

# Topdeck

## GET SOCIAL: NEW ZEALAND



TRIP CODE:

TGKAC4



## TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. 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.

### WORTH NOTING...

On this trip, you'll get two in one – your Trip Leader is also your Driver. All optionals are weather-dependent.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Get Social



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

- Orientation tour of Rotorua with Trip Leader
- Orientation tour, marae visit, workshops and hangi dinner at Kohutapu Lodge
- Visit Huka Falls
- Orientation tour of Taupo with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Wellington with Trip Leader
- Cook Strait ferry crossing
- Orientation walk of Christchurch with Trip Leader
- Visit Hokitika
- Stay in the scenic Franz Josef Glacier region
- Visit to Wanaka
- Orientation tour of Queenstown with Trip Leader
- Visit to the Church of the Good Shepherd

## 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 (NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND) – WAITOMO – ROTORUA

You've got your home life, and home friends... and home routine. But this is your chance to leave it all behind. Ready? Meet us in Auckland and say kia ora to your fellow Topdeckers. First stop on our Kiwi adventure: Waitomo Caves. A glowworm-studded labyrinth of underground caves and rivers – this place is like something out of a sci-fi movie. Spend your free time exploring Ruakuri Cave on foot. Cruise through the magical grotto. Or dare your new travel fam to strap in for a unique blackwater rafting experience (disclaimer: you're gonna get wet). Later, you're heading to Rotorua where you'll get your bearings on a walk around town with your Trip Leader. Then, it's food o'clock. Tuck in to some delish dishes and make that stomach smile.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation tour of Rotorua with Trip Leader



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Waitomo Caves (boat cruise): from \$75
- Ruakuri Cave: from \$70
- Blackwater rafting at Waitomo Caves: from \$170

## DAY 2 | ROTORUA – KOHUTAPU

To say Rotorua has it 'going on' would be the understatement of the century. We're talking: adrenalin-pumping activities, geothermal spas and nerd-central movie sets. And you've got all day to embrace it – hell yeah! For the LOTR fans (or closet fans), take a walk through Tolkien's dreams at the Hobbiton movie set. Adrenalin junkie? Get your hit on a rapid ride down the mighty Kaituna River. Or play Tarzan on a sky-high canopy tour. Later, we'll receive a traditional welcome at Kohutapu Lodge. Visit a working marae, enjoy a haka demo, and level-up your crafting skills during a weaving workshop. Then, we'll tuck into a hangi with the gang. This is as authentic as it gets.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation tour, marae visit, workshops and hangi dinner at Kohutapu Lodge



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Hobbiton movie set: from \$150
- Zipling canopy tour: from \$179
- Whitewater rafting in Rotorua: from \$139

## DAY 3 | ROTORUA – HUKA FALLS – TAUPO

Bye bye Rotorua – today we're leaving the city behind and heading for some of Mother Nature's best bits. First: we'll make a stop at roaring Huka Falls and play spot-the-extreme-kayaker as they tackle the immense 11-metre plunge down the canyon falls. Then: we'll take in the A-Mazing views over Lake Taupo (FYI, this lake's the size of Singapore – but with more fish, fewer airports). Finally, we'll roll on to our accommodation and have a whip around Taupo's best bits. Afterwards, there'll be time to grab some snacks and chill out with your travel fam. You deserve it.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Huka Falls
- Orientation tour of Taupo with Trip Leader

## DAY 4 | TAUPO

Dramatic volcanic peaks dominating the horizon. Rugged terrain that looks like you landed on Mars. And intense turquoise lakes gathered in steep valleys. The Tongariro Alpine Crossing is one of the best one-day hikes in the world – and it 100% deserves the rep. You've got a full day to find your Samwise up Mt Ngauruhoe (aka Mt Doom), soak up all the I-N-C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E views and wish you'd broken in those new hiking boots. If being on the water is more your vibe – there's a Lake Taupo sailing excursion on the cards too. Or why not head to Wai-O-Tapu to admire its bubbling geysers and kaleidoscopic geothermal pools? Back at base camp with the group, sit back with a cold beverage and crack open that new pack of playing cards. Who knows Rummy?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Hike the Tongariro Alpine Crossing with a local guide (October to April): from \$395
- Visit to Wai-O-Tapu hot springs: prices available locally
- Sailing on Lake Taupo: from \$75

