

# Topdeck

## KIWI ENCOUNTER



TRIP CODE:

NXGKAC-0



## TOPDECKER, meet New Zealand

Home of Lord of the Rings, Crowded House and the World's Sexiest Accent - there's no doubt this little country has a BIG reputation for being jam-packed with pure awesomeness. Don't waste time choosing between North and South, adventure or chill, culture or landscapes - bungy out of boring and dive headfirst into the best 17 days of your life. We're waiting.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Android/iPhone  
app download  
info



This is a principal  
package.

# HI, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

## HI, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK!

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

## ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

**PLEASE NOTE:** We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

### ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Visit Waitomo Caves
- + Overnight stay in a traditional Maori marae
- + Traditional Hangi lunch
- + Visit Lake Taupo and Huka Falls
- + Wine tasting in the Marlborough region
- + Visit Lake Matheson
- + Stay in the Fox Glacier region
- + Cruise Milford Sound
- + Mountain biking in Arrowtown

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Visit Waitomo Caves
- + Overnight stay in a traditional Maori marae
- + Traditional Hangi lunch
- + Visit Lake Taupo and Huka Falls
- + Short guided walk around Tongariro National Park
- + Orientation tour of Wellington
- + Cook Strait ferry crossing
- + Wine tasting in the Marlborough region
- + Visit Lake Matheson
- + Stay in the Fox Glacier region
- + Cruise Milford Sound
- + Mountain biking in Arrowtown
- + Orientation tour of Christchurch

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Auckland  
New Zealand

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Christchurch  
New Zealand

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- + New Zealand - NZD

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | AUCKLAND TO ROTORUA

Say kia ora to your new Topdeck trip mates in Auckland and get ready for an epic trip! En route to Rotorua we'll swing by the Waitomo Caves – a glowworm-studded labyrinth of underground caves and rivers. This place is like something out of a sci-fi movie! Choose to explore on foot, by boat or brave the cold on a unique blackwater rafting experience (trust us, it's awesome). Later, we'll learn some Haka moves and watch a Poi dance before tucking into a delicious dinner at a traditional marae (Maori meeting ground).



### MEALS:

+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Waitomo Caves  
+ Overnight stay in a traditional Maori marae



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Waitomo Glowworm Caves: from \$53.00  
+ Ruakuri Cave: from \$76.00  
+ Blackwater rafting at Waitomo Caves: from \$147.00

## DAY 2 | ROTORUA

Are you ready for all the optional extras your free day has to offer? Take a walk through Tolkien's dreams at the Hobbiton movie set or head to a geothermal reserve for a relaxing mud spa. For the thrill-seekers, there's Zorbing on offer here too (think: rolling downhill in a giant inflatable ball) – or you could always hit the water for a spot of rafting. When in New Zealand!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Visit the Hobbiton movie set: from \$124.00  
+ Canopy tour in Rotorua: from \$159.00  
+ Visit a mud bath and spa: from 75.00  
+ Zorbing in Rotorua: from \$45.00  
+ Whitewater rafting in Rotorua: from \$90.00

## DAY 3 | ROTORUA TO TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

Crank the heat up to the max – today we're off to check out the area's famous geothermal activity on an included tour. This experience comes complete with a traditional Hangi lunch – a meal of roasted meat and veggies slowly cooked in an underground oven pit. After catching a glimpse of a Kiwi bird or two, we'll make tracks to Huka Falls (you'll hear the rumble before you see them). Finally, we'll swing by beautiful Lake Taupo before settling in at our accommodation near Tongariro National Park. Phew! What. A. Day.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch  
+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Traditional Hangi lunch  
+ Visit Lake Taupo and Huka Falls

