

Topdeck

EAST COAST CRUISIN'



TRIP CODE:
OXISWS-9

TOPDECKER, meet Asia (TD)

The East Coast is the road well-travelled and for good reason. Expect surfing in Byron Bay, four-wheel driving on Fraser Island and even a spot of sailing in the Whitsundays. On land, sea or through the air (skydiving is an option), this trip will show you the best and the most beautiful of the East Coast.

WORTH NOTING...

This trip is a section of the 14 Day East Coast Beachin'

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

- Sail the Whitsunday Islands
- Please note: The twin / double / or single upgrade is not applicable to the Overnight Sailing in the Whitsunday Islands.
- Visit Whitehaven Beach
- Snorkelling
- Visit Fraser Island (including Lake McKenzie)
- Full-day Fraser Island 4WD experience
- Visit Noosa
- Visit Surfers Paradise
- Aboriginal Cultural experience
- Orientation tour of Byron Bay
- Surf lesson
- See the Big Banana statue
- Wine tasting and grape stomping in Hunter Valley

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER

DAY 1 | WHITSUNDAYS (OVERNIGHT SAILING)

Been on a private yacht before? You will today as you sail the beautiful Whitsunday Islands. This is the life. Please note: We ask that you have packed a small overnight bag to take onboard with you as space on the overnight sailing is limited. Pack items like swimmers, beach towel, chargers, hat, sunscreen, camera, jacket, toiletries, sandals/flip flops and casual clothes for two days.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Sail the Whitsunday Islands
- Please note: The twin / double / or single upgrade is not applicable to the Overnight Sailing in the Whitsunday Islands.

DAY 2 | AIRLIE BEACH

Shorten your bucket list with a visit to Whitehaven Beach and get ready to feast, swim and snorkel the day away. Sounds good, huh? Grab a last pic of paradise before we head back to Airlie Beach tonight. The nightlife here is a backpacker's dream. Get amongst it and celebrate an epic start to the trip with your new travel mates.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Sail the Whitsunday Islands
- Visit Whitehaven Beach
- Snorkelling

DAY 3 | AIRLIE BEACH TO FARM STAY

Tear yourself away from paradise. We're headed to a farm stay tonight with a home-cooked meal to get us settled. This amazing place will be our home for the next two nights.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 4 | FARM STAY

Embrace your inner jackaroo (or jillaroo) and get amongst farm life during your time here. You could always go all out and opt in to explore the farm on horseback too. Giddy-up!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Horse riding

DAY 5 | FARM STAY TO FRASER ISLAND

Kick off your day with a farm breakfast before catching a ferry bound for the UNESCO World Heritage listed Fraser Island. This place is the world's largest sand island and has the longest beach in Queensland. Epic! We ask that you have packed a small overnight bag to take to Fraser Island with you as luggage space is limited. Pack items like swimmers, beach towel, chargers, hat, sunscreen, camera, jacket, toiletries, sandals/flip flops and casual clothes for two days.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 6 | FRASER ISLAND

It'll be love at first sight as you hit up the peaceful Eli Creek, the Maheno Shipwreck, the crystal-clear Lake McKenzie and much more on Fraser Island.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Fraser Island (including Lake McKenzie)
- Full-day Fraser Island 4WD experience



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic flights from the beach

DAY 7 | FRASER ISLAND TO BRISBANE

On our way to Brisbane, we'll swing by Noosa for a tour and a walk in Noosa National Park. Ten points if you spot a koala! There are also hidden natural pools around here, so bring your swimmers in case you have time for a quick dip.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Noosa

DAY 8 | BRISBANE TO BYRON BAY

Leave Brisbane behind you as we head to Byron Bay. But first up is the famous Surfers Paradise and an Aboriginal Cultural experience (with song, dance and storytelling). Don't miss the nightlife in Byron Bay tonight. It's pretty special!



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Surfers Paradise
- Aboriginal Cultural experience

DAY 9 | BYRON BAY

In Byron Bay, you can burn incense, sip chai, practice yoga and go on an epic night out all in the space of 24 hours. Oh, and the beaches here are gorgeous. Get a feel for the place with an included orientation tour. Then, you've got a free day to do your own thing! Anti-McDonald's and anti-anything mass produced but pro juice bars, beer gardens and beaches, it's no wonder Byron Bay is a traveller's hotspot. Also, Chris Hemsworth has a house here. Eeeek! Optionals on the menu? Surfing, stand up paddle boarding and skydiving.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation tour of Byron Bay



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Skydiving
- Stand up paddle boarding
- Surf lesson

DAY 10 | BYRON BAY TO SURF CAMP

See ya Byron. It's been real. Tear yourself away as our road trip continues with a stop by the Big Banana statue in Coffs Harbour. Then: say hello to our epic Surf Camp in Crescent Head. Once here, get ready to hit the waves with an included surf lesson today. Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned pro, your instructors will give you some top tips that'll have you surfing like a local in no time. Dinner's on us tonight.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Surf lesson
- See the Big Banana statue

DAY 11 | SURF CAMP TO SYDNEY

Bye Surf Camp! We're continuing our journey down the coast and we've got a spot of wine tasting and grape stomping in the beautiful Hunter Valley. Keep your eyes peeled for the cheeky kangaroos that hang around the vines here, and leave enough space in your backpack for a bottle of wine or two... Then we'll be crossing Sydney's iconic Harbour Bridge on our way back to the big city. Cheers Topdeck, it's been epic.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Wine tasting and grape stomping in Hunter Valley
- Surf lesson

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!