

Topdeck

EUROPEAN ODYSSEY



TRIP CODE:
EHEVLL-1

TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Is this trip for you? CLASSIC. LEISURELY. DIVERSE.

Got three weeks and want a mixed bag of must-see cities, famous icons and fresh AF landscapes? We got you. With two nights in every destination (well, nearly), you've got more time to check out the sights and discover the lesser-known gems worth bragging about. Towers, tandem paragliding and tasting - of the beer, pizza, schnitzel and stroopwafels kind, this Topdeck odyssey seriously delivers.

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
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- Visit Orvieto
- Walking tour of Rome
- Rome Metro tickets
- Venice bus tickets
- Walking tour of Venice
- Gondola ride down the Grand Canal
- Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- Walking tour of Prague
- Prague Metro tickets
- Orientation tour of the restored city of Dresden
- Driving tour of Berlin
- Amsterdam Metro tickets

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO PARIS, FRANCE (OR MEET IN PARIS)

London calling...meet the crew and grab some supplies - we're hitting the road early to jump across the English channel. Or meet us in Paris tonight. It's up to you. The home of Coco Chanel, the Mona Lisa and world's craziest roundabout - Paris deserves its rep as the European capital for all things culture, haute couture and drool-worthy food. Get to know the City of Lights better with a driving tour before our first dinner with the fam.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Paris

DAY 2 | PARIS

Yep, you're finally here - so, this is your day to do whatever YOU want. Create a solid dent in your bucket list with a visit to the Louvre (book your tickets in advance!) and the Musée d'Orsay. Snap a pic of the Arc de Triomphe. Wander the Champs Élysées. Or discover the hidden gems down romantic back-streets on your own. Walking not your thing? Stretch out those legs on an optional bike tour. Later, jump aboard an optional river cruise down the Seine or dress to impress for an optional cabaret show.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Parisian cabaret show: from €80
- Seine river cruise in Paris: from €10
- Bike tour of Paris: from €30

DAY 3 | PARIS TO SWISS ALPS, SWITZERLAND

From cityscapes to landscapes, today we're off to the Swiss Alps! Warm up those vocal cords, we'll be busting out some bangers on the ride into the mountains. Cue the fairytale villages of your imagination - the oh-so-quiet Engelberg is where we'll be spending the night. Tonight, we'll get stuck into a group dinner before heading to the hotel bar or relaxing in the fresh Alpine air.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 4 | SWISS ALPS

Another free day to do some serious exploring. Hiking. Biking. Thrill-seeking. Cheese-eating (unless you're lactose intolerant). You could take the revolving gondola to the top of Mt Titlis for all the epic views (without the effort), then head back down in search of the world's best hot chocolate. Or sit back and enjoy a cold beer back at the hotel. How you spend today, is 110% up to you.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic excursion to Mt Titlis: from CHF 92 (summer only)

DAY 5 | SWISS ALPS TO FLORENCE, ITALY VIA PISA

Buy that mini-fondue set for mum. Down your coffee. And wave goodbye to Switzerland - we're off to the land of the long boot. Get your creative juices flowing for THAT photo at Pisa, then make your food baby sing as we roll into the birthplace of gelato: Florence. Tonight, is your chance to tuck into some of that hearty Tuscan cuisine you've been dreaming about - plus a scoop (or two) of the good stuff. Challenge: decide on your favourite flavour in two days. We bet you can't.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower

DAY 6 | FLORENCE

Florence has more stories than Bilbo Baggins, more culture than a London hipster, AND it gave the world David (the statue, not your 9th grade boyfriend). We'll get the lay of the land on an in-depth walking tour with a local guide. Then: take your new-found knowledge and hit the streets solo. Uffizi Gallery. Ponte Vecchio. Piazza della Signoria. The Duomo. You can't see it all, but you sure as hell can try! We've also got a wine tasting and al fresco dinner on the cards tonight - so go easy on gelato. Or don't.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Florence with a local guide

DAY 7 | FLORENCE TO ROME VIA ORVIETO

Southward and downward with a pit stop at the hilltop town of Orvieto - to see the grand cathedral and dig into a wild boar panini. Trust us, it's good. Then: la bella Roma awaits! Dump your stuff at the hotel and prepare for a walking tour to end all walking tours. We'll pass by the Pantheon, throw our two cents in the Trevi Fountain, sit on the Spanish Steps and check out the mighty Colosseum - getting the scoop on allllllll the ancient history as we go. Tonight, you're in Disneyland for foodies. Go get it.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Orvieto
- Walking tour of Rome
- Rome Metro tickets

DAY 8 | ROME

Time to live out your Lizzie McGuire Movie fantasies - today is all about Vespas, espresso, two-cheeked kisses and pizza (the way it's supposed to taste). There's an optional guided tour of Vatican City on the cards, if that's your thing. Or head up to Capitoline Hill for awesome views of the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Feeling something a bit more relaxed? Do as the locals do and indulge in a little dolce far niente (delicious idleness) at a local cafe or piazza. Tonight, shake out those fat pants for round two. Thought you'd tried all the gelato flavours? Head to Fatamorgana - and think again.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Locally guided tour of Vatican City: from €45

