

Plan and prepare

LAKE WAIKAREMOANA



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



Great Walks season:
All year

TE UREWERA



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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 nā Mātua Tupuna

Ko Panekire 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 Panekire. 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 brochure describes a 4-day hike from Onepoto to Hopuruahine for independent, non-guided walkers.

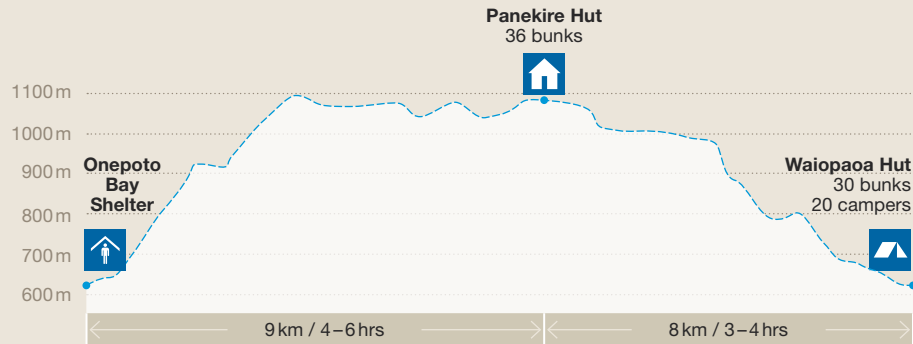


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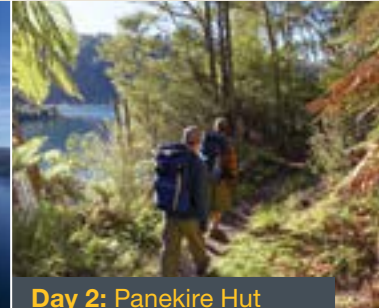


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ELEVATION PROFILE & TRACK GUIDE



