



Solo-ish Down-Under

25 days, Auckland to Cairns

Trip code ONAU

What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Kohutapu Lodge Experience, Murupara
- Dinner Party: Dinner Party, Auckland

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- We Day: Mt Eden Summit Walk, Auckland
- We Day: Kohutapu Tribal Tour, Rotorua
- Your Discover Moment: Franz Josef
- Me Day: Queenstown Me Day, Queenstown
- Dinner Party: Melbourne Cooking Class, Melbourne
- G Day: Queen Victoria Market & Melbourne Street Tour, Melbourne
- We Day: French Island Day Trip, French Island
- Me Day: Sydney Me Day, Sydney
- Complimentary arrival transfer
- Mt Eden Summit Walk
- Cruise Lake Rotoiti to hot springs
- Free time in Rotorua
- Full day immersion with Kohutapu Lodge
- Waitomo Glow Worm Caves
- Visit to Kaikoura Seal Colony
- Free time in Kaikoura
- Hike Hokitika Gorge
- Franz Glacier Trek
- Free time in Franz Josef
- Full Day Cruise at Doubtful Sound
- Free time in Queenstown
- Tour Queen Victoria Market
- Laneways Street Art Tour with your CEO
- Full day 4x4 excursion to French Island to spot Koalas
- Guided walks at Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park
- Full Service Desert Tented Camp stay in the Red Centre
- Sunset at Uluru
- Guided Hiking at Kings Canyon
- Visit to Telegraph Station
- Day trip to Manly Beach
- Free time in Sydney
- Kuranda Skyrail
- Free time in Cairns
- Internal airfare
- Transport to/from all 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 October 22nd, 2024 and onwards

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

Dinner Party: Auckland

Kia Ora and welcome to New Zealand! After taking your included arrival transfer to the hotel, join your fellow solo-ish travellers for a welcome meeting. Then get hands on with a cooking class! Alongside your new mates, cook up a fresh and delicious Kiwi meal while getting to know the people you're travelling with.

Make sure to arrive no later than 3:00 pm as to not miss your local cooking class.

Or Jump right into your adventure by adding the 'Auckland Sailing: America's Cup Experience' extra to your tour. Work with a crew to sail around Auckland's Waitemata Harbour on a competitive yacht, and take in the stunning views. PLEASE NOTE: If booking this extra, a pre-night in Auckland is highly recommended as this activity may start early in the morning on Day 1.



Meals included

Dinner



Accommodation

Oaks Auckland Hotel (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Food is a universal language, and there's no better way to get to know a new friend, or a new community, than by breaking bread together and digging in to a delicious meal. New Zealand is famous for having extremely fresh and local ingredients in their dishes. Use these beautiful ingredients to make an amazing meal of Ika Mata, coconut milk ceviche, and Horopito roasted Lamb Rump, then sit down with your fellow solo-ish travellers and enjoy the feast!

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards.



Optional Activities - Day 1

Auckland Sailing: America's Cup Experience (Pre Tour)

Auckland

210NZD

As part of the boat crew, you'll work together with your teammates to sail around Auckland's Waitemata Harbour in this competitive yacht. Either take the helm and participate or sit back and enjoy the spectacle - the choice is yours.

After grabbing your first Kiwi breakfast, join your CEO for a guided walk up to the Mt Eden Summit. The views of Auckland at the top are incredible—so don't forget to take some photos. Later, make your way south to Rotorua where you can choose to enjoy a lunch stop at Eat Street, a local block of popular food stalls and restaurants. In the afternoon, join your fellow Solo-ish travel mates and board a boat to cross Lake Rotoiti, with a surprise en route. Together we'll relax lakeside in hot springs, nestled within the bush. A pretty awesome day to enjoy Rotorua and to get to know your group.



Meals included

Dinner



Accommodation

Sudima Lake Rotorua (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Auckland - Rotorua

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Lake Rotoiti Hot Pools

Rotorua

Take a water taxi across Lake Rotoiti to the geothermal pools. Jump between the cold lake water and the hot springs, walk through the bush that engulfs the spring pools and grab a beer or coffee from the cafe onsite.

