

Topdeck

ROAD TO ATHENS



TRIP CODE:

EEMELA-9

Topdecker, MEET EUROPE

As we travel Europe from London to Athens, we'll experience the very best this fabulous region has to offer. From Paris to Barcelona, the Swiss Alps to Venetian canals; through the French Riviera and over rolling Tuscan hills; from sailing off Corfu to lighting up the night on Mykonos, this tour of Europe is one to beat!

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



Hostel Plus



Nights



Android/iPhone app
download info



This is a sector trip.

Hi, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK

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We really appreciate your decision to travel with us, and rest assured that the entire Topdeck team will be pulling out all the stops to make your trip an unforgettable one.

Now it's time to get excited and get ready for a fantastic holiday!

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs, including where to meet, what to bring and what you can expect on your trip of a lifetime! Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can check off the lists or bring it with you when you travel.

Please do bear in mind though, some points should be taken as a guide only - after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary greatly from one person to the next so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much! However, we're sure you'll find the information in general to be very useful.

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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 Pisa and the famous Leaning Tower
- + Visit the Loire Valley
- + Walking tour of Monaco
- + Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- + Vaporetto ride in Venice
- + Driving tour of Barcelona
- + Visit a traditional French perfumery
- + Walking tour of Venice
- + Driving tour of Athens
- + Driving tour of Paris and gourmet picnic by the Eiffel Tower
- + Walking tour of Verona
- + Walking tour of Rome

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Driving tour of Paris and gourmet picnic by the Eiffel Tower
- + Visit the Loire Valley
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YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Paris
Europe

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Athens
Europe

Trip currencies

- + France - EUR
- + Spain - EUR
- + Monaco - EUR
- + Switzerland - CHF
- + Italy - EUR
- + Vatican City - EUR
- + Greece - EUR

Your Itinerary



DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO PARIS, FRANCE (OR JOIN IN PARIS)

All good things start with Paris. Meet the crew, grab some supplies and hit the road early in the morning as we jump across the English Channel. Pinch yourself and Instagram your first selfie before we kick off the trip with a driving tour and picnic next to the Eiffel Tower. Home to Coco Chanel, the Pompidou Centre and the Mona Lisa, Paris more than deserves its reputation as the European capital for all things culture, fashion and food. Now's your chance to find out why.



MEALS:

+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Driving tour of Paris and gourmet picnic by the Eiffel Tower

DAY 2 | PARIS

This morning: free time en Français. From the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay to the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées, you'll be sure to make a solid dent in your bucket list. Later on, you can stretch those legs on an optional bike tour of Paris, or simply roam the streets on your own. End your day with an optional Seine River cruise or a #throwback bohemian cabaret show.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Traditional cabaret show
+ Seine river cruise
+ Bike tour of Paris

DAY 3 | PARIS TO BORDEAUX

Today we roll on to Bordeaux, where half the city is UNESCO World Heritage-listed and vineyards reign supreme. Take an optional stroll around Château de Chambord, the largest château in the Loire Valley, and learn why French Renaissance architecture is famous around the world.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit the Loire Valley



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Visit Château de Chambord

DAY 4 | BORDEAUX TO SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN

Wake up and roll out of bed! Before you know it, we'll be eating pintxos and tapas x 100 in San Sebastián. All. The. Food.






MEALS:

+ Breakfast


DAY 5 | SAN SEBASTIÁN TO BARCELONA

Say hey, Barcelona! Bienvenidos to the city of art nouveau, alluring accents and (most importantly) tapas. Tick off the likes of the Sagrada Família, the Columbus Monument and Las Ramblas on an included driving tour before we set you free into the buzzing city. Tonight: shall we dance? Prepare for an optional flamenco show.

 MEALS:	 INCLUDED TODAY:	 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
+ Breakfast + Dinner	+ Driving tour of Barcelona	+ Flamenco show

DAY 6 | BARCELONA

What do you want to do today? Well, you could hit the side streets and alleyways of Las Ramblas, go boho in 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 7 | BARCELONA TO FRENCH RIVIERA, FRANCE

Bye bye, Barça. Hello, turquoise waters and lush stylings of the French Riviera. Get that selfie stick out as we roll on north along the coast to rub shoulders with the rich and famous. Oh, and by the way - we'll be making a pit stop at a traditional French perfumery en route. Later, swap your patatas bravas for hearty French cooking and get ready for tomorrow's adventures.

 MEALS:	 INCLUDED TODAY:
+ Breakfast	+ Visit a traditional French perfumery


DAY 8 | FRENCH RIVIERA INCLUDING MONACO VISIT

Hit the beach with the paparazzi posse, 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:	 INCLUDED TODAY:
+ Breakfast	+ Walking tour of Monaco

DAY 9 | FRENCH RIVIERA TO SWISS ALPS, SWITZERLAND

Home to the 'Top of Europe', 72 waterfalls and one of the largest nature conservations in Switzerland, Lauterbrunnen is where we'll be spending the night. Upon arrival, chow down on fondue and hit the bar for a nightcap.

