

Topdeck

EAST COAST BEACHIN



TRIP CODE:
OXISSC-0

TOPDECKER, meet Asia (TD)

Take two weeks of pure Aussie adventures and turn them into a trip of a lifetime. From the iconic harbour of Sydney to the tropical rainforests of Cairns, this is your chance to see all this great southern land has to offer - with a bunch of people just as stoked to be here as you are. Get off your ass, it's time to see what all the fuss is about.

WORTH NOTING...

Pre-book your Great Barrier Reef day trip at the time of booking to secure your spot.

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

- Wine tasting and grape stomping in Hunter Valley
- Surf lesson at Spot X Camp
- See the Big Banana
- Orientation tour of Byron Bay
- Visit Surfers Paradise
- Party on the Gold Coast
- Orientation tour of Brisbane
- Fraser Island day tour (including Lake McKenzie)
- Sail the Whitsunday Islands
- Visit Whitehaven Beach
- Visit Magnetic Island
- Visit a wildlife park
- Orientation tour of Cairns

YOUR ITINERARY



DAY 1 | SYDNEY TO SURF CAMP

What's upppp, Sydney! Meet and greet your fellow Topdeckers in the big city, hop aboard the coach, whizz over the Sydney Harbour Bridge and get pumped for the next two weeks of East Coast awesomeness. Our first stop? We're glad you asked! We'll call in at the Hunter Valley for a spot of wine tasting and grape stomping. After stocking up on a bottle or two, we'll hit the road to Surf Camp. Excitement levels: 100/10.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Wine tasting and grape stomping in Hunter Valley

DAY 2 | SURF CAMP TO BYRON BAY

Roll out of bed, down that coffee and get ready to hit the waves – an included surf lesson awaits! Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned pro, the camp instructors will give you some expert tips that'll have you hanging ten in no time (insert shaka). After we've finished carving up the morning swell, we'll stop for a photo op of big, yellow proportions in Coffs Harbour. Then: onwards to ultra-zen Byron Bay. Get your bearings on an included orientation tour before we set you free to explore. Here you can shop till you drop at cute boutique stores, sip matcha lattes with the locals, perfect your downward dog in a yoga class and party hard on an epic night out - all in the space of 24 hours! Oh - and the beaches are incred here, too.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Surf lesson at Spot X Camp
- See the Big Banana
- Orientation tour of Byron Bay

DAY 3 | BYRON BAY

Awww, yeah - you've got a free day in Byron Bay! Anti-McDonalds but pro fresh juice bars, sunny beer gardens and hipster beards, it's no wonder Byron Bay is a traveller hotspot. Why not hit the beach and practise your new surfing skills? Alternatively, you could kayak with dolphins (seriously) or explore the array of funky vegetarian and vegan cafés in town. Want something a little more high-octane? How about freefalling at over 200km/hr from 15,000 feet on an optional skydive? Heck yes! Tonight, grab a perch at the Beach Hotel for some live music and awesome views.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Skydiving in Byron Bay: from \$309.00
- Surf lesson in Byron Bay: from \$65.00
- Dolphin kayaking in Byron Bay: from \$69.00

DAY 4 | BYRON BAY TO GOLD COAST

Down one last chai latte in Byron Bay before we roll onto Australia's playground: the Gold Coast. New state alert! Known for its golden beaches, trendy restaurants and theme parks, Queensland's GC has something for everyone. We'll hit up glitzy Surfers Paradise and get a chance to see why the nightlife here is up there with the best in the country. Enjoy it while you can - tomorrow, we're island-bound.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Surfers Paradise
- Party on the Gold Coast

DAY 5 | GOLD COAST TO FRASER ISLAND

On our way to Fraser Island, we'll swing by the state capital: Brisbane. We'll cruise along the mighty Brisbane River and past prominent historic buildings and the pretty South Bank on an orientation tour before cracking on to our next destination. Have you turned your watch to island time? Breathe in the fresh air and relax - you've got two nights on rugged Fraser Island to look forward to. Make sure you keep your eyes peeled for the resident dingoes! Please note: As space is limited, we ask that you pack a small overnight bag to take with you to Fraser Island. Pack items like swimmers, a beach towel, chargers, a hat, sunscreen, a camera, a jacket, toiletries, sandals/flip flops and casual clothes for two days.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation tour of Brisbane

DAY 6 | FRASER ISLAND (GUIDED FULL DAY TOUR)

