Pre-conference trip to Tongariro National Park: Pre-trip information

Thank you for registering for the pre-conference trip to Tongariro National Park. Below is a draft itinerary for the weekend and some extra information about possible activities. On Saturday 11th there are two main options available: (1) Tongariro Alpine Crossing - a strenuous full day hike (~20 km long, ~900 m total vertical climb, 5-8 hr duration) and may not be suitable for all participants; or (2) alternative shorter walks, excursions – a range of potential activities are given below. Please see the 2nd page of this document for further details on both options.

Our accommodation in National Park Village is providing catering for this trip. This comprises continental breakfast (Saturday, Sunday), packed lunches (Saturday, Sunday), and dinner (Friday, Saturday). Please be aware that lunch will not be provided on Friday 10th. Please bring your own pack lunch on this day, or food will be available to purchase from a range of outlets at our stop in the township of Bulls en route. We have taken attendees dietary information from the conference registration forms.

If you have any further questions, please contact shaun.eaves@vuw.ac.nz or olya.albot@hotmail.co.nz.

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Draft itinerary (times are indicative):

Friday 10 February:

10:00 Depart Wellington CBD
12:30 Lunch stop in Bulls township (lunch not provided – a range of options are available)
14:30 Stop in Ohakune village (supermarket, souvenirs)
15:30 Arrive at The Park Hotel, National Park Village
18:00 Dinner
19:30 Post-dinner presentation on Tongariro World Heritage Site (tbc)

**Saturday 11 February:**
7:00 Breakfast

*Option 1:*
8:00 Shuttle departs for Tongariro Alpine Crossing start point (Mangatepopo car park)
15:30 Shuttle departs Tongariro Alpine crossing end point (Ketetahi car park)

*Option 2:*
9:00 Coach departs for Whakapapa village, Mt. Ruapehu
Return to The Park Hotel, early/mid afternoon

17:00 Optional trip to local geothermal pools (entry price not included, ~$6-10)
19:30 Dinner at The Park Hotel, National Park Village

**Sunday 12 February:**
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Depart National Park Village (packed lunch provided)
14:00 Arrive Wellington CBD
17:00 Icebreaker event, Rutherford House
TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING

- 19.5 km total length.
- It is a linear route, the start and end points are different. Our hotel will provide us with a shuttle service.
- The main trail reaches 1900 m (6230 ft) above sea level.
- The trail comprises a mix of boardwalk, fine gravel, and loose rock. It is mainly well-formed except for the descent from Red Crater to Emerald Lakes, which is steep and unconsolidated.
- Approx. 900 m (2950 ft) total ascent (not incl. optional Mt. Ngauruhoe side trip).
- **Compulsory equipment**: sturdy footwear (hiking boots/trail shoes), waterproof jacket, extra warm clothing, sun hat, beanie, warm gloves, min. 1 litre water. Day pack. Please ensure you are well equipped for this hike. Shuttle operators have a duty of care for hikers and reserves the right to refuse carriage for hikers who do not have appropriate outdoor clothing and equipment.

(Images from the Tongariro Alpine Crossing brochure, Department of Conservation.)

ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES

Less strenuous activities are also available for those who would like to take in Tongariro National Park without completing the crossing. We can organise separate transport to support activities in and around Whakapapa Village, so please let us know in advance.

- One option is to walk from the Tongariro Alpine Crossing start to Whakapapa Village. This ~9 km (3-4 hr) walk separates from the main Tongariro Alpine Crossing trail in Mangatepopo Valley and heads south across the saddle between Tongariro and Ruapehu volcanoes. It is possible to add on a trip to Taranaki Falls (see below), which puts another ~1 hr on the total walking time.

- A range of shorter walks begin from Whakapapa Village. The Taranaki Falls loop (~2 hr, 6 km) is a particular highlight. See more information and other walks here:
NZ’s highest café (2020 m elevation) is accessible on foot or via Whakapapa skifield chairlifts (own expense ~NZ$35): [http://www.mtruapehu.com/summer/](http://www.mtruapehu.com/summer/)

A range of other tour operators offer activities such as biking, river rafting, and local excursions (own expense): [http://www.nationalpark.co.nz/things-to-do](http://www.nationalpark.co.nz/things-to-do)
1:250k and 1:50k topographic maps can be viewed online at: www.topomap.co.nz
Map 3: Whakapapa Village area (1 km grid squares):