!

×

Note that this tour utilizes a variety of accommodation including hostels. See the 'About Accommodation' section of the trip details for more information.

Last Updated: September 17, 2014

New Zealand Encompassed - ONNZ

24 days: Auckland to Auckland

What's Included

Snorkelling, kayaking and hiking (Bay of Islands). Conservation farm visit (Raglan). Sea kayaking excursions (Raglan & Doubtful Sound). Surf lesson (Raglan). Maori cultural experience. Tongariro Alpine Crossing (seasonal). Te Papa Museum (Wellington). Visit to a seal colony. Walks in Franz Josef and Abel Tasman National Parks. Mountain biking excursion (Central Otago). Orientation walks in Wellington and Christchurch. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2014 - October 14th, 2014

Itinerary

Day 1 Auckland

Arrive in Auckland at any time. There are no planned activities during the day, so check into the hotel and explore the city. Please try to arrive before 7pm for an important group welcome meeting where you can meet the Chief Experience Officer (CEO) and the other group members. If you arrive early enough, you'll have time to head into the city to visit the Maritime Museum, walk the waterfront, or even take the ferry to Waiheke Island.

Please note: if you have pre-booked the Auckland Sailing and Queenstown Jet Boat your CEO will inform you when you will do the activity throughout your tour, days are subject to change: Sailing (Day 1 - Auckland) and Jet Boat (Day 16 - Queenstown). For more information on the Extra see the Optional Activities section. Make sure you book your accommodation and flights accordingly for Day 1.

Day 2-3 Paihia, Bay of Islands (2B,1L,2D)

***Please note: For the departure on August 13th 2014, the itinerary has changed because the boat house will be dry docked for maintenance. For Days 2 and 3 the group will overnight in Paihia. On Day 3, the group will board a yacht for a full day trip to Bay of Islands. Included lunch, kayaking, snorkelling and island walks.

Depart early and travel to a local reserve with giant kauri trees, native to New Zealand these trees are some of the largest in the world. Learn about their importance to the European settlement in New Zealand. Continue to the Goat Island Marine Reserve where snorkelling amongst abundant sea life is an included activity.

*Please note: during the winter months (late April - early Nov) Goat Island snorkling will be cancelled due to an earlier departure time on The Rock (the boat where you will be spending the night). As a result, there will be more time for activities on board The Rock.

Continue on to the Bay of Islands and embark on the boat which will be your home for the night. All activities and meals on board are included. Activities include: fishing, kayaking, swimming, target shooting, shell fish gathering, dolphin spotting and walking on a

remote island. The night is spent anchored at a secluded bay.

On Day 3 enjoy a morning of activities from our boat base. Then travel back to the mainland, walk around the small town of Paihia. An optional visit to the Treaty House in the nearby town of Waitangi is highly recommended. Waitangi is the location where on 6 February 1840, European settlers and local Moari signed an agreement on ownership of the land, and gave M■ori the rights of British subjects. The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand. An optional visit to the treaty grounds with a guided tour is highly recommended (approximate cost NZD$25).

Overnight in a hostel in Paihia and savour an included barbeque dinner.

Estimated travel time: 4 hours
Travel distance: 250 km

Day 4 Auckland (1B)

Take advantage of optional morning activities such as skydiving, dolphin watching, fishing or visiting the historic town of Russel. Travel back to Auckland.

Estimated travel time: 4 hours
Travel distance: 250 km

Day 5-6 Raglan (2B,1L,1D)

Travel the backroads to a remote conservation farm where they are using natural means to boost the stocks of traditionally farmed marine life. They have created a balanced ecosystem to attract the native birds and animals back to the area. Kayak to a remote part of the harbour for a picnic lunch and boat cruise before heading to our lodge in the famous surf and arts town of Raglan for the night. Nestled in native bush overlooking the sea, the lodge is located near one of the most famous surf breaks in the world. They also have a vegetable garden where they use as much fresh produce as they can and they treat their own waste adding to the sustainability of the lodge

On Day 6 head down to the beach for an included surf lesson. The instructor chooses a secluded and safe part of the beach and we use large boards to ensure that you stand up and ride a wave. The afternoon is open for optional activities such as bone carving with local maori, mountain biking or exploring the many walks. At night opt for a fish and chips dinner.

