





# **TOPDECKER,** meet Middle East & Nth Africa (LAC)

If you're looking for mundane, look elsewhere. Glitzy and larger than life, Dubai is proof that money can buy just about anything. Here, futuristic skyscrapers meet traditional markets and shopping destinations tailor-made for retail therapy. Prep your credit card-swiping arm and get involved!

Please note: Although we've given our Topdeck stamp of approval, this trip is unguided (leaving you more time to channel your inner explorer). We've bundled the best experiences from our trusted local suppliers, just for you - meaning your package could differ from your fellow passengers' packages. Included activities are not restricted to 18-39s.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



**Short Breaks** 



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.

#### **INCLUDED EXPERIENCES**

- Airport arrival transfer
- · Half-day city tour of Dubai
- Airport departure transfer

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).

<b>IMPUKIANI:</b> please refresh this doc as close to your departure	as possible. This means you'll have the most up-
to-date info available.	

### YOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 1 | DUBAI, UAE

Await your airport pick-up and get ready to be whisked to your hotel in style. Aren't you the rock star? Welcome to Dubai! Drop your bags, get checked in and explore your awesome accommodation. A unique hotel catering for adventurous young travellers this place has all the essentials as well as some cool luxuries (did someone say rooftop pool and Nespresso coffee machines?). Later, get out and discover Dubai. With its legendary shopping, dazzling architecture and exotic offerings, this city is bound to make your favourites list.



#### **INCLUDED TODAY:**

Airport arrival transfer

### DAY 2 I DUBAI

Hit the ground running (or strolling, in this heat) and explore all of Dubai's nooks and crannies on our city tour. Meander through the gold and spice souks, check out the saltwater creeks, marvel at the mosques and museums and spend the rest of the day horizontal at the man-made islands and beaches.



#### **MEALS:**



#### **(☆)** INCLUDED TODAY:

Breakfast

Half-day city tour of Dubai

### DAY 3 I DUBAI

Tuck into breakfast and check out of your hotel before ticking off any last-minute shopping. Your transfer back to the airport is ready when you are!



#### **MEALS:**



#### **(☆)** INCLUDED TODAY:

Breakfast

· Airport departure transfer

### **MEALS**

Your Stopover package includes breakfast every morning at the hotel, plus a delicious BBQ dinner in the desert as part of your included desert safari experience.

For your non-included meals, Dubai features a wide range of dining options from very cheap local and Western fast food to very expensive world class restaurants, and almost every imaginable type of cuisine! Go forth and explore to your own tastes. Bon appetit!

Important note on Ramadan: As many Middle Eastern countries are of Islamic faith, it is important to remember that many restaurants and shops will either be closed or operating on reduced hours during this time. Some Optional and Included Activities may also be affected. Despite some of these restraints, Ramadan is an incredibly important and sacred month for Muslims. When equipped with some basic knowledge, you'll have the chance to immerse yourself in this special tradition and experience all its highlights.

### 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.

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