ACTIVITY

With your incredible CEO at the helm, get to know the local community and your Solo-ish travel mates on a day packed full of interesting and engaging adventures. Join your CEO for a trek up Mt Eden, or Maungawhau, which means 'mountain of the whau tree'. This area was one of the largest and most elaborate Māori settlements in the region. At the top, enjoy spectacular 360 views over Auckland.

Together we head to the Maori-owned Kohutapu Lodge, to explore New Zealand's Indigenous culture on this full day excursion. Learn how a hangi lunch is prepared in an underground pit, the traditional way, and enjoy the feast with your Maori hosts. Learn about traditional eel traps and be welcomed into a traditional marae. Walk through the 800-year-old podocarp trees in the Whirinaki Rainforest to learn about the history of the forest and spot endemic birds and medicinal plants. Today's adventure is one of New Zealand's most authentic and community-based Indigenous programs, and will surely stand out as a highlight of your Solo-ish Adventure.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Accommodation

Sudima Lake Rotorua (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

With your incredible CEO at the helm, get to know the local community and your Solo-ish travel mates on a day packed full of interesting and engaging adventures. Travel to Kohutapu Lodge, a social enterprise owned by a local Maori family who are making a difference in their local community through community-driven initiatives. Led by your Maori guide, start the day at Lake Aniwhenua Domain and be welcomed onto tribal lands by your guide. Watch as the guide sets the traditional eel traps, a method still being used today. Next, witness the laying of a ground cooked hangi that you will have the opportunity to taste later in the day. Continue with your Maori guide and enjoy a number of additional activities, all based around the community and what may be happening the day of your visit. Finally indulge in a delicious hangi lunch-the very same you watched be put underground to cook. Conclude the day in Whirinaki rainforest- a Jurassic Podocarp forest- where you will be led by your Maori guide to discover more about the Maori culture and learn about the history of the forest. Spend a final few moments bathed in the forest's sights and smells while indulging in a cup of hot kawakawa tea.

ACTIVITY

Kohutapu Lodge hosts travelers with their Tribal Ancestor's beliefs at the core of their mission, and have worked to use tourism as a way to support their community. Located in the heart of Ngāti Manawa's remote tribal lands and Māori-owned, Kohutapu Lodge offers opportunities where our people can be paid to be themselves in a community that faces high unemployment. Feel welcomed and connected to Aotearoa during today's visit.

Day 4

Rotorua: Free Day

A full day free gives you the opportunity to explore this unique town how you want. With seemingly endless options, choose to visit some hot springs, go white water rafting or explore from the treetops on a Rotorua Canopy Tour.



Meals included

Breakfast



Accommodation

Sudima Lake Rotorua (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Free Time

Rotorua

Enjoy a free day to explore this lakeside adventure town.



Optional Activities - Day 4

Whitewater Rafting

Rotorua

135NZD

2h-3h

Get your adrenaline fix on this exhilarating white water rafting trip. Enjoy the amazing scenery along the way, but don't forget to paddle!

Rotorua Canopy Tours

Rotorua

199-269NZD

3h-3h30m

Experience life among the treetops of a Kiwi forest through this one-of-a-kind nature tour. Gain a whole new perspective on the plants, animals, and insects that call this environment home, and learn about conservation efforts to protect the region's subtropical forests. Opt to book the Original Canopy Tour (3 hrs) or the Ultimate Canopy Tour (3.5 hrs).

Hot Springs

Rotorua

50-360NZD

Soak tired muscles in the area's natural hot springs and let the mineral water work its magic. Rotorua is home to a number of amazing geothermal parks – be sure you don't miss the healing and relaxing benefits of the city's naturally heated waters.

Day 5

Rotorua to Auckland: Glow Worm Caves

This morning we drive from Rotorua to Waitomo to see the magical glow worms illuminate the caves. Ride a boat through the water filled caves, and as the sunlight fades, see how the bright blue glow brightens from the silk worms hanging from the ceiling. After, drive to Auckland for the night, our last evening on the North Island.



