

Topdeck

DELVE DEEP: SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO



TRIP CODE:
TSPBX4



TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Three countries. Two continents. And one electrifying trip through Iberia. Strap yourself in as we deep dive into Spain's buzzing cities, Portugal's cultural hub and Morocco's vibrant metropolises – with HEAPS of delicious, diverse food to try and PLENTY of sangria, cava and port to wash it down with. Want the culture and the nightlife? The old towns and the buzzing cities? The icons and the lesser-known gems? Look no further. This is it.

WORTH NOTING...

Pssst... we've organised a resident Topdeck Representative to meet you in Morocco – joining forces with your Trip Leader for all the local insights, historic low-downs and hidden gems. Sweet!

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

- Boat ride along the Albufera lagoon (weather permitting)
- Walking tour of Valencia with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Granada with Trip Leader
- Meet your Moroccan Topdeck Representative
- Walking tour of Volubilis with local guide
- Walking tour of Fes with local guide
- Roman Ruins of Lixus guided visit
- Walking tour of Asilah with local guide
- Flamenco show in Seville
- Walking tour of Seville with Trip Leader
- Lisbon highlights drive

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Barcelona
Spain

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Lisbon
Portugal

TRIP CURRENCIES

- Spain - EUR
- Morocco - MAD
- Portugal - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | BARCELONA (SPAIN)

Welcome to the capital of Catalonia. Bienvenidos to the city of art nouveau, sexy accents and (most importantly) tapas. First up: time to meet the fellow explorers that are gonna be sharing the journey. Then: time to put those fat pants to the test at tonight's included dinner as we dive into the local restaurant scene. Salud (cheers) to the adventure ahead – we've got 12 in-CREDIBLE days lined up to dig deep into the sights, sounds and smells of 3 immense countries. This. Is. Happening.



MEALS:

- Dinner

DAY 2 | BARCELONA – VALENCIA

Rise and shine! You've just woken up in Barcelona, and there's a free morning ahead to spend doing your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-for thing, amigos. If you need some suggestions your expert local Trip Leader's got your back. Park Güell and La Sagrada Familia are straight-up must-sees. Alternatively: explore the crazy that is Las Ramblas or get lost amongst the maze of winding alleys in the Gothic Quarter. Lose yourself, find yourself, then grab some churros for the road – we're heading to Valencia where there's something pretty spesh in store. Here we'll be taking a jaunt around the chill Albufera lagoon in a traditional-style boat (as long as the weather plays ball). And finally? Dinner's on us this eve. NICE.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Boat ride along the Albufera lagoon (weather permitting)

DAY 3 | VALENCIA

Ready to make like Dora? We'll head out early for a walking tour of this unique city – 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 then onto the foodie heaven that is Central Market. Looking to delve deeper? Valencia's Old Quarter packs some serious old-school charm. Hire a bike and check out the futuristic City of Arts and Sciences. Or opt for some R&R at the Thermal Springs of Montanejos. Get ready for all the natural beauty, oh-so-soothing waters and awesome stories of legend. Tonight, get the gang together and head to El Carmen for colourful street art, hipster bars and live music. This is what you came for.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Valencia with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Thermal Springs trip including lunch: from €79

DAY 4 | VALENCIA – GRANADA

Today we'll make the scenic journey to Granada – trading the glittering coast for the towering peaks of the Sierra Nevada. Glue your face to the window as your fact-filled Trip Leader gives you the low-down on the last Moorish city in Spain to fall to the Christians. Then: discover what makes this place the hottest destination in Andalusia on a walking tour. And tonight? You're in the home of tapas. Order a beer. Be patient. And your drool-worthy tapas will arrive. Fact: locals toss their paper napkins on the floor, the messier the floor = the more happy locals. Seriously.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Granada with Trip Leader

DAY 5 | GRANADA

You wanted free time to delve deeper and experience more – so here it is. 24 hours of uninterrupted exploration time in this incredible city. Need some suggestions? Tour the Alhambra (pro tip: book in advance). Part Moorish palace, part fortification – this UNESCO World Heritage Site is filled with exquisite gardens, intricate medieval architecture and a fascinating Arabic history. Just book your tix well in advance, this one is on everyone's bucket-list. Rather stay in town? Take in the impressive Moorish architecture of the Albaicin district. Walk up the Mirador San Nicolas viewpoint for some of the best views in Europe (no joke). Then head to Heladeria Los Italianos for the best dang ice cream you've ever had. Then tonight, it's tapas bar hopping time. What are you going for? Sizzling paella? Fresh prawns? Peppery jamón ham. Or spicy patatas bravas. *wipes drool from face*



