

Topdeck

BONJOUR FRANCE



TRIP CODE:

EXBFPP-0



TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

If you want a token photo under the Eiffel Tower, to scoff an over-priced macaron on the Champs-Élysées and catch a glimpse of Mona over the heads of hundreds of tourists jammed into a tiny room, just so you can say you've done France - this trip is not for you. From Paris to Bordeaux to Biarritz and back again, this trip is all about good food, good wine, good variety and good times. Très bon! (very bloody good indeed).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Sail & Swim



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
- Walking tour of Bordeaux
- Walking tour of Marseille
- Walking tour of Lyon

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | PARIS, FRANCE

Bonjour, Paris! Welcome to the home of croissants, crêpes and haute couture. We'll hit the ground running with a driving tour of the city - start ticking off that bucket list! This evening there's a gourmet picnic by the one and only Eiffel Tower in store. Take a selfie, this is just the start of an epic trip!



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 2 | PARIS INCLUDING VERSAILLES VISIT

Get ready to channel your inner royal on an optional trip to the Palace of Versailles for a serving of pure French decadence. With over 2,300 grandly decorated rooms and the largest back garden you've ever seen, there's plenty to keep you occupied! Tonight, an optional cabaret show is on the table. Ooh la la!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Palace of Versailles
- Traditional cabaret show: from €65
- Seine river cruise: from €10
- Bike tour of Paris: from €30

DAY 3 | PARIS TO BAYEUX

Wave goodbye to the City of Love as we head for the coast. On our way, we'll pay a sobering visit to the D-Day beach where allied forces landed in WW2. Tonight you're free to soak up the medieval charm of Bayeux. Think: cobbled streets, 13th-century architecture and a huge cathedral - this town just oozes history.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 4 | BAYEUX TO NANTES

Today we're off to the vibrant city of Nantes - but first, we'll be paying a visit to the enchanting island village of Mont Saint-Michel. Stock up on souvenirs, grab a selfie and take in the fairytale vibes before jumping back on the coach.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 5 | NANTES TO BORDEAUX

Wine connoisseurs, rejoice! Home to over 9,000 wine producers, Bordeaux knows the A to Z of a fine drop. After an included walking tour it's time to enjoy a glass (or two) with your trip mates - dinner is on us tonight.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Bordeaux

DAY 6 | BORDEAUX INCLUDING SAINT-EMILION VISIT

UNESCO World Heritage site alert! Today we'll venture out to the historic town of Saint-Emilion. Opt in to sample some of France's finest wines, nibble on macarons and don't forget to try a canelé (that's a delicious pastry to you and me). Want more? There's an optional wine & bike tour of offer if you're down.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 7 | BORDEAUX TO BIARRITZ

Sun, sand and seafood. Today we roll on to glitzy Biarritz. Take a walk, hit the waves or simply kick back and soak up those relaxed vibes. Bliss!



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 8 | BIARRITZ

Rise and shine, there's a totally gnarly optional surfing lesson on the cards today *insert shaka*. Surfing not your thing? Don't worry, there's plenty of tapas bars, cafés and restaurants where you can sample the local specialties. Tonight, we'll kick back and swap stories over an included dinner.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Surfing lesson in Biarritz:

DAY 9 | BIARRITZ TO CARCASSONNE

Grab your swords and pitchforks, we're off to the medieval city of Carcassonne. Perched up on a rocky hillside, with spiky turrets and sturdy walls this place looks like something out of a storybook.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 10 | CARCASSONNE TO MARSEILLE VIA NÎMES

We'll make a quick lunch stop in the gorgeous city of Nîmes before rolling onwards to Marseille - the edgy port city with enough character to keep you entertained for days. Get your bearings on an included walking tour then take a stroll around Vieux Port (Old Port), go shopping or check out the views at Notre Dame de la Garde. If seafood is your thing, don't forget to try Marseille's specialty dish - bouillabaisse (a fish stew with a bang!).



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Marseille

DAY 11 | MARSEILLE

Today, an optional trip to Calanques National Park is on the table for those feeling slightly adventurous. Think: aquamarine water, limestone cliffs and a 16th-century fortress made famous by The Count of Monte Cristo. This place is #instagoals.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 12 | MARSEILLE TO CHAMONIX

Prepare for some epic views and awesome activities as we make our way to the French Alps.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 13 | CHAMONIX

Leave the lie-ins for another day - you've got exploring to do! From hiking to mountain biking, kayaking to skydiving, there's an adventure activity for absolutely everyone. Adrenalin not your thing? Take the cable car to the top of Mont Blanc and put those pano skills to the test!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Skydiving in Chamonix
- Mountain biking in Chamonix
- Kayaking in Chamonix

DAY 14 | CHAMONIX TO LYON

Today we slow down the pace and say hey to the foodie capital of France - Lyon. Take a wander around medieval Old Town on a walking tour, then hit up a traditional bouchon (that's 'tavern' to you and me) to see what all the fuss is about.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Lyon

DAY 15 | LYON TO PARIS

Get one more group selfie - it's back to Paris today. You've got one more coach ride with the crew before we vamoose so swap those socials! Where to next?



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, though on some occasions some hot food may be available.

Included meals will be provided in a mixture of local restaurants and places 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!