Meals included

Breakfast



Accommodation

Oaks Auckland Hotel (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Rotorua – Waitomo Caves

2h

145km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Waitomo Spellbound Cave Excursion

Waitomo

Enjoy a peaceful boat ride through 30 million year old caverns covered with magical glowworms that are unique to New Zealand. Hundreds of thousands of these tiny creatures radiate luminescent light in underground caves carved by rivers and time. Take in more than 136 years of cultural and natural history on this unique excursion.

Private Vehicle

Waitomo Caves – Auckland

2h30m

200km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 6

Auckland to Kaikoura: South Island

Together we fly to New Zealand's South Island this morning. After arriving, drive to North Canterbury, stopping for lunch along the way. Then continue the drive to Kaikoura. In the afternoon, visit the giant and adorable fur seals that live on the peninsula.



Accommodation

The White Morph (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Christchurch - Kaikoura

2h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Seal Colony Visit

Kaikoura

15m-30m

1km

Stop to experience a close encounter with the many southern fur seals lying about on rocks just off the highway.

Plane

Auckland - Christchurch

1h30m-2h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Day 7

Kaikoura: Free Day

Kaikoura is one of the best places in all of New Zealand to see wildlife. Spend today however you wish, but of course we recommend trying to see some of these amazing animals in the wild. Opt to go on a Giant Sperm Whale watching tour or out for a tour in hopes to swim with the Dusky Dolphins.



Accommodation

The White Morph (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Free Time

Kaikoura

Spend today at leisure in the seaside town of Kaikoura.



Optional Activities - Day 7

Whale Watching

Kaikoura

175NZD

3h-3h30m

Follow in the path of Paikea, the Maori "whale rider", and set out in search of Giant Sperm Whales as they spray and dive their way through the waters off Kaikoura.

Dolphin Tour

Kaikoura

135NZD

3h-4h

Hop aboard a boat and head out to the open seas to search for wild dusky dolphins. If we come upon them, depending on conditions, most groups have 20-40 minutes of swim time with the dolphins.

Day 8

Kaikoura to Hokitika

Drive to Hokitika, a town nudged between the Tasman Sea to the west and the Hokitika River to the south. Full of beautiful nature, wildlife and a history of ship wrecks, gold and green stone miners, Hokitika is not to be missed. The drive can make for one of our longer days, but we'll make some pitstops along the way to break up the journey. After arrival, enjoy free time to explore the town.



Accommodation

Beachfront Hotel Hokitika (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Kaikoura - Hokitika

4h45m-5h

365km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Hokitika

Enjoy a free afternoon in Hokitika.

Day 9

Hokitika to Franz Josef: Franz Josef Glacier

Walk through remarkable Hokitika Gorge, crossing the suspension bridge and admiring the incredibly blue water. Head back to town for a group lunch. Then drive to Franz Josef, and hike through the rain forest of Franz Josef with views of the beautiful glacier.



Meals included

Lunch



Accommodation

Rainforest Retreat (or similar)

Motel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Hokitika - Franz Josef

2h8m-2h30m

138km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Franz Glacier Walk

Franz Josef

30m

2km

Hike the short and easy trek through the Franz Josef rainforest with views of the glacier and snow covered mountains.

Hokitika Gorge

Hokitika

Visit the crystal blue water of Hokitika Gorge. Hike through the bush and look for the rare blue mushroom, walk across the suspension bridge over the beautiful water and admire the incredible beauty of the South Island.

Day 10

Franz Josef: Free Day

A free day today in Franz Josef calls for adventure. Opt to take a scenic helicopter flight up to the impressive glacier, or kayak on Lake Mapourika. Or choose to join the Guided Heli Hike, taking a helicopter to the glacier and hiking through the snow capped mountains and over the bright blue glacier.



