

# Topdeck

## GET SOCIAL: CANADIAN ROCKIES (WINTER)



## TOPDECKER, meet North America (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. This? This is your once-in-a-lifetime pass to 10 days of incredible. Explore the big guns of Canada's ski towns. Venture through awe-inspiring alpine passes. Visit breathtaking glacial lakes. And slip, slide, ski, speed or snowmobile your way down the slopes of Whistler and Banff's Big 3. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, it's time to throw your inhibitions out the window and join a legendary group of Topdeckers for a load of snow-capped awesomeness.

### WORTH NOTING...

Joining us before 31 March 2023? There are a few changes to this itinerary – including a three-night stay in Big White Ski Resort on Days 4 to 6. This is instead of visiting Kamloops, and means one fewer night in Whistler and Banff.

### 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

- Drive the Sea to Sky Highway
- Orientation walk of Whistler with Trip Leader
- Visit Lake Louise
- Entry to Glacier National Park
- Entry to Yoho National Park
- Entry to Banff National Park
- Orientation walk of Banff with Trip Leader

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Vancouver  
Canada

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Calgary  
Canada

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- Canada - CAD

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA TO WHISTLER

This is it. The snow-dusted Canadian adventure you've been dreaming of. Meet the crew in Vancouver and get excited over how incredible these next 10 days are going to be. Plug in the AUX cord and press play on the banging tunes as we journey along the famed Sea to Sky Highway to Whistler. Cue: jaw-dropping views and 'holy sh\*t' worthy scenery. Then: roll into the holy grail of ski resort towns. Get your bearings on a walk around with your Trip Leader, then the afternoon is up to you. Grab a group photo with the Olympic Rings. Check out the legendary Whistler Mountain Bike Park, or head to a local watering hole and make a plan for your free day tomorrow. Later, get to know the who's who of the group at tonight's included dinner – we might be a mixed bunch, but we're all in it together.



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Drive the Sea to Sky Highway
- Orientation walk of Whistler with Trip Leader

## DAY 2 | WHISTLER

This is what you came for. This place is a snow-fanatic's ultimate fantasy. And you've got 72 hours to experience everything this place has to offer. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned pro, ask your Trip Leader for the best slopes for you – then hit the powder! Still finding your ski legs? You can lock in some lessons if you like. If you're here for the views (minus the effort), opt for a ride on the Peak 2 Peak Gondola. Connecting the Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains, it's the world record holder for the longest AND highest lift. Plus, you get access to both mountains. Meaning? More take-your-breath-away views to fill your iCloud with. Tonight: gather the gang, dig into some poutine, and share all the thrills and spills of your first day.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Ride the Peak 2 Peak Gondola: prices available locally
- Ski/snowboard hire & lift passes: prices available locally
- Skiing/snowboarding lessons: prices available locally
- Zip-lining: prices available locally

## DAY 3 | WHISTLER

Another group brekkie = completed. Then: this is your day, your way. So, make every second count. Our suggestion? Get involved in some optional zip-lining. There are different choices for different levels of crazy – including The Sasquatch: the longest zip-line in Canada and USA. Or take to the slopes for round two. Still ploughing the baby slopes? After a few more optional lessons, you'll be carving in no time! Later, head to one of the local après-ski bars for a beverage with the gang – they're some of North America's best.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Ski/snowboard hire & lift passes: prices available locally
- Skiing/snowboarding lessons: prices available locally
- Zip-lining: prices available locally

## DAY 4 | WHISTLER

Rise and shine! It's your last day in WWW (Whistler winter wonderland) – so get out there and do your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-here-for thing. Still a 'lil wobbly on the slopes? Don't worry if your confidence hasn't hit 100% yet – lessons are still available, no matter what level you are. Warm up later in a cosy après-ski and get chatting with your fellow trip mates– they're bound to have some stories and tips to share!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Ski/snowboard hire & lift passes: prices available locally
- Skiing/snowboarding lessons: prices available locally
- Zip-lining: prices available locally

## DAY 5 | WHISTLER TO KAMLOOPS

Hit the après-skis a little too hard last night? DW, you'll have time to gather your strength as we take the scenic route to Kamloops this morning. This small city is a real slice of Canadian life, with plenty to explore during your free afternoon. Show off your best Bambi impression at an ice-skating rink. Top up your culture levels at Back Alley Art Gallery (all outdoors – beanies essential). And when day turns to night? Strap on those skis for an evening sesh, then round up the fam and head to The Noble Pig brewhouse for craft beer and burgers. Nice.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 6 | KAMLOOPS TO BANFF, ALBERTA

Today = another jaw-dropping drive through the wilderness. This time, we'll take the Trans-Canada Highway through Glacier and Yoho National Parks, squeezing in a stop at Lake Louise along the way. You might recognise this one from your #wanderlust feeds (or Apple screensaver). One of the most stunning glacially fed lakes in the Canadian Rockies – take some time to check out alllll the viewpoints and maybe even go skating over the frozen crazy-blue surface. Tick off your third National Park for the day as we roll into Banff. Tonight: get the gang together and whip out your best impersonation of a dancing sasquatch at a local bar.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Lake Louise
- Entry to Glacier National Park
- Entry to Yoho National Park
- Entry to Banff National Park

## DAY 7 | BANFF

Banff is National Geographic on steroids. Like serious Schwarzenegger steroids. And you've got THREE full days to see it all. We'll kick things off with an orientation walk to get our bearings. Then: which world-class ski resort are you going to head to? Banff Sunshine. Lake Louise. Or Mt Norquay. Combined, they cover over 8,000 acres of ski slopes with 2 gondolas and 26 chairlifts. Play eenie, meenie, miney, mo and get going! Tonight, gather your trip mates and swap stories of epic trails (or epic fails) over dinner.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Banff with Trip Leader



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Ski/snowboard hire & lift passes: prices available locally
- Skiing/snowboarding lessons: prices available locally
- Ride the Sulphur Mountain Gondola: prices available locally

## DAY 8 | BANFF

Another day, another chance to flaunt your ski moves. Prepare to shred (or not). Or ride the Sulphur Mountain Gondola for insane views over the sweeping mountain ranges. Keen for some chill time? Settle into nearby Upper Hot Springs and soak up some immense Rockie panos from the comfort of the toasty mineral pool. Later, did someone say BeaverTail? Rally the troops and grab one of each flavour. You MUST try them all – it's the rules.



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Ski/snowboard hire & lift passes: prices available locally
- Skiing/snowboarding lessons: prices available locally
- Ride the Sulphur Mountain Gondola: prices available locally

## DAY 9 | BANFF

Ok – nobody panic. But it's your last full day in the Great White North. So make it count. Confident? Ditch the lessons and hit up the beginner-friendly Strawberry Express. Or if you're up for the challenge, head up to Lookout Mountain for some alpine skiing and incredible views (obvs). Want a memory that's sure to last? Take to the skies with an optional heli-tour of the Columbia Icefield. Glaciers. Waterfalls. Alpine lakes. And towering peaks. You'll see it all. Later, there's one last group dinner on the cards. Let's give this incredible adventure the send-off it deserves.



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Ski/snowboard hire & lift passes: prices available locally
- Skiing/snowboarding lessons: prices available locally
- Heli-tour over the Columbia Icefield: prices available locally

## DAY 10 | BANFF TO CALGARY

That's a wrap, folks. You came. You saw. You conquered (the slopes). And now it's time to make your exit from Calgary. Sticking around? We don't blame you. Swap those TikTok handles – you'll need them to organise that summer reunion trip.

# 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!**