

# Topdeck

## NORTHERN DIRECTIONS



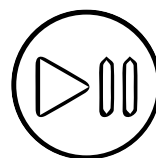
### TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Prepare to tick off your travel bucket list as we follow the road north and explore some of Europe's most iconic cities. Starting in Rome, you'll have the chance to experience the canals of Venice, the storybook mountains of the Swiss Alps, charming Luxembourg, Amsterdam's famed museums and some of the most delish food in the world. Gather around Topdeckers, this trip is going to be a beauty.

### WORTH NOTING...

This is a sector of the 24 Day Western 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).

**INCLUDED EXPERIENCES**

- Walking tour of Venice
- Vaporetto ride in Venice
- Walking tour of Amsterdam
- Dutch cheese & clogs demonstration
- Canal dinner cruise in Amsterdam
- English Channel crossing

**IMPORTANT:** please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

# YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME  
TRIP  
LEADER



DRIVER

## DAY 1 | ROME, ITALY

Rome is where the heart is. Gawk at the Colosseum, get your heart pumping with a race up the Spanish Steps and throw a coin in the famous Trevi Fountain. If your energy levels keep up, window shop along Via Condotti or simply mix with the locals before you meet with the gang in the afternoon. Espresso stops mandatory.

## DAY 2 | ROME TO VENICE

After channeling your inner romantic at Juliet's wall of love notes in Verona, we're off to oh-so-pretty Venice. Get ready to experience one of those ultimate bucket list destinations. Venice is as good as everyone says it is, trust us.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 3 | 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, check out the Doge's Palace, cross Rialto Bridge and shop for Carnevale masks. Did we mention how beautiful it is here?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice
- Vaporetto ride in Venice



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Gondola ride in Venice

## DAY 4 | 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 alpine-themed daydreaming.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 5 | SWISS ALPS

Ski, sled, snow angel, or park yourself indoors to enjoy the views (from the warmth). Craving more altitude? Head to the awe-inspiring 'Top of Europe', aka Jungfrau, on an optional rail adventure and test your pano skills. With so much to get involved with today, the question is, where to start?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### 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 6 | 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 7 | LUXEMBOURG CITY TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Say hello to one of Europe's most picturesque cities, where views of pretty tulips, canal-lined houses and bridges are everywhere you look. From the infamous Red Light District to Amsterdam's bustling squares lined with foodie options, this city is like a real-life postcard.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Amsterdam
- Dutch cheese & clogs demonstration

## DAY 8 | 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 one of the city's 51 museums (make sure to book the Anne Frank House in advance). 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



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Amsterdam

## DAY 9 | 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 crossing

## 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!