



# waiheke island te ara hura guided walk

Great Walks of New Zealand itineraries allow you to explore New Zealand your way. We offer different levels of accommodation, catering and comfort so that travellers can choose a trip that suits their style and budget. With many logistical inclusions, our trips allow you more freedom to

## explore nz your way

be completely immersed in the journey. We have something for all fitness abilities with a grading system that defines our trips from introductory to challenging. You can choose to set your own pace on a flexible self-guided itinerary or enjoy the benefits of an experienced local guide on a small group tour. With a range of active adventures throughout New Zealand, from well-known tracks to less-visited trails and forays on private land, Great Walks of New Zealand offers opportunities to discover postcard-perfect landscapes, pure wilderness, rural lifestyles and unique kiwi experiences.

### IMPORTANT NOTES

Note: From time to time short sections of the Te Ara Hura may be closed for vegetation regeneration or trail maintenance. Alternate routes may be available in some places but please be aware it may not be possible to walk the full 100km route due to circumstances beyond our control.

1- Trip pricing is based on minimum of 2 travellers to be guaranteed. If you are travelling solo, please refer to the solo traveller surcharge price. Subject to change.

2- Many of the islands wineries and tasting rooms are closed or on limited operating hours during the Winter months and some week days.

<b>TRIP NAME:</b>	WAIHEKE ISLAND TE ARA HURA GUIDED WALK
<b>TRIP CODE:</b>	GWJ
<b>TRIP DURATION:</b>	6 DAYS
<b>GRADE:</b>	INTRODUCTORY TO MODERATE
<b>ACTIVITY:</b>	GUIDED WALK, CENTRE BASED WALK
<b>ACCOMMODATION:</b>	1 NIGHT HOTEL, 4 NIGHTS SELF-CONTAINED APARTMENT
<b>DATE DETAILS:</b>	DAILY DEPARTURES (EXCEPT BETWEEN 20 DECEMBER AND 01 FEBRUARY)

### highlights

- Walk the network of tracks and trails connected to form the Te Ara Hura route around the island
- Enjoy stunning scenery and natural landscapes
- Indulge in delicious food and wine from local vineyards
- Feel the character of an island well known for its art, artisans and New Zealand's elite
- Escape to an island just 30 mins by ferry from New Zealand's largest city
- Local insight from a professional guide
- Centre-based walking - unpack only once

### the trip

The best way to discover the character of Waiheke Island is on foot, with a local guide to share stories and delightful gems of information. From its remote eastern corners, rugged coastal headlands and forested interior to its more inhabited western side with picturesque vineyards, swimming beaches and vibrant artisan community there is much to explore. Walk over a variety of terrain from gentle local footpaths to narrow bush tracks across hill slopes. Everywhere there are spectacular vistas. The Te Ara Hura (which means "Discover the Way") is a continuous route around the island made up of numerous tracks, trails and paths linked together. By walking a different section of the route each day it is possible to truly discover the diversity of this place, one day at a time. Returning to the same centrally-located accommodation every night there is no need to pack up your luggage until you leave, meaning you walk with only a daypack and have plenty of time to relax. Located just a short ferry journey from the bustle of Auckland but feeling a world away, it is easy to appreciate why this island escape is so popular.





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## itinerary at a glance

<b>Day 1</b>	Arrive Auckland
<b>Day 2</b>	Ferry to Waiheke Island, walk Matiatia to Onetangi Beach (19km, 4.5 - 6 hrs)
<b>Day 3</b>	Walk Onetangi to Orapiu (25km, 5 - 7 hrs)
<b>Day 4</b>	Walk Orapiu to Putiki-O-Kahu (Trig Hill) (18km, 5 hrs)
<b>Day 5</b>	Walk Putiki-O-Kahu (Trig Hill) to Te Toki Reserve (20.5km, 5 - 6.5 hrs)
<b>Day 6</b>	Walk Te Toki Reserve to Matiatia, ferry to Auckland (12km, 3.5 - 4 hrs)

## detailed itinerary

Note: Wine and others tastings are subject to opening hours and are at your own expense.

