

# Topdeck

## ANZAC DAY EXPEDITION



TRIP CODE:  
ELAXII-9

### TOPDECKER, meet Europe (LAC)

Plan your route to Istanbul and discover all this intoxicating country has to offer on an ANZAC adventure. From checking out the mighty Blue Mosque in Istanbul and soaking up the coastal vibes in Fethiye to joining throngs of other travellers on the pilgrimage to Anzac Cove, this well-rounded exploration of Turkey ticks all the boxes. Expect Instagram-worthy scenery and bucketloads of pinch-yourself moments.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Limited Editions



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 with local guide
- Bosphorus River cruise
- Entrance into the Blue Mosque
- Visit G&ouml;rme
- Visit the ruins at Hierapolis-Pamukkale
- Visit Pergamon Acropolis
- Visit the ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli
- Dawn service

# YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME  
TRIP  
LEADER

## DAY 1 | ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Join your new friends at the welcome meeting and get clued up about the trip. Then: it's off to a local bar in Sultanahmet to ring in your adventure.

## DAY 2 | ISTANBUL

This morning: a guided tour of Istanbul to see the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia and the Grand Bazaar (just to name a few). Practise your haggling skills, Instagram all the twinkling Turkish lamps, and stop to refuel on sticky ice cream and mint tea. Later, enjoy a Bosphorus river cruise and soak in the sights of the continental boundary between Asia and Europe.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour with local guide
- Bosphorus River cruise
- Entrance into the Blue Mosque



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Entry to Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia and Basilica Cistern

## DAY 3 | ISTANBUL TO ESKISEHIR

Today we roll into Eskisehir. A vibrant and cosmopolitan melting pot, Eskisehir is home to a booming restaurant scene.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 4 | ESKISEHIR TO CAPPADOCIA

Next is Cappadocia, where cone-like rock formations spatter the landscape like something from outer space. Get your camera/Snapchat/Instagram ready: this place has photo-worthy material for days.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 5 | CAPPADOCIA

Your second day in this arid paradise calls for further exploration of the Ihlara Valley. Tonight, join the pros and shake what your mama gave you at an optional belly dancing show with dinner.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Optional activity:
- Belly dance and dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Göreme

## DAY 6 | CAPADOCIA TO ANTALYA

Onwards south to the Mediterranean Coast. Today, our travels pass Caravansary in Sultanhanı and Konya. Tonight, we rest our heads in Antalya.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 7 | ANTALYA TO FETHIYE

Two days in Fethiye are yours with plenty of options to explore. Located on Turkey's aptly-named Turquoise Coast, Fethiye is known for its natural harbor, azure waters and numerous rock tombs that are remainders from the ancient Lycian city of Telmessos.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Saklikent Gorge

## DAY 8 | FETHIYE

More paradise today. Stroll the boat-lined docks, tuck into some seafood or gözleme and hunt down the quirky hanging umbrellas in the pedestrian shopping street. Hello, perfect photo op!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Optional activity:
- Boat cruise in Fethiye

## DAY 9 | FETHIYE TO KUSADASI

Another day, another impossibly blue ocean. This time: the Aegean. Make a pit stop at the calcium terraces of Pamukkale and the ruins of Hierapolis before we arrive in Kusadasi.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the ruins at Hierapolis-Pamukkale

## DAY 10 | KUSADASI

Situated on the Aegean Sea, Ephesus was a centre of travel and commerce in the ancient world. Brush up on your history (and Instagram skills) with a visit to the site.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the ancient Greek city of Ephesus

## DAY 11 | KUSADASI TO AYVALIK

With its reconstructed temples, crumbling altars and archaic theatres, Pergamon remains one of the world's most interesting ancient Greek cities. Check out the mighty Acropolis, then visit the seaside town of Ayvalik for a hit of sunshine and more turquoise waters.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Pergamon Acropolis

## DAY 12 | AYVALIK TO GALLIPOLI

Start the morning with an optional tour of the archaeological Troy site before making your way to the battlefields of Gallipoli. Tonight, we camp out under the stars and await the Dawn Service.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Troy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

## DAY 13 | GALLIPOLI TO ISTANBUL

If this morning's stirring tributes to fallen soldiers don't rouse your tired bones, then nothing will. Despite the lack of sleep, you'll be pulsing with energy as thousands of Aussies and Kiwis unite for the Anzac Day Dawn Service. Kiwis can take the chance to participate in the New Zealand memorial service at Chunuk Bair (all welcome) and there's also the Australian memorial service at Lone Pine to attend (all welcome) before we return to Istanbul in the afternoon for our final night.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Dawn service

## DAY 14 | ISTANBUL

The trip may be over, but the memories will last forever. Sip on mint tea and tuck into breakfast before we bid adieu to the week that was.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## MEALS

Your included meals are detailed in the 'Included Essentials' section of this document.

Breakfasts (usually continental breakfasts) are included every day, except on the first morning of your trip. A typical continental breakfast may consist of cereals with milk or yogurt, bread, croissants, cold meats, and cheese – with fruit juice, tea or coffee to drink. It is rare to get a hot breakfast in continental Europe, though on some occasions some hot food may be available.

Included meals will be provided at local restaurants and the accommodations in which we stay. In most cases, table water is provided with meals. If you wish to purchase additional drinks, you can do so at your own expense.

If you have any dietary requirements, we'll make every effort to cater to your needs – as long as you advise your travel agent or Customer Service Consultant when you book. You can also make a note of dietary requirements in the Topdeck app when you check-in.

Please note: Although we'll do everything in our power to cater to your needs, we cannot guarantee this will be possible in every restaurant we visit. We also cannot cater to tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

# 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!**