

# Topdeck

## EXPERIENCE INDIA



TRIP CODE:  
AXEIDK-0

## TOPDECKER, meet Asia

They say you don't travel India; you experience it. Brace for sensory overload. Anticipate awe-inspiring sights. Prepare for untouched wilderness. And equip yourself for a culture shock of the very best kind. India is everything you've heard, and so so much more. Time to experience it with an awesome crew of people on a 20 day trip that may just change your life.

### WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Android/iPhone  
app download  
info



This is a sector  
trip.

# Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

## ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

**PLEASE NOTE:** We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

### ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Walking tour of Old Delhi
- + Visit Qutab Minar
- + Sunrise at the Taj Mahal
- + Visit Chand Baori Stepwell
- + See a Bollywood movie in Jaipur
- + Sunset cruise on Lake Pichola
- + Cooking class in Chettinad
- + Evening worship ceremony at Meenakshi temple
- + Spice plantation tour in Thekkady
- + Traditional Kalaripayattu performance
- + House boat stay in Allepey

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Arrival airport transfer
- + Old Delhi walking tour
- + Visit Qutub Minar
- + Visit Agra Fort
- + See the sunrise at the Taj Mahal
- + Visit Chand Baori Stepwell
- + Visit Amber Fort
- + Tickets for a Bollywood Cinema
- + Visit Mehrangarh Fort
- + Visit Ranakpur Temples
- + Udaipur walking tour
- + Sunset cruise on Lake Pichola
- + Visit Mahabalipuram
- + Visit Aurobindo Ashram
- + Pondicherry walking tour
- + Chettinad village tour
- + Chettinad cooking class
- + Visit Brihadeeswarah Temple
- + Srirangam Temple rooftop photo stop
- + Evening ceremony at the Meenakshi temple
- + Thekkady spice plantation tour
- + Kalaripayattu performance
- + House boat stay in Kerala
- + Walking tour of Kochi
- + Departure transfer from Kochi

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YOUR TRIP WILL  
START

PICK UP:

Delhi  
India

YOUR TRIP WILL  
FINISH

DROP OFF:

Kochi  
India

## TRIP CURRENCIES

+ India - INR

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | DELHI, INDIA

Welcome to Delhi! Be greeted by your airport transfer and get ready to weave your way through the chaos of cars, rickshaws, scooters and people. Eeek! Get to know your trip mates over a welcome dinner and prepare yourself for a trip to remember.



### MEALS:

+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Arrival airport transfer

## DAY 2 | DELHI

Tick off the likes of Jama Masjid mosque and bustling Chandni Chowk market with a walking tour of Old Delhi before we check out the mesmerising Qutub Minar – the tallest brick minaret in the world. Just, wow! Tonight, give your taste buds a work out with some delicious street food.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Old Delhi walking tour

+ Visit Qutub Minar

## DAY 3 | DELHI TO AGRA

Leave the hectic streets of Delhi behind as we make tracks for magical Agra. We'll have a chance to channel our inner royalty as we explore Agra Fort then it's time to satisfy your inner foodie with an optional chaat crawl. Think of all the spicy deliciousness!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Agra Fort



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Chaat crawl in Agra from: 10  
USD

## DAY 4 | AGRA TO JAIPUR

Get ready for the best sunrise of your life...at the mesmerising Taj Mahal. Yes, you're actually here. Once you've filled your instagram story with #wunderlust pics we'll move on to Jaipur but not before a visit to Chand Baori Stepwell: a massive 13 story structure with 3,500 steps arranged in perfect symmetry.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Lunch



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ See the sunrise at the Taj  
Mahal

+ Visit Chand Baori Stepwell

## DAY 5 | JAIPUR

Another day, another amazing fortress to explore. We'll take a jeep up to Amber Fort before wondering the extensive complex of colourful rooms and lush courtyards. Then it's movie time – Bollywood-style! Tonight, why not learn some new skills at an optional cooking class? All that spice!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Amber Fort  
+ Tickets for a Bollywood Cinema



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Cooking class (including dinner) in Jaipur from: 30 USD

## DAY 6 | JAIPUR TO JODPHUR

Today we're off to the Blue City of Jodhpur and the magnificent Mehrangarh fort. Towering over the old city, Mehrangarh was chiseled from the rocky cliff face where it stands, cool right? Later we'll have a chance to explore the tangle of blue cube house in Old Town, winding medieval streets and buzzing bazaars before tucking into dinner together.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch  
+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Mehrangarh Fort

## DAY 7 | JODPHUR TO UDAIPUR

Hope you have your cameras charged because today we're stopping in at Ranakpur – home to one of the most significant Jain temples in India. Once you're done oo-ing and ah-ing at the intricate geometric patterns of the temple pillars we'll make tracks to romantic Udaipur.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Lunch



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Ranakpur Temples

## DAY 8 | UDAIPUR

Rise and shine! We'll start the day with a walking tour of Udaipur's quaint crooked streets and colourful bazaars. Then: why not relax and unwind with an optional yoga class? Tonight, we're setting sail on the beautiful Lake Pichola for a sunset cruise. Bliss.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Udaipur walking tour  
+ Sunset cruise on Lake Pichola



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Yoga class in Udaipur from: 30 USD

## DAY 9 | UDAIPUR TO DELHI

Soak up more tranquil, old world vibes on an optional cycling tour before we fly back to the chaos of Delhi. Tonight, we'll say goodbye to some of our trip mates over a group dinner. Quick, swap those socials! \*\*Please note: all domestic flights on our India trips have a capped luggage allowance of 15kgs – so make sure you pack light! If you really can't go without it, you'll be able to purchase an extra 5kgs at the airport for approximately £25 or \$45 AUD.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Cycling tour in Udaipur from:  
35 USD

