

Topdeck

ROAD TO PHNOM PENH



TRIP CODE:

AXRPBP-0

TOPDECKER, meet Asia

Travelling from Bangkok to Phnom Penh, you'll take in some of the best that Thailand, Laos and Cambodia have to offer. From epic street food to incredible temples, an almsgiving ceremony to checking out Angkor Wat, you'll be spoilt for choice on this journey through three awesome countries. Ready? Let's go!

WORTH NOTING...

This is a section of the 28 Day Asian Fusion trip.

May through November is typhoon season in Asia, which can have an impact on touring in Halong Bay. Safety is our number one concern and as such we follow the direction of the Halong Bay Port Authority when operating day and overnight cruises. In the event of adverse weather/force majeure preventing safe cruising on the bay, Topdeck will make alternative accommodation arrangements and refunds cannot be issued for cancelled cruises or boat trips.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Sail & Swim



Nights



Download app



Meals

Thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

Ready for the time of your LIFE?
The countdown's on...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

IMPORTANT: please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Street eats tuk-tuk tour in Bangkok
- Overnight train ticket
- Visit Wat Rong Khun
- Cruise the Mekong River
- Visit a whiskey village
- Visit the Pak Ou Caves
- Join an almsgiving ceremony in Luang Prabang
- Internal flight
- Visit Angkor Wat at sunrise
- Guided tours of the Bayon temple and Ta Prohm

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | BANGKOK, THAILAND

Arrive in Bangkok and get ready to zip through the streets on an included street eats tour. Mode of transport? Tuk-tuk. Eeek!



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Street eats tuk-tuk tour in Bangkok

DAY 2 | BANGKOK TO CHIANG MAI

Tick off the Bangkok bucket list with a half-day city tour: Grand Palace and Wat Pho temple, we're looking at you. Tonight, catch some zzz's on an overnight train.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Overnight train ticket

DAY 3 | CHIANG MAI

Jump in a trishaw for an included city tour and cruise through the incredible old town in style. The afternoon is all yours. Included activities: -Guided trishaw tour in Chiang Mai



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 4 | CHIANG MAI

Free day! How about an optional cooking class? You'll be a Thai food pro in no time...



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Thai cooking class from: 850 THB

DAY 5 | CHIANG MAI TO CHIANG RAI

Be inspired by the amazing Wat Rong Khun 'White Temple' en route to Chiang Rai today. Get ready to say wow 100 times over.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Wat Rong Khun

DAY 6 | CHIANG RAI TO PAK BENG

Cross the Friendship Bridge then climb on board and get cruise-y along the Mekong River. We'll visit a riverside village along the way to get a feel for local life.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Cruise the Mekong River

DAY 7 | PAK BENG TO LUANG PRABANG

This morning, continue cruising the Mekong with a visit to the local markets. Later, pop in to the whiskey village, because, well, why not. Your final stop will be the Pak Ou Caves before pulling in to Luang Prabang.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit a whiskey village
- Visit the Pak Ou Caves

DAY 8 | LUANG PRABANG

Rise and shine! Today, check out the area by bike (optional). You'll also get the chance to see the Kuang Si Falls. This multi-tiered waterfall is pretty beautiful if we do say so ourselves.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Optionals:
- Luang Prabang cycling tour from: 64 USD
- See the Kuang Si Falls from: 28 USD

DAY 9 | LUANG PRABANG TO VANG VIENG

Wake up to the sound of the temple gong, take part in the daily almsgiving of the monks, and head south to stunning Vang Vieng.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Join an almsgiving ceremony in Luang Prabang

DAY 10 | VANG VIENG

Free day! Why not opt in for a kayaking trip on the Nam Song River? If you're here in the wet season: rapids. Rock climbing, cave exploring and swimming are also yours for the taking.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Kayaking on the Nam Song River from: 50 USD

DAY 11 | VANG VIENG TO VIENTIANE

Off to Vientiane where we'll get our bearings on a city tour. Tick off Wat Si Sisaket, Patuxai and Pha That Luang.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 12 | VIENTIANE TO SIEM REAP

We're flying to Siem Reap today. Passports at the ready! Try and nab a window seat.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Internal flight

DAY 13 | SIEM REAP

Wake up early and shorten your bucket list with a stunning sunrise at Angkor Wat, followed by a guided tour of the Bayon temple and Ta Prohm. Want some entertainment this evening? A visit to the circus or sunset quad bike ride awaits (both optional).



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Angkor Wat at sunrise
- Guided tours of the Bayon temple and Ta Prohm



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Ticket to the circus from: 16 USD
- Sunset quad bike ride from: 30 USD

DAY 14 | SIEM REAP TO PHNOM PENH

We're kicking it to Phnom Penh today. Cue all of the road trip songs!



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 15 | PHNOM PENH

Take an optional visit to the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields to reflect and pay your respects. Tonight, feast on a Khmer BBQ with your travel mates. Cheers!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields from: 37 USD

DAY 16 | PHNOM PENH

We're outta here after brekkie. Time for the next adventure?



MEALS:

- Breakfast

OTHER INFORMATION

TOPDECK APP

Feeling appy? Download the Topdeck app and get PUMPED for the adventure ahead. Best bit is: from 45 days before departure you'll be able to chat with your soon-to-be tripmates.

Plus, get your itinerary at your fingertips – so you know where you'll be going and what you'll be doing on each day of your trip. Nice!

Links:

Apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/topdeck/id994727866>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.FlexiTechSolutions.TopDeck&hl=en>



YOUR SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, 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 so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your 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.

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers 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 immediately. 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 do you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if they are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you don'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.

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 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 (fact!)

TRAVEL SINCE COVID-19

Travel looks a bit different since COVID-19. That's why we've put some new procedures in place to help keep you safe on the road.

What remains the same? Your Topdeck trip will be run hygienically, responsibly, and with your safety at the forefront of everything we do. End of.

Here's the info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/travel-safely>

RESPECT ON THE ROAD

RESPECTING FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow tripmates . The golden rules? Respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation, and treat others how you'd wish to be treated. Easy!

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 adventure AND 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 room 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!

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.

Head to our FAQ for more info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/faqs-0>

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team: <https://www.topdeck.travel/about-us/contact>

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's 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. Check out our handy interactive map showing global visa requirements:

<https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/latest-border-restrictions>

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.

TIPPING

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

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!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 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 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket

- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear



THAT'S IT!