Note: There has been a change to the original itinerary to include Raglan instead of the Coromandel, which also affects the inclusions on these days. We feel that Raglan is a better destination for our travellers because it offers a more comprehensive experience that includes more interaction with locals, a wider variety of activities (e.g. surfing), and also demonstrates our support of sustainable initiatives, such as the native fish farm found in Raglan.

Estimated travel time: 3 hours
Travel distance: 160 km

Day 7 Rotorua/Maori Village Visit (1B,1D)

Depending on the weather conditions and the desires of the group, we have an option to visit the Waitomo caves, famous for their glow worms. The glow worm is unique to New Zealand. Hundreds of thousands of these tiny creatures radiate their luminescent light in underground caves calved by rivers and time. Enjoy the tranquil boat ride under magical glowworms and become a part of over 120 years of cultural and natural history. For the adventurous, there is the option of ‘black water rafting’ (floating in an inner tube along the river, approximate cost NZD$120).

Please note that if you choose to go to the Waitomo caves there is not enough time to go either skydiving or rafting in Rotorua. Your CEO will explain the pros and cons of these choices upon arrival.

Continue to Rotorua for an engaging cultural experience on the grounds of a historic Maori village. Dine this evening in picnic fashion on traditional maori food (Hangi).

Estimated travel time: 4 hours
Travel distance: 250 km

Day 8 National Park (1B,1D)

An early start to walk across the Tongariro Crossing, New Zealand's top-rated 1-day trek. Collecting supplies before the trek, the transfer will drop the group off for the self-guided trek and collect eveyone at the other end. Experience spectacular views while traversing across the volcanic range, one volcano is currently active. We ensure that you are prepared by going through a safety

checklist and taking you to buy the supplies you might not have for the 19.4 km trek. The elements can consistently be changing, remember to dress accordingly and bring snacks. If the weather is too bad for the trek there will be alternative options such as smaller walks in the area or a visit to remote hot springs. Additionally, if you do not wish to do the Tongariro Crossing other activities can be arranged.

*Please note: In the winter months (usually between June and October) when there is snow on the mountains the crossing can only be done with special equipment and a guide. If you still wish to do the crossing your CEO can arrange it and there will be an extra cost of around $100 for the equipment and guidance. If you do not wish to do the walk in such conditions we include a couple of shorter walks and visit the Volcanic Information Centre as an alternative activity during these months.

After finishing the trek travel to a ski lodge on the side of a mountain for the night. A spa and sauna on site will help ease those tired muscles.

Estimated travel time: 3 hours driving time, walking time depending on group speed and size.
Travel distance: 180 km driving, 19.4 km walking

Day 9 Wellington (1B)

Travel to the capital city, Wellington. Arrive early enough for a visit to New Zealand's National Museum, a must-see with great displays of historical Maori artifacts and relatively modern exhibits such as the motorbike that was built in a shed and won the world championships. A short walk from our accommodation displays the sights of the coastal central business district. Finish the day off with an optional night on the town.

A suggested activity is to take a taxi to the nearby suburb of Miramar, and visit Weta Workshops. Here, marvel at the creative team behind the Lord Of The Rings, and many other feature films. Entrance is free.

Estimated travel time: 5 hours
Travel distance: 400 km

Day 10-11 Abel Tasman National Park (2B,2D)

The itinerary for Abel Tasman National Park varies in summer and winter months.

SUMMER (MID NOV - MID APRIL):
Catch a morning ferry and cross the scenic Cook Strait. Make sure to stand outside and enjoy the views of the Marlborough Sounds at the top of the South Island. Disembark and transfer to Abel Tasman National Park, well-known for its stunning white-sand beaches. Board a water taxi to transfer our home in the middle of the National Park. Depending on weather conditions the night will be spent on a floating boat hostel or in a local campsite.

Spend Day 11 exploring Abel Tasman National Park by following the various walks throughout the park. Walk along a coastline track to one of the world's most scenic golden sand beaches. The walk from Anchorage to Marahau is approx 12.4km (4 hours).

Optional activity: sailing in the Abel Tasman.

Overnight in a floating boat hostel or in a local campsite.