## DAY 4 | TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

Rise and shine – we've got exploring to do! Known as one of the best one-day hikes in the world, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing sure lives up to its reputation – and you'll get the chance to complete it today (weather dependent). With three volcanic peaks dominating the horizon and terrain that'll make you feel like you're on Mars, this hike is 100% worth the sore legs the next day. Rather have yourself a four-wheeled adventure? There's an optional quad biking experience on offer, if you're interested. Let's do this!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Short guided walk around Tongariro National Park



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Hike the Tongariro Alpine Crossing: from \$195.00
- + Quad biking in Tongariro National Park: from \$155.00

## DAY 5 | TONGARIRO TO WELLINGTON

Next up: Wellington. Get your bearings as we head to Mt Victoria for 360-degree city, harbour and ocean views. Lord of the Rings fan? Pro tip: check out the Weta Workshop for maximum Middle Earth vibes this afternoon.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Orientation tour of Wellington

## DAY 6 | WELLINGTON

Free days are the best days. Get lost in the awesome Te Papa museum or hit up Cuba Street for some quirky stores and cafés. Don't miss the nightlife in the capital either! With more bars and restaurants per capita than New York, there's no excuse not to hit the town with the crew tonight...



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

## DAY 7 | WELLINGTON TO NELSON

Today we'll wave goodbye to the North Island as we take a ferry across Cook Strait and into the blue waters of Marlborough Sound. Hop off in picturesque Picton, then get ready to find out why the Marlborough region is so famous for its wine. We'll stop by a Cellar Door for an included tasting of the sweet stuff before digging into a delicious BBQ dinner in Nelson tonight.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Cook Strait ferry crossing

+ Wine tasting in the Marlborough region

## DAY 8 | NELSON

Did someone say coastal paradise? Today is yours to explore this vibrant region. Hop from bay to bay via boat, sea kayak, on foot or see it all from above with an epic skydive. Whatever you choose, we know you're going to love it!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

- + Kayaking and seal-spotting in Abel Tasman National Park: from \$150.00
- + Day tour of Abel Tasman National Park: from \$92.00
- + Skydiving in Abel Tasman National Park: from \$329.00

## DAY 9 | NELSON TO KAIKOURA

From one coastal town to another. Spot the wild fur seals getting their tan on as we roll into Kaikoura today. And this afternoon? Channel all those mermaid/man vibes on an optional dolphin swim, or take in the wild acrobatics from above deck – these little critters love to put on a show! Then: soak up the laid back atmosphere, take a short stroll to the beach for sunset and maybe visit a local bayside vendor for the freshest of crayfish (Kaikoura literally translates to 'eat crayfish'). This is livin'.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

- + Swim with dolphins in Kaikoura: from \$180.00

## DAY 10 | KAIKOURA TO CHRISTCHURCH

Next stop: the South Island's largest city. After being hit by an earthquake in 2011, resilient Christchurch is rebuilding in a creative way. Tonight, the city is yours. Why not get out there and check out the vibrant restaurant scene?



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

## DAY 11 | CHRISTCHURCH TO FOX GLACIER

One minute you're sipping lattes in the city, nek minnit you're off to visit New Zealand's most famous glacier. But first: a photo stop at Lake Matheson that will make all your friends back home totally jealous. Sorry, not sorry.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Lake Matheson
- + Stay in the Fox Glacier region

## DAY 12 | FOX GLACIER TO QUEENSTOWN

Who's ready to hit the ice? If the weather is good, you'll have the chance to explore this chilly playground on a heli hike. Alternatively, you could go all-out and get a bird's eye view on a scenic flight. Then: the adventuring continues as we roll into the adrenalin capital of NZ – Queenstown. Get your bearings on an orientation tour, then be free! The nightlife here is on a whole other level. Ice Bar, anyone?



