

Topdeck

WINTER BRITAIN & IRELAND



TRIP CODE:
EXWULL-1



TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Is this trip for me? DIVERSE. EXCITING. CHARMING.

1. England. 2. The Republic of Ireland. 3. Northern Ireland. 4. Scotland. 5. Wales.

Five INCREDIBLE nations all crammed into one teeny corner of the planet. And guess what? Each one is filled to the brim with its own unique cultures, languages, accents, foods and facts. Meaning? You'll need to enlist the help of a pro to make sense of it all. Lucky for you, we've got a few of 'em on hand. Ready to experience this OG Britain & Ireland trip in all its winter-y glory? We thought so.

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

- Orientation tour of Oxford
- Walking tour of Liverpool
- Walking tour of York
- See the Angel of the North
- Walking tour of Edinburgh
- Visit Loch Ness
- Walking tour of Glasgow
- Glengoyne whisky distillery tour
- Visit the Giant's Causeway
- Visit Derry/Londonderry
- Orientation tour of Galway
- Walking tour of Dublin
- Guided tour of the Guinness Storehouse
- Photo stop at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllant
- Orientation tour of Cardiff
- Visit Stonehenge
- Visit Bath

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO LIVERPOOL VIA OXFORD

One minute you're stuck in the daily grind of your home routine, next minute you're in London Town - and meeting a bunch of people who are 100% different but 100% the same. Ready to uncover extraordinary? We thought so. Hit the road early and get pumped for our first stop: Oxford. Get your real-life Harry Potter fix with a walking tour around the INCREDIBLE colleges. Soak up the views from Carfax Tower. And grab a pub-lunch next to a toasty fireplace. Then: we'll make tracks to Liverpool. Our Trip Leader will show us around town - before we head off solo to tick off the likes of the Tate Liverpool, Maritime Museum, Albert Docks and The Beatles museum (of course). Just make sure you're back in time for tonight's included dinner with the gang!



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation tour of Oxford
- Walking tour of Liverpool

DAY 2 | LIVERPOOL TO YORK

Wave goodbye to Liverpool, we're off to the medieval walled city of York. Centuries of history. A 'holy sh*t'-worthy Cathedral. And some pretty awesome pubs. Don your beanie – we'll get to know the who's who of York on a walking tour, then the rest is up to you. Head up the tower of York Minster, visit the JORVIK Viking Centre or engage explorer mode and lose yourself along the Shambles and Snickelways. Later, track down The York Roast Co. and try the Yorkshire Roast wrap for dinner. It's so wrong, it's right.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of York

DAY 3 | YORK TO EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

No lies – today is a bit of a drive day. BUT you've got your awesome AF trip mates to keep the tunes pumping and good times rollin'. First up: spread your wings under the Angel of the North. Then: we'll cross the border into bonnie Scotland. Dinner in Edinburgh is on us, so line those stomachs with a hearty pub feast before gathering the gang for an optional nightlife tour. Time to see if the city's bar scene lives up to the hype.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- See the Angel of the North



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Nightlife tour of Edinburgh: from £12

DAY 4 | EDINBURGH

Kick things off today with a walking tour of this historic capital – swing by Edinburgh Castle, stroll the Royal Mile, get all the feels from Greyfriars Bobby's statue and be in awe of St Giles Cathedral. Then? The rest is 100% up to you! Check out the unique collection of Viking-age objects at the Museum of Scotland. Strap on your boots and take a hike up Arthur's Seat. Step aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia. Explore the uber-cool Leith district. Or escape the weather with afternoon tea at Elephant House (where JK Rowling wrote THAT series, just sayin'). And tonight? There's an opportunity to delve into Edinburgh's dark-side on a 'City of the Dead' tour. You might need to pack a spare pair of underwear for this one.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Edinburgh



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- 'City of the Dead' underground tour: from £11

DAY 5 | EDINBURGH

Didn't get to everything? DW we've got your back – here's a free day we prepared earlier. Zip up the puffer jacket and jump on a Potter-themed walking tour. Check out Liz's official Scottish residence at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Explore the National and Portrait Galleries. Sip on Scotland's national drink at The Scotch Whisky Experience. Or flash some plastic along George Street. If the weather is on your side, head up Carlton Hill for alllll the sunset views over the city. Then gather the gang for a night on the Old Town – filled with quirky cocktail bars, cosy traditional pubs and craft beerhouses there's something for everyone. Our fave? Hoot the Redeemer. Think: 1950's cocktail bar + arcade games = hours of entertainment!



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 6 | EDINBURGH TO SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Breathtaking landscapes. Mysterious legends. Culture-rich traditions. And a lot of attractive red-heads. We must be in the Scottish Highlands. Blast Snow Patrol as we weave past more glens, mountains and lochs than you can shake a sporran at. Tonight, you'll be free to explore or kick back and take it all in. Yep, you're actually here. *Take note: the Scottish Highlands are BIG – and we're unable to guarantee exact locations right now. So, sit tight and check your Trip Notes or Topdeck app for specific locations closer to take-off.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 7 | SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

This is your day, your way. But we've got an included trip out to see ol' Nessie if you're keen. Hear all the legends and see if you can spot the slippery sucker through the mist on an optional scenic cruise. Rather do your own spontaneous-this-is-what-I-came-here-for thing? No worries! There's plenty to explore around here. Trust us. Tonight, gather your trip mates and seek out a historic pub for a wee dram and hearty Scottish fare. Trying haggis? Go on, we dare you.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Loch Ness