*Please note that due to operational reasons, the following departure will be adhering to the winter itinerary:
2014: March 9

WINTER (LATE APRIL - EARLY NOV)
Catch a morning ferry and cross the scenic Cook Strait. Make sure to stand outside and enjoy the views of the Marlborough Sounds at the top of the South Island. Disembark and transfer to our bus for a journey to the Abel Tasman National Park, well-known for its stunning white-sand beaches. For the next two nights we overnight in cabins in a true rural setting on the edge of the park.

Day 11 starts with an accelerating water taxi ride into the Abel Tasman National Park. Walk along a coastline track to one of the world's most scenic golden sand beaches. The walk from Anchorage to Marahau is approx 12.4km (4 hours). Share stories about your day over a group meal as you complete your experience in the Abel Tasman.

Optional activities: sailing and kayaking day trips in the Abel Tasman.

Overnight in Cabins in a true rural setting on the edge of the park.

Estimated travel time: 3 hours drive, 3 hour ferry, 30 min boat
Travel distance: 200 km drive

Day 12 Punakaiki (1B,1D)

Morning drive through the stunning Buller Gorge to the West Coast of the South Island. Visit the Cape Foulwind seal colony, then follow the stunning coastal road down to our beach camp in Punakaiki for the night. Opt to kayak the river into the Paparoa National Park or stick to the local trails for some day hikes. The evening offers an opportunity to express our cooking skills and create a group meal together!

Estimated travel time: 4 hour drive, 30 min boat trip
Travel distance: 250 km

Day 13-14 Franz Josef (2B,1D)

Trek the famous Punakaiki 'Pancake Rocks' walk and continue following the coastal road towards Franz Josef arriving at a unique wilderness lodge set in the rainforest for the night.

Day 14 is a free day for optional activities. Options include various hikes, horseback riding and quad biking.

Estimated travel time: 4 hours
Travel distance: 220 km

Day 15-17 Queenstown (3B)

Early start to travel to the picturesque Lake Matheson. When the weather is right you can get a great photo of the Southern Alps reflected in the lake. Follow the wild West Coast Road, through the rainforest before stopping for some small walks and waterfall visits. Adrenaline junkies will be happy with a stop at the world's original commercial bungee site. Opt to take the plunge or simply observe the site where it all started while getting some great pictures of those who do decide to jump.

Days 16 and 17 are free days to maximize time for all the optional activities in the area. Opt for a jet boating outing, bungee jumping, mountain biking, sky diving, or a vineyard tour. The options in this adventure capital are endless. Three nights at a centrally-located hostel means that fitting everything in won't be too hard.

*Please note - in the winter months (late April - early Nov) skiing and snowboarding in the Southern Alps is a highlight for any visitor. Most of the aforementioned activities are also available, ask your CEO which ones are in season.

Estimated travel time: 5 hours
Travel distance: 365 km

Day 18 Doubtful Sound (1B,1L,1D)

Travel to Fiordland National Park, one of the most stunningly rugged places on earth - think 'Lord of the Rings' country. Take a boat across Lake Manapouri to meet the local kayaking guides. Spend the afternoon on a guided 3 hour interpretive bush walk in deep cove with a visit to Helena Falls. The night is spent in a lodge on the edge of Doubtful Sound. The following day we engage in a 4-5 hour kayaking trip through the national park below towering cliffs and waterfalls while admiring the wild rainforest terrain. Spot dolphins, seals and penguins as the abundant birdlife surrounds you.

Note: Depending on weather the walk and kayak may be reversed to fall on different days.

Estimated travel time: 4 hours
Travel distance: 250 km

Day 19-20 Central Otago (2B,1D)

Spend the morning paddling back to the wharf, then transfer by bus to the historic central Otago mining counry. Overnight in a historic miners hotel.

Day 20 drive to one of the best starting points of the Historic Otago Rail Trail. Spend the better part of the day cycling (easy gradient) through stunning scenery along 35km of the old rail trail. In the evening opt to try your hand at luging and/or curling at the only year-round curling facility in Australasia.

Estimated travel time: 5 hours
Travel distance: 350 km

Day 21 Christchurch (1B)

Drive through breathtaking central Otago, stopping at historic towns to buy supplies for a picnic lunch. Arrive to Christchurch in the early afternoon, stretch the legs with a short walk through Hagley park to the downtown district. Get to know sights around the central business district and witness the rebuilding that is going on in this recently devastated city.

