

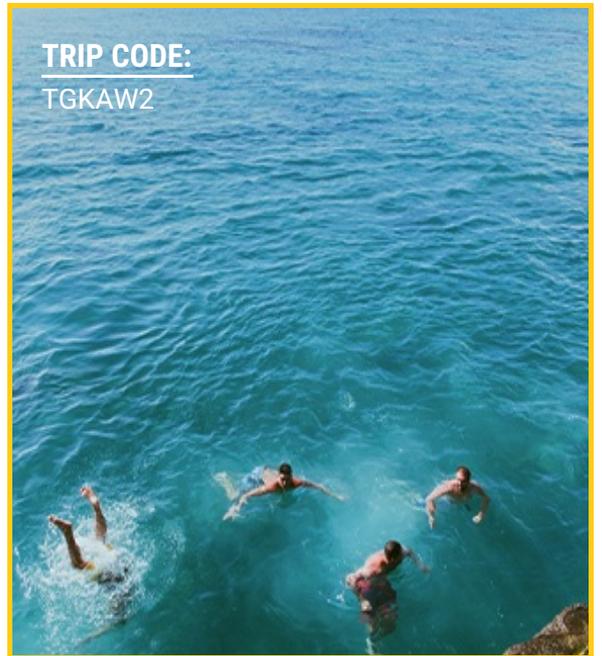
# Topdeck

## DELVE DEEP: NEW ZEALAND

### NORTH ISLAND



TRIP CODE:  
TGKAW2



## TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Eye-popping landscapes. Jaw-dropping activities. And local know-how by the bucketload. This trip isn't about seeing the North Island – it's about experiencing it. In all its spectacular, quirky, historic glory. Expect: towering volcanoes, roaring waterfalls, magical caves and out-of-this-world views. The adventure starts [HERE](#).

### WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



Nights



Android/iPhone  
app download  
[info](#)



This is a sector  
trip.

# 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 Whangarei Falls
- + Visit Mt Eden
- + Visit Waitomo Caves
- + Overnight stay in a traditional Maori marae and hangi dinner
- + Visit Te Puia geothermal reserve
- + Visit Lake Taupo and Huka Falls
- + Orientation walk of Tongariro National Park with Trip Leader

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Visit Whangarei Falls
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- + Visit Waitomo Caves
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## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Auckland  
New Zealand

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Wellington  
New Zealand

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- + New Zealand -

# YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME  
TRIP  
LEADER

## DAY 1 | AUCKLAND (NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND)

Kia ora! Welcome to Auckland: home to over 50 volcanos, this city sure is a blast (sorry not sorry). First up: meet the fellow explorers you'll be sharing the adventure with. Then: we'll dig into our first group dinner. Ready to delve deep into the North Island's mind-blowing landscapes and richer-than-rich culture? See you bright and early!



### MEALS:

+ Dinner

## DAY 2 | AUCKLAND – WHANGAREI FALLS – PAIHIA (BAY OF ISLANDS)

Wave goodbye to Auckland for now – we're heading for the jaw-dropping Bay of Islands. Fancy swinging by a natural wonder en route? You're in luck: the thundering Whangarei Falls awaits. Plunging into the Hatea River from a height of 26 metres, the waterfall's surrounded by giant kauri trees – sacred to the Maori people as protectors of the forest. Later, when we arrive in Paihia the evening's yours for exploring: we rec you hunt down some seafood chowder or 'fush and chups' along the harbour \*chef's kiss\*.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Whangarei Falls

## DAY 3 | PAIHIA

Today = options. Get your kayak on around the horseshoe-shaped Haruru Falls (spoiler: Haruru means 'big noise'). Opt for a bird's-eye view of the islands with an adrenalin-pumping skydive. Jump on a cruise around the 'Hole in the Rock' – no prizes for guessing what this is – to spot the area's celebrity dolphins. Or stick to solid ground with a tour of Cape Reinga (the tip of the island) and Ninety Mile Beach (lied on its CV – actually 55 miles long). All the adventuring got your stomach rumbling? Round up the fam and head to a waterfront bar for craft beer and burgers.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Kayaking at Haruru Falls:  
prices available locally
- + Skydiving: prices available  
locally
- + Hole in the Rock cruise:  
prices available locally
- + Cape Reinga and Ninety Mile  
Beach tour: prices available  
locally

