

# Topdeck

## OCEANIC EMPIRES



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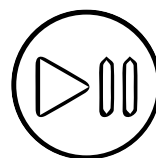
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## TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Uncover Europe in all its glory and soak up all the culture, cuisine, history and nightlife that you can handle! From grand old capitals to the artistic allure and passion of the Mediterranean, this is the Europe experience of a lifetime - and you'll never want it to end!

### 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

- Driving tour of Paris and gourmet picnic by the Eiffel Tower
- Visit the Loire Valley
- Driving tour of Barcelona
- Visit a traditional French perfumery
- Walking tour of Monaco
- Walking tour of Verona
- Walking tour of Venice
- Vaporetto ride
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- Walking tour of Rome
- Driving tour of Athens
- Visit the cliffside monasteries of Meteora (entry not included)
- Driving tour of Tirana with a local guide
- Visit Budva
- Walking tour of Dubrovnik with a local guide

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO PARIS, FRANCE

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, SPAIN

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:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Barcelona



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- 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:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- 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:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- 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 SAILING IN 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 TO METEORA

Leave your fear of heights in Athens. We're driving to Meteora, perched on the nail biting cliffs of Thessaly (Google it). Later, round off the day with good friends, good food and some FaceTiming.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the cliffside monasteries of Meteora (entry not included)

## DAY 29 | METEORA TO TIRANA, ALBANIA

Next stop, Tirana! Your Trip Leader will clue you up on everything you need to know about this former hardline communist state. Add a splash of colour to your Insta story today as you take a wander around.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Tirana with a local guide

## DAY 30 | TIRANA TO DUBROVNIK, CROATIA VIA BUDVA, MONTENEGRO

Press your nose to the window and soak up all the stunning views that race past the coach window as we head up Montenegro's coast on our way to the most famous walled city in Europe (stopping at Budva on the way). Later, we'll take a wander around Dubrovnik's tiny cobblestoned streets and explore a few hidden cafés and shops before grabbing dinner and checking out the glitzy nightlife.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Budva
- Walking tour of Dubrovnik with a local guide

## DAY 31 | DUBROVNIK

Yay! A free day in Dubrovnik! Spend some time checking out the residential homes further up in the Old Town for some awesome views, then relish a cold beer on the wall as the sun sets over the Adriatic.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 32 | DUBROVNIK

Today, we've got some optionals that'll knock your socks off. Choose from sea kayaking around the city walls, or head out to explore 'King's Landing' on a Game of Thrones tour.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Sea kayaking around the Dubrovnik walls
- Game of Thrones tour

## DAY 33 | DUBROVNIK

Say your goodbyes, we're outta here after breakfast. Facebook friends, anyone?



### 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!**