DAY 9 | ROME TO VENICE

Today, we'll say ciao to Rome and ciao to Venice. Italians - confusing, right? After checking in at the hotel, it's time to see what all the fuss is about. Acquaint yourself with the who's who of Venice's usual suspects on a walking tour - ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square, Doges Palace and Accademia Bridge. And then - this beautiful floating (sinking) city is yours for the taking. Our suggestion? Enjoy a spritz overlooking one of Venice's fuchsia-pink sunsets. This is your moment.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Venice bus tickets
- Walking tour of Venice



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Get a personalised trip T-shirt or hoodie: from €21

DAY 10 | VENICE

Centuries old architecture. Inventive cuisine. And a bucket-load of culture. Venice is just begging to be explored. After an included gondola ride along the Grand Canal, you've got the whole day to do just that. Need suggestions? Insider tip: spend some time seeking out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop or head off the tourist trail with a trip to Guidecca Island. Go wandering. Chat to the locals. Get lost in the maze of canals and piazzas. That's what makes the memories.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Gondola ride down the Grand Canal

DAY 11 | VENICE TO AUSTRIAN ALPS, AUSTRIA

Order one last coffee in poor Italian (hey, you tried!) and prepare yourself for some I-N-C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E scenery as we make our way to the Austrian Alps. So much more than schnitzel, strudel and The Sound of Music, this thrill-seekers' paradise should have been sponsored by GoPro. Then: take your pick from canyoning, tandem paragliding, skydiving and mountain biking optional activities. Or just kick back and enjoy serenity. Swap stories of today's thrills (and spills) over an included dinner with the group.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Canyoning: from €65 (plus €15 deposit)
- Tandem paragliding: from €144 (plus €24 deposit)
- Skydiving: from €259 (plus €40 deposit)
- Mountain bike hire: from €20

DAY 12 | AUSTRIAN ALPS TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC VIA MAUTHAUSEN

Ready to tick off our 6th country in two weeks? But first: a sobering visit to former concentration camp Mauthausen. Learn all about the atrocities that occurred here during WWII before we make tracks to the Republic of Czech (think: check). Our Trip Leader will help us get acquainted with this picture-perfect city - complete with a quirky clock tower - and point out all the must-dos for our free day tomorrow. Tonight? Tuck into a delish dinner with the gang before we hit the town to sample some of the local beer. It'd be rude not to.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- Walking tour of Prague
- Prague Metro tickets

DAY 13 | PRAGUE

That's right folks - it's your day, your way! Seek out the John Lennon wall. Soak up some history at the Communist Museum. Take the funicular up Petrin Hill for allll the views. Or grab a delish roast pork roll at one of the street vendors lining Old Town Square. Fancy yourself as a bit of a hops connoisseur? Don't miss the beer tasting optional this afternoon. 11 different Czech beers + tapas = good times all around.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague: from 800 CZK

DAY 14 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY VIA DRESDEN

From one beer capital to the next. Get acquainted with 800 year-old Dresden - a city virtually destroyed in WWII and then rebuilt - before we make tracks to Berlin. Prep yourself for currywurst and more hipsters per capita than anywhere else. We'll drive you around to see the main sights including (what's left of) the Berlin Wall, Museum Island, the Holocaust Memorial and Alexanderplatz. Then: a group dinner at Berlin's version of the Hofbräuhaus. Prost!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 15 | BERLIN

A city exploding with culture, history and bloody good food - you've got 24hrs to make the most of it. Our advice? Opt in for a historic walking tour that's, you know - not boring. Get a local insight into what the city was like under Nazi rule and tick off the likes of the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and Brandenburg Gate. Or put that elastic waistband to the test on the ultimate Berlin food tour. We're talking kebabs, pastries, more currywurst, pierogi and local Pilsner. Tonight, it's time to see if this city's nightlife really lives up to the hype.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Third Reich walking tour: from €12
- Berlin food tour: from €35

DAY 16 | BERLIN TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Onwards! We've got our GPS set for Amsterdam today. Once we arrive, it's time to hit the cobblestones and explore. Check out the likes of the Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument. This place is a foodie's wet dream - so you'll have no trouble finding somewhere to settle in for dinner. Then there's an option to experience a show in the Red Light district. Or for a more local vibe - head to a canal-side wine bar or brewery.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Amsterdam Metro tickets



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Red Light District show: from €30

DAY 17 | AMSTERDAM

This is our last full day. So, don't hang about - get on your bike! Check out Amsterdam's iconic canals, bridges and parks on an optional bike tour. Or for the culture fiends - delve a bit deeper with a visit to the Anne Frank House (make sure you book in advance!) or the Van Gogh and Rijksmuseum. Whatever you get up to, make sure you're back in time to toast the final night of our Euro trip at tonight's included dinner.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Amsterdam: from €14

DAY 18 | AMSTERDAM TO LONDON, ENGLAND

Today we say goodbye. But who said all good things must come to an end? There's plenty of time to plan the next adventure on the coach back to ol' Blighty.



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!