 MEALS:
+ Breakfast + Dinner

DAY 10 | SWISS ALPS

Scenic hikes and jaw-dropping views are high on today's agenda. Go low key with a mountain walk or hop on board the Jungfraubahn railway for an optional visit to the Jungfrau Mountain summit. Expect fairytale villages en route and skydiving out of a helicopter upon arrival (if heights don't scare you). Another feast awaits your return, regardless of how you make your way back down.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Scenic excursion to Jungfrau ('The Top of Europe')
- + Skydiving
- + Scenic helicopter ride
- + Tickets for the Schilthorn cable car
- + Visit a Swiss watch shop

DAY 11 | SWISS ALPS TO VENICE, ITALY

Maketh haste to fair Verona, the place where Romeo and Juliet found love. Snap a selfie at Juliet's balcony and join throngs of lovers leaving notes on the wall (or avoid the crowds and just marvel at the ancient arena). Then: say ciao to Venice from across the lagoon as we check into our campsite, have an Eat Pray Love-worthy relationship with an irresistible Italian (meal) and get pumped for living out our own version of The Italian Job tomorrow.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Verona



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Get a personalised trip T-shirt or hoodie

DAY 12 | 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), then jump on a vaporetto to explore the Grand Canal. If that's not enough, you can also hop on an optional gondola ride. Throw away your map in the afternoon and try to find the world's most epic little bookshop, Libreria Acqua Alta, 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

DAY 13 | 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. #Bliss



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower

DAY 14 | FLORENCE TO ROME

It's onwards to Rome today. Time to give that bucket list a workout! Make like Caesar (the emperor, not the salad) and work up a 'colossus' hunger as you pass by the Pantheon, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain, sit on the Spanish Steps and visit ancient history's version of the Hunger Games set at the Colosseum. Tonight, you're in Disneyland for foodies. Have fun.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- + Walking tour of Rome

DAY 15 | ROME INCLUDING VATICAN CITY VISIT

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 the Vatican City, then play 'I-spy' with two-and-a-half millennia worth of history. Want more? Then 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
- + Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Guided tour of the Vatican City

DAY 16 | ROME TO GREECE VIA OVERNIGHT FERRY

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



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 17 | SAILING IN GREECE

A short drive along the Greek coastline, then it's on to our flotilla of yachts for three days of sun, sand and sailing on the Ionian Sea. By night, flaunt those European tan lines as we drop anchor and hop between authentic Greek tavernas for a hat-trick of feasting, table dancing and ouzo. You know the saying 'too much of a good thing'? Neither do we.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch

DAY 18 | SAILING IN GREECE

A free day to sail, swim, eat, sleep, repeat. Spend the day your way.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch

DAY 19 | SAILING IN GREECE

More turquoise water. More swimming. More diving off boats. More epic Instagram shots. You could probably get used to this.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 20 | SAILING IN GREECE TO ATHENS

It doesn't get feta than this! Orient yourself as you tick off the likes of the Greek Parliament, Syntagma Square and the Acropolis on a driving tour.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Driving tour of Athens

DAY 21 | ATHENS TO MYKONOS

Today we hop on a ferry over 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 22 | MYKONOS

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 23 | MYKONOS

You could totally get used to Mykonos' dreamy backdrop of chalky villages, sky blue churches and laze-worthy beaches. Another free day to spend exactly how you please.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 24 | MYKONOS TO SANTORINI

Wave goodbye to Mykonos and try to contain your excitement as we arrive in Santorini – home to the world's best sunset.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner

DAY 25 | SANTORINI

Get ready for more rom-com-worthy landscapes and views to write home about. After dark, hit the taverns and mingle with the locals.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 26 | SANTORINI TO ATHENS

Whip out your camera and snap one last shot of Santorini's postcard-worthy scenery. We're catching the ferry back to Athens for a final dose of ancient architecture and tragic myths.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 27 | ATHENS

Today is all about YOU! Spend it however you please. Explore during the day, then spend your evening searching for Greek grub and live entertainment at a traditional taverna.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

DAY 28 | ATHENS

Today we say farewell after breakfast. Number swap and get those FB deets – they're essential for planning that next adventure.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

Meals

Breakfasts are included every day (except on the first morning). Included meals will be a combination of those prepared by Topdeck On-Site Chefs, local restaurants and places in which we stay.

If you have any dietary requirements we will make every effort to cater to your specific needs as long as you advise your travel agent or Customer Service Consultant when you book, or make note of this in the Topdeck app when you check in (refer below). However, please be aware that although we will do everything in our power to arrange it, we cannot guarantee that every restaurant we use will be able to cater to all dietary needs, particularly in Eastern Europe. We also cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu

Tipping

Your Topdeck crew never expect tips themselves and will not ask for any; that's not what friends do! We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead, spoil yourself with the money you will save by travelling with Topdeck (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

Topdeck Travel App

Our travel app is **AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD BEFORE YOU TRAVEL**. With a range of cool features including a Currency Converter, Budget Planner, Check-In tool and Social Timeline (so your next #TravelEnvy post is never too far away) you can plan your trip like a pro.

Think of it like your very own Topdeck Trip Leader, always on call with the latest info, weather, maps and city guides to give you the trip of a lifetime, all in the palm of your hand.

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Passenger safety

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.

OTHER INFORMATION



THAT'S IT!