## DAY 5 | TAUPO – WELLINGTON

Next up: Wellington. Get your bearings around the capital on an orientation tour before we head to Mt Victoria for 360-degree views over the harbour. Then: the rest is up to you. Grab lunch along Cuba Street. Soak up the rays at Scorching Bay. Treat yourself to a Snickers milkshake at Fidel's Cafe. And spot a kiwi bird (or two) at the Zealandia ecological sanctuary. Tonight, dinner's on you – but with more bars and restaurants per capita than New York, you're not going to be stuck for options. Trust us.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Wellington with Trip Leader

## DAY 6 | WELLINGTON

What's that? A free day to do whatever floats your boat? Yes please. Get your Middle Earth fix at the Weta Workshop. Head to the (free \*punches the air\*) Te Papa Museum for a dose of NZ history. Or jump on the Wellington Cable Car for all the vintage vibes. Tonight: gather the crew, grab some fresh 'fush and chups' from The Chippery and head down to the harbour for dinner-with-a-view. This is livin'.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Weta workshop: from \$49
- Visit to Te Papa Museum (free)
- Wellington cable car: from \$6

## DAY 7 | WELLINGTON – ABEL TASMAN (SOUTH ISLAND)

Wave goodbye to the North Island – we're heading across the Cook Strait into the gobsmackingly beautiful Marlborough Sounds. Sounds familiar? Chances are you've picked up a bottle (or two) of Savvie B from this region. Then: onwards to Abel Tasman! Home of some of New Zealand's most pristine beaches. Get in.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Cook Strait ferry crossing

## DAY 8 | ABEL TASMAN

Free day = your chance to do your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-here-for thing. Ever heard of the Abel Tasman National Park? Think: golden sandy beaches. Picturesque turquoise bays. Lush native forests. And cute locals (of the wildlife kind). Hire a kayak and head out on a seal-spotting adventure. Soak up bird's eye views of both islands with an EPIC skydiving experience in nearby Motueka. Or activate adventure mode with a full day's canyoning. This is your moment.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided kayaking and seal-spotting tour in Abel Tasman National Park: from \$220
- Full-day canyoning in Abel Tasman National Park: from \$295
- Skydiving in Abel Tasman National Park: from £329

## DAY 9 | ABEL TASMAN – KAIKOURA

From one stunning coastline to another – we're making tracks to the East Coast today. Spot the wild fur seals getting their tan on as we roll into B-E-A-Utiful Kaikoura. Options here = soak up the laid back atmosphere in town, take a hike around the peninsula for sunset, keep your eyes peeled for Giant Sperm Whales on a whale-watching tour, or get your butt down to one of the seafood caravans on the foreshore for some fresher-than-fresh crayfish. Fact: Kaikoura literally translates to 'eat crayfish' – so you know it's gonna be good.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Whale watching in Kaikoura: prices available locally

## DAY 10 | KAIKOURA – CHRISTCHURCH

Next stop: the South Island's largest city. After having most of the CBD demolished by a devastating earthquake in 2011, Christchurch has rebuilt itself into a VIBING hub of quirky bars, restaurants and cafes. After getting the run-about-town with our Trip Leader, you'll have the rest of the afternoon off to do whatever you want. Need some suggestions? Head to Little High Eatery: a hip marketplace full of locally run food trucks. After, gather the gang and head to Rockpool for pool tables and a pumping dance floor.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Christchurch with Trip Leader

## DAY 11 | CHRISTCHURCH – HOKITIKA – FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER REGION

One minute you're sipping lattes in the city, next minute you're off to one of New Zealand's most famous glaciers. En-route, we'll make a photo stop in historic Hokitika. Head to the beach and find the quirky sculpture made by the locals. Gift a pounamu (greenstone) to your new travel BFF for good luck. Or gather the gang and give 'mountain oysters' a try (hint: Google it first). Then, we'll roll into the jaw-dropping Franz Josef Glacier region. After grabbing dinner in town with the group, you could seek out the resident glow worms on an after-dark adventure – just ask your in-the-know Trip Leader.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Hokitika
- Stay in the scenic Franz Josef Glacier region

