



Share the Experience

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

PAMPLONA MAKE YOUR OWN WAY CENTRAL ACCOMMODATION 2012

Thank you for choosing to holiday with Topdeck! We certainly appreciate your decision to travel with us and rest assured that everyone at Topdeck will be doing their utmost to ensure you have the holiday of a lifetime.

We have prepared the following pre-departure information which we trust will assist you in planning your trip. Some points should be taken as a *guide only* - after all, everyone is different! For instance information such as daily spending money and clothing lists can vary greatly from one person to the next, so please bear this in mind. However, we are sure you will find the information in general to be very useful.

Get ready for a fantastic holiday!

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

The city of Pamplona is world-renowned for its famous 'fiesta'. The festival, which runs from midday on 6th July until midnight on 14th July, celebrates the life of 'San Fermin', the first Bishop and now Patron Saint of Pamplona who was martyred by the Romans.

The program of events, from the firing of the rocket off the balcony of the Town Hall at midday on 6th July, right through to the candlelight parade at midnight on 14th July, is all about fun but has strong emotional meaning to the local Basque population. The official program of events lasts for 21 hours each day, which is predominantly singing and dancing. The best-known event is the 'encierro' (running of the bulls) which is held each morning at 8:00 am from 7th to 14th July.

This event is predominately a local festival and it is worthwhile for tourists to learn something of the culture in order to participate fully in what must be considered one of the greatest festivals in the world. This is a party - one with meaning and a sense of occasion and certainly not to be missed. It is possible to attend this festival for many years and still not experience all that it has to offer, apart from the desire to come back and do it all again!

BAGGAGE

We recommend soft bags, suitcases or frameless backpacks, plus a small day pack or carry bag. Please limit your luggage to a **maximum of 20kgs**. Maximum allowable size for all backpacks must not exceed 70cm x 50cm x 25cm. Please keep in mind you are staying in multi-share serviced apartments, and luggage space is not extensive.

SUGGESTED CLOTHING LIST

As a general rule, **pack light!** People invariably bring more than they need, and you will have to transport it around before and after the trip, as well as in and out of the accommodation during the trip!

Remember also that during your trip you are bound to find items that you may wish to buy, so leave room in your luggage for additional purchases. A full coach of passengers with heavy bags may render it overweight, which will result in severe disruption to our schedules and potentially affect our itinerary, so please pack so that your baggage will be less than 20kg by the end of the trip, not just at the start!

The following clothing list is suggested, based on our experience:

- 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- 1 pair thongs / jandals / flip-flops
- 1 pair jeans / trousers
- 2 pairs shorts / skirts
- 2 shirts / t-shirts
- 1 sweater / jumper
- 1 rainproof jacket
- Underwear and socks!

General things to pack:

- Swimming costume
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Basic medical kit (inc. plasters, aspirin etc)
- Washing powder
- Insect repellent
- Conversion plug

Optional:

- Sewing kit
- Sleeping sheet / sleeping bag liner
- Pillow case
- Torch

Please be aware that most things you might want to bring, for instance towel, washing powder, insect repellent etc. are easily purchased in Europe before your trip starts. Entry into some religious sights, such as Cathedrals, requires clothing to cover knees, chest and shoulders.

For the Festival:

The traditional dress for the duration of the festival is all white with a red sash at the waist and red scarf around the neck. If you wish, you can buy the whole outfit for about €20 - €50 once you reach Pamplona, and it makes a great souvenir after the festival has ended. We also suggest that everyone wears a pair of closed in shoes for the opening ceremony celebrations on 6 July, as well as if they plan to run with the bulls, as in the chaos you will probably lose sandals or thongs / jandals / flip flops. An old pair of sneakers is your best option!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Access: Topdeck's accommodation is located in central Pamplona, near the main bus station and just a short walk away from where the main events take place during the Running of the Bulls.

Breakfasts: These are included as per the trip itinerary, and times vary depending on each day's itinerary. Breakfast times will be advised by your Topdeck trip leader on a daily basis. They are usually 'continental breakfasts', which are typical in most European countries - it is rare to get a hot breakfast in continental Europe.

Running of the Bulls: This event is held each day from 7 to 14 July at 8.00am, and is traditionally for men only. Although women do occasionally run (usually tourists) it is frowned on by the locals

especially on the first day. Remember, it is a Spanish festival, and consequently their traditions. If you are considering running you should be familiar with the rules and the “do's and don'ts”.

