



## TOPDECKER, meet New Zealand

High-octane or slow and steady? Actually, you don't have to choose - this trip switches up the pace every day. Learn local legends from the Maori people, go skydiving and hike one of the best one-day hikes in the world - with movie-worthy scenery, lush greenery and volcanic vistas along the way. Kia ora!

### WORTH NOTING...

This is a sector of the 17 Day Kiwi Encounter trip.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Sail & Swim



Nights



Download app



Meals

# Thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

Ready for the time of your LIFE?

The countdown's on...

## ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

**IMPORTANT:** please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

### INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Wine tasting in the Marlborough region
- Cook Strait ferry crossing
- Short guided walk around Tongariro National Park
- Visit Lake Taupo and Huka Falls
- Traditional Hangi lunch
- Overnight stay in a traditional Maori marae

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | CHRISTCHURCH TO KAIKOURA

Are. You. Ready? Say hello to NZ, Topdecker! First things first: 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 2 | KAIKOURA TO NELSON

Onwards to Nelson. The Marlborough region is super famous for its wine - and today we'll find out why as we swing by a Cellar Door. Ready to raise those pinkies at an included tasting session? Heck, yes! And tonight? A delicious BBQ dinner awaits...



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Wine tasting in the Marlborough region

## DAY 3 | 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 4 | NELSON TO WELLINGTON

Today we'll cross the Cook Strait by ferry and sail into the blue waters of Marlborough Sound. Next stop, Wellington! Did you know? This place has more bars and restaurants per capita than the mighty NYC. It'd be rude not to check 'em out...



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Cook Strait ferry crossing

## DAY 5 | 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. Anyone for another night of bar-hopping later? Sign us up!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 6 | WELLINGTON TO TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

If you're a Lord of the Rings fan, why not hit up the Weta Workshop for maximum Middle Earth vibes this morning? Then: after heading to Mt Victoria for 360-degree city, harbour and ocean views, we'll leave Wellington behind us and move on to Tongariro National Park. Get excited: tomorrow we'll be able to roam the park as we please!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 7 | 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
- Dinner



### 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 8 | TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK TO ROTORUA

Today we'll swing by beautiful Lake Taupo before making tracks to Huka Falls (you'll hear the rumble before you see them). Then: crank the heat up to the max, 'cos 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. Don't forget to keep an eye out for Kiwi birds! 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:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Lake Taupo and Huka Falls
- Traditional Hangi lunch
- Overnight stay in a traditional Maori marae



## DAY 9 | 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). When in New Zealand!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Hobbiton movie set: from \$124.00
- Canopy tour of 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 10 | ROTORUA TO AUCKLAND

Wah! It's the last day already? On our way out of 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 on, we'll say hello to Auckland - and goodbye to the trip. With so much to see here, we wouldn't blame you for wanting to stick around, though!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## 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.

# OTHER INFORMATION

## TOPDECK APP

Feeling appy? Download the Topdeck app and get PUMPED for the adventure ahead. Best bit is: from 45 days before departure you'll be able to chat with your soon-to-be tripmates.

Plus, get your itinerary at your fingertips – so you know where you'll be going and what you'll be doing on each day of your trip. Nice!

Links:

Apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/topdeck/id994727866>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.FlexiTechSolutions.TopDeck&hl=en>



## YOUR SAFETY

### NIGHTS OUT

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, 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 so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your 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.

### DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers 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 immediately. 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 do you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if they are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you don'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.

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 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 (fact!)

## TRAVEL SINCE COVID-19

Travel looks a bit different since COVID-19. That's why we've put some new procedures in place to help keep you safe on the road.

What remains the same? Your Topdeck trip will be run hygienically, responsibly, and with your safety at the forefront of everything we do. End of.

Here's the info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/travel-safely>

# RESPECT ON THE ROAD

## RESPECTING FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

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

## 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 adventure AND 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 room 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!

# 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.

Head to our FAQ for more info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/faqs-0>

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team: <https://www.topdeck.travel/about-us/contact>

## 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's 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. Check out our handy interactive map showing global visa requirements:

<https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/latest-border-restrictions>

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.

## TIPPING

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

## 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!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 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 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket



- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear



**THAT'S IT!**