



Share the Experience

June 2011

SKI NEW YEAR PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION 2011

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

We have prepared the following information for you which we trust will assist you in planning for your trip. Some points should be taken as a guide only such as personal spending money, which can vary greatly between individuals but we are sure you will find the information in general very useful.

Get ready for a fantastic holiday!

From all the Crew at Topdeck Travel

Baggage

We recommend frameless backpacks, plus a small day pack or carry bag. Remember, if you take too much, you have to carry it around before and after the trip! **Please limit your baggage allowance to a maximum of 20kgs.** Maximum allowable size for all bags must not exceed 70cm x 50cm x 25cm. Please keep in mind you are staying in multi-share hostel accommodation, and luggage space in the dorm rooms is not extensive

Suggested Clothing List

The following clothing list is suggested based on our experience. The basic rule however is "pack light". Our passengers invariably state they wished they had brought half the amount of clothes and remember you are bound to find items to purchase on your trip so leave room for additional purchases during your holiday. Please ensure your bag weight doesn't go over 20kg at the end of the trip not the beginning!!

- Ski gear! (you will not be able to hire gear at Les Deux Alpes)
- 1 pairs of jeans / trousers
- 1 pair of walking shoes
- 1 sweater / jumper
- 1 warm jacket / coat
- 2 shirts / t-shirts / long-sleeved shirts
- 1 rainproof jacket
- Underwear and socks
- Thermals
- Hat, scarf, gloves

General

- Basic medical kit (inc. aspirins, plasters)
- Towel
- Sewing kit
- Toiletries

Visa 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 passports 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.topdecktravel.co.uk, click on to 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.

Multiple Entry Visas

Certain trips or your personal travel arrangements may require multiple entry visas. Please check your itinerary for the correct port of entry / exit for your trip.

SCHENGEN AGREEMENT:

France, Italy, Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Luxembourg, Greece, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, 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.

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 travel insurance MUST cover you for winter sports, including skiing and/or snowboarding

Your Ski Rep 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.

Health & 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

Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are available all over France and are the safest and easiest way to have access to cash. Travellers' cheques are also accepted in France and are an alternative to using ATMs, however if your trip is over a weekend or public holiday you may find it difficult to cash your travellers' cheques. The Euro (€) is the currency used in France. We recommend at least €50-€60 Euros per day to cover your normal expenses. 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!

Credit Cards

Most well known credit cards are accepted in France. 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.

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.

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.

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
- * You can upgrade your SIM card's calling plan for even better international rates:
 - Passport Plus – International rates from just USD \$0.29 per minute
 - Passport SIM / Home & Roam SIM – Free to receive calls in over 60 countries

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

Starting Your Trip

The starting point for your Ski New Year trip is:

<p>UCPA, 15 Place de Venosc, Les Deux Alpes, France</p>

Grenoble Airport has direct transfers to Les Deux Alpes, which can be booked with Topdeck. For more details please ask our Reservations team. If you are catching a Ben's Bus transfer from Grenoble – Please get off at the **Telecabine Diable drop off** (red gondola or bubble lift) near the Place de Venosc. Mention this to the driver upon boarding the coach; please note it is **NOT** the first stop in the middle of town. When you get off at the Telecabine Diable drop off, with your back to the closest mountain, walk straight ahead. You will see stairs with a sign above saying 'Place de Venosc' – walk up these stairs, across the plaza and down the stairs on the other side. As you walk down these stairs look straight ahead and you will see a big wooden chalet directly in front of you with the UCPA sign, which is our accommodation.

Alternate Airports: Les Deux Alpes can also be reached from Chambéry Airport (approximately 2 hours) and Lyon Airport (approximately 2 to 2½ hours).

Check-In Time of Your Trip:

Check-in time at UCPA:	8.00am
Check-in date:	26 December 2011

If You Miss the Check-In Time – What To Do!

If you miss the check-in time, your Topdeck trip leader will leave a "What's On" Sheet in reception to advise you of where the group is going to be. You should still be able to check in to your room with the hostel reception staff. If you have any difficulties checking in, ring our London office on +44 (0)20 8987 3300 or our emergency number on +44 (0)77 9277 5415

Finishing your trip

Your Ski New Year trip finishes at **2.00pm** on Sunday, 1 January 2012. The UCPA does not offer post-accommodation.

Accommodation

Your Ski New Year trip will be staying in a 6-share ensuite hostel dorm room. Please note that **Ski trips do not operate a single sex policy**, and you may be sharing with members of the opposite sex. In addition, you may be sharing your room with other people who are NOT travelling with Topdeck.

UCPA provides bed linen, however please bring your own towel with you. There are lockers available in each room, however you will need to bring your own padlocks to secure these lockers.

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included every day you are at the UCPA. All meals provided at the hostel are buffet style. Breakfast typically consists of cereal, fruit, juice, a baguette, yoghurt and coffee. Lunch and Dinner vary, but there is always a salad bar, baguettes, fruit, cheese platter and a variety of hot dishes that change daily.

Please be aware that if you have strict food allergies/restrictions (e.g. coeliacs disease, lactose intolerant, vegan) the hostel may not always be able to cater for you and you may want to bring some of your own provisions.

Great Deals on our Festival and Short Break packages!

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

These include:

- Venice Carnival
- Anzac Day
- Las Fallas
- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter Trips
- Pamplona – Running of the Bulls
- Edinburgh Fringe Festival
- La Tomatina
- Oktoberfest
- Christmas and New Years trips and MORE

Past Passenger Discount

As a thank you for being a loyal Topdeck customer, you can claim your 5% discount off any Topdeck Europe, Egypt, Africa or Festival trip departing in 2012 when you book your next Topdeck trip (*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
- * Insurance Policy (you must bring this with you)
- * Visas if required
- * Camera, Batteries
- * Conversion plug

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