Estimated travel time: 5 hours
Travel distance: 400 km

Day 22 Kaikoura (1B,1D)

Early start to drive the scenic coastal road up to Kaikoua. The views are breathtaking in this small town where the mountains meet the ocean. The just off shore deep water Hikurangi Trench brings an abundance of marine life very close to the shoreline. This is one of the premier spots in the world for whale watching.

A free afternoon can also be spent swimming with dolphins, visiting a colony of Southern Fur seals, or taking a scenic flight over the peninsula. Bird watchers will be pleased to know that big ocean birds such as albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters frequent the area.

Hikers can opt to go on several day hikes in the Seaward Kaikoura mountains, part of the Southern Alps range, that provide an excellent backdrop to the town's picturesque landscape. One of the most popular routes is the Kaikoura peninsula walkway that starts at a seal colony and provides excellent sea and mountain views.

In Maori, “Kai” means food, and “Koura” means crayfish. Be sure to sample the delicious offerings from the sea.

Estimated travel time: 3 hours
Travel distance: 180 km

Day 23 Wellington (1B)

Visit the seal colony before embarking on the ferry from Picton to Wellington. Opt to visit New Zealand's National Museum, Te Papa. This is a must-see with great displays of historical Maori artifacts and relatively modern exhibits such as the motorbike that was built in a shed and won the world championships. Entrance to the museum is free (but there is a charge for special exhibits). Be sure to find the stairwell just outside the entrance and descent into the foundations of the building. See how the museum is constructed on shock absorbers to withstand the many earthquakes New Zealand encounters.

A short walk from our accommodation displays the sights of the coastal central business district. Finish the day off with an optional night on the town. Wellington has an abundance of nightlife, bars, cafes and restaurants all located on and around the entertainment district of Courtenay Place. Wellington is also renowned for its coffee – be sure to grab a cup of java from one of the many cafes.

Estimated travel time: 2 hours
Travel distance: 150 km

Day 24 Auckland (1B)

Travel through the centre of the North Island making a stop for lunch in the king country town of Tamaranui. Tour ends upon arrival in Auckland around 7pm. Feel free to book onward travel anytime after 10:30pm.

Estimated travel time: 9 hours
Travel distance: 650 km

What's Included

Snorkelling, kayaking and hiking (Bay of Islands). Conservation farm visit (Raglan). Sea kayaking excursions (Raglan & Doubtful Sound). Surf lesson (Raglan). Maori cultural experience. Tongariro Alpine Crossing (seasonal). Te Papa Museum (Wellington). Visit to a seal colony. Walks in Franz Josef and Abel Tasman National Parks. Mountain biking excursion (Central Otago). Orientation walks in Wellington and Christchurch. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

Highlights

Learn about the Maori culture, explore the Bay of Islands, trek the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, get an adrenaline rush in Queenstown, weave through the remote fjords of the Doubtful Sound by sea kayak.

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Important Notes

This tour is a combination of several G Adventures tours, and your CEO, fellow passengers or vehicle may change between the individual tour sections.

Group Leader Description

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The CEO will be the group manager, leader and driver - this person is experienced in the routes travelled and will organize and lead the meal preparations and has experience in cooking a variety of local and international dishes for large groups.

As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

Group Size Notes

Max 20, avg 16

Meals Included

23 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 11 dinners.

Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. The above information applies to G Adventures group trips. For Independent trips please check the itinerary for details of meals included. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

Please note that most included breakfasts will consist of cereal, milk, bread and spreads, juice, tea and instant coffee. Having a simple breakfast together most days allows us the flexibility to get on the road early and get from point A to B all that much faster.

Meal Budget

Allow NZD400-500 for meals not included.

Transport

Private bus, kayak, boat, ferry

About our Transportation

Our vans are mini-coaches (20-seat vans). Occasionally with smaller group sizes we will use smaller, equally comfortable 13-seater vehicles. Mini-coaches tow a trailer for luggage and equipment (only when needed). All groups have one CEO/Driver.

The vehicles are factory built, with comfortable seats and air-conditioning. They are fitted with seat belts and it is mandatory to wear them.

Solo Travellers

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Hostels (10 nts), basic hotels (4 nts), houseboat (1 nt), basic lodges (7 nts), floating boat hostel (1 nt in summer, cabin in winter months). Most nights are multi-share.

