

# Topdeck

## GET SOCIAL: USA EAST TO WEST



TRIP CODE:  
TRTNL3

## TOPDECKER, meet North America (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. Life is a highway. And this 18-day all-American adventure is the route to living YOUR best life. From the iconic capitals of the big screen to the culture-infused cities everyone's raving about: this is one SUPERSized roadie. Get to know the big guns (hi NYC!), lose yourself in otherworldly landscapes (take a bow, Grand Canyon), and party like you've \*never\* partied before (Vegas is calling). If you really want to do the USA, this trip is it.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Get Social



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

- Philadelphia highlights drive
- Night illumination tour
- Driving/walking tour of Nashville with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Dallas with Trip Leader
- Visit Fort Worth Historic Stockyards
- Visit the Cadillac Ranch
- Entry to Monument Valley Tribal Park
- Entry to Grand Canyon National Park
- Las Vegas Strip highlights drive

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

New York City  
United States of America

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Los Angeles  
United States of America

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- United States of America - USD

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

The Big Apple. One iconic city to kick off one UNbelievable cross-country USA adventure. Makes sense. First: meet your Topdeck fam. This lot? They're your people. Then: dig into an included group dinner and get pumped for good times. Ready for over two weeks' worth of OG road trippin'? Hell yeah!



### MEALS:

- Dinner

## DAY 2 | NEW YORK CITY TO WASHINGTON, DC, VIA PHILADELPHIA

Hitting the road bright and early, we're heading to the hub of American politics. But first: Philly. The home of Rocky and the Declaration of Independence, we'll tick off the top sights on a driving tour. Then: we'll arrive in DC just in time to see the Lincoln Memorial, the National Mall, the Whitehouse and Capitol Hill lit up like Christmas on an illumination tour. Plan of action tonight? Round up the squad and swing by Ben's Chili Bowl for traditional DC hot dogs and chili cheese fries \*drools uncontrollably\*.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Philadelphia highlights drive
- Night illumination tour

## DAY 3 | WASHINGTON, DC

You've got 24 hours. Your undercover mission, should you choose to accept it... ok, you get the gist. Our suggestion? Nab yourself a set of wheels on a Segway or bike tour. Then, hit up the array of FREE museums. From the National Museum of American History to the National Air and Space Museum, and the International Spy Museum – there's something for literally everyone. Now's the time to find out which trip mates are into the same stuff as you. Declare yourselves!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike or Segway tour: from \$40 USD

## DAY 4 | WASHINGTON, DC, TO CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Wave goodbye to ol' Lincoln – North Carolina is calling. A city with a tagline like "Charlotte's Got A Lot" means expectations are HIGH. But with urban forests, specialty museums, the NoDa art scene and two brewery districts – we'd have to agree, this place has a lot going on. So get exploring!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 5 | CHARLOTTE TO NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Sling on a cowboy hat and tune up that fiddle. This morning we're making a beeline for America's country music capital. Ngl – it's a bit of a drive there. Meaning? Your chance to impress the fam with a rendition of Dolly Parton's back catalogue (lucky them!). When we pull into Nashville, it's time for a tour of the city highlights. Then: dinner's on you, but your Trip Leader knows the hot spots.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving/walking tour of Nashville with Trip Leader

## DAY 6 | NASHVILLE

It's your day, your way. What's up first? Hit up the Country Music Hall of Fame for an education in all the folk and blues greats. Check out the Grand Ole Opry for an old-school country music experience. Or head to a legit Tennessee whiskey distillery for a glug of the smoky stuff. It'd be rude not to, right? This eve, get those toes-a-tappin' at an authentic honky-tonk bar. Ready to swing your partner round and round? Responsibly, obv.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 7 | NASHVILLE TO NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Full disclosure: this is a drive day. But it'll be totally worth it when we roll into New Orleans. Trust us. When we arrive in the 'Big Easy', dinner is up to you. Between gumbo and po-boys, jambalaya and muffulettas, beignets and bananas foster – it's safer to try them all. Your pants are elasticated, right? Later, the legendary party vibes of Bourbon Street await – arm yourself with a Hand Grenade cocktail for the real experience.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 8 | NEW ORLEANS

A city exploding with culture, history and seriously good food – this is a GREAT place to wake up. Today: the choice is yours. Check out the open-air gallery in Jackson Square. Hit up the French Market for shopping. Uncover your love for jazz along Frenchman Street. And get amongst the mayhem on Bourbon Street. Orrr get that heart racing with an optional swamp tour for more 'gator spotting. That'll make your Hinge profile stand out. Fact. Whatever you choose, you can't go wrong.