Meals included

Breakfast



Accommodation

Rainforest Retreat (or similar)

Motel



Optional Activities - Day 10

Heli Scenic Flight with Snow Landing

Franz Josef

385-655NZD

15m-30m

Take a once-in-a-lifetime helicopter ride high up on Franz Josef Glacier. Hop out on the snow to soak up the experience, before flying back to land. Cool!

Franz Josef Kayaking

Franz Josef

149-169NZD

3h-4h

Explore the stunning Lake Mapourika by kayak. This lake was created as the Franz Josef glacier retreated 14,000 years ago, and the still water has created a natural mirror allowing you to soak in the incredible panoramic views.

Guided Heli Hike (Heli Transfer)

Franz Josef

595-795NZD

The sheer size and power of Franz Josef is something you need to see to believe. Board a chopper for a leisurely flight over the glacier before landing directly on the ice. From there, get up close and personal on a three-hour guided hike past towering peaks and stunning blue ice. The constantly shifting ice flows and crevices ensure your visit will be one-of-a-kind!

Day 11

Franz Josef to Queenstown

Drive with your fellow solo-ish travellers to the adventure capital of the world, Queenstown. After arrival, settle in and enjoy an evening stroll in this picturesque lakeside town.



Meals included

Breakfast



Accommodation

Heartland Hotel Queenstown (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Franz Josef - Queenstown

8h-9h

420km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 12

Me Day: Queenstown

Today is your Me Day, which means today is all about me... well you! With so much to do in Queenstown, opt to spend today exploring the adventure capital however you so wish. Or choose to join your CEO and other solo-ish travellers to ride the famous Queenstown gondola. Ride to the top of the mountain and take in the beautiful view of the lake and mountain peaks. Then tonight, choose to join your CEO for a final group dinner in New Zealand. This may be an early dinner because we have an early morning tomorrow, but come together for a bite and a drink before our final day in New Zealand together.



Meals included

Breakfast



Accommodation

Heartland Hotel Queenstown (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Traveling solo alongside your new Solo-ish travel mates means there's always something fun to do and new friends to explore with. But the joy of travel can also be about taking time to yourself to recharge, refresh and reflect on the journey. Today, choose to join your CEO for an incredible activity, or take the time to yourself to enjoy your own company in one of the most incredible places on our planet.



Optional Activities - Day 12

Vineyard Tour

Queenstown

189-265NZD

5h-7h

Visit vineyards in New Zealand's fastest growing wine region. Taste some of Queenstown's finest Pinot Noir, as well as Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc and learn more about the grape varieties that flourish here. Pick up a few bottles to savour back home.

Skydiving in Queenstown

Queenstown

Take to the skies and experience the thrill of skydiving. Enjoy a birds-eye view of Queenstown on this unforgettable adrenaline-pumping activity. Enjoy bragging rights after completing your dive, and check another challenge off your list.

Bungee Jumping

Queenstown

320-805NZD

1h30m-4h

Adrenaline junkies will be happy with a stop at the world's original commercial bungee site (bungy in New Zealand!). Opt to take the plunge or simply observe where it all started from the comfort of solid ground. Shoot some amazing photos of those brave enough to dive into the abyss.

Day 13

Fiordland National Park

Wake early for a visit to one of New Zealand's most spectacular destinations on a day trip to Fiordland National Park. Drive from Queenstown, board a boat and cruise between the breathtaking mountain slopes, cascades and sea. Keep your eyes peeled for dolphins and rainbows made by the waterfalls. After the boat ride, drive back to Queenstown and enjoy one last free evening in Queenstown.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Accommodation

Heartland Hotel Queenstown (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Queenstown – Fiordland National Park

3h

250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Fiordland National Park Day Cruise

Fiordland National Park

Cruise through stunning Fiordland National Park, one of the most untouched, remote places in the world. Depending on the departure, the cruise will be in either Milford Sound or Doubtful Sound – two of the most stunning regions within the park. Marvel at the steep cliff walls and cascading waterfalls, and keep an eye out for area wildlife: dolphins, penguins, seals, and a variety of birds.