Please keep in mind that running with the bulls can be a dangerous activity and that we urge careful consideration is given before participation. You may not be covered by your travel insurance for this activity if you are injured. Information provided by Topdeck regarding the bull runs in no way constitute a “safety guide” - as with any high-risk adventure all passengers must make their own decision regarding whether or not they choose to participate in this activity.

INSURANCE

It is **compulsory** for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance before the trip departs covering cancellation, medical expenses including repatriation, loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and public liability. Topdeck can issue travel insurance, please refer to our website www.topdeck.travel, click on ‘Travelling with Topdeck’ and then ‘Travel Advice’ for more information. You must bring a copy of your travel insurance policy with you on the trip.

Your Topdeck Crew will make a record of your basic travel insurance details at the start of your trip, e.g. the name of the insurance company, the 24 hour emergency telephone number, and your policy number. These will be faxed back to our London office to ensure that if you lose your policy details, they can be easily retrieved.

VISAS AND PASSPORT INFORMATION

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if there is not at least 6 months validity on your passport after your departure date from their country. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries. **It is your responsibility to obtain these prior to the departure of the trip.** Consult your agent to determine which visas you will require.

We also have a visa chart on our website listing the visas required by some nationalities travelling on our trips. To check go to our website www.topdeck.travel, click on ‘Travelling with Topdeck’ and then ‘Visa Information’.

Remember that some visas can take up to six weeks to obtain, so do not leave it until the last minute. Also bear in mind that the validity of the visa often runs from the date of issue rather than date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

SCHENGEN AGREEMENT

France, Italy, Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, Portugal, Luxembourg, Greece, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden are all part of the Schengen Agreement, which means that one visa can be used to cover all of these countries. If you need a visa for any of these countries that your trip visits, **you may require a multi-entry Schengen visa.** The country you will be spending the most time in usually issues the Schengen visa.

HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS

If you suffer from any kind of medical condition you must advise Topdeck at the time of booking, or at least six weeks prior to the departure of your trip. No vaccinations are currently compulsory for entry into European countries. Please reconfirm this before you leave as conditions could change.

If you require regular medication, you must have an ample supply of medication before your trip departs, as it can be difficult to obtain in some countries. You must be able to administer your own

medication, as Topdeck Road Crew will not be able to administer it, and there are no guarantees that there will be anyone with first aid training on board.

SPENDING MONEY

The main currency in Spain is the Euro (€). Automatic Teller Machines (**ATMs**) are available all over Europe and are the safest and easiest way to have access to cash. Travellers' cheques are also accepted in Europe and are an alternative to using ATMs.

Most well known **credit cards** are accepted in Europe. We recommend that you bring yours along in case you see something special, which you haven't budgeted for. Credit cards **CANNOT** be used for optional excursions.

Based on past experience, we recommend at least €50-€60 Euros per day to cover your normal expenses including sightseeing, small souvenir shopping and non-included meals. If you wish to purchase expensive souvenirs, you will need to budget for more, or use your credit cards for these purchases. Remember, this is a *guideline* figure and can vary greatly between individuals according to your overall personal budget and spending habits!

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

On most trips we have arranged extra activities that we think will enhance your travel experience, but you have a choice as to whether or not you will participate. These are called Optional Excursions and are not included in the cost of your trip. They are usually organised on a group participation basis and should be taken into consideration when budgeting your spending money. See the section called **Optional Excursions on your trip itinerary** to help you assess any extra personal expenses you may incur.

None of the optional excursions on your trip are operated by Topdeck, and nor do they form part of your contract with Topdeck for your trip. Topdeck arranges optional excursions as an Agent of the local supplier. Should you participate in any optional excursions your contract will be with the local supplier of the excursion, and their conditions will apply. We have selected all of these operators based on recommendations from past passengers and Topdeck Road Crew.

ACCOMMODATION

Your trip will stay in multi-share serviced apartment accommodation (maximum 4-share rooms) within walking distance of the centre of Pamplona. All Topdeck passengers will be roomed with other Topdeck passengers. Please be aware that for your Pamplona trip Topdeck **does not** operate a single sex policy when allocating rooms, so you may be sharing with Topdeck passengers of the opposite sex.

MEALS

Breakfasts are included as detailed in your itinerary.

