What do I do next?


Book your tickets and accommodation online at bookgovt.doc.govt.nz.

Book your transport to and from the track, with approved DOC shuttle services. Contact the Whakapapanui DOC Office on +64 7 3870 2235.

Buy your food and pack your bag – download the Great Walks packing list and make sure you have everything you need for an enjoyable independent adventure

Read up on safety and make sure you are prepared for your journey and tangata whenua meata whakapapa meatanga whakarongo at www.doc.govt.nz/tongarironortherncircuit.

Check the weather at www.metservice.govt.nz/tongariro-national-park and book your ticket and travel home. You may also get a track guide and the operation of Tongariro Northern Circuit Safety and Visitor Centre.

All set. Lace up your boots and get hiking. Don’t forget to share your experience on Facebook at doc.govt.nz/docphotos.

TONGARIRO

Duration: 3–4 days

Distance: 43 km (loop)

Great Walks season: 21 October 2020 – 30 April 2021

Plan and prepare

Great Walks is a 3–4 day looped walk that links Tongariro Northern Circuit with a 4 1/2 hour return walk to Upper Tama lakes. It is well suited to most fitness levels, with the exception of some difficult terrain – most of it is open, exposed mountain environment and some exposed and on uneven track surfaces.

Volcanic risk

The Tongariro Northern Circuit passes through volcanic hazards – where the track is open, visible risk includes volcanic hazards and gas in volcanic environments. Be prepared by developing a basic understanding of the hazards. Before you go, make sure your personal safety is your responsibility. If you are uncomfortable with the risk or environment, do not continue. More information is available at www.doc.govt.nz/tongarironortherncircuit.

Water quality

Water in the Tongariro Northern Circuit has been treated to make sure it is safe for drinking. Check references.com for more information.

Stay safe in the backcountry

Take all you need, including food, clothing, water and equipment – you may need to stay out longer or use the facilities in your backcountry camp.

You can find more information on safety at www.doc.govt.nz/safety or www.adventuresmart.nz.

What do I need to know before I go?

You are strongly encouraged NOT to attempt this track between 20 February and 30 April, outside the Great Walks season. The winter environment in Tongariro National Park is very cold and wet, with ice, snow, avalanches and short daylight hours.

To attempt the track in winter conditions, you need to be very experienced in backcountry travel and navigation. You need cross-country experience and the appropriate gear, skills and equipment.

All huts are greatly reduced – with no cooking gas, limited water and no hot water or emergency radios.

For more information, see ‘Outside the Great Walks season’ at www.doc.govt.nz/tongarironortherncircuit.

Tips

- Make sure you’ve got a map, compass and a phone with a charged battery.
- To make sure you’re not lost, stay on the marked track at all times.
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TONGARIRO NORTHERN CIRCUIT

This World Heritage site is a landscape of stark contrasts. You'll pass Alpine vegetation, lush forest, tranquil lakes and desert-like plateaus, with amazing views at every turn. As the circuit winds past Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Ngaruahoe, you will be drove by dramatic volcanic landscapes and New Zealand's rich geological and mineral wealth.

The Tongariro Northern Circuit can be hiked in either direction. The track is well marked and signposted, but there may be heavy snow, and the route may be closed due to ice and snow. You should hike alone or with a group of mountain rescuers. Hikers should be well prepared, and all hikers must be properly equipped and informed of the conditions before setting out. Primary information is available at the Tongariro National Park Visitor Centre or the website at www.doc.govt.nz/tongariro-northern-circuit-gettingthere.

Tongariro, though in alpine aspect, its sheltered and sheltered-canyon manner reaching the sky. Ancient stories of epic, bison-scarred, thunder and lightning battle the height when the Mount Ngauruhoe shone in he height of the bluest sky. Tongariro emerged victorious. A story of harmony and devotion that has spanned millennia, from before the earliest ancestors time, from time where the ancestors ruled over the land. This is the world of Night Hikes in Tongariro. These are the stories of Night Hikes and, more importantly, these are memories of our ancestors, our God and our spiritual heritage and identity. They are passed on through generations, every facet of the landscape reflects this past, each shadow holds a story, each breeze carries the whispers of potential Tongariro the springing of passion, Tongariro the devoted love, Tongariro the source of blue, Tongariro the Warrior Mountain, Tongariro the soul of Tongariro.

We the Tongariro Whakapapa — The People of the Lake — want our peoples’ world to be the world of the Ngāti Hikairo, of where our people’s origin, of where our people’s identity. They are carried on each mountain breath, every facet of the mountain breath, every facet of the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, a time when the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past, the ancient mists of time, from a time long past.

Hut and Campsite facilities are greatly reduced during the winter season (May to October). Outside the Great Walks season facilities are greatly reduced and there are no DOC rangers. Bookings are not required, hut and campsite facilities are free, first served and fees are reduced. See the DOC website for details.

**Great Walks campers**

**Great Walks huts**

**Getting there**
The Tongariro Northern Circuit can be accessed from the following locations:
- Whakapapa Village
- Rotopaunga

**Elevation profile & track guide**

**Great Walks hut**
**Night Hikes in Tongariro**

**Places to stay**

**Distance:**
- 45.2 km (loop)
- 3–4 days

**1400 m**
- Emerald Lakes, one of Tongariro’s older landscapes of other-worldly lava forms and remnants of lava flows and climbing plains of the Tongariro volcanic landscape of stark contrasts. You’ll be dazzled by dramatic pass alpine vegetation, lush forest, azure blue water. From here, you’ll pass the tumbling Taranaki Falls before reaching Oturere Hut. Then leave the Alpine Crossing track towards Tama Saddle. On reaching the Tama Saddle, a detour will take you to Tama Lakes (Ngā Puna a Tama) and a side trip to Waihohonu Hut. From here, you’ll pass the beautiful Tama lakes (Ngā Puna a Tama), and a side trip to Waihohonu Hut. On day three the circuit continues through this unique environment. After crossing stream valleys and open green fields, the track descends into a beech-forested valley and crosses a branch of the Waikare Stream. A short climb takes you to the top of the ridge where you’ll spot Whakapapa Village.

**Day 1: Whakapapa Village to Mangatepopo Hut**
Your journey begins by making your way across the scenic plates of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, a series of enchanting ponds and valleys, and through a day traverse across the landscape of an independent, non-guided walker, some sections may be steep, rough and hilly ground and there are no DOC rangers. Bookings are not required, hut and campsite facilities are free, first served and fees are reduced. See the DOC website for details.