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>Arrive Auckland</b> Make your own way to Auckland and check-in to your trip accommodation any time after 2:00pm. The city is New Zealand's largest, both in area and population and hence is often mistakenly thought of as the country's capital. Spend some time exploring the gardens and open spaces of The Domain, wander through the fascinating War Memorial Museum for a glimpse into Maori history and culture, visit the Sky Tower for spectacular 360 degree views, visit an art gallery, cruise the harbour, wander the foreshore or explore the shops. Food lovers will be spoilt for choice with a multitude of cafes, restaurants and bars to suit all budgets and tastes. <b>meals: NIL</b>
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Ferry to Waiheke Island, walk Matiatia to Onetangi Beach (19km, 4.5 - 6 hrs)</b> Take the 9:00am ferry this morning from Auckland to Waiheke Island. On arrival at the Matiatia wharf, your guide will meet you and arrange for your luggage to be transferred to your accommodation so that you can commence walking right away. (You will need to be prepared with your requirements for the day already packed in your daypack.) After introductions and a short trip briefing, the walk today follows the northern coastline around headlands, up and down hills, beside secluded bays and along beautiful sand beaches. Enjoy stunning views of Hauraki Gulf islands and the Coromandel Peninsula, explore Oneroa Village (the main settlement on the island) with its cafes, boutique shops and galleries, and take a refreshing swim at one of several beaches along the way. Pass through reserves where native vegetation regeneration is underway and by vineyards that produce award-winning wines before reaching the white sands of Onetangi Beach. The longest beach on the island, this is the location of your accommodation for the next four nights. Settle in and relax before a delicious evening meal. <b>meals: B,L,D</b>
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Walk Onetangi to Orapiu (25km, 5 - 7 hrs)</b> Although longer in duration, today's walk starts from your accommodation and is a gentler gradient than yesterday. Mostly following ridgelines inland a little and alongside the road, more superb views abound. Exploring the remote eastern end of the island you will encounter fewer inhabitants, places of historical significance, rural vistas, wildlife corridors, wetlands and isolated beaches. Take time to admire the white sands of Man-o-War Bay and the nearby stands of magnificent kauri trees. Enjoy a swim and a picnic lunch at the beach and maybe some wine tasting (own expense, winery opening times permitting). There is much history in this area, on which your guide will provide insight, from Maori settlement to logging operations. Continuing to the south east corner of the island, there are amazing views and some fascinating stories about the smaller offshore islands you can see. At the Orapiu wharf, you will be met and transferred back to your accommodation for the night. <b>meals: B,L,D</b>



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## DAY 4 Walk Orapiu to Putiki-O-Kahu (Trig Hill) (18km, 5 hrs)

After a good breakfast, transfer with your guide to Orapiu where you finished walking yesterday. There are some steep sections on today's walk and it is considered the most strenuous on the Te Ara Hura route. The exertion is worth it, however, with the rewards being beautiful forest, birdlife, a marine reserve, delectable wines (optional, own expense) and the exhilaration of standing at the highest point on the trail (155m) with uninterrupted views all around. Maunganui (231m), the highest point on the island, can be seen nearby before descending into the picturesque Awaawaroa Valley and completing the journey on the other side at Trig Hill (Putiki-O-Kahu). Transfer from there back to your accommodation for a well-deserved swim, shower and a relaxing evening.  
**meals: B,L,D**

## DAY 5 Walk Putiki-O-Kahu (Trig Hill) to Te Toki Reserve (20.5km, 5 - 6.5 hrs)

Return to Trig Hill this morning to commence today's walk. The trail is undulating and is both on and off road, weaving around the coastline and pretty bays of the south west of the island. Explore the Whakanewha regional park containing forested streams, significant ancient pa sites (fortified Maori settlements) and important dotterel nesting grounds. Wander through small communities tucked away in the bush, visit a sculpture park (own expense), sample some local olive oil (own expense), learn the importance of historic Rangihoua pa from your guide and discover the most popular bay in which to moor a houseboat. Of course there are magical coastal views throughout the day and flowering native trees add to the spectacle in season. Complete today's adventure at Surfdale Beach after walking through the secluded Te Toki Reserve wetlands. Return to your accommodation to soak up the Waiheke atmosphere and feast on local cuisine for a final night.  
**meals: B,L,D**