About Accommodation

Multi-share accommodation (typically 4-6 people per room) is very common in New Zealand and is the way you will be spending most of your nights. We have specifically chosen unique accommodations to give local flavour to your trip.

Accommodation will be varied throughout your adventure. Towels and soap are not always provided at overnight stops, so it's best to bring your own for bathing. Bathroom and showering facilities are shared and are very rarely en-suite.

Joining Hotel

Nomads Auckland
16-20 Fort Street
Auckland, New Zealand 1010
Tel: 0508 666 237

Joining Instructions

By Taxi: $70-80, approximately 30 minutes.

By Shuttle Bus: $33 for 1 person, $8 per additional. The "Super Shuttle" is a 24-hour service that takes approximately 1 hour. The shuttle waits outside of the terminal and provides door-to-door service.

By Air Bus: $16 per person. Leaves from outside the airport terminal every 10-15 minutes and takes approximately 1 hour.

Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact G Adventures during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our local office in Melbourne. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so we may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS
G Adventures Local Office (Melbourne)
During office hours, 9am-5pm Local Time
From outside Australia: +61 3 9413 58020
From within Australia: 03 9413 5820

After Hours Emergency Number (Australia) +61 430 321 725

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local operations manager, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100
Calls from UK: 0844 272 0000
Calls from Germany: 01805 70 90 30 00
Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618
Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307
Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

Finishing Point Instructions

Onwards travel can be arranged anytime after 10:30pm on the file day of the tour.

What to Take

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. We recommend the use of a well-labeled duffel bag, soft bag or backpack (whichever you find easiest to carry). Suitcases or heavy luggage are not recommended for the health of the CEO! A good size day-pack (20-35L) is also essential as you will have the chance to walk and hike in different national parks during these trips. This daypack will be used to carry your personal gear for the day, your lunch and a water bottle.

For days in the outdoors, we recommend the use of lightweight, breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics made of wool or synthetic fibers. Cotton is not recommended for days spent hiking as it does not allow for heat or moisture to enter or escape, and it will not dry easily once wet.

Checklist

Documents:
•Passport (with photocopies)
•Travel insurance (with photocopies)
•Airline tickets (with photocopies)
•NZD cash
•Credit or debit card (see personal spending money)
•G Adventures vouchers, pre-departure information and dossier
•Any entry visas or vaccination certificates required

Suggested Items:
•Light fleece top
•Light windproof/waterproof jacket
•Towel (quickdry recommended
•Swimwear
•Sun hat
•Personal clothing for mild to hot weather (check weather forecast for time of year you'll be visiting)
•Sturdy walking shoes
•Sunblock
•Sunglasses
•Toiletries (biodegradable)
•Watch or alarm clock

•Water bottle
•Money belt
•Flashlight or headlamp
•Camera, memory card(s) and charger
•Electricity plug adapter
•First-aid kit (should contain lip salve, Aspirin, bandaids, anti-histamine, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, insect repellent, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)

Optional Items: reading/writing material, maps, guidebooks, iPod, iReader, earplugs
Note: There is no need to bring a sleeping bag for the camping portion of this tour.

Visas

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

The currency in New Zealand is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in New Zealand and can be used to purchase small and large items. When purchasing products or services with a foreign credit card you may be charged additional fees by your credit card company for foreign purchases.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Both Visa and Master Cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work check with your bank before you travel. A visit to an ATM can be arranged on Day 1 and other days of the trip.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of local currency (preferably smaller bills, 5's, 10's and 20's), traveller’s cheques and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is easy to find in New Zealand in the gateway cities and most banks do accommodate.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD $200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Tipping

It is not customary in New Zealand or Australia to tip service providers, but if you do experience outstanding service it is good to do so. Such service would only usually be in places like quality restaurants and it would be very rare that you would tip more than 10%. Unless specifically asked to do so at the time (by your CEO) - do not tip your local guides. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, you may consider a small tip - but it certainly isn't expected.

Optional Activities

PERSONALIZE YOUR TRIP
Extras are specially designed for travellers with unique interests, they are optional add-ons to your G adventures trip that make your adventure more you-centric. Extras must be booked prior to departure.

