



TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Is this trip for you? SUPERPOWER. BIT-OF-EVERYTHING. MAGNIFICENT.

Take the majesty of Rome, grand canals of Venice, spire-filled skies of Prague and fascinating history of Berlin: you've got the best two weeks of your life. Period. And don't get us started on Croatia's sun-bleached beaches AND Slovenia's ultra-hip and alternative capital. Just like the Venetian Empire - this trip is a force to be reckoned with. Up for the task? We thought so.

WORTH NOTING...

Wanna keep exploring? All departure dates line up perfectly with our European Emperor trip - so the two trips can become one (just like the Spice Girl's song).

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

- Walking tour of Rome
- Venice bus tickets
- Walking tour of Venice
- Gondola ride down the Grand Canal
- Visit Lake Bled
- Walking tour of Salzburg
- 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 | ROME, ITALY

Leave the everyday behind and uncover the extraordinary. We'll rendezvous with the gang in la bella Roma before embarking on a walking tour to end all walking tours. We're talking a solid few hours of non-stop sights, off-the-tourist-trail hidden gems and a run-down of almost 3000 years of history. Pass by the Pantheon, throw our two cents in the Trevi Fountain, (don't) sit on the Spanish Steps and wind things up under the shadow of the mighty Colosseum. This is your moment. Tonight, get to know the gang over a plate full of drool-worthy Italian carbs. In 'the beautiful country' it doesn't count. Fact.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Rome

DAY 2 | ROME TO VENICE

Today, we'll say ciao to Rome and ciao to Venice. Italians – confusing, right? See what all the fuss is about on a walking tour with our expert Trip Leader – stopping by Campo San Barnaba, Accademia Gallery, St Mark's Basilica, Doge's Palace and the Bridge of Sighs. Then: this beautiful floating (sinking) city is yours for the taking. Our suggestion? Go wandering. Chat to the locals. Get lost in the maze of canals and piazzas. And hunt down Dal Moro's Pasta for the freshest-of-fresh pasta and chow down as the sky erupts into a fuchsia-pink sunset. This is what makes the memories.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Venice bus tickets
- Walking tour of Venice



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 3 | VENICE

Centuries-old architecture. Inventive cuisine. And a bucket-load of culture. Venice is just begging to be explored. So, don't leave the city hanging! After an included gondola ride along the Grand Canal (boujee), the rest of the day is 100% up to you. Need suggestions? Seek out the quirky Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop. Or head off the tourist trail with a trip to Giudecca Island. If you're looking for a sure bet – Gelatoteca Suso is rated in the Top 10 gelaterias in the world. Ain't nobody got time for mediocre gelato. Tonight, dinner is up to you – but our Trip Leader is in-the-know on where to go. Hint: it's away from St Mark's Square.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Gondola ride down the Grand Canal

DAY 4 | VENICE TO PULA, CROATIA

Order one last coffee in poor Italian (hey, you tried!) – we're setting course for the Croatian coast. Dump your bags, change into your togs and make a B-line for the glittering water of the Adriatic. We'll get our bearings around the Old Town before tucking into dinner. Then: hit up one of the local bars or relax back at the beach. It's totally up to you.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 5 | PULA

Sun-soaked beaches and ancient Roman ruins. You've got a full day to uncover this hidden gem of the Croatian coastline. Delve deeper in Old Town and take a closer look at the Roman arena, Triumphal Arch and Temple of Augustus. Or pack a DIY picnic at the local market, before spending the day horizontal at the beaches around Verudela peninsula. Feeling something a little more fast-paced? Take the bus to Medulin for all your parasailing, jet-skiing, windsurfing and cycling desires. Tonight, gather the gang and head up Kaštel fortress for sunset – this is livin'.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 6 | PULA TO LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA VIA POSTOJNA CAVE

