



TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

(Previously called: Southern Explorer) TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Take one week of pure unadulterated Kiwi adventures and turn them into a trip of a lifetime. From the adrenalin-pumping capital of Queenstown to the jaw-dropping scenery of Franz Josef, Milford Sound and Mackenzie Region, this is your chance to see all this great southern island has to offer - with a bunch of mates just as stoked to be here as you are. It's time to dive in: you ready?

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 Hokitika
- + Visit Lake Matheson
- + Stay in the scenic Franz Josef region
- + Scenic cruise on Milford Sound (including lunch)
- + Mountain biking excursion in Arrowtown
- + Orientation walk of Christchurch with Trip Leader

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Visit Hokitika
- + Visit Lake Matheson
- + Stay in the scenic Franz Josef Glacier region
- + Scenic cruise on Milford Sound (including lunch)
- + Mountain biking in Arrowtown
- + Orientation walk of Christchurch with Trip Leader

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Christchurch
New Zealand

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Christchurch
New Zealand

TRIP CURRENCIES

- + New Zealand -

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER

DAY 1 | CHRISTCHURCH (SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND)

One minute you're stuck in that boring home routine, 'nek minnit' you're landing in Christchurch, meeting a bunch of people who are 100% different but 100% the same. We're kicking things off with an included group dinner – swap notes on all the weird and wonderful stuff you're planning to do. Get ready to delve into the South Island's local hot spots, legendary cities and mind-blowing natural wonders. See you in the morning!



MEALS:

+ Dinner

DAY 2 | CHRISTCHURCH – HOKITIKA – FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER REGION

In the mood to see Mother Nature showing off? You're in luck – today we're making tracks to one of New Zealand's most famous glaciers. But first up: historic Hokitika. Head to the beach and find the quirky sculpture made by the locals. Buy a pounamu (greenstone) for good luck. And give 'mountain oysters' a try (hint: Google it first). We'll make a photo stop at Lake Matheson to make your friends back home jealous AF – before rolling into the jaw-dropping Franz Josef Glacier region. Tonight: 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
- + Visit Lake Matheson
- + Stay in the scenic Franz Josef Glacier region

DAY 3 | FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER REGION – QUEENSTOWN

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 800 m 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. Then: we'll turn our attention to the adventure capital of the world. Get the lay of the land with your Trip Leader, then there's a group dinner on us. Later: hunker down in World Bar – with world-famous teapot cocktails, it's the perfect spot to make a plan for next three days.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Glacier Heli-hike excursion: from \$485
- + Scenic flight over Franz Josef: from \$280

DAY 4 | 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 be filled with pics 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. DW if all the above makes you want to run and hide – there's more here than death-defying antics. Take the skyline gondola for some incred views over Lake Wakatipu. Race your Topdeck buddies on the sky-high luge track. Jump aboard the TSS Earnslaw for a scenic cruise. Or strap on those Nikes and hike the Ben Lomond Saddle Loop – the views are worth the sore legs in the morning. Trust us. Tonight, head to Winnies and tuck into pizzas with toppings you can't prepare for – they're that good.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL

ACTIVITIES:

- + Jet boating in Queenstown: from \$129
- + Canyon swinging in Queenstown: from \$199
- + Bungy jumping in Queenstown: from \$205
- + Skydiving in Queenstown: from \$299

DAY 5 | QUEENSTOWN, INCLUDING MILFORD SOUND

Today, we'll take a break from all the high-octane screaming with a day trip to the mesmerising Milford Sound. Plaster your face to the window as we take the scenic route through Fiordland National Park. Then, 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). Tuck into lunch on board surrounded by a view you'll tell your children (12 cats) about for years to come. Then, back in Queenstown, gather your new mates and explore the local haunts – your Trip Leader knows 'em, just ask.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Scenic cruise on Milford Sound (including lunch)

DAY 6 | QUEENSTOWN

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 on a wine tour or get your Fergburger take-away and head up to Queenstown Gardens for stunning views over The Remarkables. Tonight: head to the Cookie Bar. We're talking warm cookies, freakshakes, s'more, ice-cream...*wipes drool from chin*.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL

ACTIVITIES:

- + Funyaking in Queenstown: from \$299
- + Wilderness Jet adventure in Queenstown: from \$209
- + Whitewater rafting down the Shotover River: from \$199

DAY 7 | QUEENSTOWN – ARROWTOWN – LAKE OHAU

Ok, nobody panic – the adventure is coming to a close. But we're sure as hell not done yet! Set the course for Arrowtown and stretch out those calves – there's a cycle along the banks of the historic Arrow River in store for today. Venture through some 'holy-sh*t'-worthy scenery, cross awe-inspiring suspension bridges and try not to stack it in front of your trip mates. Then: press your nose to the window and soak up all the incredible views racing past the coach window as we make our way to our lakeside-lodge for the night. Nestled between towering mountains and overlooking the sparkling lake, this is the perfect place to spend the last night of our southern expedition. We're gonna give this trip the send-off it deserves at tonight's final group dinner.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Mountain biking in Arrowtown

DAY 8 | LAKE OHAU – LAKE TEKAPO – CHRISTCHURCH

Squeeze in one last pano at Lake Tekapo before we make tracks for Christchurch. After a jaunt around the city with your fact-filled Trip Leader, it's time to say goodbye. Eight days. Countless thrills, spills and good times. You embraced it all and shared the adventure with a bunch of strangers who are now like family. Reunion trip next year? 100%.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Orientation walk of Christchurch with Trip Leader

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.

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!