

Topdeck

DELVE DEEP: NEW ZEALAND

NORTH ISLAND



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...

On this trip, you'll get two in one - your Trip Leader is also your Driver. On night 5 we'll be staying in a traditional marae, where all accommodation is shared (no single supplement available).

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 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

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Auckland
New Zealand

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Wellington
New Zealand

TRIP CURRENCIES

- New Zealand - NZD

YOUR ITINERARY

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 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:

- Skydiving in the Bay of Islands: from \$299
- Hole in the Rock cruise: from \$120
- Cape Reinga and Ninety Mile Beach tour: from \$145

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 \$70
- Blackwater rafting at Waitomo Caves: from \$109

DAY 6 | MARAE – ROTORUA

To say Rotorua has it 'going on' would be the understatement of the century. We're talking: adrenalin-pumping activities 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?). 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 \$150
- Canopy tour: from \$169
- Zorbing in Rotorua: from \$145
- Whitewater rafting in Rotorua: from \$119

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 (June to September): from \$295
- 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

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!