

Topdeck

GET SOCIAL: USA EAST TO WEST



TRIP CODE:
TRTNL4

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 19-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
- Walking tour of Memphis
- Optional extra:
- Visit to Graceland: prices available locally
- Walking tour of the French Quarter
- Visit Fort Worth Historic Stockyards
- Orientation walk of Dallas with Trip Leader
- Visit Billy Bob's Texas honky-tonk
- Visit the Cadillac Ranch
- Entry and orientation tour of 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 at Applebee's 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 – PHILADELPHIA (PENNSYLVANIA) – WASHINGTON, DC

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 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!



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour: prices available locally

DAY 4 | WASHINGTON, DC – 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! Afterwards, meet up with your travel fam to salivate over the city's speciality food: sizzling Southern BBQ.

DAY 5 | CHARLOTTE – 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.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



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. Go star spotting on a stroll around the free Music City Walk of Fame. 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? Then, why not practice your scoots and brushes with a free line dancing class at the Wildhorse Saloon? Yeehaw!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Grand Ole Opry show: prices available locally
- Visit Country Music Hall of Fame: prices available locally
- Visit Music City Walk of Fame
- Free line dancing class at the Wildhorse Saloon

DAY 7 | NASHVILLE – MEMPHIS

Time to dust off your best Elvis impression cos we're heading to Memphis. Another hotspot for music lovers, it's the home of both rock n' roll AND the blues. Check out Beale Street (one of the USA's 'most iconic streets') on a walking tour. After, do your own thing or hit up Graceland on an optional tour. Elvis Presley's former-mansion-turned-museum is one of the most ICONIC musical heritage sites in the Deep South. Dinner's on you, but your Trip Leader knows the hot spots. And this eve? Treat your ears to some live music. There are venues EVERYWHERE.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Memphis
- Optional extra:
- Visit to Graceland: prices available locally

DAY 8 | MEMPHIS – 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. We'll start with a walking tour of the French Quarter (aka New Orleans' Crown Jewel). Wanna know what's on the menu for dinner? 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



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of the French Quarter

DAY 9 | 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. You could even fill your belly with more local bites during an optional cooking class. Wanna get a little bit outta your comfort zone? Board an optional swamp tour for more 'gator spotting. Or, if you've booked a winter trip, get a behind-the-scenes look at the city's most ICONIC event at Mardi Gras World. Whatever you choose, you can't go wrong.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- New Orleans cooking class: prices available locally
- Swamp tour in New Orleans (summer only): prices available locally
- Visit to Mardi Gras World (winter only): prices available locally

DAY 10 | NEW ORLEANS – FORT WORTH (TEXAS)

Truth bomb: the USA is B-I-G and we've got a bit of a travel day today. Stock up on snacks, hop on board and dig out the AUX cord – Texas is calling! After arriving in Fort Worth, tonight is totally up to you. Our pick? Fully commit to Tex-Mex and get stuck into all the tacos and chimichangas you can handle. RIP white T-shirt.

DAY 11 | FORT WORTH – DALLAS – 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'. Next up: Dallas. See the city's highlights on an orientation tour before enjoying some free time. Perfect your pano skills at Reunion Tower. Or jump on the vintage (and free = win) McKinney Avenue Trolley and jump off to sample the local bars. Afterwards, we'll head back to Fort Worth for an evening at Billy Bob's Texas – the World's Largest Honky Tonk. 30 bars. Live music. Bull riding. Ready to swing your partner round and round? Responsibly, obvs.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Fort Worth Historic Stockyards
- Orientation walk of Dallas with Trip Leader
- Visit Billy Bob's Texas honky-tonk

DAY 12 | FORT WORTH – 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. Speaking of going big, how does an optional hot air balloon ride over the Texas desert sound? Tonight, there's another included group feed on the cards at the Big Texan Ranch & Brewery *stuffs napkin into shirt*.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Hot air balloon ride: prices available locally

DAY 13 | AMARILLO – 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 14 | ALBUQUERQUE – SANTA FE – DURANGO (COLORADO)

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 city's historic heart. 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 arrive, you've got options. Head out on horseback with an optional riding experience or go zip-lining. Here in winter? Jump on a snowmobile and explore the white stuff in style.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Horse riding (summer only): prices available locally
- Zip-lining (summer only): prices available locally
- Snowmobile tour (winter only): prices available locally

DAY 15 | DURANGO – MONUMENT VALLEY – FLAGSTAFF (ARIZONA)

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. See for yourself during a guided orientation tour. Seriously, epic doesn't cut it. We'll then make tracks to Flagstaff: the gateway to the Grand Canyon National Park.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Entry and orientation tour of Monument Valley Tribal Park

DAY 16 | FLAGSTAFF – GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK – FLAGSTAFF

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. Prepare to be wowed by AWESOME vistas of the canyon's iconic landscape. Group pics nailed and bellies grumbling, quiz your in-the-know Trip Leader on where to head for tonight's feed in Flagstaff.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Entry to Grand Canyon National Park



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Heli-tour over the Grand Canyon: prices available locally

DAY 17 | FLAGSTAFF – LAS VEGAS (NEVADA)

After an included brekkie, it's time to turn our attention to the strip. The Vegas Strip. En-route, we'll pass Sedona's Red Rock State Park where you'll have a chance to admire its fiery-red canyons during an optional jeep tour. Then it's onwards to Sin City, a place 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:

- Las Vegas Strip highlights drive



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Jeep tour of Sedona Red Rock: prices available locally

DAY 18 | 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! How does an Italian feast at Buca di Beppo sound? The portions are HUGE. Then, the night is yours. Just don't end up at The Little Vegas Chapel (iykyk).



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Heli-tour over the Las Vegas Strip: prices available locally

DAY 19 | LAS VEGAS – 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!