After breakfast, we're off to Ljubljana. Try pronounce it, we dare you*. But first: an optional round of stalagmite spotting at the beautiful Postojna Cave. Fun fact: this all-natural maze of tunnels and caverns was hollowed out by the Pivka River around two MILLION years ago. When we get to L-town, there's an optional food tour on the cards. Tuck into traditional dishes from three different regions – we're talking idrijski žlikrofi (dumplings), kranjska klobasa (sausage), prekmurska gibanica (cake) and cvicek (adult grape juice). Or head up to the castle for allll the views. Tonight, Ljubljana's alternative bar scene is begging to be explored. It's so hip, it hurts. *lyoob-lya-nah



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Postojna Cave: from €25
- Food tour of Ljubljana: from €30

DAY 7 | LJUBLJANA TO SALZBURG, AUSTRIA VIA LAKE BLED

You've seen it on everyone's #wanderlust feeds but now experience the magic of Lake Bled without the filter. Then: we're setting a course for Salzburg. So much more than strudel and The Sound of Music – this place has got elegance written on every grand Baroque building. We'll tick off the likes of the Mirabell Gardens, Mozart's birthplace, Fortress Hohensalzburg and the Cathedral on a walking tour with our expert Trip Leader. What you get up to tonight is 100% on you. Getting hangry? Pull up a pew at a local restaurant and dig into a weiner schnitzel, washed down with a pint of Ottakringer for good measure.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Lake Bled
- Walking tour of Salzburg

DAY 8 | SALZBURG TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC VIA MAUTHAUSEN

First today: a visit to former concentration camp Mauthausen for a lesson in the resilience of humanity. After, we'll roll onto the spire-filled skyline and mysterious streets of Prague! Get better acquainted with this picture-perfect city (complete with quirky clock tower) on a walking tour with your Trip Leader. Make a mental note of all the must-dos for tomorrow – before we tuck into a delish dinner with the gang. Later, head to the best bar in the city: The Alchemist. An old-school venue, with bloody delicious cocktails. Hint: if you want the full experience, ask for the 'choose your fate' – we'll see you in the morning.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 9 | PRAGUE

That's right folks – it's your day, your way. So get out there and do your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-for thing. Check 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. Czech beers + tapas = good times guaranteed.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague: from 800 CZK

DAY 10 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY VIA DRESDEN

Another day, another food-obsessed European city. God, we love this place. But first: 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, the Holocaust Memorial and Alexanderplatz. Then: a group dinner to test how far your jeans really stretch.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 11 | BERLIN

You've got 24hrs of free time here – don't muck around. Our advice? Opt in for a local walking tour that's, you know – not boring. Or put that elastic waistband to the test on the ultimate Berlin food tour. Rather explore solo? Head to the Mauerpark markets for stalls filled with stuff you didn't know you needed. Explore Museum Island. Take a ride in a Trabi and see why it's Germany's best-loved car. Or turn off Google maps and simply get lost in the unknown. Tonight, seek out Burgermeister. This place used to be a public toilet (ew) but now serves up the best burgers in Berlin. You know you wanna' try it...



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 12 | BERLIN TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Quick maths – there's only two days left. But the Venetian adventure sure as hell isn't over yet! Plug 'The Dam' into the GPS as we roll into the Netherlands. Hit the cobblestones and 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 Proeflokaal Arendsneest for a selection of over 100 Dutch beers.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Amsterdam metro tickets



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Red Light District show: from €30

DAY 13 | AMSTERDAM

Earlybird or narcoleptic – today is NOT the day to sleep in. You've got 24hrs to embrace everything this iconic city has to offer. Get to it. Join the locals and explore Amsterdam's iconic canals, bridges and parks on two wheels. History buffs should pay a visit to the Anne Frank House (don't forget to book in advance!). And for the culture fiends – the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum. Or if you're wanting a more local vibe, head to Hannekes Boom for waterfront views, good food and all-round great vibes. Just make sure you're back in time to toast the final night of our adventure at tonight's group dinner.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Amsterdam: from €14

DAY 14 | AMSTERDAM TO LONDON, ENGLAND

Stock up on stroopwafels and pile onto the coach – we're crossing the channel to Londinium after breakfast. Blast the Trip Song and pencil in next year's reunion trip. What'll it be? America? Asia? Africa?



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!