

Topdeck

WESTERN CORNERS

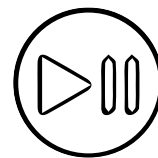


TRIP CODE:
EEWMLR-9

TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Go west on this awesome adventure that crosses through some of Europe's most Pinterest-worthy sights. Practise your salsa in Spain? Sure thing. Frolic amidst the streets of France? No worries. Sample spaghetti in Italy? You got it. This wicked trip will ensure you get to experience the very best of Western Europe, Topdeck style.

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

- English Channel crossing
- 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

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER



DRIVER

DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO PARIS, FRANCE

We're hopping over the English Channel to brush up on our bonjours. Top Deckers, meet Paris! Tonight you'll treat the taste buds with your first French meal at our included dinner. Then it's off on a driving tour to see the City of Light at its best and play landmark bingo with the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- English Channel crossing
- 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 soak up the atmosphere. 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 (both optional). Ooh là là!



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 de 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 the titanium curved Guggenheim Museum that boasts an out-of-this-world collection of contemporary art.



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 vibin' nightlife, Madrid will offer just what you're looking for. Soak up the sights as we swing by El Retiro park, the Gran Vía and the Plaza de España on a driving tour. So. Much. To. See. 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.



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 ridiculous o'clock).



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 and get our bearings on a driving tour. Trust us, you'll leave a little bit of your heart behind when you see this beautiful city. 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



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Flamenco show in 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 catch the sunset 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 food 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 a statue of that famous naked guy, David. Afterwards, there's free time to shop and eat Tuscan food to your heart's content.



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

If you're up for an early start, why not head out on an optional trip to the world's smallest country (and home of the pope) this morning? After that, our trip will come to a close. Noooo! Start planning the next adventure with your Facebook friends.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Vatican City

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!