

Topdeck

SOHO TO BOHO



TRIP CODE:

EHEVLP-9

TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

This trip takes in the grandeur of Paris, the romance of Florence, the history of Rome and the wonder of Venice, as well as the majesty of the Swiss and Austrian Alps. Art, architecture, landscapes, shopping, nightlife; see the best that Europe has to offer as we meander our way east to the 'City of a Thousand Spires'.

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
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- Tuscan wine tasting and al fresco dinner
- Visit Orvieto
- Walking tour of Rome
- Walking tour of Venice
- Gondola ride
- Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- Walking tour of Prague

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO PARIS, FRANCE

All good things start with Paris. Meet the crew, grab some supplies and hit the road early in the morning as we jump across the English Channel. Pinch yourself and Instagram your first selfie before we kick off the trip with a driving tour and picnic next to the Eiffel Tower. Home to Coco Chanel, the Pompidou Centre and the Mona Lisa, Paris more than deserves its reputation as the European capital for all things culture, fashion and food. Now's your chance to find out why.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 2 | PARIS

This morning: free time en Français. From the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay to the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées, you'll be sure to make a solid dent in your bucket list. Later on, you can stretch those legs on an optional bike tour of Paris, or simply roam the streets on your own. End your day with an optional Seine River cruise or a #throwback bohemian cabaret show.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 3 | PARIS TO SWISS ALPS, SWITZERLAND

Trade in Parisian streets for snowy peaks. Home to the highest point in Europe, 72 waterfalls and one of the largest nature conservations in Switzerland, Lauterbrunnen is where we'll be spending the night. Upon arrival, chow down on fondue and hit the bar for a nightcap.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 4 | SWISS ALPS

Rise and shine, you've got some serious exploring to do. Take the option to hop on the revolving gondola to the top of Mt Titlis and test your pano photo skills. Then head back down in search of the world's best hot chocolate. #hardlife.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic excursion to Mt Titlis

DAY 5 | SWISS ALPS TO FLORENCE, ITALY

Hand back the skis and yodel your way down the mountains into the land of the long boot. Stop for THAT photo at Pisa, then make your food baby sing as we roll into the land of hearty Tuscan cuisine and birthplace of gelato: Florence. Whip around Santa Maria del Fiore before tucking into amore on a plate. The evening is yours to stroll along the the Arno River and watch the sunset. #Bliss



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 gelato. Get schooled on the Medici family, stroll the Ponte Vecchio and get an in-depth tour of the city with a local guide. We've also got a wine tasting and al fresco dinner on the cards tonight. Sorted.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- Tuscan wine tasting and al fresco dinner

DAY 7 | FLORENCE TO ROME

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. Make like Caesar (the emperor, not the salad) and work up a 'colossus' hunger as you pass by the Pantheon, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain, sit on the Spanish Steps and visit ancient history's version of the Hunger Games set at the Colosseum. Tonight, you're in Disneyland for foodies. Have fun.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Orvieto
- Walking tour of Rome

DAY 8 | 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. Play 'I-spy' with two-and-a-half millennia worth of history. You could always shop till 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

DAY 9 | ROME TO VENICE INCLUDING VATICAN CITY VISIT

Today, count your blessings on an optional tour of the Vatican City.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of the Vatican City
- Get a personalised trip T-shirt or hoodie

DAY 10 | VENICE

You know it as The Floating City, but this place is actually sinking (slowly). Today we'll check out a who's who of Venice's usual suspects on a guided walking tour (ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square and Accademia Bridge), then jump on a gondola ride to get the full experience. Throw away your map in the afternoon and try to find the world's most epic little bookshop, Libreria Acqua Alta, or just go on a mission to find the perfect gelato.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice
- Gondola ride

DAY 11 | VENICE TO AUSTRIAN ALPS, AUSTRIA

Prepare yourself – there's gonna be some amazing scenery playing outside the coach windows today 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. Today's optionals? We're glad you asked. Take your pick from canyoning, tandem paragliding, skydiving and a bike tour.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Canyoning
- Tandem paragliding
- Skydiving
- Bike tour

DAY 12 | AUSTRIAN ALPS TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

First, a visit to former concentration camp Mauthausen. Then, we're off to postcard-perfect Prague. Get acquainted with this awesome place on a walking tour before having dinner as a group.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- Walking tour of Prague

DAY 13 | PRAGUE

Your day, your way. Channel your inner bohemian and seek out the John Lennon memorial wall, then soak up some more 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). Want more? Snap a selfie at Prague's own Eiffel Tower, visit a miniatures museum, eat roast pork from one of the street vendors lining Old Town Square and drink beer. Good beer.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting

DAY 14 | PRAGUE

Cue sad faces today as we say goodbye after breakfast. While you're here, you might as well keep exploring.



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!