Rise and shine! We've got a full-day guided tour of this beautiful island on the agenda today. It'll be love at first sight as you hit up gorgeous Lake McKenzie and 75 Mile Beach, visit the Maheno Shipwreck and coloured sands of the pinnacles, explore awe-inspiring rainforest and splash in the fresh waters of Eli Creek. And if that wasn't enough, there's a yummy buffet lunch included, too. Prefer a view from above? There's an optional scenic flight on offer if you're keen. Tonight, we'll share pics, crack open a cold one and watch the sunset. What. A. Day.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Fraser Island day tour (including Lake McKenzie)



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic flight over Fraser Island: from \$80.00

DAY 7 | FRASER ISLAND TO FARM STAY

Wash the salt from your hair and wave goodbye to the coast this morning as we roll onto Myella Farm. Think: stunning landscapes, tonnes of wildlife and plenty of country hospitality. Pinch yourself - staying on a working cattle farm is as unique as it gets!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 8 | FARM STAY

Embrace your inner jackaroo (or jillaroo) and prepare to get stuck into farm life! First up: we'll learn how to crack a whip and milk a cow like a real station hand. Later, you can opt in to explore the farm on horseback, or simply kick back by the pool. This evening, we'll dust off the red dirt and enjoy another delicious meal made with home-grown ingredients. Yum!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Horse riding at Myella Farm: from \$80.00

DAY 9 | FARM STAY TO WHITSUNDAYS SAILING

Stayed overnight on a yacht before? There's a first time for everything! Get ready to indulge in a spot of stargazing as you sail the beautiful Whitsunday Islands. It's a tough life! Please note: As space on the yacht is limited, we ask that you pack a small overnight bag to take with you. Pack items like swimmers, a beach towel, chargers, a hat, sunscreen, a camera, a jacket, toiletries, sandals/flip flops and casual clothes for two days. Twin/double/single upgrades are not available for overnight sailing in the Whitsunday Islands.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 10 | AIRLIE BEACH

Sun. Sand. Sea. Does it get better than this? Shorten your bucket list with a visit to Whitehaven Beach and get ready to swim, sunbathe and snorkel the day away. Then: grab a last pic of paradise before we head back to Airlie Beach. The nightlife here is a traveller's dream. It'd be rude not to get out there and enjoy it...



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Sail the Whitsunday Islands
- Visit Whitehaven Beach

DAY 11 | AIRLIE BEACH TO MAGNETIC ISLAND

Down that coffee - we're off on another island getaway! After making tracks to Townsville, we'll hop on a short ferry ride to Magnetic Island (with plenty of pretty views en route). Relax and recharge, seek out hidden beaches and hikes, or snorkel the fringing reef. This place is a little slice of secluded paradise! Tonight, we'll rest our heads in bungalows surrounded by eucalyptus trees. Bliss.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Magnetic Island

DAY 12 | MAGNETIC ISLAND TO CAIRNS

Before leaving, we've got a visit to a wildlife park lined up for you. Get ready for lizards, native birds and koalas! Once you've snapped your koala selfie we'll make tracks to Cairns, the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef. Get your bearings on an orientation tour, then tonight's all yours. Take a stroll around the markets, get out and experience some of the East Coast's best nightlife or hit up the local restaurants for some delicious local seafood. Yum!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit a wildlife park
- Orientation tour of Cairns

DAY 13 | CAIRNS

You've got two days to play with in Cairns - and plenty of optional activities to choose from! Start off with an optional Great Barrier Reef trip for the chance to snorkel or scuba dive this incredible natural wonder. You might see turtles, reef sharks and Nemo! This place is special, trust us. Tonight, swap stories with your trip buddies over a group dinner. Quick! Grab one last group photo, we'll be saying farewell tomorrow. *sad face* Please note: Pre-book your Great Barrier Reef day trip at the time of booking to secure your spot.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Great Barrier Reef day trip: from \$165.00

DAY 14 | CAIRNS

After breakfast, say bye to your trip mates and swap those digits. We know you'll be back. Sticking around? Today there's an optional bungy jump or a high octane jungle swing if you're game. Or, if you're after something a little more chill, why not spend the day exploring the Daintree Rainforest - it's World Heritage listed for a reason. Phew! What a trip!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bungy jumping in Cairns: from \$179.00
- Skydiving in Cairns: from \$309.00
- Tully River day trip: from \$199.00
- Minjin swinging in Cairns: from \$129.00
- Go Wild Tour in Cairns: from \$175.00
- Jungle surfing in Cairns: from \$274.00

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!