

Topdeck

GET SOCIAL: SOUTHERN EUROPE HIGHLIGHTS



TRIP CODE:
TSEBR4



TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. We've got 17 days to race through five countries. Hit iconic cities like Barcelona and Rome. Gasp at awesome coastlines. Scoff European eats. Make every moment COUNT. You're gonna live your best dolce vita life. Do things you've dreamed of. BE the person you're meant to be. You won't be going alone either. Nay nay. With up to 48 travel buds on this trip, you're bound to find your people. The ones you can be your real self with, even before that morning coffee.

WORTH NOTING...

New trip alert! Book one of our first departures and you'll get a sweet price.

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

- Orientation walk of Madrid
- Orientation walk of Lisbon
- Orientation walk of Seville with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Valencia
- Orientation walk of Carcassonne with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Nice with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Monaco with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Genoa with Trip Leader
- Cinque Terre express train pass
- Orientation walk of Orvieto with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Rome with Trip Leader

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Barcelona
Spain

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Rome
Italy

TRIP CURRENCIES

- Spain - EUR
- Portugal - EUR
- France - EUR
- Monaco - EUR
- Italy - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | BARCELONA (SPAIN)

Ah Barcelona! Just landing in this iconic city's gonna send your excitement levels through the roof. And we're right there with you. Ready to meet your ride or dies for the next 17 days? Obvs. Chuck in some sangria, tapas and quirky questions (try: what's your biggest dream EVER? or: what's the super embarrassing moment you're running away from?) That awkward stage of meeting new people: poof, vanished. Now we're set for the experience of a lifetime!



MEALS:

- Dinner

DAY 2 | BARCELONA

Starting the trip off strong with a free day to do your own spontaneous-this-is-what-I-came-for thing, amigos. Need some suggestions? Park Güell and Sagrada Familia are straight-up must-sees. But don't think you can just stroll up in there – you need to book tix in advance. Then: explore the crazy that is Las Ramblas, head to the ice bar along the beach, or get lost amongst the maze of winding alleys in the Gothic Quarter. Later, you've got the option to see the vibrant nightlife of this city in a way that's gonna make your mates back home hella jel. Lucky for you, there's a group of top tier trip mates right here to eat and drink your way through some of Barcelona's best bars and restaurants with. Salut! - that's cheers in Catalan.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Topsy Tapas tour in Barcelona:
prices available locally

DAY 3 | BARCELONA – MADRID

You're already in love and you don't wanna leave. We get it. The best way to get over an awesome city is to get to another one. Immediately. Madrid's up next. We'll get better acquainted with the Spanish capital on an orientation walk – ticking off the likes of the Royal Palace, Temple of Debod, Plaza Mayor and Mercado de San Miguel. Then? Hunt down some local eats. We recommend churros. Chocolatey. Delish. Gonna-keep-you-full-til-later. After: gather the gang for some dinner and dancing. You're on Spanish time – don't be shocked if you're eating between 9 and 11pm, then hitting the d-floor in Moncloa gone midnight. Cinders, who?



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Madrid

DAY 4 | MADRID

You wanted more time to explore – so here's a free day for you to go live your best life all over this sun-splashed city. Whizz through the streets on an optional bike tour. Make eyes at the masterpieces in Museo del Prado (Madrid's Louvre). Take in incred views from Palacio de Cibeles. And do it all with your awesome travel fam. Then: see what all the flamenco fuss is about at an awesome optional evening show. Its location... a CAVE. Or head to Cheuca where the Pride flag is raised HIGH. Museo Chicote is the place to be. Named the best bar in Europe with past regulars like Grace Kelly and Ernest Hemingway, you know you're in for a good time. No cap.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour in Madrid: from €40
- Traditional flamenco show in Madrid: prices available locally

DAY 5 | MADRID – LISBON (PORTUGAL)

Flirt with Spain's girl next door and discover why Lisbon is the San Fran of Europe. History. Culture. Food. And some seriously booty-burning hills. Spend a month here, and you wouldn't have seen it all – but we're sure as hell gonna try! Get your step count on: we're starting with an orientation walk. Tick off the likes of Castelo de São Jorge, Carmo Convent and Praça do Comércio (Commerce Square to you and me). Then, you've got some time to do you. Our suggestion? Explore beaut Belém. The hot spots: Jeronimos Monastery, Padrão dos Descobrimentos and Torre de Belém - it's UNESCO-worthy and you'd be delulu if you couldn't see why. Y'know what you need after all that? A rush of sugar with the G.O.A.T. of all pastéis de natas (custard tarts that slap): get yours at Pastéis de Belém. Legendary since 1837.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Lisbon

