

# Topdeck

## SUMMER COMPASS



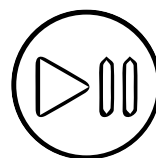
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## TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Spin the compass and let us take you along the vibrant path from London to some of the most popular regions in Europe. We're talking culture, history and food (and lots of it) as we wander through France, Spain, Italy, the Vatican City, Switzerland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Lucky you! It's going to be an incredible adventure. Jump on and get excited.

### 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
- Bordeaux winery tour and tasting
- Walking tour of San Sebastián
- Driving tour of Madrid
- Walking tour of Valencia
- Driving tour of Barcelona
- Walking tour of Marseille
- Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- Walking tour of Rome
- Visit Pisa and the famous Leaning Tower
- Walking tour of Verona
- Walking tour of Venice
- Vaporetto ride
- Dutch cheese and clogs demonstration
- Walking tour of Amsterdam
- Canal dinner cruise

# 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:

- Entry to Château de Chambord

## DAY 4 | BORDEAUX

Home to over 9,000 wine producers, Bordeaux fo' sure knows how to wine and dine. Date night, anyone? See how many grapes you can squeeze into one day. Next up: hit the streets and raise a glass to the winemakers at happy hour.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 5 | BORDEAUX TO SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN

Wake up and roll out of bed – it's wine o'clock somewhere in the world! This morning, learn the A to Z of the grape-y stuff with an included tasting. Tip: pick up some bottles to send home (your future self will thank you). Before you know it, we'll be eating pintxos and tapas x 100 in San Sebastián. All. The. Food.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Bordeaux winery tour and tasting
- Walking tour of San Sebastián

## DAY 6 | SAN SEBASTIÁN

Did someone say beach day? Hit up Old Town before you catch some rays on the beach.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 7 | SAN SEBASTIÁN TO MADRID

Today we head inland to the capital. Madrid is home to Spanish masterpieces (Picasso and Dalí, anyone?) and buzzing nightlife. Spend a spare moment exploring the Royal Palace, Plaza de España, Reina Sofia and all the architectural delights this city has to offer. Need more? Don't miss the Prado Museum, the botanical gardens and the home of Real Madrid FC.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Madrid

## DAY 8 | MADRID

Hot foot it along the Gran Vía to Plaza Mayor. Before you go, don't miss a visit to the Chocolatería San Ginés – serving some hot dayum churros since 1894. In the mood for chills? Kick back and relax in the Malasaña and Chueca neighbourhoods. Shopping fiends will be well catered for in the Salamanca district.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Food tour of Madrid

## DAY 9 | MADRID TO VALENCIA

Put down that calamari sandwich and head to Valencia. More food. Some argue Valencia is THE home of paella, but we'll leave that for the Spaniards to battle out.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Valencia



## DAY 10 | VALENCIA 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:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Barcelona



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Flamenco show

## DAY 11 | 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 12 | BARCELONA TO MARSEILLE, FRANCE

We meet again with the French border crossing back to Marseille. Head out on an included walking tour and uncover the delights this port city has to offer – it's multiculturalism and history at its best!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Marseille

## DAY 13 | MARSEILLE

Any sailing fans out there? Mast-to-mast with yachts, Marseille's Vieux Port is a little slice of maritime heaven. Later on, dig into some local French fare and watch the sun set over the port. Charming, really.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 14 | MARSEILLE TO FLORENCE, ITALY

Time to make your food baby sing! Today we're rolling into the land of hearty Tuscan cuisine: Florence. Whip around Santa Maria del Fiore before ending your day in true Italian fashion: in a carb induced coma at a local trattoria. It would be rude not to.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 15 | FLORENCE

Florence has more stories than Bilbo Baggins, more culture than a Shoreditch hipster, over 1,800 restaurants AND it gave the world gelato. Get schooled on the Medici family, stroll the Ponte Vecchio (the only bridge not bombed in WWII) and get an in-depth tour of the city with a local guide.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Florence with a local guide

## DAY 16 | FLORENCE TO ROME

Time to give that bucket list a workout – we're off to Rome! 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 Rome
- Visit Pisa and the famous Leaning Tower

## DAY 17 | 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 18 | ROME TO VENICE

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
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Verona



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Get a personalised trip T-shirt or hoodie

## DAY 19 | 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 20 | VENICE TO SWISS ALPS, SWITZERLAND

Ready for a breath of fresh air? Good! We're off to the Swiss Alps. Get ready for OMG views.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

## DAY 21 | 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



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic excursion to Jungfrau ('The Top of Europe')
- Skydiving
- Scenic helicopter ride
- White Water Rafting on River Lütshine

## DAY 22 | SWISS ALPS TO LUXEMBOURG CITY, LUXEMBOURG

Roll yourself down the Alps towards Luxembourg, one of the world's top three nations in terms of both wealth AND wine consumption (they know what's up). This city might be small, but it packs a punch.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 23 | LUXEMBOURG CITY TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Start dreaming of cheese, clogs and cheeky café stops as we roll through tulip and windmill dotted fields to Amsterdam. DAM it's going to be a good day! Learn how cheddar and clogs are made, then get your bearings on a walking tour of the vibrant capital. We're talking the Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument, so get your cameras at the ready. For the perfect end to the perfect day, give in to temptation and grab a cone of hot chips with mayo. Mmm.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Dutch cheese and clogs demonstration
- Walking tour of Amsterdam

## DAY 24 | AMSTERDAM

Join 881,000 bikes and get your cycle on with an optional bike tour of Amsterdam's iconic canals, bridges and parks. Culture fiends, delve deeper with a visit to the Anne Frank House or the Van Gogh or Rijksmuseum. Still thirsty for more? Check out the Heineken Experience and indulge in a spot of beer tasting. What better way to toast the final night of your Europe Inspired adventure than with a cruise on the canal?



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Canal dinner cruise



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Amsterdam

## DAY 25 | AMSTERDAM TO LONDON, ENGLAND

Today we love and leave you. Summer Compass, it was fun. Too soon for 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!