

Topdeck

DELVE DEEP: ITALY



TRIP CODE:

TBIRR4



TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Italy. Just thinking about this country makes your mouth water, your stomach rumble and your jeans feel tighter. Gastronomic delights aside, this place has got history by the bucket load, landscapes that look like they've been photoshopped, cities so romantic even the biggest cynics will turn into Julia Roberts from Eat, Pray, Love, and more duomos, churches and piazzas than you can remember. So pack your fat pants, this trip is Italy done right.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



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

- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Vatican City with local guide
- Wine tasting and lunch on the slopes of Mt Vesuvius
- Walking tour of Assisi with local guide
- Walking tour of Siena with local guide
- Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- Visit Lucca
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- Visit the picturesque villages of the Cinque Terre
- Scenic cruise on Lake Garda
- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader
- Gondola ride down the Grand Canal
- Visit Orvieto

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Rome
Italy

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Rome
Italy

TRIP CURRENCIES

- Italy - EUR
- Vatican City - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | ROME (ITALY)

Leave the everyday behind and uncover extraordinary. This is your ultimate Italian adventure. We'll rendezvous with the gang in bella Roma before embarking on a walking tour to end all walking tours with our local Trip Leader. We're talking a solid few hours of non-stop sights, off-the-tourist-trail hidden gems and a run-down of almost 3000 years of history. Pass by the Pantheon, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain, (don't) sit on the Spanish Steps and wind things up under the shadow of the mighty Colosseum. Epic doesn't even cut it. Then, tuck into a drool-worthy Italian meal at tonight's dinner with your new-found mates. Your pants are elasticated, right?



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader

DAY 2 | ROME, INCLUDING VATICAN CITY

You've got 24 hours to live out all your Roman Holiday fantasies. First: count your blessings on an included tour of Vatican City with an expert local guide. Then: get out there and do your own, spontaneous, this-is-what-I-came-for thing. Need some local tips? We've got your back. Go on a drool-dripping, coma-inducing food and wine tour. Or hike up Capitoline Hill for awesome views of the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Battle the lunchtime rush for a slice at Pizzarium Bonci. Hunt down the Mouth of Truth. Or simply do as the locals do and indulge in a little dolce far niente (delicious idleness) at a local cafe. You're in Disneyland for foodies, so finding dinner tonight is gonna to be a breeze. Thought you'd tried all the gelato flavours? Head to Fatamorgana – and think again.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Vatican City with local guide



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Food and wine tour: from €69

DAY 3 | ROME – POMPEII – SORRENTO COAST

Roll out Topdeckers! We're kicking things off with a traditional lunch and wine tasting (obvs) with the gang on the slopes of Mt Vesuvius. This is livin'. Then, we'll make a pit stop at one of the most famous ancient cities in the world: Pompeii. Abruptly buried by a volcanic eruption one evening in 79 AD, this incredible UNESCO World Heritage Site is an ancient-history-buff's wet dream. Get the run around with an expert on an optional guided tour – ticking off ancient forums, colourful preserved artworks and the Stone Phalluses of Pompeii (ask your guide, we dare you). Later, we'll roll down the glittering Amalfi Coast to Sorrento. Get your bearings, feast at a local restaurant with the gang, then kick back and soak up the atmosphere. Yep, you're finally here.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Wine tasting and lunch on the slopes of Mt Vesuvius



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of historic Pompeii: prices available locally

DAY 4 | SORRENTO COAST

Who said group tours have no free time? Here's 24 hours to do whatever YOU want. Go get it. Ferry over to the gob-smackingly beautiful Isle of Capri. Organise a boat tour to see the famous bluer-than-blue Blue Grotto. Jump on a local bus and explore picturesque Positano. Take in alllll the views from Villa Comunale Park. Or simply pull up a sunbed and soak up some rays. Later, you can test your balance on an optional paddleboarding sesh. It's more fun when you fall off though (just sayin'). Fact: lemons are kind of a big deal here – so make sure you sample some limoncello or lemon gelato before the day is done.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Stand-up paddleboarding: from €40

DAY 5 | SORRENTO COAST – ASSISI

Down your cappuccino. Pick up a lemon-themed souvenir for mum. And wave goodbye to the coast (for now). Up next? The picture-perfect hilltop town of Assisi. Located in Umbria (aka central Italy) – this place is all about art, culture and I-N-C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E natural scenery. Get the run around St Francis Basilica frescoes, Rocca Maggiore Castle, Basilica di Santa Chiara and Piazza del Comune with a local guide – before splitting off to explore the 14th-century streets solo. Check out Temple of Minerva. Wander around Palazzo del Capitano del Popolo. Then head to a local wine bar to sample a drop (or two) of the good stuff. Dinner tonight is on us. Top tip: try anything with truffles – the region is famous for them.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Assisi with local guide