## DAY 10 | DELHI TO CHENNAI

Today we'll fly south to Chennai where we'll say namaste to our new trip mates over a welcome dinner. Get ready for an epic second half of the trip – we know you're going to love it!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner

## DAY 11 | CHENNAI TO PONDICHERRY

UNESCO world heritage site alert! Today we're stopping in at Mahabalipuram to breathe in the salty beachside air and check out the town's mesmerising temples. Then: it's off to French-colonial Pondicherry for change in pace and culture.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Mahabalipuram

## DAY 12 | PONDICHERRY

We'll get a feel for the 'French Capital of India' on a walking tour then it's time to get in touch with your spiritual side with a visit to Aurobindo Ashram. Later you can choose to visit the experimental township of Auroville (The City of Dawn) or why not kick back and relax at the beach? Tonight, get stuck into some authentic French food.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Aurobindo Ashram
- + Pondicherry walking tour



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Visit Auroville from: 10 USD

## DAY 13 | PONDICHERRY TO CHETTINAD

Down that cup of kaapi, we're off to Chettinad! Kick things off with a village tour: passing the towns grand mansions and buzzing local markets. Hungry? We thought so! Tonight, learn how to make (and eat) the perfect curry on an included cooking class. Yum!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Chettinad village tour
- + Chettinad cooking class

## DAY 14 | CHETTINAD TO MADURAI VIA THANJAVUR AND TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

Ready for a temple run? First up it's Brihadeeswarah Temple – a spectacular Hindu structure with one of the tallest temple towers on earth. Next we're off to Tiruchirappalli to marvel at the spectacular Srirangam Temple and snap some #epic pics from the temple rooftop. Tonight, it's off to Meenakshi temple for an evening worship ceremony. Trust us, this is an experience you'll never forget.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Brihadeeswarah Temple
- + Srirangam Temple rooftop photo stop
- + Evening ceremony at the Meenakshi temple

## DAY 15 | MADURAI TO THEKKADY

Give your senses a work out today on a spice plantation tour in Thekkady. Later, we channel our inner karate kid at a traditional Kalaripayattu performance. Literally meaning 'training for the battlefield' this high energy performance is bound to get your heart pumping!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Thekkady spice plantation tour
- + Kalaripayattu performance

## DAY 16 | THEKKADY

Today you've got the option to explore India's best wildlife reserves: Periyar National Park \*heart face emoji\*. Get a dose of mother nature with a hike through the park and bamboo raft ride or head out on a safari cruise. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled (and your cameras ready) for the resident elephants.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Bamboo rafting and hiking experience in Periyar National Park from: 30 USD
- + Safari cruise in Periyar National Park from: 30 USD

## DAY 17 | THEKKADY TO ALLEPEY

All aboard! Tonight we'll be spending the night on a traditional house boat drifting down the Kerala backwaters. Name a more authentic experience, we'll wait.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + House boat stay in Kerala

## DAY 18 | ALLEPEY TO KOCHI

Time to make tracks to our final destination for the trip: the eclectic city of Kochi. A coastal city that's been drawing in traders, explorers and travellers for over 600 years this place is a mixing pot of culture and history. Tonight, why not jump on board an optional sunset cruise and watch the sky turn 50 shades of orange over the Arabian Sea.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

### ACTIVITIES:

- + Sunset cruise in Kochi from 15 USD

## DAY 19 | KOCHI

Kick off the day with a walking tour exploring the magnificent synagogue, Dutch-era houses and giant Chinese fishing nets. The afternoon is yours to soak up the relaxed seaside vibes, laze in artsy cafes or grab a delicious kati roll. Want more? A traditional Kathakali dance show is on the cards for tonight.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Kochi



### OPTIONAL

### ACTIVITIES:

- + Kathakali dance show in Kochi from: 8 USD

## DAY 20 | KOCHI

Swap those numbers and get one last group photo together, we're out of here after breakfast. Who's up for the next adventure?



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Please note: Indian airports
- + All domestic flights on our India trips have a capped luggage allowance of 15kgs - so make sure you pack light! If you really can't go without it, you'll be able to purchase an extra 5kgs at the airport for approximately £25 or \$45 AUD.
- + Please be aware that power banks cannot be stored in your check-in luggage - you must carry these in your hand luggage instead (otherwise, your checked luggage will not be allowed on the plane).
- + Please carry a printed copy of your flight details and your e-visa (if applicable) for security checks.
- + If you require any supporting information for your e-visa, please contact our Customer Service Team.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Departure transfer from Kochi

## TIPPING

### NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

## TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

### TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking

face emoji.

## ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

## CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

## BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

## MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



# PASSENGER SAFETY

## NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, remember to avoid walking alone, particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking, and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

## RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do.

That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

## **DRUG USE**

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana, even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

**REMEMBER** – if you are found in possession of drugs, not only could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up again.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- + Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- + Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!
- + Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink, you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- + Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home, too – so they're sure to know of some tried-and-tested ways to beat the blues
- + Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (trust us).

## **HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER**

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome holiday AND have a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- + Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your hotel towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- + Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- + Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets and book tours and activities run by local guides
- + Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- + Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

# **OTHER INFORMATION**

## **INSURANCE**

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit [www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance](http://www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance).

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

## WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it! (As long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is.)

- + 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes
- + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- + 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- + 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- + 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- + 4 shirts/T-shirts
- + 2 sweaters/jumpers
- + Smart casual evening wear
- + 1 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug

- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



**THAT'S IT!**