Private Vehicle

Queenstown – Fiordland National Park

3h

250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 14

Queenstown to Melbourne

Say goodbye to New Zealand today as you fly to Australia and continue your Solo-ish adventures. You'll meet some new Solo-ish mates who will be joining the trip in Australia at a welcome meeting in Melbourne.

You'll say goodbye to your Kiwi CEO in Queenstown and meet your new Australian CEO at your welcome meeting in Melbourne this evening.



Meals included

Breakfast



Accommodation

Causeway 353 Hotel (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Plane

Queenstown - Melbourne

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Today, get to know your fellow Solo-ish travellers, CEO and the city of Melbourne with a full day immersion into this vibrant city. Start at the Queen Victoria Markets. Continue your day with a cooking class in the heart of Melbourne CBD's Little Italy. Dive head first into Australian-Italian cuisine and cook up some pizzas alongside your new travel mates. After the delicious feast, join your CEO for a tour of Melbourne's laneway street art.



Meals included

Lunch | Dinner



Accommodation

Causeway 353 Hotel (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Food is a universal language, and there's no better way to get to know a new friend, or a new community, than by breaking bread together and digging in to a delicious meal. Melbourne's vibrant food scene reflects its rich multicultural heritage, blending flavors from around the world. From Italian pasta in Carlton to Vietnamese pho in Richmond, the city offers an array of global cuisines, making it a culinary haven that celebrates diversity. Join your Solo-ish travel mates for a pizza making class in the heart of Melbourne's Little Italy as you get to know your travel mates. Then sit down together and enjoy your lunchtime-Dinner Party.

ACTIVITY

With your Solo-ish travel mates and CEO, explore some of the worlds coolest activities alongside new friends. It's not just an epic day of fun, its chock full of incredible experiences to take your day to 11. Visit the largest market in the state of Victoria. With hundreds of vendors, from food, to handicrafts and thrifted treasures, its easy to spend hours here. Then admire Melbourne CBD through its unique Street Art. Wander through alleyways on a tour to discover some of the most interesting outdoor galleries.

Day 16

We Day: French Island

When we say one epic day- we do mean one.epic.day. On a full day trip to French Island, join your CEO on an off roading tour through the national park. French Island National park is home to Victoria's healthiest and most abundant wild koala population. With beautiful beaches, rocky coastline, and protected mangroves as the backdrop, join your local guides for an incredible adventure trying to spot koalas, long-nosed potaroos and potentially the incredibly rare bandicoots. End the day with an incredible G Adventures-style surprise.



Meals included

Lunch



Accommodation

Causeway 353 Hotel (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

With your incredible CEO at the helm, get to know the local community and your Solo-ish travel mates on a day packed full of interesting and engaging adventures.. Take the ferry to the beautiful French Island National Park, an island just south of Melbourne. Enjoy a 4WD adventure through this remote island to spot koalas and check out incredible views.

Day 17

Melbourne to Uluru and Kata Tjuta

Board a flight bound for Yulara, the gateway to Uluru and the Red Centre. Together with your Solo-ish mates and CEO, spend your day exploring the Australian outback, starting first with Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park and the Walpa Gorge walk. Watch the sunset around Uluru before making your way back to your permanent tented camp. Enjoy an outdoor meal and some bonding time under the stars with your fellow Solo-ish friends.

Please note: Due to flight schedules, days 4-6 of your itinerary may be reversed when required.



Meals included

Dinner



Accommodation

Uluru Camp (or similar)

Campground



Today's Activities

Plane

Melbourne - Yulara

3h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Uluru and Kata Tjuta

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Explore Walpa Gorge where the sheer faces of the dome extend hundreds of meters above you. The gorge itself is a natural creek that carves its way between the two tallest domes of Kata Tjuta. Come together as the sun sets at Uluru, marvel at the changing colours over the desert and keep reminding yourself that yes, you really are there.