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Loch Ness cruise: from £14

DAY 8 | SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS TO GLASGOW

Fact: you can't 'do' Scotland without whisky. So, we've organised an included tour of Glengoyne Distillery and an inside-warming tasting today. You can thank us later. Uncover the magic maturation process this liquid gold goes through – before having a sniff and swirl of the good stuff. Onwards to Glasgow! Our Trip Leader will show us around the Merchants Quarter, Buchanan Street and George Square on a walking tour – pointing out the must-visits for our free time tonight. Then the rest is 100% up to you. We suggest grabbing a bite in Merchant City though.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Glasgow
- Glengoyne whisky distillery tour

DAY 9 | GLASGOW TO BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

Rise and shine! We're leaving Scotland behind and setting sail for the Emerald Isle. First up? Belfast. More than just four-leafed clovers and pots of gold – Northern Ireland's capital is THE place to start delving deeper into the rich history of this island-country. Get a local insight into The Troubles on an optional Black Cab Tour – visiting significant Protestant and Catholic estates and the Belfast Peace Wall. Or hit up the city's state-of-the-art Titanic Museum. Tonight, we'll tuck into some local fare at an included dinner with the gang. Then: head to the Cathedral Quarter to check out the hip bar scene. Or find a local haunt to warm your feet by the fire, while sipping on an Irish coffee. It's like a hug for your insides.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Black Cab Tour of Belfast: from £13

DAY 10 | BELFAST TO GALWAY, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Limber up for a giant game of hopscotch – today we'll skip and jump our way across the famous Giant's Causeway. Think these huge hexagonal columns were created by volcanic activity 60 million years ago? Wrong! They're actually remnants of a GIANT-sized, testosterone-filled stand-off. True story, just ask your expert Trip Leader. Next up: (London)Derry. We'll take a closer look at the Derry Murals and learn about the Battle of Bogside and Bloody Sunday on an orientation tour with our Trip Leader. Later, get the run around Galway with our on-road expert before taking the night off to explore. Tonight, dinner is up to you. But we hear the oysters here are bloody good. Hot tip: McDonagh's is THE place to go.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Giant's Causeway
- Visit Derry/Londonderry
- Orientation tour of Galway

DAY 11 | GALWAY

You've got 24hrs to embrace it all, so don't waste a second. Need some suggestions? Sign up for a trip to the wildly breathtaking Cliffs of Moher. You're gonna want your camera charged for this one. Or if you're sticking around town – make sure you check out Wolfe Tone Bridge, the Spanish Arch, Lynch's Castle and settle in for a shamrock tea at Cupán Tae. Then? Find your Galway girl/boy at O'Connor's Pub.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Day trip to the Cliffs of Moher:
from €15

DAY 12 | GALWAY TO DUBLIN

Next: the cobblestone streets of Temple Bar and historic watering holes of the capital. But first, glue your nose to the coach window as we take the scenic route across the Burren. With its grey craggy terrain and unique array of flora – this place looks out of this world. Then? We'll roll onto Dublin. Home of saints, scholars and U2 – tonight is yours to take on the buzzing local nightlife or learn some new moves at a traditional dance show.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Traditional Irish dance show:
from €40

DAY 13 | DUBLIN

Slip on your gloves and down that cup of Joe – we'll get our bearings around this historic city on a walking tour. Tick off Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin Castle, the General Post Office and Temple Bar. Then? It's time to discover what's so special about Ireland's most iconic export at the Guinness Storehouse. With 7 floors, a sky-high Gravity Bar and a cold pint of the good stuff included – even the cider-drinkers will be impressed. Fact: you've got the rest of the afternoon to do whatever you want. Keep the buzz going and head to the Irish Whiskey Museum. Check out the Book of Kells at Trinity College. Take a tour of Kilmainham Gaol. Buy a claddagh ring for someone special along Drury Street. And don't miss out on a cone of brown-bread ice cream at Murphey's. Trust us, even in winter it's a must.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 14 | DUBLIN TO CARDIFF, WALES

Land ahoy! Today, we're ferrying over to wild Wales – a country that has collectively rejected the letters K,Q,V and Z. Speaking of letters – we'll make a photo stop at the place with the longest name in Europe. Work on your pronunciation for a bit, then we'll roll through the scenic countryside to the country's capital. Get the low-down on how to spend your free time with an orientation tour. Then? Find out why so many English university students flock to study in Cardiff. Hint: it has something to do with the awesome bands that pass through.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Photo stop at
Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch
- Orientation tour of Cardiff

DAY 15 | CARDIFF

You've got 24hrs to make the most of your free day here. So, how you gonna spend it? Check out the Castle on the Hill. Take a tour of Principality Stadium. Wander around Cardiff Bay. Unleash your inner sci-fi geek at the Dr Who Experience. Or tuck into a Welsh cake and tea at Cardiff Central Market. At dinner tonight, we're going to give this incredible adventure the send-off it deserves – make sure you catch a home-grown act at the Welsh Club or sample a quirky cocktail at the Dead Canary (their menu is as whacky as the name).



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 16 | CARDIFF TO LONDON, ENGLAND

Quick maths: this is our last day. But we're sure as hell not done yet! En route to London, we'll stop by the gob-smackingly beautiful Bath to take in the Abbey, Royal Crescent and Roman Baths. You've got free time to take a tour of the Baths and sample the healing (read: disgusting) spa water. Or treat yourself to a classy lunch at the Pump Rooms. Get a Bath Bun (or two) takeaway before we make tracks to our next stop: the mystical Stonehenge. One of the most iconic prehistoric sites in the world, take it alllllll in before piling back on the coach for the drive back to ol' Blighty. Swap Insta handles and start planning that reunion trip – where to next?



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Stonehenge
- Visit Bath

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!