Day 1: Onepoto to Panekire Hut



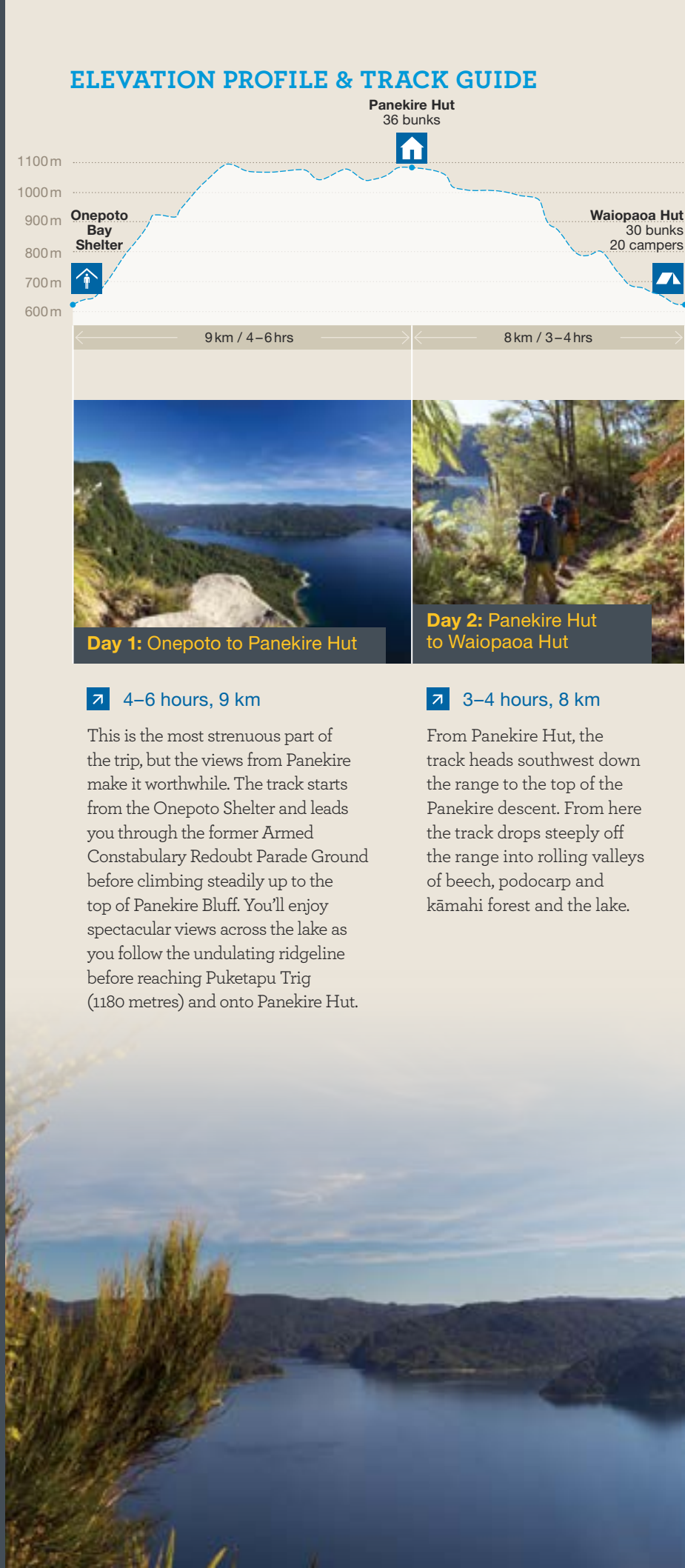
Day 2: Panekire Hut to Waiopaoa Hut

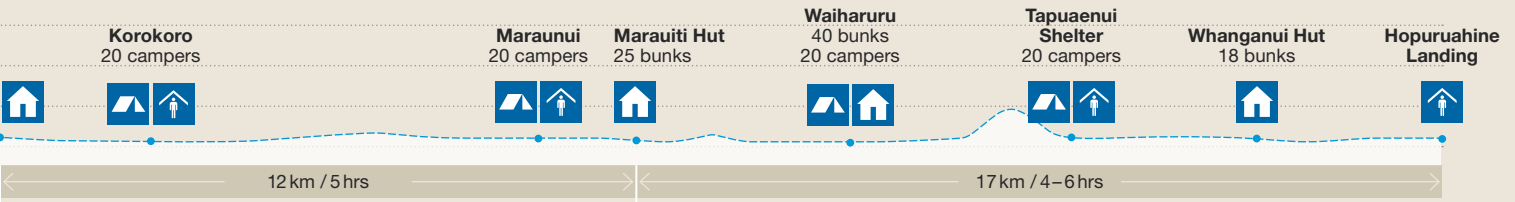
↗ 4–6 hours, 9 km

This is the most strenuous part of the trip, but the views from Panekire 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 Panekire 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 Panekire descent. From here the track drops steeply off the range into rolling valleys of beech, podocarp and kāmahi 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)



Photo: Chris McLennan



Photo: Chris McLennan



Photo: Daniel Deans



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 Panekire 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.



PLACES TO STAY

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.



Waiharuru Hut. Photo: Daniel Deans



Great Walks huts

\$32 per adult per night; 17 years and under stay free (booking required).

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.

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?



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



Book your huts and campsites online at bookings.doc.govt.nz.



Book your transport to and from the track.



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.



Read up on **safety** and make sure you're well prepared for your journey and changeable weather at greatwalks.co.nz/waikaremoana.



Check the weather, and make sure you've downloaded and printed your **ticket**. You can also get the latest weather updates from Te Urewera Visitor Centre.



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).

For in-depth local knowledge, visit:

Te Urewera Visitor Centre
Te Kura Whenua
6249 Lake Road, SH38
Waikaremoana 4195
Phone: +64 6 837 3803
Email: teureweravc@doc.govt.nz

greatwalks.co.nz

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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 Te Urewera 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 Te Urewera 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.

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 mountainsafety.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.

Lake Waikaremoana safety

- This track is not recommended for children under age 10, because of 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.

Remember – your safety is your responsibility