

Health & Safety Policy - Risk Disclosure Statement

Welcome to Venture Beyond!

Before you embark on our boating activities, it's important for us to ensure your safety and that you are aware of the potential risks involved. Please take a moment to read and understand the following disclosure statement:

1. **Nature of Water Activities**: Boating activities on Lake Taupō involve inherent risks associated with being on the water, including but not limited to, accidents, collisions, capsizing, and injuries.
2. **Weather Conditions**: Weather conditions can change rapidly and unexpectedly, leading to rough waters, high winds, storms, or reduced visibility. These conditions may impact your safety and comfort on the water. Be prepared and wear appropriate clothing for the conditions.
3. **Operator Experience**: The experience and competence of boat operators may vary. While our operators are trained and certified, it's important to understand that human error and misjudgement can still occur.
4. **Follow Instructions**: Listen carefully to the instructions provided by our staff and boat operators. They are trained to ensure your safety and will guide you in case of emergencies.
5. **Personal Responsibility**: As a participant, you are responsible for your own safety and well-being. Please follow all safety instructions provided by our staff and adhere to boating regulations.
6. **Use of Safety Equipment**: Wearing a life jacket is not compulsory while on the water on our boat, but there are enough life jackets available for every passenger. They are located in the left-hand cupboard facing the cabin area with a "Life-jackets" sign displayed. Please inform a member of the crew should you wish to wear a life jacket during the trip.
A life ring is located at the rear of the vessel. Please familiarise yourself with its location. Should you see someone fall overboard, please notify a member of the crew immediately.
7. **Alcohol and Substance Use**: The consumption of alcohol before or during the activities is not permitted, the consumption of drugs is strictly prohibited.

Intoxication impairs judgment and reaction time, increasing the risk of accidents and injuries.

8. ****Medical Emergencies****: Please inform our staff of any pre-existing medical conditions or concerns before boarding. You must be physically capable of undertaking any activity you partake in. In the event of a medical emergency, access to immediate medical assistance may be limited.

9. ****Environmental Hazards****: Lake Taupō may contain natural hazards such as rocks, submerged objects, or shallow areas, which can cause collisions or accidents. When walking up to the Kotukutuku landing waterfall please watch your footing. If it has been raining there is a chance that the path is slippery due to wet leave matter. Please remain vigilant and alert when going for a swim.

10. ****Water Activities, Swimming, Children and Non-Swimmers****: Please ensure you can swim, when going in the water (Stand-up Paddleboard, swimming) and wear appropriate safety gear. Extra caution should be exercised for children and non-swimmers. They must wear properly fitted life jackets and be supervised closely at all times.

11. ****Cruising and equipment****: While cruising, the boat may heel slightly on a wave to one side or lurch forward suddenly when applying the throttle. Please be aware, stay seated or move around with extra caution. Be aware of hitting your head when moving through the cabin door to access the viewing platform. Please also be aware of the ropes on the boat, as they can become trip hazards. Do not grab, pull or sit on any ropes. Use the side rails to navigate yourself safely up and down the boat. When the deck gets wet (after swimming, rain or rough conditions) the boat can become slippery. Extra caution must be taken while moving around.

12. ****Valuables and personal belongings****: All valuables and personal belongings can be safely stored inside the boat on the shelves provided or in the small cupboard in front of the cabin passenger's seat.

By participating in boating activities with us, you acknowledge and accept these risks associated with water-based activities on Lake Taupō. Your safety is our top priority, and we are committed to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants. You agree to inform all others in your party of the above risks.

Thank you, we appreciate your cooperation.