beside pristine rivers and amongst lush, green rainforest before crossing Mackinnon Pass and reaching spectacular Milford Sound.



Huts:
\$54*
adult/night

Location: Fiordland National Park, south-west South Island
Nearest towns: Queenstown, Te Anau and Invercargill

Rakiura Track

Duration: 3 days | **Distance:** 32 km | **Season:** All year

Escape on an island adventure and exchange the hustle and bustle of mainland life for the tranquillity of the Rakiura Track. Revel in the peacefulness and idyllic surroundings, with the bush, birds and beach at your side.



Huts:
\$22*
adult/night

Location: Stewart Island/Rakiura
Nearest towns: Invercargill (20 min flight) or Bluff (1 hr ferry)



Know before you go

It is **important** to plan your trip thoroughly to ensure you stay safe, and have a great time. Before you go, know the **Outdoor Safety Code** – 5 Simple rules to help you #makeithome.

- 1. Plan your trip.** Travel times vary greatly in New Zealand, so carefully planning your route is essential. Seek local information about what to take, and allow enough time for the journey. Book accommodation, transport and transfers to the start/end of track early.
- 2. Tell someone your plans.** Safety is your responsibility. Leave your intentions – including your trip details and emergency contact information – with a trusted contact. It could save your life if things go wrong. Head to adventuresmart.org.nz for more information.
- 3. Be aware of the weather.** New Zealand weather is very changeable. Plan for the worst, expect the best. Check metservice.com for the most up to date info.
- 4. Know your limits.** Always follow the track markers and signposted tracks. Off-track navigation is not recommended for novice walkers in New Zealand. A good level of fitness is required to walk the track. You can expect to walk up to 6 hours a day depending on your fitness level. If you get into trouble don't make a bad situation worse. Think **STAR** – Stop / Think / Assess / React.
- 5. Take sufficient supplies.** With NZ's changeable conditions many hikers are frequently caught out by isolated local conditions. Carry – and expect to use – rain jackets all year round. Take an extra day's supply of food and an emergency shelter. Don't rely on cellphone signal alone for communication. Food and drinks are not available to purchase at Great Walks huts or campsites. Plan to be self-sufficient.

Remember – your safety is your responsibility

Lake Waikaremoana safety

- This track is not recommended for children under age 10, due to the exposed mountainous environment and often adverse weather conditions.
- Lake Waikaremoana lies between altitudes of 600 and 1200 metres. Cold temperatures, snow, strong winds and heavy rain can occur at any time of the year.
- Go to greatwalks.co.nz/waikaremoana 'Know before you go' section for detailed safety information, and 'What to take' section for a comprehensive gear list.