TOILETS

In most European countries you will have to pay a small amount to use public toilets at service stations and in city centres. It is a common practice in Europe and should be regarded as a form of 'tipping', as the money goes to the people who clean and/or maintain the facilities. It is very rare that public toilets do not supply toilet paper, but it may be useful to carry a pack of tissues with you.

CLAIM YOUR FREE TOPDECK GLOBAL SIM CARD BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR YOUR TRIP

All our travellers are entitled to claim a free Topdeck global SIM card to use while on their Topdeck trip! Just follow this link to claim yours: www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim - use your Topdeck "Booking Reference" and purchase a minimum of \$20 calling credit.

The Topdeck SIM is a "roaming free" SIM card just drop it into your mobile and enjoy savings of up to 90% on calls while travelling throughout Europe.

Every SIM card includes the eKit Travel Journal. The Travel Journal automatically updates your location to Google maps on a daily basis. This allows you to keep track of where you've been, and with the option to publish this on Facebook and twitter you can easily show-off your travels to friends and family. Not only does this provide a hassle free way of keeping in contact, but you can text in your own journal updates or photos for an even more detailed record of your holiday!

- Free Global SIM card and US \$5 bonus call credit, when you purchase \$20 of call credit
- Coverage in 150 countries including all Topdeck destinations

* Fast low-cost 1st class shipping to Australia, UK, Europe, USA and Canada

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To redeem your FREE SIM card and \$5 credit **before you travel** visit: www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim - and use your Topdeck "Booking Reference". For more information visit the above URL or phone our dedicated 24/7 Customer Service on: **(AUS)** 1800-795-252, **(UK)** 0800-376-2370, **(USA)** 1-888-513-8804, **(CAN)** 1888-513-8804

ARRIVING IN PAMPLONA

Your trip will be staying at:

Gestión de Alojamientos

Travesía de Acella 1 Bajo
Pamplona 31008
Ph: +34 948 250 250

To get to Gestión de Alojamientos from Pamplona bus station is about a 20 minute walk, or 5 minute taxi ride. Exit the bus station on Av del Ejército and walk towards Av de Pío XII, and turn left onto Av de Pío XII. When you reach Calle de Sancho Ramírez turn right and walk towards Parque de Yamaguchi. At the park turn left onto Azella Kalea, which becomes Travesía Acella.

START TIME OF YOUR TRIP:

Check-in date:	5 July 2012 or 12 July 2012
Check-in time at accommodation:	2.00pm to 6.00pm
Welcome Meeting at accommodation:	7.00pm

Please be aware that, while it may be possible to check-in outside these times, if you check in after the Welcome Meeting you may miss out on a detailed trip briefing held by your trip leader, where information regarding both your trip and the festival itself will be provided to all passengers.

FINISHING YOUR TRIP

Your Pamplona trip finishes after the bull run and breakfast the last day.

GREAT DEALS ON OUR FESTIVALS AND SHORT BREAK PACKAGES!

Did you know Topdeck also run a great range of festival and short break packages all year round? These include:

- Oktoberfest
- La Tomatina
- Las Fallas
- Edinburgh Fringe Festival
- Christmas and New Years Trips
- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter Trips
- Anzac Day
- Venice Carnival
- Ski packages and MORE

For further details, dates and prices, or to book, please visit our website www.topdeck.travel

PAST PASSENGER DISCOUNT

Thinking about booking another trip, festival or short break with us? As a thank you for being a loyal Topdeck customer, you can claim the following discounts on your next trip!

- 5% off any Topdeck trip departing in 2012.

****Terms & Conditions apply – please see the website for full details****

TOPDECK REWARDS: REWARDS ON FESTIVAL BOOKINGS



REWARD LEVEL	DISCOUNT	CONDITION
BRONZE	SAVE 10%*	WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR SECOND TOPDECK FESTIVAL
SILVER	SAVE 12.5%*	WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR THIRD TOPDECK FESTIVAL
GOLD	SAVE 15%*	WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR FOURTH TOPDECK FESTIVAL

*For terms and conditions please see go to www.topdeck.travel and look under 'deals and competitions'

FINAL CHECKLIST

- Passport
- Airline tickets (where applicable)
- Insurance Policy (you must bring this with you)
- Visas if required
- Camera, Batteries
- Conversion plug
- Topdeck eKit global phone card, sim card or phone
- Sense of excitement!

We trust you have found this information useful, and we sincerely hope that you have a fantastic holiday with Topdeck! Thanks again for choosing to travel with us.

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel