

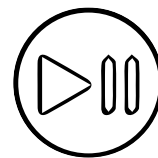
TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

The sun-drenched shores of the Med are a playground for the rich and glamorous. And now, it's your chance to check them out! Come with us and tour Europe's hottest Mediterranean destinations - from Gaudi's Barcelona and the stylish French Riviera to Italy and the Greek Islands. Sounds good, right?

WORTH NOTING...

This is a sector of the 37 Day European Pioneer trip.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Play & Pause



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

- Visit a traditional French perfumery
- Walking tour of Monaco
- Orientation tour of Verona
- Walking tour of Venice
- Vaporetto ride
- Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- Walking tour of Rome
- Driving tour of Athens

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | BARCELONA, SPAIN

Say hello to Barcelona, where tapas and sangria rule! Uncover the food market gems scattered across the city and satisfy your inner foodie before you meet the group this afternoon. Tonight, there's an optional flamenco show to get involved with. Olé!



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Flamenco show in Barcelona:
from €15

DAY 2 | BARCELONA

Who needs the snooze button when you've got a whole day to spend in a city packed to the rafters with art nouveau, alluring accents and (most importantly) tapas? Hit the side streets and alleyways of Las Ramblas, visit the Gracia neighborhood, go Gaudí at Parc Güell or give in to your inner football fanatic and kneel to the sporting gods at the Nou Camp. Barcelona's got plenty to keep you occupied!



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 3 | BARCELONA TO FRENCH RIVIERA, FRANCE

Today we'll set off along the coast to rub shoulders with the rich and famous at the world's most lavish waterfront property: the French Riviera. But that's not all! En route, we'll make a sweet-smelling stop at a perfumery. Ooh la la!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit a traditional French
perfumery

DAY 4 | FRENCH RIVIERA

This morning, you do you! Laze on the beach, or go wild in the designer boutiques in Nice's Old Town. Later: roll with the jet set on a guided tour and see how the 1% live (hint: it involves Ferraris and bathing in caviar). Feeling lucky? Hit the tables at the Monte Carlo Casino and make it rain (or not).



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Monaco

DAY 5 | FRENCH RIVIERA TO VENICE, ITALY

Onwards to fair Verona, the place where Romeo and Juliet found love. Why not snap a selfie at Juliet's balcony and join throngs of lovers leaving notes on the wall? If that's not your thing, you could always avoid the crowds and head for the ancient arena instead. Then: say ciao to Venice. Yep, you're really here!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation tour of Verona



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Get a personalised trip T-shirt: from €21
- Get a personalised trip hoodie: €32

DAY 6 | VENICE

You know it as The Floating City, but this place is actually sinking (slowly). Today we'll check out a who's who of Venice's usual suspects on a guided walking tour (ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square and Accademia Bridge) before rounding things off with a vaporetto ride along the Grand Canal. Need suggestions for this afternoon? Insider tip: spend some time seeking out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop (or just go on a mission to find the perfect gelato).



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice
- Vaporetto ride



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Gondola ride: from €20

DAY 7 | VENICE TO FLORENCE

Stop for THAT photo at Pisa, then make your food baby sing as we roll into the land of hearty Tuscan cuisine and birthplace of gelato: Florence. Whip around Santa Maria del Fiore before tucking into amore on a plate. The evening is yours to stroll along the the Arno River and watch the sunset.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower

DAY 8 | FLORENCE TO ROME

Time to give that bucket list a workout – we're off to Rome! Did someone say walking tour? We'll pass by the Pantheon, throw our two cents in the Trevi Fountain, sit on the Spanish Steps and check out the mighty Colosseum before the day is done. Tonight, you're in Disneyland for foodies. Have fun!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Rome

DAY 9 | ROME

Create the ultimate Roman Holiday in one day with a whirlwind of Vespas, espresso, two-cheek kisses and pizza the way it's supposed to taste. Count your blessings on an optional tour of Vatican City, then play 'I-spy' with two-and-a-half millennia worth of history. Want more? You could always shop till you drop on Via Condotti, head to Capitoline Hill for awesome views of the Roman Forum and Colosseum or just kick back in Piazza Navona for some dolce far niente (delicious idleness).



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Vatican City:
from €45

DAY 10 | ROME TO ATHENS, GREECE

Play connect the dots with the stars or let the swell rock you to sleep as we ferry our way from bella Italia to Greece. Restaurants, bars, and cosy cabin rooms will keep you comfortable.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 11 | ATHENS

It doesn't get feta than this! Stroll around ticking off the likes of the Greek Parliament, Syntagma Square and the Acropolis today. Whatever you do, take the day to get lost – you're free until dinner!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 12 | ATHENS TO MYKONOS

All aboard the ferry to Mykonos (aka 'that island with the cute windmills'). Epic beaches, sinfully good local restaurants and a bustling nightlife... What's not to love?



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 13 | MYKONOS

You've got a free day in para-para-paradise. Loving it? We hope so! Soak up those rays and dive into 50 shades of blue.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 14 | MYKONOS

Another day to spend exactly how you please amidst Mykonos' dreamy backdrop of chalky villages, sky blue churches and laze-worthy beaches. Ahhhhh.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 15 | MYKONOS TO ATHENS

Today it's back on the ferry to Athens for a final dose of ancient architecture and tragic myths. Make sure your camera's charged – we're taking you on a driving tour.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Athens

DAY 16 | ATHENS

All good things must come to an end! Swap numbers and start planning the next adventure.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

MEALS

Your included meals are detailed in the 'Included Essentials' section of this document.

Breakfasts (usually continental breakfasts) are included every day, except on the first morning of your trip. A typical continental breakfast may consist of cereals with milk or yogurt, bread, croissants, cold meats, and cheese – with fruit juice, tea or coffee to drink. It is rare to get a hot breakfast in continental Europe, though on some occasions some hot food may be available.

Included meals will be provided at local restaurants and the accommodations in which we stay. In most cases, table water is provided with meals. If you wish to purchase additional drinks, you can do so at your own expense.

If you have any dietary requirements, we'll make every effort to cater to your needs – as long as you advise your travel agent or Customer Service Consultant when you book. You can also make a note of dietary requirements in the Topdeck app when you check-in.

PLEASE NOTE: Although we'll do everything in our power to cater to your needs, we cannot guarantee this will be possible in every restaurant we visit. We also cannot cater to tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

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

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 travelling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

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!