## DAY 4 | PAIHIA – AUCKLAND

Guess who's back, back again? It's you – back in Auckland. Heck yes. First up: we'll climb the city's friendly neighbourhood volcano Mt Eden for incred panoramic views. Then: prepare to engage explorer mode – the rest of the day's up to you. Jump on the ferry to Rangitoto Island for more volcanic vibes. Drop by the hipster Ponsonby district for boho boutiques and quirky cafes. Soak up some culture at Auckland Art Gallery. Or switch off Google Maps and simply get lost in the unknown. And this evening? Make a beeline for Britomart: a foodie's heaven jam-packed with local eateries. Go get 'em.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Mt Eden

## DAY 5 | AUCKLAND – WAITOMO – MARAE STAY

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 strap in for a unique blackwater rafting experience (disclaimer: you're gonna get wet). Later, we'll receive a traditional welcome at the marae (Maori meeting ground) and will tuck into a hangi with the gang. Hear local Maori stories and learn the meaning of whanau as we bunk down in this sacred ancestral meeting place. This is as authentic as it gets.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Waitomo Caves

+ Overnight stay in a traditional Maori marae and hangi dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Visit Ruakuri Cave: from \$76

+ Blackwater rafting at Waitomo Caves: from \$147

## DAY 6 | MARAE – ROTORUA

To say Rotorua has it 'going on' would be the understatement of the century. We're talking: adrenalin-pumping activities, geothermal spas and mind-boggling movie sets. And you've got 24 hrs to embrace it all. 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. Play Tarzan on a sky-high canopy tour. Or race your trip mates inside a giant Zorb ball (when in NZ, right?). And for you thrill-dodgers, slap on a thermal mud mask and soak up alllll the healing properties of Rotorua's sulphur spas. Locals have been using them for over 800 years, so it's gotta have some benefits. Tonight is up to you, so gather the gang and compare today's thrills and spills at one of the local haunts in town.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Visit the Hobbiton movie set: from \$124

+ Canopy tour: from \$159

+ Visit the geothermal mud bath and spa: from \$75

+ Zorbing: from \$45

+ Whitewater rafting: from \$90

## DAY 7 | ROTORUA – LAKE TAUPO – TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

Before we make tracks today, there's a steamy visit to the geothermal valley of Te Puia on the cards. We'll check out Pohutu (think: poor-hoo-too) – the largest geyser in the Southern Hemisphere. Then: we'll make a stop at booming Huka Falls and play spot-the-extreme-kayaker as they tackle the immense 11-metre plunge down the canyon falls. Finally, we'll take in the A-Mazing views over Lake Taupo before putting our feet up at our accommodation near Tongariro National Park. What. A. Day.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Te Puia geothermal reserve
- + Visit Lake Taupo and Huka Falls

## DAY 8 | TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

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 four-wheeled adventuring is more your style, there's a quad biking excursion on the cards too. This evening, we'll give this legendary trip the send-off it deserves with one final group dinner.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Orientation walk of Tongariro National Park with Trip Leader



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Hike the Tongariro Alpine Crossing with a local guide: from \$195
- + Quad biking in Tongariro National Park: from \$155

## DAY 9 | TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK – WELLINGTON

Local culture? Tick. Epic landscapes? Tick. Time to leave? Tick. Sad face. Today we're making our way to Wellington where our North Island adventure draws to a close. BUT: it doesn't have to end like this. Hop on a flight to Christchurch and join our New Zealand South Island trip – the timings work out perfectly, we checked. You know you want to...



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast

## MEALS

Your included meals are detailed in the 'Included Essentials' section of this document.

Breakfasts (usually continental breakfasts) are included every day, except on the first morning of your trip. A typical continental breakfast may consist of cereals with milk or yoghurt, bread, croissants, cold meats, and cheese – with fruit juice, tea or coffee to drink. It is rare to get a hot breakfast in continental Europe, though on some occasions some hot food may be available.

Included meals will be provided at local restaurants and the accommodations in which we stay. In most cases, table water is provided with meals. If you wish to purchase additional drinks, you can do so at your own expense.

If you have any dietary requirements, we'll make every effort to cater to your needs – as long as you advise your travel agent or Customer Service Consultant when you book. You can also make a note of dietary requirements in the Topdeck app when you check in.

Please note: Although we'll do everything in our power to cater to your needs, we cannot guarantee this will be possible in every restaurant we visit. We also cannot cater to 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.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[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!)

Heading on our Namaste India trip? Your luggage is capped at 15kg, so maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

- + 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!**