DAY 6 | ASSISI – SIENA – FLORENCE

Been dreaming of sun-soaked, vineyard-covered Tuscan hills? You're in luck – we're heading to the capital of Tuscany today. But first: the romantic AF city of Siena – rich in Renaissance architecture, sporting some spesh churches and home to Europe's greatest medieval square (where the famous Palio horse race is run). Get the full tour with a local guide, then hunt down a local for lunch. Top tip: try this area's take on pasta called pici. Then? Prepare to make your food baby sing (even louder) as we roll into Florence. Did someone say bar crawl? If you're feeling it, join the gang on an optional tour where your host will reveal hidden secrets of this scandalous city. Passionate stories AND traditional bevs? We're in.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Siena with local guide



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Florence Topsy Tour bar crawl: from €49

DAY 7 | FLORENCE

Florence has more stories than Bilbo Baggins, more culture than a London hipster, AND it gave the world gelato (praise be). We'll get the lay of the land on an in-depth walking tour with a local guide. Then: take your new-found knowledge and hit the streets solo. Uffizi Gallery. Ponte Vecchio. Piazza della Signoria. The Duomo. You can't see it all, but you sure as hell can try! Been dreaming of rolling Tuscan hills? Head out into the vine-laden Chianti region for an optional dinner and wine tasting at a local winery. Thank us later. Or stay in the city to catch an epic sunset from Piazzale Michelangelo and hunt down a gelateria for a scoop (or two) of the good stuff – we mentioned it was invented here, right?



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Florence with local guide



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Wine tasting and dinner in the Chianti Region: prices available locally

DAY 8 | FLORENCE – LUCCA AND PISA – LA SPEZIA

Another day, another gorgeous Tuscan city. Get that gelato to take-away – we're making tracks to the walled city of Lucca. This place is the definition of "hidden gem" and you'll get plenty of free time to discover why. Then: get your creative juices flowing for THAT photo at Pisa before we hit up La Spezia (aka the gateway to Cinque Terre) later. Tonight, dinner is on us – start carb-loading, you're gonna need it for tomorrow's adventuring.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Lucca
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower

DAY 9 | LA SPEZIA, INCLUDING CINQUE TERRE

The five cliff-side villages of Cinque Terre didn't end up on the World Heritage list for nothing. And each has a vibe of its own. Completely void of corporate development and full of quirks, this is a place where la dolce vita is not so much encouraged as enforced. And you've got a full free day to embrace it all. Need some suggestions on how to make the most of your free time? Catch the train to Riomaggiore for colourful postcard-perfect marinas – then down an espresso and hike to Manarola for a quick dip off the rocks. Or trek to the hilltop village of Corniglia for pizza, then work off said pizza with a hike down to Vernazza – check out the church, grab a gelato and train to Monterosso. Sunbake, swim, spritz, watch the sunset, have more spritz. Then head back to La Spezia when you're done. This is livin'. *Note: is walking the best option for you? If not, save us the headache and just get on the train. You know who you are.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the picturesque villages of the Cinque Terre

DAY 10 | LA SPEZIA – LAKE GARDA – VENICE

Time to get cruisie – we're gonna spend the morning ferrying on the surface of picture-perfect Lake Garda (aka Italy's largest lake). Float through the picturesque landscape of Punta San Vigilio while getting low-down on the cultural heritage of Garda's fairytale islands and picture-perfect villages. We'll park up later in Venice – home to over 400 bridges and birthplace of Vivaldi. After dinner with the gang, this beautiful sinking city is yours for the taking. Go get it.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Scenic cruise on Lake Garda

DAY 11 | VENICE

Centuries-old architecture. Inventive cuisine. And a bucket load of culture. Venice is just begging to be explored. Check out the who's who of Venice's usual suspects on a walking tour – before rounding things off with a gondola ride down the Grand Canal. And then? The rest is up to you. Insider tip: spend some time seeking out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop or head off the tourist trail with a trip to Giudecca Island. Go wandering. Chat to the locals. Get lost in the maze of canals and piazzas. Watch the sun go down with a refreshing spritz in hand. That's what makes the memories.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader
- Gondola ride down the Grand Canal

DAY 12 | VENICE – ORVIETO – ROME

Southward and downward with a pit stop at the hilltop town of Orvieto – to see the grand cathedral and dig into a wild boar panini (unless you're vegetarian). Then: we'll hit the road back to la bella Roma. End your day in true Italian fashion: in a carb-induced coma at a local trattoria. This is our last dinner with the gang, so you'd better give this incredible trip the send-off it deserves!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Orvieto

DAY 13 | ROME

You can't be serious, it's over? Time to say our goodbyes (no crying). But the adventure doesn't have to end here – we hear Greece is lovely this time of year...



MEALS:

- Breakfast

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!