For specific days of each activity please see the Full Itinerary

AUCKLAND SAILING: AMERICA'S CUP MATCH RACE
Auckland - 3 hours

As part of the boat crew, you'll work together with your teammates to sail your way to victory in this competitive yacht race during New Zealand summer. Either take the helm and participate or sit back and enjoy the spectacle - the choice is yours.

Please note: Sailing is on Day 1, make sure you book your accommodation and flights accordingly.

QUEENSTOWN JET BOATING
Queenstown, Half-day

It's a jet-boating ride along the Shotover River of Queenstown - need we say more? Okay, how about this - imagine a white-water ride with the turns and paces expertly done by a trained driver. All you need to do is strap in and get ready to get wet.

Optionals Booked Locally:

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES ON TOUR
All prices are per person, in NZD amounts and are subject to change as services are provided by third party operators. Please note there may be weight restrictions on certain activities (eg skydiving 100 - 110 kg).

PAIHIA:
Discover the Bay ‘Hole in the Rock’ Cruise $95
Swim with Dolphins Cruise $89 (+$15 POB to swim)
Waitangi Treaty Grounds $25 (admission only)

RAGLAN:
Bone Carving $89
Mountain Bike Tour $49
Maori Marae Experience $49

WAITOMO:
Tumu Tumu Tubing (blackwater rafting with walking, climbing, swimming and tubing through the Tumu Tumu cave) $138.40
Lost World 4 hour (abseil 100m to embark on a journey through a spectacular dry cavern) $260
St Benedicts Caverns (two abseils and a flying fox experience) $138.40

ROTORUA:
Zorb $45
Skydiving $269 (9000ft) $429 (15000ft)
Luge $46
White Water Rafting $95

ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK:
Kayaking Full Day Tour $165-$190

FRANZ JOSEF:
Ice Explorer Guided Hike (Heli transfer) $325
Heli Hike $429

QUEENSTOWN:
Bungy Jumping $180-$260
Swing $180 ($160 pp Tandem)

Jet Boat Skydive $129
Ziptrek $129-$179
Mountain Biking (Skippers Guided Tour) $129
Lord of the Rings Horse Riding Tour $195
Vineyard Cycle Tour $155
Skyline Luge - Gondola and Dinner $76

NASEBY:
Curling $20

KAIKOURA:
Whale Watch $145
Dolphin Swimming $170
Seal Swim $80-$110

Please note: Usually there is time for one activity in each location (except Queenstown where there are two free days for activities).

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewelery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. Read more about travel safety for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

Medical Form

Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that, as a minimum, an average level of fitness and mobility' is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our CEOs work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at:

www.gadventures.com/medical-form.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our

travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our group leader has the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

Planeterra is G Adventures' non-profit foundation created to make a positive difference in the communities where G Adventures takes travellers. Planeterra supports sustainable social and environmental solutions in destinations travellers love to visit.

As travellers, it's natural to want to give back to the places we've come to love. But to truly impact poverty, we work to build self-sufficiency, not dependency.

Planeterra partners with grassroots organizations with firsthand knowledge of local culture and true community needs. This ensures that solutions come from the people we support. Then G Adventures brings travellers to visit, fuelling sustainable local income in these communities. This model is helping many rural and marginalized communities on their way to self-sufficiency because they are harnessing the power of the tourism industry as a force for good. G Adventures matches all individual donations and pays all administration costs, which means that 100% of each donation is doubled and goes directly to support our projects. For more information about Planeterra and the projects we support, or to make a donation, please visit planeterra.org.

MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT
Fifty percent of our planet lives on less than $2/day. For the price of a coffee, you can make every day of your trip count by giving back to the communities you visit through Planeterra.

To participate in this program please indicate at the time of booking that you would like to participate in G Adventures' Dollar-A-Day program, either by clicking the check box online, or by advising your G Adventures specialist or travel agent. (Note: Donation will be charged in the currency of your booking).

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customerservice@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for Planeterra's monthly news to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Travel Forum - The Watering Hole

Be sure to stop by The Watering Hole, our adventure travel forum. If you're interested in meeting others booked on your upcoming trip, check out the Departure Lounge section of our forum and introduce yourself. Otherwise, just drop in at anytime to share some travel tips, ask questions, meet other travellers and quench your thirst for travel. Our forum is located at wateringhole.gadventures.com.