Day 18

Uluru to Kings Canyon: Explore Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Rise early this morning and catch the breathtaking sunrise over Uluru, Australia's most iconic Indigenous landmark. This morning, explore Uluru on foot on a guided walk through some of the most culturally significant areas of the site. These sacred spaces are some of the oldest on the planet, and understanding the interpretation behind them makes them even more impactful. In the afternoon, drive to Kings Canyon overland, to your next permanent tented camp in the bush.

Please note: Due to flight schedules, days 4-6 of your itinerary may be reversed when required.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Accommodation

Kings Canyon Camp (or similar)

Campground



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Yulara - Kings Canyon

3h30m

300km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Uluru Mala Walk

Uluru

1h-1h30m

2km

Take a guided walk along the northwest side of Uluru to learn about the history of the area, hear the stories of the Anangu people and gaze upon these awe-inspiring uplifted sandstone rock formations.

Uluru at Sunrise

Uluru

45m

Get up early, grab a coffee and watch the reddish hues of massive Uluru come to life as the sun rises.

Day 19

Kings Canyon to Alice Springs

In the desert morning, head out for an early hike throughout Kings Canyon. Choose between the harder 3 hour Rim hike and a more approachable 1 hour option. The Rim walk is a 6km walk along the upper rim of Kings Canyon. The most difficult part of the hike is the very beginning with a 500 step ascent, but the landscapes and views you are rewarded with are more than worth the effort. You won't even remember the effort it took to get up there. (Sort of!) If you prefer to take it easy, enjoy a 2km hike through canyon valley. In the afternoon, rest your legs on the drive to Alice Springs.

Please note: Due to flight schedules, days 4-6 of your itinerary may be reversed when required.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Accommodation

Desert Palms Alice Springs Hotel (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Kings Canyon - Alice Springs

4h

300km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Kings Canyon Hike

Kings Canyon

3h-4h

5km

Hike through beautiful Kings Canyon in Watarrka National Park on this walk that visits the natural amphitheatre, the North and South walls, and the Garden of Eden.

Day 20

Alice Springs to Sydney

Enjoy a morning tour of Alice Springs learning about Telegraph Station, Anzac Hill and more. Then fly from Alice Springs to Sydney. Arrive to the city in the afternoon and enjoy free time to settle in or explore. Opt to head out with your CEO and fellow solo-ish mates for a relaxed evening exploring Sydney's vibrant food scene. Whether it's the lively laneways of Surry Hills, the bustling markets of Darling Harbour or the hidden gems around Chinatown, there's plenty of delicious spots to discover.



Meals included

Breakfast



Accommodation

Rydges Sydney Central (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Alice Springs Town Tour

Alice Springs

Enjoy a guided tour of Alice Springs to explore the town. You'll drive to the top of Anzac Hill, learn about the significance of Telegraph Station, and see the ephemeral Todd River – which may or may not exist!

Plane

Alice Springs - Sydney

2h45m-3h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Day 21

Sydney: Manly Beach

Join your CEO as you climb aboard the local ferry and travel from Sydney to Manly Beach. Manly is one of Australia's most famous beaches, which is quite the praise for a giant island nation. With world class surfing, beautiful water and lined with pine trees, you'll quickly learn why its so popular amongst locals and travelers alike. Relax on the beach, grab some fish n chips and ice cream or take the easy coastal walk to Shelly Beach. Return to Sydney CBD this evening for a dinner together out on the town.



Meals included

Dinner



Accommodation

Rydges Sydney Central (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

Ferry to Manly Beach

Sydney - Manly Beach

1h15m

Board the ferry and travel from Sydney to the famed Manly beach, just a little over an hour north of the city.

Free Time

Manly Beach

Spend the afternoon enjoying Manly Beach however you'd like.

Day 22

Me Day: Sydney

Spend today in Sydney however you'd like. It is your Me Day after all! Opt to join your CEO and other fellow Solo-ish travellers for a guided tour of the Sydney Opera House or choose to enjoy some solo time. Opt to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge, or whip through the bay on a Jet Boat ride.



