



TRIP CODE:

AXJJTR-0

## Topdecker, MEET ASIA

Too expensive...I don't have the time off...I hate sushi...

That's it, we're done with excuses. In under two weeks this trip gives you the highlights and the hidden gems. The culture and the crazy. The ultra-modern and the historic. The scenery and the cities. And all the ramen, okonomiyaki, udon, katsu, yakatori and sake your fat pants can handle (you packed those, right?). This is your wake-up call - Japan is waiting.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Android/iPhone app  
download info



This is a principal  
package.

# Hi, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK

## 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)

- + Visit the Senso-ji Temple
- + Walk the Shibuya crossing
- + Visit Akihabara
- + Visit Harajuku
- + Visit the Itsukushima Shrine
- + Visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum
- + Visit a sake brewery
- + Visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Full day city tour
- + Train ticket
- + Visit the Hida folk village
- + Visit morning riverside markets
- + Half-day tour of Takayama
- + Visit a sake brewery
- + Ferry to Miyajima
- + Visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum
- + Buddhist prayer ceremony
- + Visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine
- + Kyoto city tour

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Tokyo  
Asia

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Kyoto  
Asia

## *Trip currencies*

- + Japan - JPY

# Your Itinerary

## DAY 1 | TOKYO, JAPAN

You're in Tokyo, baby! Meet the group and dive into a full day city tour. Spot the Senso-ji Temple and wander along the nearby 500-year-old Nakamise shopping street selling mochi (sticky rice cakes) and geta (wooden shoes). There's also Akihabara for the anime fans and the fashionable Shinjuku and Harajuku districts to explore. Don't forget to walk the famous Shibuya crossing or see the Meiji Shrine while you're at it. Phew! What. A. Day. Hungry? Thought so. Bond with your trip mates over dinner. It's gonna be an awesome 12 days!



### MEALS:

+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Full day city tour

## DAY 2 | TOKYO

Today is a free day in Tokyo. Stuck for ideas? Join in with an optional sushi making experience or hop across the unique patchwork of districts that makes up Tokyo's cityscape and, for a taste of tradition, visit the Imperial Palace and its surrounding gardens. In the evening, wander the futuristic neon-lit streets or spend your night in Shinjuku – there are endless restaurants, bars, clubs and karaoke joints here. Wanna go out with the group? Take the option to visit the Robot Restaurant. Yes, it's a thing.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Sushi making experience from: 8824 JPY
- + Visit the Robot Restaurant from: 9,000 JPY

## DAY 3 | TOKYO

Today, why not take an optional day trip to the happiest place on earth: Tokyo Disneyland. Be sure to leave space in your suitcase for all of the Disney merchandise! Mickey not your thing? There's an optional day trip to Mount Fuji to jump on board with!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Visit Tokyo Disneyland from: 8,600 JPY
- + Day trip to Mount Fuji

## DAY 4 | TOKYO TO TAKAYAMA

This morning pack your bags 'cos we're travelling on the bullet train to the beautiful Japanese Alps. You'll visit the Hida folk village when you get there. Why not finish off the day with an optional foodie activity? There's Hida beef on the menu if you want it.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Train ticket
- + Visit the Hida folk village



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Hida beef dinner from: 4,500 JPY

## DAY 5 | TAKAYAMA

Start off the day at the morning riverside markets. Then, get your walking shoes on 'cos we'll be ticking off Takayama Jin'ya (a former government outpost) and visiting a sake brewery to try some of the famous Japanese rice wine. Tonight, be sure to check out the local onsen where you can relax in the hot springs. Aaaaand relax...



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit morning riverside markets
- + Half-day tour of Takayama
- + Visit a sake brewery



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Traditional Onsen experience

## DAY 6 | TAKAYAMA TO HIROSHIMA VIA MIYAJIMA

Jump on a ferry to Miyajima to see the island's wild deer – cute! You can also check out the Itsukushima Shrine. A sunset at this spot is just the ticket to round off the day, so keep your phones charged for some pretty snaps.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Ferry to Miyajima

## DAY 7 | HIROSHIMA TO OSAKA

Before leaving Hiroshima, visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum where you can learn about the atomic bombing during World War II. Later, we're headed to Osaka. Tonight, you'll get the chance to rest your head in a traditional Buddhist temple.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum

## DAY 8 | OSAKA

There's the chance to participate in a Buddhist prayer service this morning then the afternoon is yours to explore. Why not check out one of the numerous museums, hit the streets for some epic shopping or try the local food. With one of the biggest food scenes in Japan, you'll be spoilt for choice!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Buddhist prayer ceremony

## DAY 9 | OSAKA TO KYOTO

We're making tracks to Japan's traditional capital, Kyoto. Home to over 2,000 temples and shrines this place certainly ticks all the spiritual boxes. Today, we'll visit the beautiful Fushimi Inari Shrine – you're Instagram is going to light up with likes after this!



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine

## DAY 10 | KYOTO

Start off with a guided tour of Kyoto. Tick off the Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion before moving on to the sprawling Arashiyama bamboo forest and the Togetsu-kyo bridge to find your zen place (and your next Instagram post). Fancy yourself a foodie? You're in luck, as we'll pop by the Nishiki Market next. In the afternoon, it's off to Nijo Castle before finishing up with a quick visit to the Gion district. What a day!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Kyoto city tour

## DAY 11 | KYOTO

A free day to explore, whoo! You could always go on a day trip to Nara for more cute deer, beautiful nature and majestic temples. Later, you can dress up as a samurai or opt in for a Ramen making class. Want more? Kyoto's got a big student population, so why not get amongst the fun when day turns to night at a local bar? Tonight, there's a group dinner to round off the trip. We won't blame you for getting emotional...



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Dress as a Geisha or samurai from:  
9,600 JPY

## DAY 12 | KYOTO

After breakfast it's sayonara to the Land of the Rising Sun. Swap numbers and plan that next adventure together.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ On this trip you'll be travelling like a local... by train! This means a bit of walking between stations and hotels so we recommend packing light with a backpack or small case.

## *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
- + Snow gear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle



**THAT'S IT!**