## DAY 6 Walk Te Toki Reserve to Matiatia, ferry to Auckland (12km, 3.5 - 4 hrs)

The last day of walking is relaxed and is the easiest day on the route. After packing your luggage and checking out of your accommodation, you will be transferred to Surfdale once again. Commence walking from here to Te Huruhi Bay where it is worth visiting a Maori cemetery and the beautifully decorated Piritahi community Marae (meeting place). The Marae is not a tribal one and while respecting Ngati Paoa (the original inhabitants of Waiheke) it welcomes people from all races. The beach in this area is a significant godwit (migratory wading bird) feeding ground, their arrival and departure in September and March marking the extended summer season for locals. Indulge in some final wine tasting (own expense) with a view from the well-regarded Cable Bay or Mudbrick Vineyards and pass by Church Bay where some of the grandest mansions on the island are located. You can shorten the day if required or walk the full length of the route around beautiful headlands to the Matiatia ferry wharf. Farewell your guide here, where your luggage will be waiting, before boarding the return ferry to Auckland, departing at 4:00pm. Trip arrangements end on arrival in Auckland.

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE:** You cannot enter a Maori cemetery as it's tapu (sacred) or enter the Marae without a formal welcoming ceremony. You are welcome to view both from the outside.

**meals: B,L**

## additional deposits

Due to the requirements of our tour partner we require the prepayment of an additional deposit of NZD 300 which is non-refundable. This payment is required at the time of booking together with our normal non-refundable per person deposit. This prepayment should not be viewed as an additional cost. We recommend you take out travel insurance at the time of booking.



## inclusions

→ Professional local guide



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- 1 night hotel accommodation in Auckland (twin share) with private bathroom
- Return ferry Auckland to Waiheke Island
- 4 nights self-contained apartment (twin share) on Waiheke Island with all linen and private bathroom
- Luggage transfers on Waiheke Island
- Transfers between accommodation and trailheads on Waiheke Island
- Route notes and maps

## items not included

- Travel to Auckland on Day 1 and onward travel from Auckland on Day 6
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Drinks other than tap water
- Optional activities, extras and upgrades (such as wine tasting, entry fees to Stony Batter Reserve, entry fees to art galleries, single supplement)
- Items of a personal nature (eg. laundry, shopping, internet)
- Daypack (large enough to fit a lunch box and water bottle)
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Visa (if required)

## getting there

### BY CAR

Auckland is easily accessible by road from anywhere on the North Island. Always allow plenty of time to travel on New Zealand roads. Traffic can quickly become congested in Auckland city and on the approach roads so do be prepared for delays, especially during peak periods. The city centre is located 30 mins drive from Auckland airport (allow longer in peak times).

### PARKING & TRANSFERS

Convenient car parking in Auckland is available at the Arena Car Park, within a short walk of the ferry terminal. It is open 24 hours, 7 days a week and is under cover. Fees apply. Bookings can be made at <https://www.arenacarpark.co.nz/>

### BY TRAIN

The very scenic 'Northern Explorer' train journey, and New Zealand's longest running passenger service, from Wellington terminates in Auckland at the Strand Station. There is also a limited metropolitan train service in Auckland with the main terminus being Britomart Train Station (note that this does not service the airport) <https://www.greatjourneysnz.com/tours-and-trains/scenic-trains/northern-explorer-train/>

### BY AIR

Auckland has both international and domestic airport terminals on the same premises (with a 20 min internal walk/ 10 min bus ride connecting the two). The airport is 30 mins drive or taxi ride to Auckland city (allow longer during peak traffic times). <https://www.airnewzealand.co.nz/> <https://www.jetstar.com/nz>

### BY BUS

The Innerlink bus service facilitates travel within Auckland and has a stop outside the hotel and across the road from the ferry terminal. The Intercity coach service links regional centers to Auckland. <https://www.intercity.co.nz/>

### BY FERRY/BOAT

Return ferry transfers from Auckland to Waiheke Island are included in the trip cost. The ferry departs from Auckland Downtown Ferry Terminal. [www.fullers.co.nz](http://www.fullers.co.nz)

## trip grading - Introductory to Moderate

INTRODUCTORY TO MODERATE - GRADE 4





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These trips involve a combination of what is described in our Introductory and Moderate levels. The emphasis is on introductory activity with several moderate stages. These adventures involve walking for up to 6 or 7 hours a day at a steady pace. You will need a good level of fitness and must be in good health. Be prepared for potential variable weather conditions. Walking each day is over a variety of terrain including flat pavements, sandy beaches and hills with uneven track surfaces. Care needs to be taken as there are some steep sections that have a loose surface and are slippery when wet. A very good level of fitness is required and your preparation should include climbing and descending stairs, hills or sand dunes on uneven terrain. We suggest that you undertake regular exercise - swimming, cycling, jogging, stair or hill walking - three to four times a week for three months prior to your journey. During the walking stages you will need to carry your daily requirements such as water, lunch, spare clothing and personal items.

