



## TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Ready to channel your inner explorer and embark on a European adventure of epic proportions? Then let's do this! We'll follow the Roman Trail as it winds from Italy to the Czech Republic and see all of Europe's most amazing sights with the added bonus of snow and smaller crowds. Yes!

### WORTH NOTING...

This is a sector of the 20 Day Discover Winter trip.

### 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 Verona
- Walking tour of Venice
- Gondola ride in Venice
- Visit Lake Bled
- Walking tour of Ljubljana
- Driving tour of Budapest
- Driving tour of Vienna
- Visit Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna
- Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- Walking tour of Prague

# YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME  
TRIP  
LEADER



DRIVER

## DAY 1 | ROME, ITALY

The Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, Vatican City... they're all here. And now you are too! Whizz around and tick off those bucket-list sights before you meet the crew later today. This is gonna be awesome!

## DAY 2 | ROME TO VENICE

Go all soppy over Juliet's balcony in Verona before we say ciao to Venice. And what a beauty the Floating City is! Seriously - you may have seen Venice a million times before on Instagram, but nothing compares to actually being here. Tonight, dinner is on us.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Verona

## DAY 3 | VENICE

We'll head out on a walking tour of the city's greats (think: the Doge's Palace, Rialto Bridge and St Mark's Square) before cranking up the Venetian vibes with a classic gondola ride on the Grand Canal. And later? You do you! Carnevale mask, anyone?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice
- Gondola ride in Venice

## DAY 4 | VENICE TO LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

We'll make a very beautiful pit stop at the 100% Insta-worthy Lake Bled on our way to Ljubljana today. Then: get ready to warp back to the Middle Ages on a walking tour of Ljubljana Castle and Old Town. Awesome!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Lake Bled
- Walking tour of Ljubljana

## DAY 5 | LJUBLJANA TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Feeling 'Hungary'? You soon will be! We'll roll into Budapest just in time for a wander to the Citadella, where the views are next level. Then: time to indulge in some delicious local fare. Expect plenty of paprika!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Budapest

## DAY 6 | BUDAPEST

Yes! You've got a free day to do whatever you fancy. Grab a little 'me time' and indulge in a spa treatment at the Gellért Baths, soak up some history at the House of Terror Museum or hang with the hipsters at one of the city's iconic ruin bars. Fruit brandies all round!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Dinner cruise on the Danube river in Budapest

## DAY 7 | BUDAPEST TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Next stop: the City of Dreams, aka Vienna. Famous for its Baroque architecture, musical heritage and the wonder that is the apple strudel (YUM), it's safe to say that there's a lot to see here. You've got one day to take it all in, so get moving!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Vienna
- Visit Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Tickets to the Sound of Vienna Orchestra
- Tickets to the Sound of Vienna Orchestra (dinner included)

## DAY 8 | VIENNA TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

First on the agenda: a sobering visit to Mauthausen, a former concentration camp complex during WWII. Then: hit up a street vendor and stock up on trdelník before a walking tour through the fairytale city of Prague.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- Walking tour of Prague

## DAY 9 | PRAGUE

What's it gonna be today - clock-watching in the Old Town Square, a wander through the Castle District or selfie time with the statues on Charles Bridge? Whatever you choose, make sure you have some time left to swing by the John Lennon Wall for that photo.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague

## DAY 10 | PRAGUE

Our trip may be ending, but that doesn't mean you can't stick around! There's plenty to see, after all...



### 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!**