DAY 6 | LISBON

Today is your day, your way. Spend your free time ticking off those bucket list items AND exploring the backstreets. Beat the crowds and get up early to ride Lisbon's famous yellow 28 tram. Check out the winding medieval maze that is Alfama (Lisbon's oldest neighbourhood). Venture up to São Jorge Castle for epic views and a history lesson on Moorish culture. Check out the colourful street art in Mouraria. Then grab yourself a bifana (pork cooked in white wine, slapped into a crusty bread roll *droooooo!*) and relax in the Botanical Gardens. There's a market food tour up for grabs if that bifana didn't hit the sweet spot. Time Out Market is the cherry on top. Tonight, dinner is on you. Grab your mates and jump on the bus to LX Factory for trendy vibes and lip-smacking eats. Then, wind things up at a cosy rooftop wine bar in Bairro Alto. Cheers to another awesome day.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Food market tour in Lisbon:
prices available locally

DAY 7 | LISBON – SEVILLE (SPAIN)

Didn't quite meet your quota of authentic Spanish tapas? Never fear, Seville is up next! According to legend, the city was founded 3,000 years back by Hercules. Facts. And what better way to discover this incred city than with our expert Trip Leader? Thank us later. Tick off the likes of Plaza de Toros, Torre del Oro and Plaza de España on an orientation walk – then you've got the rest of the day to let your real self shine. Love a bit of history? Visit the Real Alcázar (book in advance!). It's got mind-blowing Mudéjar architecture (the best in all of Iberia). Pretty impressive if you ask us. Get your exploring on in the old gypsy quarter of Triana. Or check out the Catedral de Santa María de la Sede. It's giving GOTHIC. More of a foodie? Hop between traditional tapas bars throughout the city. Track down the best pintxos place in town. Make use of that second stomach for churros. Sharing them in plazas with your mates long after sunset? Legit Spanish vibes.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Seville
with Trip Leader

DAY 8 | SEVILLE – VALENCIA

After getting brekky down our necks, we're back on the road. Whip out the UNO cards. Do some TikTok trends – #travelfam edition. Snooze last night's sangria away. Before you know it, the sign for Valencia will be in sight. And then? The glorious city itself. First up: an orientation walk – ticking off the Gothic gateway of Torres de Serranos, lively Plaça de la Mare de Déu (that's plaza to me and you), the Cathedral and the foodie heaven that is Central Market. Belly rumbling? Stick around post-walk to get your fill of tapas that'll make your tongue melt. Central Bar is THE hot spot. Later: check out the buzzing streets of Barrio del Carmen, Valencia's old town. It's packed with everything you need for an(other) epic night with the travel fam.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Valencia

DAY 9 | VALENCIA

Another free day for some social spontaneity. We love to see it. Hire a bike and check out the futuristic City of Arts and Sciences. Head to the Thermal Springs of Montanejos for natural beauty, oh-so-soothing waters and stories of legend. Grab a late lunch. The only choice: paella. Why? Valencia's the birthplace of this Spanish staple. And if you want tradition – 100-year-old Casa Carmela is the place to go. Great-grandmas, fresh products and smoky firewood is the vibe. Or whip out the frisbee and play catch at the beach. All 19 kms of it. Tonight, get the gang together and head to Ruzafa, a barrio for the cool kids. It's got craft beer houses, restaurants for the veggies and live music. This is what you came for.

DAY 10 | VALENCIA – CARCASSONNE (FRANCE)

Who's ready for some French lovin'? First stop: Carcassonne. If you've ever played the board game, you'll know this walled citadel is as medieval as it gets. We'll get our bearings of the UNESCO site on a stroll with our Topdeck bestie aka Trip Leader. Sights we're gonna swoon over today: Château Comtal, Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus, Carcassonne Cathedral and Narbonne Gate. Then: gather the troops. Get lost in the maze of the city. Walk along the ramparts. And try the local dish: cassoulet. It's a slow-cooked stew that's BIG on flavour.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Carcassonne with Trip Leader

