

Auckland City Harbour

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News Internet



STEP TO IT: Sandor Lau is relying solely on his feet to get him to the Far North.

Photo: JASON OXENHAM

These boots are made for walking

By ANNABEL SCAIFE

Filmmaker Sandor Lau's idea of a good time is trekking hundreds of kilometres on foot, meeting "hardcore" travellers.

The adventurous Kingsland man sets off on a two-month journey to Cape Reinga tomorrow.

He is filming an \$11,000 Creative New Zealand-funded documentary about backpackers in New Zealand.

"New Zealand is a strange travellers' place," says Mr Lau, who

believes he'll get the best stories by walking.

"It's an island in the South Pacific where most people come to get as far away as possible from anywhere else.

"People have trust and confidence in you if you are one of their own. It'll be just me and my camera having walked kilometres." Mr Lau, 27, has already cycled from Auckland to Wellington, and from Kaitiaki to Auckland.

"I started thinking about it [the documentary] after that last trip. I really want to complete the journey

up the Cape."

He couldn't wait until summer. "You definitely find the most hardcore and committed backpackers in mid-July. I've accepted the fact I'll be cold. I'll be keeping myself warm by walking about 30km a day."

Mr Lau starts out from his Kingsland home, walking to the city to catch the Devonport ferry, then facing the long trek north.

"There's no hard and fast plans on the route. I'll just see where travels take me."