

Topdeck

WESTERN COMPASS



TRIP CODE:

EEWMLL-9



Topdecker, MEET EUROPE

Point your compass west on this unforgettable trip through some of Europe's most desirable cities. Starting in London, you'll experience seven of the most Instagram-worthy countries in the atlas - from the boulevards of Paris and the to-die-for tapas in Spain, to the colossal monuments in Italy and the mountains of Switzerland. Throw in adventures in Luxembourg and the Netherlands and you've got yourself one sweet Topdeck adventure. Did someone say group selfie?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Hostel Plus



Nights



Android/iPhone app
download info



This is a principal
package.

Hi, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK

HI, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK!

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.

However, we're sure you'll find the information in general to be very useful.

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)

- + Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- + A tasty sample of traditional Swiss fondue
- + Bordeaux winery tour & tasting
- + Driving tour of Paris
- + Canal dinner cruise in Amsterdam

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + English Channel ferry ticket
- + Driving tour of Paris
- + Wine tasting at Château du Taillan
- + Driving tour of Madrid
- + Walking tour of Valencia
- + Driving tour of Barcelona
- + Walking tour of Marseille
- + Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- + Walking tour of Rome
- + Walking tour of Venice
- + Vaporetto ride in Venice
- + Walking tour of Amsterdam
- + Dutch cheese & clogs demonstration
- + Canal dinner cruise in Amsterdam

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Paris
Europe

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

London
Europe

Trip currencies

- + France - EUR
- + Spain - EUR
- + Italy - EUR
- + Vatican City - EUR
- + Switzerland - CHF
- + Luxembourg - EUR
- + Netherlands - EUR

Your Itinerary



**AWESOME TRIP
LEADER**

DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO PARIS, FRANCE

Leave London for dust as we jump over the English Channel to France for a beauty smackdown. Brush up on your bonjours when you meet the rest of the group and wrap your lips around your first real French meal at our included dinner. See the City of Light at its best on a driving tour and play landmark bingo with the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe.



MEALS:

+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ English Channel ferry ticket
+ Driving tour of Paris

DAY 2 | PARIS

A free day in Paris to get involved with pastries, paintings and the Centre Pompidou. Bike along the Seine on an optional tour or just flâner (stroll) around and drink it in. Check out L'eclair de Genie in Le Marais (don't ask questions), get your obligatory Eiffel Tower #selfie then explore the world's largest grave at the Catacombs. Tonight, experience the razzle dazzle of a cabaret show or hop on a boat down the river to crank the romance dial to 11.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Traditional cabaret show in Paris
+ Seine River cruise
+ Bike tour of Paris

DAY 3 | PARIS TO BORDEAUX

Today we roll on to the port city of Bordeaux, where half the city is UNESCO World Heritage listed and vineyards reign supreme. Stroll amid the royal residences of Château du Chambord, the largest château in the Loire Valley, and learn why the divine French Renaissance architecture is one of the most recognisable in the world.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Visit Château de Chambord

DAY 4 | BORDEAUX

Wander the picturesque streets on your free day here, with special stops at Cathédrale St-André, Musée des Beaux-Arts and the Jardin Public. After, embrace France's finest #cafélife and try some amazing wine. Obvs. You're in the world's most renowned wine-growing region after all.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 5 | BORDEAUX TO BILBAO, SPAIN

First stop: a visit to the family-run estate, Château du Taillan, one of the most attractive vineyards in the Gironde. Here, explore the unique underground cellars, which are now listed as a French National Heritage Site. Next up is Bilbao – famed for its titanium-clad Guggenheim Museum that boasts an incredible collection of contemporary art and more curves than Beyoncé.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Wine tasting at Château du Taillan

DAY 6 | BILBAO TO MADRID

Spain's crowning capital and a city known for its artistic pedigree, culinary wonders and heaving nightlife, Madrid will offer just what you're looking for. Take in the beauty of the city's hidden gardens, ancient buildings, tucked-away cafés and gorgeous markets and refuel with a delicious included dinner. Did we mention there's a driving tour to get your bearings? You're welcome.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Driving tour of Madrid

DAY 7 | MADRID

Morning, Madrid! Today, check out the Royal Palace, get cultured at the Prado Museum or just kick back in the botanical gardens. After the sun sets, delve into the buzzing nightlife in the areas of Malasaña and Chueca. Just be prepared to party 'til the break of dawn (and then stuff your face with churros at a ridiculous hour).



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 8 | MADRID TO VALENCIA

Onto Spain's third largest city, Valencia. A fabulous hybrid of past and present, this picturesque port town combines avant-garde buildings with modern facilities (hello, The City of Arts and Sciences Complex) and sparkling seaports. Take in some of the best bits on a walking tour.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Valencia

DAY 9 | VALENCIA TO BARCELONA

Bienvenidos to the city of art nouveau, alluring accents and most importantly, tapas. Today we hit Barcelona. Get ready to leave a little bit of your heart behind. Stroll the bustling Las Ramblas and indulge in a satisfying feast at our included dinner. Flamenco, anyone? Get those feet a' tapping at the optional show tonight.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Driving tour of Barcelona

DAY 10 | BARCELONA

Tick off the greats today. The Sagrada Família is so beautiful you will probably cry. Seriously. There's also the Gothic Quarter to check out and loads of tapas and sangria to hunt down. After a solid day of exploring, fire up for the notorious nightlife (note: people hit the clubs at midnight. Earliest. So, make sure you've had your beauty sleep).



