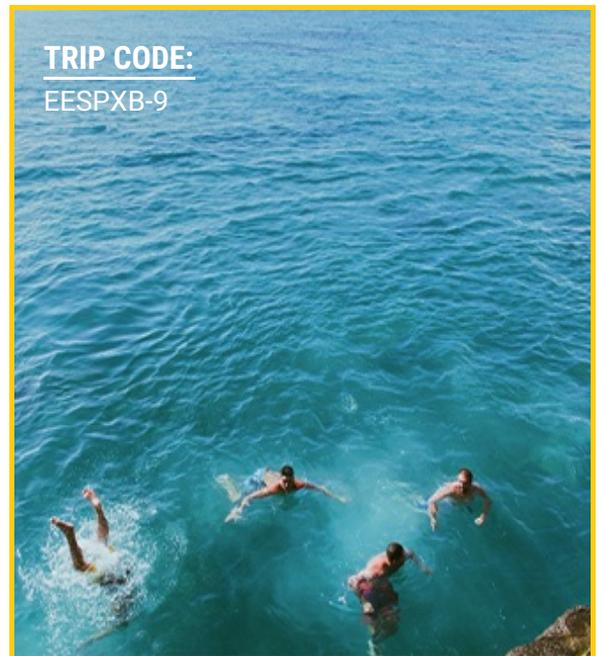


# Topdeck

## TRAIL OF COLUMBUS



TRIP CODE:  
EESPXB-9

## TOPDECKER, meet Europe

Follow in the footsteps of Columbus as we travel through Spain and Portugal. From the cosmopolitan streets of Lisbon to the beautiful beaches of Porto, the majestic monuments in Madrid and the streets of cool Barcelona, get a taste for the best the region has to offer on this tour.

### 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

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

## ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

**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 the Valley of the Fallen
- + Visit Sintra
- + Visit Segovia
- + Port tasting at a winery in Porto
- + Farewell dinner in Barcelona
- + Visit Porto

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Driving tour of Lisbon
- + Visit Sintra
- + Walking tour of Porto
- + Port tasting at a winery in Porto
- + Driving tour of Madrid
- + Visit the Valley of the Fallen
- + Walking tour of Segovia
- + Walking tour of San Sebastián
- + Visit Zaragoza

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Lisbon  
Portugal

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Barcelona  
Spain

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Portugal - EUR
- + Spain - EUR

# YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME  
TRIP  
LEADER

## DAY 1 | LISBON, PORTUGAL

Get exploring Lisbon today before you meet the group in the evening. Check out Jeronimos Monastery and the World Heritage listed Belem Tower for a dose of history. A local meal will get you fuelled up for dancing tonight. Let's go!



**MEALS:**

+ Dinner



**INCLUDED TODAY:**

+ Driving tour of Lisbon

## DAY 2 | LISBON

Time to get friendly with Portugal's capital city on foot. Check out the medieval maze that is Alfama, the oldest neighbourhood in Lisbon, or venture up to São Jorge Castle for epic views and a history lesson on Moorish culture. Afterwards, wind down in the Botanical Gardens. Did you know that this place was built by a Portuguese king who wanted one of every type of plant in the world? You do now! Sprawl out, have a picnic and get in touch with nature.



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast

## DAY 3 | LISBON TO PORTO

If you think Porto has something to do with port wine, you're right. There's just enough time for a quick stop in Sintra to visit the Palácio Nacional da Pena and Vila Nova de Gaia.



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner



**INCLUDED TODAY:**

+ Visit Sintra

## DAY 4 | PORTO

First today, we'll take a look round Ribeira, Porto's famous old town, on a guided walking tour. Medieval streets, quirky alleyways and hand-painted azulejos culminate in a stunning port, complete with traditional fishing boats. UNESCO rates it and so should you. Then: rest your legs on an optional cruise down the Douro river. Did we mention there's also port tasting on the cards for today? Let's do this!



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast



**INCLUDED TODAY:**

+ Walking tour of Porto

+ Port tasting at a winery in Porto



**OPTIONAL  
ACTIVITIES:**

+ Boat cruise down the Douro River

## DAY 5 | PORTO TO MADRID, SPAIN

Today it's up and onwards to the old haunts of Picasso, Dalí, Miró and a whole bunch of other enviably creative artists from the ritzy 1920s. Get acquainted with the city on a driving tour, then gather with the crew for a tasty included dinner this evening.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Driving tour of Madrid

## DAY 6 | MADRID

Another day to roam free! Check out the Royal Palace, home to one of Europe's oldest monarchies, then stroll through the expansive Plaza Mayor, get your art fix at the Prado Museum and make like a local at one of the buzzing bistros in Malasaña - an über trendy neighbourhood with a unique character and a provocative past. If all else fails, there's always an optional food tour to get on board with. Elasticated clothing recommended.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Food tour of Madrid

## DAY 7 | MADRID TO SAN SEBASTIÁN

Next: San Sebastián. On the way, we'll swing by the Valley of the Fallen memorial and the city of Segovia - another World Heritage-listed gem. Let's just say dinner will be well deserved, you history buffs, you.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit the Valley of the Fallen
- + Walking tour of Segovia

## DAY 8 | SAN SEBASTIÁN

Wake up! Who needs the snooze button when you're in the beach paradise that is San Sebastián? Spend some time catching waves, or simply soak up the sun. Either way, you'll discover exactly why this Basque hotspot is known for its beaches - and, of course, it's infectious tapas culture. Pintxos, bite size snacks served on sticks (think olives, but bigger mouthfuls) are all the rage in this region. Head to Parte Vieja to eat yourself silly at the city's most popular pintxo bars.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of San Sebastián

## DAY 9 | SAN SEBASTIÁN TO BARCELONA

Our first stop today is Zaragoza - then it's back to Barcelona for a final sangria. What better way to toast the end of another adventure? Salud!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Zaragoza

## DAY 10 | BARCELONA

Should you stay or should you go? Your call, but we're outta here after breakfast.



### 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.

## 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).

# TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

## TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

## ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

## CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

## BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

## MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



# PASSENGER SAFETY

## NIGHTS OUT

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.

## **RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS**

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

## **DRUG USE**

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers 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. 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 could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn'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 again.

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 of 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 (trust us).

## **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 holiday AND have 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 hotel 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!

# OTHER INFORMATION

## 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.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit [www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance](http://www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance).

## 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 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.

**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.

## 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!**