## dietary requirements

Where possible fresh, local, organic and free-range products are used for included meals. Most straightforward diets (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free) can be catered for but please talk to us if you have very specific requests. We will do our best to cater for you but you may need to bring along your own supplements.

## accommodation



### pre tour

We can arrange additional nights in Auckland or on Waiheke Island if required. Please ask us for details and costs.

### during tour

The first night in Auckland is based on double/twin share hotel rooms with an en-suite bathroom and all linen. Breakfast is included. Mobile phone reception, wifi and laundry facilities are available. Properties are close to the central city, the ferry terminal, and a great range of cafes and restaurants. A single supplement applies for this night if a single room is required. Please note that we are not able to guarantee this accommodation exactly but the description above is for the hotels normally used. If this is not available then an alternative will be found and if the standard is different you will be advised at the time of booking.

Accommodation on Waiheke Island includes four nights at Beachfront on Waiheke overlooking the beautiful Onetangi Beach. This is also based on twin share rooms with a private bathroom and all linen. Mobile phone reception and WiFi are available. Kitchenette is well equipped with refrigerator, microwave, hotplate, crockery, cutlery, pots and pans, and coffee plunger. Laundry facilities, heating and cooling, hair dryer, TV and DVD player are also provided. Private lounge and outdoor seating area add a homely touch and there is even beach access across the road. Apartments may be upstairs or downstairs and have garden or ocean views.

## fast facts

### VISAS

Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant\*

### CLIMATE

As a general rule, November to April are ideal months for travelling in New Zealand's stunning outdoors. One of the most important things for travellers to know is that New Zealand has a maritime climate, as opposed to the continental climate typical of larger landmasses. Thanks to its position in the path of the 'Roaring 40s' and its mountainous terrain, New Zealand's weather can change frequently and rapidly. This can happen unexpectedly, so be





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prepared for sudden variations in temperature and weather conditions. Include a good waterproof jacket along with some warm clothing in your bag; there is no need for a full winter wardrobe, but a good fleece or sweater and thermals are essential. The temperature during the North Island summers range from 10° to 35°C or 50° to 95°F, with 50-60% humidity. The northern regions of the North Island experience a subtropical climate with warm, humid summers and mild, wet winters. Higher altitudes in the central and southern areas are considerably cooler and drier with snowfall not uncommon, even in summer. Moisture-laden westerly winds from across the Tasman Sea are interrupted by mountain areas generally creating a wet climate on the west side of the mountains and a much drier one to the east. Southern regions of the north island are typically windy on a regular basis. Variable weather is an integral aspect of any mountainous or coastal landscape, so it is helpful to be prepared for this on your tour. If there are any questions about what to expect, talk to one of our team.

Waiheke Island can be visited comfortably at any time of the year, bearing in mind it is usually wettest over the winter months (Jun - Aug).

**MIN GROUP SIZE** 2

**MAX GROUP SIZE** 12

**MOBILITY REQUIREMENT** This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

**SPECIALIST GEAR REQUIRED** Daypack, water bottle, sturdy walking shoes or light duty boots, sun hat, sunscreen, rain jacket, warm clothing, lightweight walking clothes. A comprehensive gear list is included in the Pre-departure Information provided on booking

## special notes

This trip is suitable for active children aged from 8 years.

## non exclusive trips

Please note that this trip is not exclusive to Great Walks of New Zealand clients and is operated by our partners. You will be joining a group of other adventurers from across New Zealand and around the world.

## private groups

Private groups can be arranged, subject to accommodation availability. Please ask us for further information and a quote.

## how to book

To book a Great Walks of New Zealand trip, complete our booking form on our website [www.greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz](http://www.greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz) or contact our office.

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## e-newsletter

To keep up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter! You can do this on line through our website [www.greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz](http://www.greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz).





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## **IMPORTANT NOTE**

THESE TRIP NOTES REPRESENT THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR THIS ITINERARY, AND SUPERSEDE ANY PREVIOUS INFORMATION FOUND ONLINE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ITINERARY AND PRICE.