Accommodation

Rydges Sydney Central (or similar)

Hotel



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Traveling solo alongside your new Solo-ish travel mates means there's always something fun to do and new friends to explore with. But the joy of travel can also be about taking time to yourself to recharge, refresh and reflect on the journey. Today, choose to join your CEO for an incredible activity, or take the time to yourself to enjoy your own company in one of the most incredible places on our planet.



Optional Activities - Day 22

Sydney Opera House Visit

Sydney

50-199AUD

Stroll along the waterfront to admire Sydney's most iconic landmark, designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon and opened by Queen Elizabeth 11 in 1973. Take a guided tour of this UNESCO World Heritage site to discover its history, folklore, and more. Some two million people a year come to see concerts and cultural performances Opera House. Catch the boom of the grand organ—with more than 10,000 pipes, it took 10 years to build and is the largest mechanical organ in the world.

Day 23

Sydney to Cairns

Leave the city behind and fly north to Cairns, the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef. This afternoon, have a chance to explore Kuranda Village tucked away in Kuranda National Park. Do some shopping in the local market and visit the beautiful gardens. Then ride the Skyrail down towards Cairns. Pass over the top of the tropical rainforest, admire the incredible view and makes stops at a waterfall and other incredible lookout points.



Accommodation

Rydges Esplanade Resort Cairns (or similar)

Resort



Today's Activities

Plane

Sydney - Cairns

3h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Kuranda Skyrail

Kuranda

Visit Kuranda town and take some time to explore the markets and gardens. Then, settle into a comfortable 6 seat gondola for a ride with a spectacular view. The Skyrail Rainforest Cableway passes over a canopy of one of Australia's tropical rainforests, so close to the tree tops it's as if you could reach out and touch the leaves. Stop and get off at Barron Falls and Red Peaks to admire the forrest, falls and the greenery of Kuranda National Park.

Day 24

Cairns: Free Day

A free day in Cairns means one thing for most people, an adventure to the Great Barrier Reef! Book a tour out to sea to snorkel or scuba dive through the biggest coral reef system in the entire world. In the evening, opt to join your fellow Solo-ish travellers for one last hoorah together.

Depending on availability of dive instructors, an upgrade to scuba diving from snorkelling may be possible but is by no means guaranteed. Please speak to your CEO to see if this is available.



Meals included

Breakfast



Accommodation

Rydges Esplanade Resort Cairns (or similar)

Resort



Today's Activities

Free Time

Cairns

Spend the full day free in Cairns and at the Great Barrier Reef.



Optional Activities - Day 24

Snorkelling the Great Barrier Reef

Cairns

279AUD

You haven't truly visited Australia until you've experienced the Great Barrier Reef. Climb aboard a 25m (82 ft) catamaran and take the journey out to the largest coral reef system in the world, spending time snorkelling in search of colourful fish, majestic coral, and Nemo (of course).

You arrived a solo traveller and are leaving with many new friends. Say goodbye to your fellow Solo-ish friends and depart at any time.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Kohutapu Lodge Experience, Murupara
- Dinner Party: Dinner Party, Auckland
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- We Day: Mt Eden Summit Walk, Auckland
- We Day: Kohutapu Tribal Tour, Rotorua
- Your Discover Moment: Franz Josef
- Me Day: Queenstown Me Day, Queenstown
- Dinner Party: Melbourne Cooking Class, Melbourne
- G Day: Queen Victoria Market & Melbourne Street Tour, Melbourne
- We Day: French Island Day Trip, French Island
- Me Day: Sydney Me Day, Sydney
- Complimentary arrival transfer
- Mt Eden Summit Walk
- Cruise Lake Rotoiti to hot springs
- Free time in Rotorua
- Full day immersion with Kohutapu Lodge
- Waitomo Glow Worm Caves
- Visit to Kaikoura Seal Colony
- Free time in Kaikoura
- Hike Hokitika Gorge

