

Topdeck

DOWN SOUTH & OUTBACK



TRIP CODE:

OXDSMU-9



TOPDECKER, meet Asia (TD)

Time to get down south and outback. A trip with the perfect mix of jaw-dropping scenery, masses of wildlife, cool cities and out-of-the-way spots, you're bound to get a true taste of the Land Down Under. Add to that waterfalls and lakes, Aboriginal art, subterranean homes, dingo fences and the unforgettable Ulu?u, and this two-week adventure will knock all others out of the park.

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

- Drive along the Great Ocean Road and see sunset at the 12 Apostles
- Paint your own souvenir boomerang
- Hike to the base of MacKenzie Falls
- Make your own wine in Coonawarra
- Wilpena Pound guided walk
- Opal mine and town tour
- Visit a kangaroo orphanage
- Experience sunset at Uluru
- Experience sunrise at Uluru
- Uluru base walks
- Walk the Valley of the Winds at Kata Tju?a
- Swag under the stars at Kings Creek Station
- Guided hike of Kings Canyon
- Visit the Garden of Eden

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER

DAY 1 | MELBOURNE TO PORT CAMPBELL

It's not called the 'Great' Ocean Road for nothing! Get snappy over the 12 Apostles before chilling out tonight.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Drive along the Great Ocean Road and see sunset at the 12 Apostles

DAY 2 | PORT CAMPBELL TO GRAMPAINS

Today we'll explore the Grampians and the Loch Ard Gorge. Meet the traditional landowners (the Djab Wurrung and Jardwadjal people), hear their Dreamtime stories and paint your own story on a boomerang.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Paint your own souvenir boomerang

DAY 3 | GRAMPIANS TO MT GAMBIER

Next up: MacKenzie Falls, the largest waterfall in Victoria. Tonight, catch some shut eye in the Old Mount Gambier Gaol.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Hike to the base of MacKenzie Falls

DAY 4 | MT GAMBIER TO ADELAIDE

Check out the Blue Lake and Umpherston Sinkhole before stopping off at Wynn's Coonawarra vineyard for a wine class. Afterwards: Adelaide.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Make your own wine in Coonawarra

DAY 5 | ADELAIDE

With heaps of bars and an awesome live music scene, your day in Adelaide is likely to pass by in a flash. Best get a move on!



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 6 | ADELAIDE TO FLINDERS RANGES

On our way to the Flinders Ranges, we'll stop off at the Barossa Reservoir Whispering Wall. Word has it that if you whisper something at one end of the wall, it can be heard allllll the way over on the other side! After giving it a try, it's off to a local pub for dinner.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 7 | FLINDERS RANGES

Mountains? Yep. Gorges? Uh-huh. Creeks? You betcha. Rivers? Why, of course! Flinders Ranges National Park has EVERYTHING. Today we'll take a hike at Wilpena Pound – a natural amphitheatre about three times the size of Uluru.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Wilpena Pound guided walk

DAY 8 | FLINDERS RANGES TO COOBER PEDY

Destination: Coober Pedy, where locals live in homes carved deep underground to escape the heat. Today we'll embark on a gem of an opal mine tour and pay a visit to a kangaroo orphanage. Prepare for cuteness overload!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Opal mine and town tour
- Visit a kangaroo orphanage

DAY 9 | COOBER PEDY TO ALICE SPRINGS

Cracked, dry and barren, Moon Plain is like something from another world. We'll cross it on our way to Alice Springs (just remember to close the gate on 5,614 km of dingo fence on your way out).



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 10 | ALICE SPRINGS TO ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

Today it's off to Uluru for a guided walking tour and a glass of bubbles as the glow of the sunset morphs through 50 shades of red, pink, purple and blue. Tonight, it's BBQ time.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Experience sunset at Uluru

DAY 11 | ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

What's more amazing than sunset at Uluru? Yep, you guessed it – sunrise. Time for a walk! Then: get your adventure on with an optional helicopter ride, camel ride or segway tour.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Experience sunrise at Uluru
- Uluru base walks



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic helicopter flights
- Camel ride
- Segway tour

DAY 12 | ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK TO KINGS CANYON

Dust off those walking boots as we take on Kata Tju?a (The Olgas) with a hike through the Valley of the Winds. Tonight, we sleep in swags. Zip up tight! Please be aware that in winter months (May-Sept), nighttime temperatures can drop to near 0 degrees, warmer clothing will be required for the night sleeping in the swag. Please note that the twin / double / or single upgrade is not applicable to the Overnight Swag Night at Kings Canyon.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walk the Valley of the Winds at Kata Tju?a
- Swag under the stars at Kings Creek Station

DAY 13 | KINGS CANYON TO ALICE SPRINGS

Get your hiking boots on! This morning we'll be tackling the hardest part of the famous Rim Walk in Kings Canyon (aptly named 'Heart Attack Hill'). Believe us, it's worth the effort! We're talking age-old cycads, eroded dome shapes, a visit to The Lost City... and that's not even the best part. The sheltered valley and waterhole of the Garden of Eden will make today even more awesome. After a stop off to grab some lunch, we'll head back to Alice Springs.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Guided hike of Kings Canyon
- Visit the Garden of Eden

DAY 14 | ALICE SPRINGS

After breakfast, it's time to say goodbye. Stifle those sobs and get to work planning your next adventure!



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 the odd occasion a cooked breakfast will 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!