DAY 11 | CARCASSONNE – FRENCH RIVIERA

What a beaut day to go glam and unleash that main character energy. It's time for Nice, capital of the French Riviera. Get the run about town with our in-the-know Trip Leader before having the rest of the afternoon to do you! Indulge in a bit of celeb spotting. Kylie Jenner and Leo DiCaprio are regulars. Head to the beach for a dip. Waters like these sparkle like diamonds. Or find a local haunt for seriously good seafood. If you're feeling boujee, Molo 26 is a vibe. Tonight, sit back with the crew and enjoy those relaxed coastal vibes. Life doesn't get better than this.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Nice with Trip Leader

DAY 12 | FRENCH RIVIERA – MONACO – FRENCH RIVIERA

What gets you feelin' real good along the Med? This morning, you're gonna find out with some free time. Laze on the beach (sunloungers advised). Go wild in designer boutiques. Try all the cute pastries your jeans can handle. Or walk up Castle Hill for views that'll take your breath away. Later: we'll turn it up a notch and see how the 1% live (hint: it involves Ferraris and bathing in caviar) with a visit to Monaco. A walking tour might not be as boujee as a supercar with tinted windows, but we move. Plus, we've got our very own legendary guide aka your fave Trip Leader to show us around. Stroll by world-class casinos. Pick your jaw up off the floor at the superyachts along the harbour. And go all swoony-eyed at Prince's Palace of Monaco. Then: it's back to the French Riviera to raise some bubbles with the fam. When in France and all that...



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Monaco with Trip Leader

DAY 13 | FRENCH RIVIERA – GENOA (ITALY)

Ready for more Med madness? We're hitting our fifth country today. Expect: legendary pizza and pasta, architecture that sends you to heaven on the spot, and allll the gelato you could eat. It's none other than ITALY. Specifically: Genoa. Obvs there's an orientation walk to kickstart the good times in this glorious city. Our Trip Leader will give us the deets, pointing out sights like Genoa Cathedral, Santa Maria di Castello and Christopher Columbus's home. The rest? It's up to you. Wander the old quarter dotted with so many bakeries and trattorias, you and your mates will be foaming at the mouth before you get through the doors. Focaccia bread and pesto sauce is a MUST. Bar hop to find your fave Aperol. Hunt down some carbs – we don't make the rules. Italy does. After: catch sunset at the harbour. Glistening waters, golden light and these people = allll the feels.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Genoa with Trip Leader

DAY 14 | GENOA – CINQUE TERRE – GENOA

You've totally had Cinque Terre as your screensaver for months and you're about to see it IRL. We don't need to tell you this sh*t hits different. You've got an included train day pass so make FULL use of it. Race around the villages with your mates. Cram it allll in. Need a quick rundown of the five hot spots? We got you. Riomaggiore = loved-up vibes (think: initialised padlocks) and lively restaurants. Manarola = snorkel heaven. Corniglia = panoramic views aka the perf backdrop for those TikTok fit checks. Vernazza = pulling your trip mates up to see the castle on top of the hill. Monterosso = the place to get your beach on. Phew! Back at Genoa, down an espresso and head out. You might only be here once. Make the most of it.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Cinque Terre express train pass

DAY 15 | GENOA – ORVIETO – ROME

Onwards! First: a pit stop at the hilltop town of Orvieto to see the grand cathedral and dig into a wild boar panini (unless you're a vegetarian, sorry). Our Trip Leader's giving us the must-sees on an orientation walk. Then: bella Roma awaits. An orientation walk gives you some bearings of this awesome city. If you wanna know where the best gelato is, now's the time to ask. Then, go wherever your feet take you. 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. Tonight: go show that pizza who's boss.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Orvieto with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Rome with Trip Leader

DAY 16 | ROME

Vespas. Espresso. Two-cheek kisses. Aggressive hand gestures. And pasta the way it's supposed to taste. Here's a free day we prepared earlier. Get lost amongst two-and-a-half millennia worth of history on a guided tour (choose between Vatican City and the triple threat: Colosseum, Palatine Hill and Roman Forum). Grab a bite at Lost Food Factory (arguably one of the best sandwich spots in town). Or do as the locals do and indulge in a little dolce far niente (delicious idleness) at a local cafe or piazza. Tonight, get the gang together for one last group dinner – we're gonna give this adventure-of-a-lifetime the send-off it deserves!



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Vatican City: from €60
- Tour of Colosseum, Palatine Hill and Roman Forum: from €60

DAY 17 | ROME

Sorry but where did the past 17 days go? We're not ready to say goodbye yet. So: highlights of Central & Eastern Europe – let's discuss.



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!