

Important packing information - please read!

Masterpiece, World Heritage Walking Tour, The Grand Explorer

****On the final page of this document, you will find a comprehensive packing list for your trip. Before you start working through the packing list, please read the below information.****

Packing for the New Zealand conditions

We visit alpine regions on our tours and can encounter cold weather any time of the year. Most people underestimate how much the temperatures can vary in New Zealand even in mid-summer. The temperature ranges you can expect are:

- October – November (Spring): 5 – 19C (41 – 66F)
- December – February (Summer): 10 – 30C (50 – 86F)
- March – April (Autumn/Fall): 5 – 19C (41 – 66F)

The best way to dress for our weather is by wearing multiple layers of clothing, rather than one thick layer. We recommend the following layers up top that you'll pair with your hiking shorts/pants:

- First layer: a quick dry singlet or t-shirt (merino wool or synthetic activewear)
- Second layer: long-sleeve polypropylene or merino wool
- Third layer: merino wool or fleece sweatshirt or zip-up jacket
- Fourth and outer layers: down jacket and a wind-resistant waterproof raincoat

As a rule, wool, silk and synthetic fabrics are recommended as they wick moisture and dry quickly. For safety reasons, our guides will not let you hike in cotton or denim.

Luggage & Day Pack

You can bring one large suitcase or duffel bag. As your guide will be lifting your bags in and out of the vehicle, for safety reasons, your bag should have a maximum weight of up to 23 kg / 50 lbs. This bag will go in the vehicle when we travel between locations – this will be whatever bag you check in for your flight. You should also bring a day pack, this is a small hiking pack that will fit anything you would like to take on your day hikes with you, this should be around 20L – 30L. It should fit your water bottle, camera, wallet, sunscreen, medication, warm layers, rain protection, lunch (usually a sandwich, sweet treat and fruit) & anything else you may want to take on your day hikes.

What to bring for travelling in the vehicle

On average we will spend around 3 hours in the vehicle each day, this will be broken up by rest stops in our favourite small towns, hikes, and activities. There are some things you may want to bring with you to be comfortable in the vehicle like a neck pillow if you like to nap, headphones, motion sickness tablets (New Zealand roads are windy and your usual brand of tablets may not be available in New Zealand), a power bank and chargers, and a keep cup if you want to purchase hot drinks while you're out and about.

Pocket money

We recommend that you bring NZD \$40 per person per day for any extras you might want to purchase during your trip like coffees and treats at rest stops, alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages with lunches and dinners, and souvenirs. Most places will accept Visa or MasterCard so you don't need cash for everything. You'll be able to withdraw money at the airport or by using the ATM's in the towns we visit.

Laundry

Most of the places we stay have coin-operated laundry facilities, they usually cost around NZD \$4, so it is possible to wash your clothes every few days. Your guides will have detergent on board and will be able to advise you where you can do laundry. If you don't want to do laundry on your trip then feel free to bring an extra set of each of the items under the "Layers for walking" section of the packing list.



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Important packing information continued

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Hiking shoes/boots

We recommend a mid-height hiking boot or shoe with good ankle support for all our trips. Salomon and Merrell are two of the popular boot brands worn by our guests but don't rush out to buy new boots if you already own some. The most important thing about hiking boots/shoes is that they are comfortable for you, provide good ankle support, and that they are broken in before your trip. For the shorter 1-2 hour hikes on your trip, you will be able to wear running shoes or trail runners rather than hiking boots/shoes, if you prefer. Your guide will let you know what footwear is suitable for each hike when you are on your trip.

New Zealand has very strict biosecurity rules and you will need to declare if you are carrying any items that have been used for outdoor activities. This includes things like hiking boots and hiking poles. Customs officers will want to check that these are clean and free of dirt, seeds and leaves. Make sure you thoroughly clean your gear before leaving home and pack your boots and hiking gear at the top of your bag for easy inspection on arrival to NZ. If you are unsure about whether or not your equipment needs inspecting – declare it anyway.

Hiking poles

If you like to use hiking poles, then we recommend you bring your own pair of poles with you from home. If you are flying here, make sure they are in your check-in baggage. For safety reasons, the guides will have a few extra pairs on hand but if you want to guarantee you have hiking poles we suggest bringing your own.

Dry Bags

We recommend at least one dry bag for your valuables that cannot get wet. These are available in most outdoor supply stores. Alternatively, you could use a zip-lock bag or rain protector for your bag.

Evening Attire

New Zealand dining is quite relaxed and informal, most of our guests wear jeans and a shirt or a nice comfortable top to dinners. There is no need to dress up.

Hairdryers & Toiletries

Most of the places we stay will have hairdryers however if you need to use one every day, we recommend bringing a small travel hairdryer. The places we stay will supply soap, shampoo, and conditioner however if you have a preference for products, we recommend you bring your own from home.

Mosquitos & Sandflies

In wet, warm areas sand flies and mosquitoes can be present. It is best to carry insect repellent, especially in marshlands, near the west coast and in some National Parks. The insects do not carry any diseases and are harmless except for the bites which can itch for several days, especially for tourists who are not used to them. They are easily controlled by using an insect repellent (either natural or DEET based), and by wearing long lightweight clothing to cover exposed skin. Your guides will also have some repellent on board.



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Packing List - Check me off as you go!

Masterpiece, World Heritage Walking Tour, The Grand Explorer

Layers for Walking

- 3-4 First layers: a quick dry singlet or t-shirt (no denim or cotton)
- 2-3 Second layers: long-sleeve polypropylene or merino wool
- 1-2 Third layers: merino wool or fleece sweatshirt or zip-up jacket
- Fourth layer: 1 x down jacket
- Waterproof rain jacket (Gore-tex or similar)* – *water-resistant or shower-proof is not sufficient*
- Waterproof rain pants (optional)
- 2-3 Lightweight, quick dry long pants or shorts (no denim)
- 1 pair hiking boots/shoes (with ankle support)
- 1 pair trainers for shorter walks (optional - you can wear your hiking boots on the short walks if you prefer)
- 4 pairs thick walking socks
- Warm hat (beanie/toque)
- Gloves
- Sunhat / cap
- Water bottle or camelback – minimum 1 litre
- Dry bag for clothes/valuables

Casual Clothing

- 1 pair jeans or other casual trousers
- 2 pairs shorts
- 2 tops/shirts
- 1 sleep shirt & sleep shorts (or whatever you sleep in)
- 1 light sweat shirt or long-sleeve t-shirt
- 1 swimming suit
- Underwear
- 4-5 pairs socks
- 1 pair sandals (like Tevas, Crocs or flip flops/jandals)
- 1 pair of casual shoes (you can wear your trainers if you like)

Documentation

- Passport & Travel Documents (International Travellers only)
- Travel Insurance
- Travel documents – flight tickets/vouchers and Itinerary
- Visa/NZeTA if you need one (check the Visa document in the Important Information section of the Guest Portal if you're not sure if you need a visa or NZeTA)

Other Items

- Motion sickness tablets
- Insect repellent (with Deet)
- Sunglasses
- Medications and copies of prescriptions
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Toiletries
- Current converter and outlet adapter
- Travel alarm clock or phone with alarm
- Spare bootlaces
- Phone and charger
- Camera (if you like)
- Binoculars (if you like)
- Walking poles if you use them
- Resuable coffee cup if you want to purchase hot drinks while you're out and about

Luggage

- One full sized suitcase or travel bag (maximum 23kg (50lb))
- One day pack (20-30L)



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