## DAY 12 | FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER REGION

Rise and shine! If the weather is good, you'll have the chance to explore this chilly playground on an optional heli-hike. Strap on your crampons and pile into the chopper – we'll head up to 800m above sea level to explore the maze of ice formations with an expert local guide. Or go all-out with a scenic flight that'll leave you with goosebumps and a full camera roll. There's also an out-of-this-world kayaking trip through the Okarito Kiwi Sanctuary up for grabs.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Heli-hike excursion in Franz Josef Glacier region: from \$749
- Scenic flight over Franz Josef Glacier: from \$325
- Okarito Kiwi Sanctuary kayaking experience: prices available locally

## DAY 13 | FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER REGION – WANAKA – QUEENSTOWN

This morning, we'll make tracks to Wanaka: a lakeside, alpine town with some 'holy-sh\*t'-worthy scenery. It'll then be time to turn our attention to the adventure capital of the world: Queenstown. Get the lay of the land with your Trip Leader, then spend the rest of the afternoon wandering around the bay area or holed up with your crew in World Bar. With world-famous teapot cocktails, it's the perfect spot to make a plan for the next few days.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit to Wanaka
- Orientation tour of Queenstown with Trip Leader

## DAY 14 | QUEENSTOWN

If Queenstown had a Tinder profile it would read: fun-filled outdoor enthusiast – looking for a fellow adrenalin junkie to share adventures with. And all its pics would be of people throwing themselves off extreme heights. Swiping right? Hell yes! Skydiving. Bungy jumping. Jet boating. White water rafting. Canyon swinging. You want it, this place has it. And you've got 24 hrs to embrace it all. Or jump on an optional day trip to the totally mesmerising Milford Sound. The main event? A cruise on the Milford fjord complete with thundering waterfalls, razor-edge cliffs and resident seals. This place is National Geographic on steroids (like Schwarzenegger steroids). Tonight, we'll regroup in Queenstown – gather the fam and see if the nightlife here really lives up to the rep.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scene Milford Sound cruise (including lunch): from \$245
- Jet boating in Queenstown: from \$159
- Canyon swinging in Queenstown: from \$259
- Bungy jumping in Queenstown: from \$265
- Skydiving in Queenstown: from \$335

## DAY 15 | QUEENSTOWN

Today = options. Didn't tick everything off? We've got your back – here's another free day we prepared earlier. Head into Mount Aspiring National Park on a Wilderness Jet adventure. Jump in a funyak down the Dart River (like a kayak, but better). Or conquer the wild Shotover River on an adrenalin-pumping whitewater rafting experience. If you'd rather cruise in the slow-lane, sip your way through the Otago region or get your Fergburger take-away and head up to Queenstown Gardens for stunning views over The Remarkables. And tonight? Head to the Cookie Bar. We're talking: warm cookies, freakshakes, s'more, ice-cream...\*wipes drool from chin\*.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Funiyaking in Queenstown: from \$429
- Wilderness Jet adventure in Queenstown: from \$299
- Whitewater rafting down the Shotover River: from \$219

## DAY 16 | QUEENSTOWN – LAKE TEKAPO

Fuel up with an included brekkie 'cos we're heading to Lake Tekapo. Press your nose to the coach window and soak up all the stunning views racing past. Nestled between towering mountains, it's the perfect place to spend the last night of our Kiwi encounter. Add one of New Zealand's most photographed buildings to your camera roll with a visit to the Church of the Good Shepherd. The rest of the day is up to you. Go for a stroll along the shoreline (it's absolutely covered in colourful lupins between Nov and Feb). Fancy a spa day? Head to the Tekapo Springs hot pools for a soothing soak. Then: we're gonna give this trip the send-off it deserves at tonight's final group dinner. Afterwards, look to the heavens during an optional star-gazing experience. Lake Tekapo sits within a UNESCO Dark Sky Reserve, so prepared to be WOWED.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit to the Church of the Good Shepherd



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Tekapo Springs hot pools: from \$37
- Dark Sky stargazing in Lake Tekapo: from \$50

## DAY 17 | LAKE TEKAPO – CHRISTCHURCH

Ok, nobody panic – the adventure is coming to a close. But we're sure as hell not done yet! Squeeze in one last pano at Lake Tekapo before we make tracks for Christchurch. 17 days. 2 islands. 1 country. Countless thrills, spills and good times. One HUGE adventure. You embraced it all and shared the ride with a bunch of strangers who are now like family. But it's time to say goodbye. Reunion trip next year? 100%.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



# 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!**