

Topdeck

THE COASTAL ROAM



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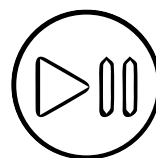
TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Ready to roam through the best parts of Europe? Fall in love with Paris's neo-classical architecture and leafy boulevards. Shout 'salud' in the tapas bars and restaurants of cosmopolitan Barcelona. Check out the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps and the mighty Colosseum in Rome. Lucky you - it's going to be an incredible adventure!

WORTH NOTING...

This is a sector of the 25 Day Summer Compass 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

- 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

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO PARIS, FRANCE

All good things start with Paris. Meet the crew and grab some supplies before we hit the road early in the morning and jump across the English Channel. The home of 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-related. What better way to start the trip than with a driving tour and delicious picnic next to the Eiffel Tower?



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 Élysées, you'll be sure to make a solid dent in your bucket list. Later on, it's up to you: 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 cabaret show.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Traditional cabaret show: from €65
- Seine river cruise: from €10
- Bike tour of Paris: from €30

DAY 3 | PARIS TO BORDEAUX

Today we roll on to Bordeaux, where half the city is UNESCO World Heritage-listed and vineyards reign supreme. Along the way, you could opt in to take a stroll around the 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: from €10

DAY 4 | BORDEAUX

As the home of 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.



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, we'll learn the A to Z of the grape-y stuff at an included tasting session. Before you know it we'll be eating allllll of the pintxos and tapas in San Sebastián. Yum.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 6 | SAN SEBASTIÁN

Beach day! Hit up the Old Town before you catch some rays – and don't miss the chance to shaka like a Spaniard in the surf or head up Mt Ulia to capture that totally #instagrammable sunset shot.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 7 | SAN SEBASTIÁN TO MADRID

Today we head inland to the Spanish capital: Madrid, home of artistic masterpieces (Picasso and Dalí, anyone?) and buzzing nightlife. While you're here, make sure you take the time to explore the Royal Palace, Plaza de España, Reina Sofia and all the other 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

Don't miss a visit to the Chocolatería San Ginés – serving up some ah-mazing churros since 1894. In the mood for chills? Kick back and relax in the Malasaña or Chueca neighbourhood. Shopping fiend? You'll be well catered for in the Salamanca district.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Food tour of Madrid: from €50

DAY 9 | MADRID TO VALENCIA

Valencia, here we come! This coastal city has heaps to offer (and it isn't afraid to shout about it). Oh – and did we mention it's also the home of paella? Make sure you hunt some down while you have the chance!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Valencia

DAY 10 | VALENCIA TO BARCELONA

Next stop: Barça! Get your cameras charged and keep an eye out for those bucket list sights on today's driving tour. Then: finish off the day in true Spanish style with an optional flamenco performance. Olé!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Barcelona



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Flamenco show in Barcelona: from €15

DAY 11 | BARCELONA

Pull on your Barcelona shirt and go get your Gaudí fix. La Sagrada Família, Casa Batlló and Park Güell: they're all here! Think you've eaten it all? We're willing to bet that you haven't! Why not tick a few more Spanish delicacies off the list at one of the city's amazing food markets?



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 12 | BARCELONA TO MARSEILLE, FRANCE

French border, we meet again! This time, we're off 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'll set a course for the home of Tuscan cuisine: Florence. Whip around Santa Maria del Fiore before ending your day in true Italian fashion: in a carb induced coma following tonight's included dinner.



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! 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
- Visit Pisa and the famous Leaning Tower

DAY 17 | ROME INCLUDING VATICAN CITY VISIT

It wouldn't be Rome without a visit to the Pope - so hop on an optional tour and catch the 360-degree view from the Basilica. After that, we'll say goodbye. Make sure to swap numbers!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Vatican City: from €45

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!