



## TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Starting in Paris, this round trip has it all: awesome cities, picturesque villages as as many carb loaded foods as your body has room for! Throw in plenty of extra time to spend getting to know each destination, and you've got yourself a European adventure that's so laid back, it's almost horizontal. Let's go!

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



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
- Train Day Pass to Cinque Terre
- Local guide in Florence
- Walking tour of Rome
- Visit former concentration camp Dachau
- Walking tour of Prague
- Walking tour of the restored city of Dresden
- Driving tour of Berlin
- Walking tour of Hamburg
- Walking tour of Amsterdam
- Dutch cheese and clogs demonstration

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | PARIS, FRANCE

Bonjour, Paris! We'll kick things off in style with a driving tour AND a gourmet picnic by the Eiffel Tower. Cue multiple uses of the smirky face emoji. Topdeckers: 1, other tourists: 0.



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Paris and gourmet picnic by the Eiffel Tower

## DAY 2 | PARIS

It's your first free day in the City of Love, so hop to it! If you're in the mood for an optional extra-Frenchy cabaret show, bike tour or river cruise, let us know – we'll sort it out for you.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Traditional cabaret show
- Seine river cruise
- Bike tour of Paris

## DAY 3 | PARIS

Another laissez-faire day to spend pleasing yourself. Browse through bookshops in Le Marais, sip on espresso in a chic café, or hit the Champs-Élysées and shop till you drop. Or, just eat macaroons till you swoon. Either way, you can't lose.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 4 | PARIS TO LYON

Time to say hey to the foodie capital of France! Take a wander around the medieval Old Town on a walking tour, then hit up a traditional bouchon (that's 'tavern' to you and me) to see what all the fuss is about.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 5 | LYON TO CINQUE TERRE, ITALY

The five cliffside villages of Cinque Terre didn't end up on the World Heritage list for nothing, you know. Each mini-town has a vibe of its own – and they're all completely void of corporate development and full of quirks.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 6 | CINQUE TERRE

Another day in Cinque Terre to sample la dolce vita. Whatever you do, don't forget to make the most of those views! Tonight: sip on a glass of red and watch the sun go down. Ahhhh.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Train Day Pass to Cinque Terre

## DAY 7 | CINQUE TERRE TO FLORENCE

Florence has more stories than Bilbo Baggins, more culture than a Shoreditch hipster, over 1,800 restaurants, and it gave the world gelato. What are you waiting for? Get exploring!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 8 | FLORENCE

Get schooled on the Medici family and stroll the Ponte Vecchio (the only bridge not bombed in WWII) on an in-depth tour with a local guide. Then, the city is yours to roam as you please.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Local guide in Florence

## DAY 9 | FLORENCE

You've got one more day to spend gorging on pizza, pasta and all things stuffed with carbs. Sounds like a challenge to us. And... go!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 10 | FLORENCE TO ROME

Prepare for the walking tour to end all walking tours! Pass by the Pantheon, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain, sit on the Spanish Steps and visit the mighty Colosseum, where gladiators once risked life and limb.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Rome



## DAY 11 | ROME INCLUDING VATICAN CITY VISIT

Want more? How about an optional tour of the Vatican? Rise and shine early and we'll whisk you away to the home of the Pope, jaw-dropping artworks and fine-looking architecture.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Vatican City

## DAY 12 | ROME

Another day, another amazing optional activity! We're bringing out the big guns with a day trip to the archaeological Mecca that is Pompeii.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of historic Pompeii

## DAY 13 | ROME TO VENICE

You know it as the floating city, but Venice is actually sinking (slowly). Spend the day exploring and falling in love with this romantic place. Today we'll jump on a vaporetto and explore the Grand Canal in style.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 14 | VENICE

## DAY 15 | VENICE TO MUNICH, GERMANY

Onwards to Munich, the city where beer is officially considered a food. After a walking tour, slide on your lederhosen and get ready for a royal Happy Hour experience at the 429-year-old Hofbräuhaus (the recipes here were passed down from Wilhelm V, the Duke of Bavaria).



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 16 | MUNICH

Did you know? Munich is basically the friendliest city there ever was. No, really. 'Munich likes you' is the city motto. Thanks Munich! Anyone for an optional segway tour through the city's welcoming streets? That'll be a yes!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Segway tour of Munich

## DAY 17 | MUNICH TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

First up: a visit to Dachau concentration camp for a lesson in the resilience of humanity. Then: on to Prague. We'll kick off our stay here with a walking tour, checking off towering spires, cobbled streets and the historic Charles Bridge as we go.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit former concentration camp Dachau
- Walking tour of Prague

## DAY 18 | PRAGUE

Soak up some Czech history at the National or Communist Museum or get a taste of the quirky local culture at a marionette puppet opera (you gotta see it to believe it). Oh – and don't forget to try some roast pork from one of the street vendors lining Old Town Square. We'll round things off with an optional local beer tasting session. Cheers!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague

## DAY 19 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY

We'll make a pit stop at 800 year-old Dresden before we move on to Berlin. Prep yourself for currywurst and more hipsters per capita than anywhere else! We'll drive you around to see (what's left of) the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag building.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of the restored city of Dresden
- Driving tour of Berlin

## DAY 20 | BERLIN

Awww yeah – you've got a free day to soak up Berlin's awesome vibes. Join the optional Third Reich walking tour for an insight into what the city was like under Nazi rule during WWII, go on a museum crawl or head to the zoo.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Third Reich walking tour of Berlin

## DAY 21 | BERLIN

We've got a free day in Berlin today to do whatever you like. Our hot tip? Pay a visit to Tempelhofer Feld. An old airport that's now an awesome public park, this place provides an escape from the city. It's worth the trip, trust us.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 22 | BERLIN TO HAMBURG

Hamburg is next! Packing more bridges than Venice and Amsterdam combined, plus the first zoo with no enclosures, Hamburg is one of the hippest cities in Europe. And if that weren't enough, Hamburg is also home to 3 km of funfair AND Europe's biggest Japanese garden. Nice.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Hamburg

## DAY 23 | HAMBURG TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Welcome to the most liberal city in Europe! Get your bearings on a walking tour of the vibrant capital and see the Dam Square, Royal Palace and National Monument. Then: learn how gouda and clogs are made before exploring all that this notoriously liberal city has to offer.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Amsterdam
- Dutch cheese and clogs demonstration

## DAY 24 | AMSTERDAM

Explore this crazy city and make it your own today. Wanna roll in style? An optional bike tour's got your name on it! Culture fiends, delve deeper with a visit to the Anne Frank House, Van Gogh Museum or Rijksmuseum.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Amsterdam

## DAY 25 | AMSTERDAM

On our last day in the 'Dam, there's a farewell canal dinner cruise to get emosh over. \*Don't cry\*



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 26 | AMSTERDAM TO PARIS

Hang up your clogs – it's back to Paris today. You've got one more coach ride with the crew before we vamoose, so swap those numbers!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

# 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

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

## 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!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 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 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket

- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear



**THAT'S IT!**