

# Topdeck

## WINTER BRITAIN & IRELAND



**TRIP CODE:**  
EXWULL-0

## TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Ready to channel your inner explorer? On this epic Britain and Ireland trip, you'll discover ancient castles and ruined fortresses, thousands of years of history and a famously hospitable culture. Think: traditional cosy pubs, top-notch restaurants, winter markets and more. Oh - and if you're lucky, you might even get to see snow!

Please note: Some of our trip departures coincide with Edinburgh's Hogmanay (New Year's Eve) celebrations. On these trips, Hogmanay tickets will be included!

### 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

- Visit the university town of Oxford
- Traditional English Sunday roast in Liverpool
- Walking tour of Edinburgh
- 'City of the Dead' underground tour
- Walking tour of Glasgow
- Irish Sea ferry crossing
- Visit the Giant's Causeway
- Visit prehistoric Newgrange
- Walking tour of Dublin
- Guided tour of the Guinness Storehouse
- Visit Bath
- Visit Stonehenge

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO LIVERPOOL

Meet the crew and load your gear. We'll begin with Harry Potter-esque Oxford, which is full of cobblestone streets and beautiful architecture. Soak up the medieval vibes before we head to Liverpool for a traditional roast dinner. Did you know? Liverpoolians are renowned for their love of The Beatles, footy and nightlife. Get amongst it!



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the university town of Oxford
- Traditional English Sunday roast in Liverpool

## DAY 2 | LIVERPOOL TO YORK

After arriving in York, we'll check out the amazing York Minster cathedral (trust us, this place is huge). There's also the ancient City Walls, York Castle Museum and the Jorvik Viking Centre to go explore, so hop to it! Later, why not head to a bar or two?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 3 | YORK TO EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Soak up Edinburgh's old-world charm as we take you around on a walking tour of the top sights. Later on, we'll treat you to a local pub feast. This is how it's done in Edinburgh! Anyone for an optional nightlife tour afterwards? That'll be a yes.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Edinburgh



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Nightlife tour of Edinburgh: from £12

## DAY 4 | EDINBURGH

Get under Edinburgh's skin today and you'll find out why it's so much more than its gothic architecture. Then: head underground on a spooky tour. Wait... did you just tap my shoulder? If you're up for it this evening, you could opt in to check out a traditional Scottish song and dance show. Och aye!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- 'City of the Dead' underground tour



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Traditional 'Spirit of Scotland' show: from £50

## DAY 5 | EDINBURGH

You've got another full day to spend however you like in the Scottish capital. Don't say we don't spoil you! Why not check out the city vaults under South Bridge? Or, you could always just go for a stroll through the Old Town for a dose of UNESCO World Heritage amazingness. Today it's all on you.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 6 | EDINBURGH TO THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Wild, breathtaking landscapes, mysterious legends and heaps of long-standing traditions - yep, we must be in the Scottish Highlands! Embrace the scenery, breathe the fresh air and take it all in. This place is like nowhere else in the world.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 7 | SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS.

Another day filled with more glens, mountains and lochs than you can shake a sporran at! Make the most of the great Scottish outdoors while you still can – we're off to Glasgow tomorrow.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 8 | SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS TO GLASGOW

You can't do Scotland without whisky. Fact! There's an optional whisky distillery tasting tour today if you're up for trying the good stuff. We'll also show you around the city to help you get your bearings. Tonight, Glasgow's bar scene beckons.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Glasgow



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Whisky distillery tour: from £10

## DAY 9 | GLASGOW TO BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

Today we'll ferry it over to a city with a lot of history and a buzzing, cosmopolitan feel. Yep, you guessed it – we're going to Belfast! Hit up the Titanic Museum, visit City Hall or hop on an optional Black Cab tour and learn a few local tales and insider tips. Tonight: tuck into some local fare with the group before knocking back a pint or two. You'll fit right in!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Irish Sea ferry crossing



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Famous Black Cab Tour of Belfast: from £13

## DAY 10 | BELFAST TO GALWAY, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Big question. How did 40,000 hexagonal rock columns end up in the same place? Doesn't matter! The Giant's Causeway rocks (pun intended). But in case you're interested, this world-famous landmark is actually the result of a volcanic eruption. Pretty cool, huh? We'll arrive in Galway tonight – the city that inspired Ed Sheeran's 'Galway Girl'.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Giant's Causeway

## DAY 11 | GALWAY

Yay! You've got a free day to explore Galway! Grab yourself some fish and chips in a cosy pub (and don't forget to team it with a beer). Then: go exploring and check out the amazing street performers and buskers. If you fancy it, you can also pay an optional visit to the Cliffs of Moher. The definition of beautiful, rugged coastline, this place is like something out of a movie.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Cliffs of Moher: from €15

## DAY 12 | GALWAY TO DUBLIN

On the way to Dublin, we'll stop off at ancient Newgrange – a site that's older than both Stonehenge AND the Egyptian Pyramids. Wow! Tonight, sample a taste of tradition at an optional Irish show after dinner, or chill out in the Temple Bar district and soak up the atmosphere.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit prehistoric Newgrange



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Irish night in Dublin: from €40

## DAY 13 | DUBLIN

First up: a walking tour of the city's most famous and historic sights. Then: take in the views from the Guinness Skybar after touring the Guinness Storehouse (when in Dublin!). Want some ideas for your free afternoon? How about checking out Dublin Castle or St Stephen's Green?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Dublin
- Guided tour of the Guinness Storehouse

## DAY 14 | DUBLIN TO CARDIFF, WALES

Next stop: Cardiff. Let's play a game - how many Welsh words can you learn in one night?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Irish Sea ferry crossing



## DAY 15 | CARDIFF

It's your day, your way. Check out Cardiff Castle, go for a wander in Cardiff Bay or simply hit up St David's Shopping Centre. And did we mention the pubs? There are A LOT of them. Extra points if you visit one while the rugby is on! Tonight, we've got one last farewell dinner to look forward to. Time to get all the selfies in!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 16 | CARDIFF TO LONDON, ENGLAND

All good things must come to an end. But not so fast – there are still two stops left! After heading to historic Bath for a walking tour, we'll embrace the mystery surrounding those iconic stones at Stonehenge. Then: we're off to London Town for teary goodbyes. Who wants to go again?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Bath
- Visit Stonehenge

## 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!**