



TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

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...

Heads up! This trip is a lil shorter (just two days) than our 2024-2025 departures. On this trip, you'll get two in one – your Trip Leader is also your Driver.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



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

- 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 - NZD

YOUR ITINERARY

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 \$585
- Scenic flight over Franz Josef: from \$385

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 \$139
- Canyon swinging in Queenstown: from \$249
- 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 \$399
- Wilderness Jet adventure in Queenstown: from \$279
- Whitewater rafting down the Shotover River: from \$219

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

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!