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 6 | GRANADA – CHEFCHAOUEN (MOROCCO)

Ready to tick off another continent? We're off to Morocco after breakfast. Disembark the ferry and say g'day to your Moroccan Topdeck Rep – they'll be joining forces with your Trip Leader to give you alllllll the local insights. Then: we'll be swapping glittering blue coasts for bluer-than-blue cities this afternoon. Nestled between the looming peaks of the Rif Mountains, Chefchaouen is totally out of this world. Brilliant sapphire-coloured buildings. A maze of narrow alleyways. And authentic local vibes. Get your bearings on a stroll around town – then tuck into an included dinner at a local restaurant with the gang. This city's sure got the blues, but in the best way ever.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Meet your Moroccan Topdeck Representative

DAY 7 | CHEFCHAOUEN – VOLUBILIS – FES

Time to don your archaeology hat, 'cos we're off to Volubilis to check out the Roman ruins with a local guide. This ancient site dates back to 40 AD and was once the ruling centre of the Roman province of Mauritania. Your inner history nerd just geeked out, right? Then: more history. We'll be heading deep into the heart of old Morocco on our journey to Fes. Finally, something special's in store as we check into our digs for the next two nights: a traditional Moroccan riad (think boho vibes, ornate tiles and leafy courtyards).



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Volubilis with local guide

DAY 8 | FES

Mausoleums, mosques and medinas are on the cards today as we hit the streets on a whip around the city with a local guide. The 9,000 narrow cobbled streets in Fes el-Bali are lined with spices, food stalls and tanneries, so don't waste a second – get exploring! Visit a local tannery (hint: say yes to the mint, you're gonna need it). Head over to the Ruined Garden for Moroccan tapas in an awesome setting. Hike up Mount Zalagh for all the views. Or hunt down a hammam for a body shine and polish. It's a tough life. Tonight, tuck into a camel burger (or chicken couscous if that's not your jam) at Café Clock.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Fes with local guide

DAY 9 | FES – ASILAH

Grab that included brekkie cos our morning hits with a guided visit to the Roman Ruins of Lixus. Mood: allll the ancient feels, including a sanctuary dedicated to HER-CU-LEEEES. Then: say as-salaam alaykum to the whitewashed wonder that is the seaside town of Asilah. This place oozes Greek island vibes and we'll have plenty of time to check out the Old Town on a walking tour with a local guide. Think: colourful street art and 15th-century ramparts. After? Head to the port for fresh seaside vibes and sunset over the Atlantic. This is livin'.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Roman Ruins of Lixus guided visit
- Walking tour of Asilah with local guide

DAY 10 | ASILAH – SEVILLE (SPAIN)

Didn't quite meet your quota of authentic Spanish churros? Never fear, Seville is up next! Fact: according to legend, the city was founded 3,000 years ago by Hercules. And we've got a bit of a Herculean drive day today – so pass round the AUX cord, catch up on some zzzs and text your 'rents from the ferry back to Spain. You're gonna be too busy later. Then: time to meet your date tonight – a hot and spicy flamenco show PLUS an included dinner. Ay, caramba!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Flamenco show in Seville

DAY 11 | SEVILLE

Time to see what all the fuss is about – this morning's all about Seville's A-listers and hidden gems. And what better way to delve deeper than with our expert Trip Leader? Thank us later. Tick off the likes of Plaza de Toros, Torre del Oro, the University and Plaza de España on a walking tour – then the rest is 100% up to you. Need some suggestions? Visit the Real Alcázar (book your tix in advance!). This palace is the most stunning example of Mudéjar architecture found on the Iberian Peninsula. Explore the old gypsy quarter of Triana. Go boating along the Guadalquivir river. Check out the massive Gothic Cathedral. Tonight: dinner's on you (literally – we've seen how you eat tapas).



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Seville with Trip Leader

DAY 12 | SEVILLE – LISBON (PORTUGAL)

Flirt with Spain's girl next door and discover why Lisbon is basically the San Francisco 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! Strap in for a combo walking-driving tour of this electric city. Head to Belém and tick off the likes of Jerónimos Monastery, Padrão dos Descobrimentos monument and the World Heritage-listed Belém Tower. Then: it's past the Monumento aos Restauradores through Praça Dom Pedro IV and across Praça do Comércio to tonight's final dinner together. We're gonna give this trip the send-off it deserves!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Lisbon highlights drive

DAY 13 | LISBON

And just like that, it's over. You tried the food. You met the locals. You said yes to culture. Yes to history. What. A. Ride. Swap those socials – next year's reunion trip isn't going to plan itself. Where to next?



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!