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Swamp tour: from \$22 USD

## DAY 9 | NEW ORLEANS TO DALLAS, TEXAS

Truth bomb: the USA is B-I-G and we've got a bit of travel day today. Stock up on snacks, hop on board and dig out the AUX cord – Dallas is calling! When we hop off, it's time for a whip around town with our Trip Leader. And then? It's totally up to you. Our suggestion: get the crew together and head to Billy Bob's Texas – the World's Largest Honky Tonk. 30 bars. Live music. Bull riding. It's like real-life Footloose.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Dallas with Trip Leader

## DAY 10 | DALLAS (INCLUDING FORT WORTH)

Fill up at breakfast and practise your best yeee haaaa! – we're heading to the wild, wild west with a visit to the Fort Worth Historic Stockyards. Lasso your way around the original brick walkways and wooden corrals of 'Cowtown'. And when we return to Dallas? There's free time to do your thing. Jump on the vintage (and free = win) McKinney Avenue Trolley and jump off to sample the local bars. Then jump back on again. You get the idea. Perfect your pano skills at Reunion Tower. Or fully commit to Tex-Mex and get stuck into all the tacos, enchiladas and chimichangas you can handle. RIP white T-shirt.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Fort Worth Historic Stockyards

## DAY 11 | DALLAS TO AMARILLO

Is this the way to Amarillo? Hope so, or we're totally lost. Fire up the coach games. Blast out the trip song. And don't be fooled, our next stop is a 'go big or go home' kinda place. Tonight, there's another included group feed on the cards \*stuffs napkin into shirt\*.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 12 | AMARILLO TO ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Ready for something a bit... different? On Route 66 we'll check out the quirky art installation at the Cadillac Ranch. Fan of Breaking Bad? We're rolling into Heisenberg's old stomping ground later today. Prepare to spice up your life when you hunt down dinner this eve: this place is also famed for its love of chilis. Pro tip: ask for 'Christmas' to get maximum hotness. Or don't. No one wants a bawling travel bud.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Cadillac Ranch

## DAY 13 | ALBUQUERQUE TO DURANGO, COLORADO, VIA SANTA FE

Tongue still on fire? Pass on the hot sauce at this morning's included brekkie. First up today: the arty markets of Santa Fe – stop for lunch and a wander around the historic heart of the city. Then: crack out the playing cards or glue your face to the window as we weave through the rugged Colorado mountains en route to Durango. When we pull in, we'll dine ranch-style at tonight's included group meal.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 14 | DURANGO

Today, you've got options. Head out on horseback with an optional riding experience. Or take in allll the views from the Durango Silverton steam train. You can even go zip-lining if that's more your style. Here in winter? Jump on a snowmobile and explore the white stuff in style. Tonight's dinner is up to you, but we hear the burgers here are bloody good...



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Horse riding (summer only): from \$95 USD
- Zip-lining (summer only): from \$130 USD
- Snowmobile tour (winter only): prices available locally

## DAY 15 | DURANGO TO GRAND CANYON REGION, ARIZONA, VIA MONUMENT VALLEY

Arizona – this state is made for road trips. Stretches of endless sky. Expanses of red desert. Centuries-old history. And some pretty famous rock formations. Today's first stop = Mars. Actually –it's Monument Valley, but it may as well be another planet. This INCREDible red-sand desert is out of this world. Keen to explore it the real way? Opt for a jeep tour with a local Navajo guide and get totally lost (not literally) amongst the buttes and mesas of this magical place. Epic doesn't cut it.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Entry to Monument Valley Tribal Park



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Monument Valley Navajo jeep tour: prices available locally

## DAY 16 | GRAND CANYON REGION TO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

One word: iconic. The only way to see one of the world's most incredible natural wonders in its entirety, is from the sky. Lucky for you we've organised an optional heli-tour. After you've maxed out your iCloud with group shots (again...), it's time to turn our attention to the strip. The Vegas Strip. This place is so OTT it hurts to look at. But we'll do just that on a driving tour – before donning our sequin bowties and stilettos for a night on the town. Welcome to Vegas, baby!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Entry to Grand Canyon National Park
- Las Vegas Strip highlights drive



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Heli-tour over the Grand Canyon: from \$290 USD

## DAY 17 | LAS VEGAS

Anything goes in Vegas and you've got a full day to make the most of it. Our suggestions? Take an optional heli-tour over The Strip. Flash some plastic at the mall. Or hit up a Vegas-style pool party. Just save some energy for later 'cos we've got one last group dinner together – and one big-crazy-ride to toast to! Don't end up at The Little Vegas Chapel, though (iykyk).



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Heli-tour over the Las Vegas Strip: from \$130 USD

## DAY 18 | LAS VEGAS TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Wipe away the last traces of glitter and confetti – we'll make tracks for LA this morning. You've got the whole coach ride to plan next year's reunion trip. Get cracking!

# 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!**