

# Kiwi Wilderness Walks

## **Waitutu Track Fiordland National Park**

Dr. David Bellamy described the Waitutu Forest as "probably the most important forest in the world". This ancient terraced forest rises out of the sea with each level 100,000 years older than the last.

Coastal tracks provided access for early Maori on their way to find pounamo (greenstone) and the track today follows a similar path.

The Wairaurahiri River winds its way up through the forest to Lake Hauroko where the remains of a Maori princess are said to rest in the clefts of a rock.

The Waitutu Track is a four day all inclusive guided walk starting in Tuatapere. We follow the south coast through bush and beach to Port Craig Village once the site of New Zealand's most modern sawmill.

Walking along the old forest tramline connected by a spectacular array of wooden viaducts the next day takes us to the Wairaurahiri River and the Waitutu Bush Lodge.

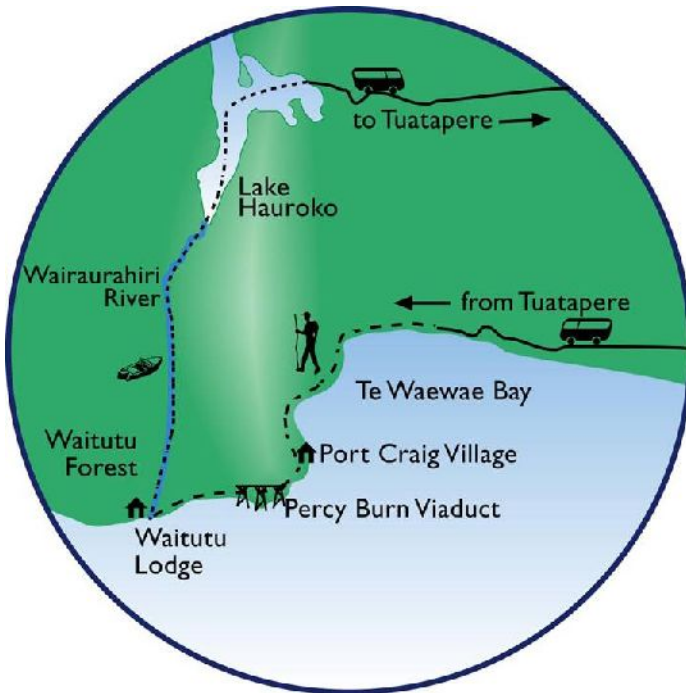
A chance to explore the stunning Waitutu Forest, the largest piece of untouched native bush in New Zealand, before heading inland by jetboat up the Wairaurahiri River and over mythical Lake Hauroko.



the most important forest in the world

## Itinerary

The Waitutu Track follows the South Coast across mighty viaducts and up the Wairaurahiri River by jetboat to Lake Hauroko. This is an all inclusive 4 days / 3 nights guided walk.



### Day 1: Tuatapere

Meet at the Waiiau Hotel in Tuatapere. Enjoy dinner with the guide and discuss the trip ahead.

### Day 2: Track Burn, Port Craig Village

Walk 5 hours / 11 km

Drive by 4WD to Bluecliffs Beach then to the start of the track at Track Burn. A chance to see Hector's dolphins and penguins as we follow bush and beach trails around the sweeping Te Waewae Bay to Port Craig Village.

Explore the remains of this once bustling milling town.

### Day 3: Viaducts, Waitutu Lodge

Walk 6 hours / 16km

Heading west along the South Coast track we cross the spectacular Percy Burn viaduct, the highest remaining wooden viaduct in the world.

Our destination tonight is the Waitutu Lodge set just across the Wairaurahiri River in the Waitutu Forest.

### Day 4: Wairaurahiri River, Lake Hauroko, Tuatapere

Take a short walk in the Waitutu Forest with giant rimu and totara trees hundreds of years old.



Jetboat up the Wairaurahiri River, said to be New Zealand's steepest river with rock strewn rapids leading from the southern ocean up to Lake Hauroko. No spins or twirls here. Access to country like this is why the Hamilton jet was invented. Return by road to Tuatapere.

Jet boating time: 1 1/2 hours

## Fitness Level

A medium level of fitness is required for the Waitutu Track. The walking is generally flat. The tracks can be muddy and wet at times.

the most important forest in the world

## Tuatapere

Tuatapere is 86km from Invercargill, 100km from Te Anau and 195 km from Queenstown on the Southern Scenic Route. Connections are available from Invercargill 2pm (pick up from 1.30pm), Te Anau 8:15am (pick up from 7:45am) and Queenstown ( 2pm ) which are not included in the package. Feel free to contact us to help arrange transfers for you.

## Accommodation

In Tuatapere we stay at the Waiiau Hotel, recently voted New Zealand's top country hotel. On the trail we stay in new back country huts with showers, flush toilets and heating. Accommodation is based on double or share twin. Linen is provided. Carry only your own personal items.

## Weather

Is unpredictable. Extreme conditions can develop at any time. Be prepared for cold and wet weather and have warm waterproof equipment. It makes it even nicer when it is warm and sunny☺

## Equipment

We will provide all cooking and kayaking equipment, sleeping bags and maps. You provide and carry a small pack, personal and hiking equipment. We have packs and wet weather gear available if required but please advise in advance. A suggested list of things to bring follows.

## What to Bring

A good pair of comfortable walking boots is essential. Some people find gaiters and walks sticks helpful. The following list provides a guide for your packing.

Pair of shorts, trousers	Favourite boots or walking shoes
Thick woollen or fleece top	Pair of light shoes or sandals
Thermal long johns and shirt	Pack with waterproof liner
Socks, underwear and handkerchief	Small personal torch, water bottle
Small towel or flannel	Personal medicine, toilet bag
Warm hat and light gloves	Insect repellent, sunblock
Waterproof coat with hood	Camera and film

## Prices

The package includes 3 nights accommodation, all meals, transport, jet boat, hut and guiding fees, all equipment and maps. The trips are usually 4 – 6 people with a maximum of six.

The cost per person is NZ\$1 595

Children 10 - 14 subtract NZ\$150. Single supplement NZ\$125.

Prices are per person, include GST and valid to 1 November 2010

For more information;

Kiwi Wilderness Walks

PO Box 2125, Wakatipu 9349

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Phone: +64 21 359 592

Fax: +64 3 442 8342

Email: [waitutu@nzwalk.com](mailto:waitutu@nzwalk.com)

Web: [www.nzwalk.com](http://www.nzwalk.com)

Guaranteed departure dates – Day 1

2009/2010	
Nov 2009	7, 28
Dec 2009	5, 16,
Jan 2010	10, 26
Feb 2010	9, 22,
Mar 2010	7, 19
Apr 2010	10