



TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Take 10 days 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 Wanaka, 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 longer than our 2023-2024 departures. You'll have two extra days to explore, plus a few more included experiences. Nice! Departing on 3 May, 7 May or 18 Oct? Your final night will be at Lake Tekapo instead of Lake Ohau. 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 Kaikoura
- Visit Hokitika
- Stay in the scenic Franz Josef Glacier region
- Visit Lake Matheson
- Orientation walk of Wanaka with Trip Leader
- Arrow River Bridges cycle ride
- Orientation walk of Queenstown with Trip Leader
- Scenic cruise on Milford Sound (including lunch)
- Wine tasting in Cromwell
- Visit to Church of the Good Shepherd

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, next minute 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 – KAIKOURA – HAMNER SPRINGS

In the mood to see Mother Nature showing off? Say hello to Hamner Springs. But first up: B-E-A-Utiful Kaikoura. Options here = soak up the laid back atmosphere in town, take a hike around the peninsula, 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. Fancy a spa afternoon? Once we reach Hamner Springs, make your way to its natural thermal pools. There's 22 in total, plus the complex also hosts New Zealand's biggest water slide: the Conical Thrill.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Kaikoura



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Whale watching in Kaikoura: prices available locally
- Visit Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa: prices available locally

DAY 3 | HAMNER SPRINGS – HOKITIKA – FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER REGION

You're in luck – today we're heading 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 give 'mountain oysters' a try (hint: Google it first). Then, it's time to roll into the jaw-dropping Franz Josef Glacier region. Here, you can work up an appetite during an optional kayaking session on Lake Mapourika. Need somewhere for dins? Your Trip Leader's got the recs.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

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



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Kayaking on Lake Mapourika: prices available locally

DAY 4 | FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER REGION – LAKE MATHESON – WANAKA

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. Then, it's time to move on to Lake Matheson. Cue: snapping photos that'll make your friends back home jealous AF. Later, we'll arrive into Wanaka: a lakeside, alpine town with some 'holy-sh*t'-worthy scenery. Get your bearings with your Trip Leader before hopping on an optional cruise. After snapping endless photos on the water, gather your mates for dinner. Our pick? Francesca's Italian Kitchen for yummy wood-fired pizza.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Lake Matheson
- Orientation walk of Wanaka with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Glacier heli-hike excursion in Franz Josef Glacier region: prices available locally
- Cruise on Lake Wanaka: prices available locally

DAY 5 | WANAKA – ARROWTOWN – QUEENSTOWN

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 and cross awe-inspiring suspension bridges. Then: we'll turn our attention to the adventure capital of the world! Get the lay of the land with your Trip Leader before enjoying some free time. Opt to race your Topdeck buddies on the sky-high luge track. Or try bungy jumping and try not to stack it in front of your trip mates. Then, there's a group dinner on us at Fergburger. Tonight you can hunker down in World Bar – with world-famous teapot cocktails, it's the perfect spot to make a plan for your full day in Queenstown.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Arrow River Bridges cycle ride
- Orientation walk of Queenstown with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bungy jumping in Queenstown: prices available locally
- Gondola and luge adventure in Queenstown: prices available locally

DAY 6 | 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. Jet boating. 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. Or visit Queenstown Gardens for stunning scenes of the 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:

- Jet boating in Queenstown: prices available locally
- Canyon swinging in Queenstown: prices available locally
- Skydiving in Queenstown: prices available locally

DAY 7 | QUEENSTOWN – TE ANAU

There's time for one last adrenaline rush and a final feed before we wave goodbye to Queenstown. Soak up all the incredible views racing past the coach window as we make our way to Te Anau. Stretch your legs with a walk around Ivon Wilson Park. Or keep your eyes peeled for rare tuis and kakas in the Te Anau Bird Sanctuary. Tonight: seek out the resident glow worms on an after-dark adventure – just ask your in-the-know Trip Leader.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Te Anau Bird Sanctuary: free
- Glow worm cave tour in Te Anau: prices available locally

DAY 8 | TE ANAU – MILFORD SOUND – TE ANAU

Today, it's time for a 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. Back in Te Anau, gather your 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 9 | TE ANAU – CROMWELL – LAKE OHAU

Fuel up with an included brekkie 'cos it's time to make tracks to our final overnight stop of the trip: Lake Ohau. First, there's a wine tasting tour on the cards in Cromwell. The Central Otago town is famous for its Pinot. Prefer a cool glass of Savvie B? There's plenty of that, too. Then, onto Lake Ohau. Nestled between towering mountains and overlooking the sparkling lake, it's 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:

- Wine tasting in Cromwell

DAY 10 | LAKE OHAU – LAKE TEKAPO – CHRISTCHURCH

Ok, nobody panic – the adventure is coming to a close. But we're sure as hell not done yet! Lake Tekapo is calling. Add one of New Zealand's most photographed buildings to your camera roll with a visit to the Church of the Good Shepherd along the shoreline. Then, we'll make tracks for Christchurch where 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:

- Visit to Church of the Good Shepherd

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!