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

+ Heli-hike at Fox Glacier: from \$499.00

+ Scenic flight over Fox Glacier: from \$280.00

## DAY 13 | QUEENSTOWN

Ready. Set. GO! Queenstown is loaded with adventure activities – and you've got two days to cram them all in! For the thrill seekers: choose from bungee jumping, jet boating, canyon swinging, skydiving or zip lining. Doesn't sound like your thing? Take the skyline gondola for some incred views over Lake Wakatipu. There's even a sky-high luge track to challenge your Topdeck buddies on. It's on! Tonight, why not hit up Fergburger for a meal that will haunt your dreams? Yep, it's that good!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

+ Jet boating in Queenstown: from \$159.00

+ Canyon swinging in Queenstown: from \$249.00

+ Bungee jumping in Queenstown: from \$205.00

+ Skydiving in Queenstown: from \$359.00

## DAY 14 | QUEENSTOWN (MILFORD SOUND DAY TRIP)

Plaster your face to the window as we take the scenic route to Milford Sound for today's main event: a cruise on the fjord, complete with thundering waterfalls and towering cliffs that will just blow your mind. Keep your eyes peeled for the resident seals and dolphins, too!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Lunch



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Cruise Milford Sound

## DAY 15 | QUEENSTOWN

Quick! It's your last day here. Our hot tip: sign up for some whitewater rafting on the Shotover River, or jump in a funyak (like kayaking, but better). Hungry after all of that adventuring? You're in luck. We have an included dinner tonight at one of Queenstown's most popular hangouts!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Funyaking in Queenstown:  
from \$399.00
- + Wilderness Jet in  
Queenstown: from \$259.00
- + Shotover rafting in  
Queenstown: from \$239.00

## DAY 16 | QUEENSTOWN TO LAKE OHAU

We've got an epic two-wheeled excursion in Arrowtown on the agenda today – so get ready to tone those thighs as we cycle along the banks of the Arrow River, crossing some OMG-worthy suspension bridges along the way. Later, take in all the pretty window views before hunkering down at our lodge for the night. Nestled between towering mountains and overlooking the sparkling lake, this is the perfect place to relax and recharge after a hectic few days. Clink glasses with your #Topdeckfam tonight over one last group dinner. It's going to get emosh...



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Mountain biking in  
Arrowtown

## DAY 17 | LAKE OHAU TO CHRISTCHURCH

It may be our last day, but there's still plenty of time to squeeze in one last pano at Lake Tekapo before we head back to Christchurch. We'll say our goodbyes after an orientation tour of the city. \*sad face\* With so much to see here, we wouldn't blame you for wanting to stick around, though!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Orientation tour of  
Christchurch

## MEALS

Breakfasts are included each day (except on the first morning). A typical breakfast consists of cereals with milk or yoghurt, bread, a range of spreads, and fruit juice, tea or coffee. It is rare to get a hot breakfast, though on some occasions it may be available.

Included evening meals will be combination of those prepared by the Topdeck Road Crew, local restaurants and places in which we stay.

If you have any dietary requirements we will make every effort to cater to your specific needs as long as you advise your travel agent or Topdeck Trip Consultant when you book. But please be aware that although we will do everything in our power to arrange it, we cannot guarantee that every restaurant we use will be able to cater to all dietary needs. We also cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

# TIPPING

## NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

# TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

## TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

## ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

## CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

## BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

## MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

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[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



# PASSENGER SAFETY

## NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, remember to avoid walking alone, particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking, and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

## RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

## DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana, even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

**REMEMBER** – if you are found in possession of drugs, not only could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up again.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- + Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- + Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!
- + Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink, you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- + Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home, too – so they're sure to know of some tried-and-tested ways to beat the blues
- + Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (trust us).

## HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome holiday AND have a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- + Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your hotel towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- + Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- + Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets and book tours and activities run by local guides
- + Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- + Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

## OTHER INFORMATION

### INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit [www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance](http://www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance).

### PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

### WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it! (As long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is.)

- + 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes
- + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- + 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- + 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- + 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- + 4 shirts/T-shirts
- + 2 sweaters/jumpers
- + Smart casual evening wear
- + 1 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



**THAT'S IT!**