- Franz Glacier Trek
- Free time in Franz Josef
- Full Day Cruise at Doubtful Sound
- Free time in Queenstown
- Tour Queen Victoria Market
- Laneways Street Art Tour with your CEO
- Full day 4x4 excursion to French Island to spot Koalas
- Guided walks at Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park
- Full Service Desert Tented Camp stay in the Red Centre
- Sunset at Uluru
- Guided Hiking at Kings Canyon
- Visit to Telegraph Station
- Day trip to Manly Beach
- Free time in Sydney
- Kuranda Skyrail
- Free time in Cairns
- Internal airfare
- Transport to/from all included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Mt Eden Summit Walk, Cruise Lake Rotoiti to hot springs, Full day immersion with Kohutapu Lodge, Waitomo Glow Worm Caves, Visit to Kaikoura Seal Colony, Hokitika Gorge, Franz Glacier Trek, Full Day Cruise at Doubtful Sound, Tour Queen Victoria Market, Laneways Street Art Tour with your CEO, Full day 4x4 excursion to French Island to spot Koalas, Explore Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park, Day trip to Manly Beach, Kuranda Skyrail

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Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

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Please note: Due to flight schedules, days 4-6 of your itinerary may be reversed when required.

What is the role of the group leader during this trip?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEO). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. 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. 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.

How large will the group be?

Max 16, avg 12

What meals are included in this trip?

13 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 6 dinners

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Flight, private vehicle, boat, ferry, walking.

Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

Local flights are included in this itinerary. The max luggage allowance on domestic flights within Australia and New Zealand is 1 checked bag (20 kgs) and 1 carry on (7 kgs) per person.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

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.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (22 nts), Outback Tented Camp (2 nts, shared facilities).

Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my tour?

Please note that if you have booked the “My Own Room” option for this tour, you will receive your own single accommodation for all night stops, with the following exceptions: Nights 17 and 18.

What are the joining instructions?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through G Adventures in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Your transfer will be provided by Super Shuttle and they will transfer to your accommodation from Auckland Airport. After collecting your luggage, exit the arrivals area at the International Terminal. Walk 1-2 minutes outside to Door 11, where you'll find the Transport Pick-Up Zone. This is where SuperShuttle, on-demand taxis, and rideshares pick up passengers. Check-In with SuperShuttle by providing the driver with your first name, last name, and destination (hotel listed on voucher) to locate your booking.

Arrive to your start hotel no later than 3pm in order to head to your cooking class.

During your Welcome Meeting, you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

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.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. Included arrival transfers are provided from the nearest airport to your starting location. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Office and after office hours emergency number

From outside Australia: +61 49 768 1378

From within Australia: 049 768 1378

From outside New Zealand +64 211935846

From within New Zealand: 0211935846

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 Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

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

What should be on my packing list?

Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers
- Warm waterproof jacket

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

Please note that visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as much as possible, but rules do change. It is important that you check for yourself with the Embassy. Please, keep in mind that all countries require passports valid for at least 6 months from the moment of departure from the country.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

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.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

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

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere 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) and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is easy to find in Australia and 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

Should I be tipping on my trip?

It is not customary in 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. At the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline 5-10 AUD per person, per day can be used.

What activities are optional on this trip?

Auckland

- Auckland Sailing: America's Cup Experience (Pre Tour)
(210NZD per person)

Rotorua

- Whitewater Rafting (135NZD per person)
- Rotorua Canopy Tours (199-269NZD per person)
- Hot Springs (50-360NZD per person)

Kaikoura

- Whale Watching (175NZD per person)
- Dolphin Tour (135NZD per person)

Franz Josef

- Heli Scenic Flight with Snow Landing (385-655NZD per person)
- Franz Josef Kayaking (149-169NZD per person)
- Guided Heli Hike (Heli Transfer) (595-795NZD per person)

Queenstown

- Vineyard Tour (189-265NZD per person)
- Skydiving in Queenstown
- Bungee Jumping (320-805NZD per person)

Sydney

- Sydney Opera House Visit (50-199AUD per person)

Cairns

- Snorkelling the Great Barrier Reef (279AUD per person)

What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

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 jewellery 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.

What rules should I know before joining this trip?

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 people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

Is travel insurance required for my trip?

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. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. 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.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

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.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

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