

# Risks Associated with Ziplining – Participant Information

**Description of Activities:** The *EcoZip Adventures* zipline tour provides opportunities for adventure recreation and environmental education. The tour includes ziplines, walking trails and boardwalks and all other related activities that might take place. The ziplines are stand-alone elements accessible by elevated decks and/or stairs. Ziplines are high cable traverses using safety harnesses and associated hardware. Riders 'zip' between decks and are challenged with the difficulties of stepping off a high platform or tower, confronting a fear of heights and the risks of accepting these and other new challenges. Participants wear safety harnesses clipped into twin overhead steel cables with attached safety lanyards on all elements. The zipline element of the tour will be overseen by guides trained to lead participants towards their desired recreational and educational outcomes. All equipment will be fitted and checked by the staff, progress throughout the tour will be closely monitored by the guides and all equipment transfers will be performed by guides.

Participants must be reasonably fit and able, via stairs, to mount and dismount the towers and decks. The tour experience includes short hikes or walks on uneven terrain, the longest being approximately 1.4 kilometres (.86 of a mile) in length at an incline of approximately 10-15% in Waiheke and 430m (0.26 of a mile) in length at a decline of approximately 10% in Kaikōura. Participants must be physically able to complete these hikes.

**Medical Concerns:** Zipline experiences are designed for participants of average mobility, fitness and strength, who are in reasonably good health. Obesity, high blood pressure, cardiac and coronary artery disease, pulmonary problems, pregnancy, arthritis, tendonitis, prior head, neck, or back injuries, asthma, or other joint and muscular-skeletal problems may impair the safety and well-being of participants; as may other medical, physical, psychological and psychiatric problems. All or any of these conditions may increase the inherent risks of the experience and cause the Participant to be a danger to themselves or others.

Participants who suffer from any of the conditions, or any other underlying medical problems, acknowledge that such conditions will put them at greater risk of injury or illness during a zipline experience and must carefully consider those risks before choosing to participate. Participants must fully inform tour staff, on the **Risk Disclosure Form**, prior to the beginning of the tour if they suffer any of the conditions or any other underlying medical conditions. EcoZip Adventures reserves the right to exclude any person from participation, for medical, safety, or other reasons.

**Inherent and Other Risks:** Serious injuries are uncommon in zipline tours, but the risk of injury or death certainly exists; by reason of falls, contact with other participants and fixed objects, and moving about or being transported on the grounds on which the activities are initiated and conducted. A number of risks are inherent to the activities. These are risks that cannot be eliminated without changing the essential nature and educational and other values of the experience. The emotional risks range from unwelcome or inadvertent touching (related primarily to the need of guides to check and potentially adjust participant harnesses and helmets), hurt feelings, to panic and psychological trauma (initiated through fear of heights). The physical risks range from small scrapes and bruises to bites and stings, broken bones, sprains, neurological damage, head, neck, or back injuries and, in extraordinary cases, even death. The properties on which the tours are located include hilly, rocky and wooded terrain, ravines, valleys, rivers and stream beds. Whilst generally very safe, it should be noted that New Zealand does have species of animals and insects which may bite or sting. Injuries may be a natural consequence of the activity undertaken, as a result of the environmental hazards (including terrain and weather), a result of errors in judgment or other negligence of the staff or participants and may occur in spite of the reasonable efforts of the staff to prevent them. In all cases, these inherent risks, and other risks which may not be inherent, whether or not described above, must be accepted by those who choose to participate.