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 11 | BARCELONA TO MARSEILLE, FRANCE

Today we cross the border into France. Marseille's next on our list. With its boat-lined quayside, history and architecture, there's no wonder this is one of France's most visited cities. A melting pot of sceneries, get your bearings on a walking tour.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Marseille

DAY 12 | MARSEILLE

Your second day in Marseille is yours to spend at your leisure. Explore bustling La Canebière or dig into bouillabaisse, the hearty fish stew invented in Marseille. You could also check out the colourful markets, the Calanques, the Panier area and the Corniche. Be sure to watch the sun set over the Vieux Port.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 13 | MARSEILLE TO FLORENCE, ITALY

With over 1,800 restaurants and the world's best gelato (hands down), Florence is where all your Italian dreams are made. After snapping the city's picturesque streets, dig into a hearty included dinner before rolling into bed with a full tummy.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

DAY 14 | FLORENCE

Wakey wakey! Florence is ready and waiting. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the city's greats this morning. Think: Ponte Vecchio, Florence Cathedral and that famous naked guy, David. Afterwards, try and track down that 'world's best' gelato we were talking about (depending on which web article you read).



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Florence with local guide

DAY 15 | FLORENCE TO ROME

Today, we're Romeward bound. Prep Instagram for a walking tour of the must-sees in this sprawling, cosmopolitan city. After all, the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps and Pantheon aren't going to selfie themselves.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Rome

DAY 16 | ROME

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. Pop in on the Pope on an optional tour of the Vatican City, then play I spy with two-and-a-half millennia worth of history. Shop 'til 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



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Guided tour of Vatican City

DAY 17 | ROME TO VENICE

Today, we're off to Venice where public transport by boat is totally the norm. Get ready to experience one of those ultimate bucket list destinations. It's as good as everyone says it is, trust us.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

DAY 18 | VENICE

100+ slowly sinking islands won't explore themselves. Get your bearings on this morning's walking tour before an action packed day. Soak up St Mark's Square and opt in for a quintessential gondola ride on the Grand Canal (optional activity). Corny smooching not included. This afternoon, snoop the Doge's Palace, cross Rialto Bridge and shop for Carnevale masks. There's so much going on here. Did we mention it's beautiful?



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Venice
+ Vaporetto ride in Venice



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Gondola ride in Venice

DAY 19 | VENICE TO SWISS ALPS, SWITZERLAND

Off to the Alps, where the air is crisp, the views are storybook-worthy and fondue is totally acceptable at any time of day. Once you've settled in, get cosy in one of the cafés that line the main street and treat yourself to a hot chocolate and a spot of daydreaming.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

DAY 20 | SWISS ALPS

Ski, sled, snow angel, or park yourself indoors to enjoy the views (from the warmth). Craving more altitude? Head to the 'Top of Europe', aka Jungfrau, on an optional adventure and test your pano skills. The view from up here is so beautiful, you'll probably cry. Seriously. With so much to get involved with today, the question is, where to start?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Scenic excursion to Jungfrau ('The Top of Europe')
- + Night sledding in the Swiss Alps
- + Skiing in the Swiss Alps
- + Skydiving in the Swiss Alps
- + Scenic helicopter ride in the Swiss Alps

DAY 21 | SWISS ALPS TO LUXEMBOURG CITY, LUXEMBOURG

Welcome to Luxembourg, where the country's wealth is strong and its wine consumption is stronger. (Read: the good life). Notice the contrast between the capital city's historic and modern-day architecture before delving into the many restaurants, museums and galleries on offer. Let's do this.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 22 | LUXEMBOURG CITY TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Say hello to Europe's most infamous city, where pretty tulips mask a touch of debauchery. Get the obvious out of the way (Red Light District, anyone?) then discover Amsterdam's charming canal-lined houses and open squares. Also, get all Dutch with a cheese and clogs demonstration and discover why these guys are the experts at both.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Amsterdam
- + Dutch cheese & clogs demonstration

DAY 23 | AMSTERDAM

Get on your bike and ride! Do as the locals do and join the 881,000 bicycles on an optional city bike tour to soak up the wintery canal vistas before retreating with hot chocolate, poffertjes and stroopwafels. Take on the city's 51 museums (must-dos: Van Gogh Museum and the Anne Frank House). Still thirsty for more? Check out the Heineken Experience for an interactive visit and tasting at the brewery. Top it off with a dinner cruise on the canal.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Canal dinner cruise in Amsterdam

DAY 24 | AMSTERDAM TO LONDON, ENGLAND

Today it's back on the ferry as we journey back to London. Start planning the next adventure. Facebook friends?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + English Channel ferry ticket

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

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.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



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!