



Share the Experience

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

EUROCLUB TRIPS TO SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND MOROCCO

Hi, 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

BAGGAGE

We recommend soft bags, suitcases or frameless backpacks, plus a small day pack or carry bag. **No external framed bags** please, as they damage other bags on the coach.

Please limit your luggage to a **maximum of 20kgs**. Maximum allowable size for all backpacks must not exceed 70cm x 50cm x 25cm. Please note that due to space and weight restrictions on our coaches, passengers with too much luggage on departure morning may be told that they cannot take their entire luggage with them and will have to make their own arrangements to have the excess stored. Any luggage left behind will be at your own risk and you will be required to pay any cost that is incurred.

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 walking shoes
- 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- 1 pair thongs / jandals / flip-flops
- 2 pairs jeans / trousers
- 2 pairs shorts / skirts
- 4 shirts / t-shirts
- 2 sweaters / jumpers
- Smart casual evening wear

- 1 rainproof jacket
- 1 warm 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
- Travel pillow
- Torch

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

SLEEPING BAGS

Sleeping bags are not necessary.

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 Trip Leader 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 will 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

Automatic Teller Machines (**ATMs**) are available all over Spain, Morocco and Portugal and are the safest and easiest way to have access to cash.

Most well known **credit cards** are accepted in Europe. They are less widely accepted in Morocco, but can still be used to pay for some purchases. 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 the equivalent of 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!

CURRENCIES

The currency in Spain and Portugal is the Euro (€). The currency in Morocco is the Dirham (MAD). It is generally always possible to exchange money in to local currency after arriving in the country, but the easiest way is to make a withdrawal from a local ATM.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

On all 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 accommodations, either hotels or hostels. The 'What's Included' section for each trip in our brochure details what type of accommodation is used for our overnight stops.

On EuroClub trips the number of people in a room varies depending on the type of accommodation. When staying in hotels many of the rooms are twin and triple share. Rooms in hostels are usually 4-6 bedded rooms. There may be limited occasions where rooms of up to 10 beds are used. **EuroClub trips operate a single sex policy and therefore couples should not expect to share together.**

MEALS

Breakfasts are included every day (except on the first day) in the accommodation. Topdeck provide evening meals as detailed in the 'What's Included' section of our brochure and on your detailed Trip Itinerary. These meals will be in local restaurants and accommodation places.

If you have special dietary requirements e.g. vegetarian or wheat intolerance, we will make every endeavour to cater to your specific needs as long as you advise your agent or reservations when you book. Please be aware that it is not always possible to cater for every single dietary requirement, but we will always try our best to arrange it. However, we cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as many of our evening meals feature a set menu.

TOILETS

You may have to pay a small amount to use public toilets. 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

* 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

The Global Phonocard with more:



When you're on a trip with Topdeck you can also receive a complimentary Global Phonocard on the coach. Your phonocard comes with a FREE 5-minute phone call and is a great way to stay connected and let your family and friends know how your trip is going. Please ask your Trip Leader if you wish to have one.

It's fully rechargeable; you'll receive a \$5 bonus on your first recharge and it can be used in over 150 countries – so all of Europe is covered. An essential part of your European adventure, your Topdeck Global phonocard comes with easy to use voicemail and a free email account! Visit www.topdeck.ekit.com for more.

SECURITY

Use eKit's travel vault and avoid hassles along the way. You can securely store all your important documents online, passport number, insurance and visa information and travellers cheques details. Refer to the eKit brochure or visit www.topdeck.ekit.com

TRIPS STARTING IN BARCELONA

Your joining accommodation in Barcelona is:

Centric Point Hostel,
C/ Passeig de Gràcia, 33,
Barcelona.
(Metro: Passeig de Gracia stop - green line).

From the airport take the train to Plaça Catalunya stop (one train every 30 minutes, price: €2.10), then take the Passeig de Gracia exit and follow the street to number 33 (3 minutes walk). **If you arrive in Barcelona by train**, get off at Passeig de Gracia station. The hostel is just in front of the exit.

TRIPS STARTING IN LISBON

Your joining accommodation in Lisbon is:

Unreal Hostel Lisboa
Rua Pedro Nunes, no 10
1050 Lisboa

From the airport catch bus 44/45/83/91 to Crossing Picoas, the hostel is 50m away from the bus stop. Alternatively, a taxi should cost roughly €10-15. **Via Metro**, the nearest stop is Picoas Station on the Yellow Line. The station is about 30m from the hostel.

IF YOU MISS THE TRIP FROM YOUR START POINT - WHAT TO DO!

If you miss the trip from the departure point **contact Topdeck in London** on +44 20 8987 3300, or if it's outside of office hours call our emergency number +44 779 277 5415. Our staff can advise you and also provide you with the mobile phone number of your Trip Leader.

FINISHING YOUR TRIP

All trips finish after breakfast on the final day. You will have stayed in that destination the night before, making it easier to arrange onward travel plans for the date your trip finishes. Further information can be found in your detailed Trip Itinerary.

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
- Pamplona – Running of the Bulls
- 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 2011.

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

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