



## TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Want all the top highlights Spain and Portugal have to offer, but also MORE? Welcome to your insider guide. From Lisbon to Barça, lose yourself amongst the cobble streets of Portugal's vibrant cities. Eat your way around Spain's foodie hotspots. Cruise down Porto's mighty river sipping sweet wine. And uncover the hidden historic gems of Sintra and Zaragoza. Forget skimming the surface: this is the real deal.

### 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

- Lisbon highlights drive
- Traditional fado show
- Visit Sintra with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Porto with Trip Leader
- Port wine tasting experience
- Madrid highlights drive
- Visit the Valley of the Fallen
- Orientation walk of Segovia with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of San Sebastián with Trip Leader
- Visit Zaragoza with Trip Leader
- Barcelona highlights drive

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Lisbon  
Portugal

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Barcelona  
Spain

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- Portugal - EUR
- Spain - EUR

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | LISBON (PORTUGAL)

History. Culture. Food. And some seriously booty-burning hills. Dump your stuff at the hotel, say olá to your fellow explorers, and strap in for a drive around this electric city to tick off some of Lisbon's A-lister sights. And tonight? We're diving head first into Portuguese heritage with an included dinner and a traditional fado show. Fado music (think super-passionate folk songs) was born in Lisbon in the 19th century, so there's no better place to experience it. Sit back and let it all sink in. You're really here.



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Lisbon highlights drive
- Traditional fado show

## DAY 2 | 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 some pastéis de nata (binge-worthy custard tarts) and relax in the Botanical Gardens. Fact: this place was built by a Portuguese king who wanted one of every type of plant in the world (meaning: boho vibes galore). Tonight, dinner is on you but head to the Time Out Market and you're guaranteed to find something totally drool-worthy. Then: wind things up at a cosy rooftop wine bar in Bairro Alto. This is what you came for.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 3 | LISBON – SINTRA – PORTO

No guesses on what Porto is famous for. But before your inner wine connoisseur gets too excited – we'll make a stop in the fairytale town of Sintra. You'll have plenty of free time to check out this UNESCO World Heritage-listed town in all its glory – ticking off the likes of the Castle of the Moors and the technicolour Pena Palace (psst book your tix in advance). Make some time to stop off at Fábrica das Verdadeiras Queijadas da Sapa – they've been serving queijadas (small pastries filled with goodness) since 1756. Then: we'll roll onto Porto, where the evening's yours to get lost in a maze of cobbled streets and fancy blue-tiled buildings.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Sintra with Trip Leader

## DAY 4 | PORTO

Time to delve a bit deeper – lace up those Nikes, we're gonna take a look around Porto's medieval streets, quirky alleyways and picture-perfect port on a walking tour. Pass by Porto Cathedral. Gape at Palácio da Bolsa. Count your blessings at San Francisco Church. And check out the hand-painted azulejos (colourful tiles) in San Bento Station. Then: the rest is up to you – but we reckon an optional cruise down the mighty Douro River is the best way to spend the afternoon. Or you can head to Matosinhos Beach to work on those European tan lines. Later, tickle your taste buds with an included port wine tasting experience before hitting one of the local rooftop bars for allll the views (top tip: ask for white port and tonic \*chef's kiss\*).



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Porto with Trip Leader
- Port wine tasting experience



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Boat cruise down the Douro River: from €18

## DAY 5 | PORTO – MADRID (SPAIN)

Today it's up and onwards to the old haunts of Picasso, Dalí, Miró and a whole bunch of other enviably creative artists – Madrid, we're coming for you. Our fact-filled Trip Leader will help us get better acquainted with the Spanish capital on a driving tour – ticking off the likes of the Royal Palace, Temple of Debod, Plaza Mayor and Mercado de San Miguel. Later, opt to delve deeper into what makes Spain, Spain. With a traditional Flamenco show. Its setting: a cave. Cue allll the feels. Then? You're on Spanish time and the clock says: hunt down some local eats. Keep the cultural theme going with a visit to one of the Lavapiés district's arty cafés. And later: gather the gang and hit the d-floor in trendy Chueca.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Madrid highlights drive



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Traditional Flamenco show in a cave: price available locally

## DAY 6 | MADRID

You wanted more time to explore – so here's a free day we prepared earlier. Go get it. Check out the Royal Palace: the home of one of Europe's oldest monarchies. Stroll through the expansive Plaza Mayor. Make eyes at the masterpieces in Museo del Prado (aka Madrid's Louvre). Take in all the views from Palacio de Cibeles. Grab yourself some churros and take a stroll around El Retiro Park. Then: seek out a buzzing bistro for dinner in the Malasaña district – an über trendy neighbourhood with a unique character and a provocative past. Ready for round two of chocolate-covered churros? No judgement here.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 7 | MADRID – SEGOVIA – SAN SEBASTIÁN

Next up: San Sebastián. On the way, we'll swing by the Valley of the Fallen – a memorial to those killed during the Spanish Civil War. Then: roll into World Heritage-listed Segovia to check out the Aqueduct, Cathedral and Disney-like Alcázar de Segovia castle. Today: lunch is on us. Sweeeeeet. Then it's back on the coach – the beachside buzz of San Seb is calling. For the best vibes after dark, make a beeline for Plaza de la Constitució. What. A. Day.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Valley of the Fallen
- Orientation walk of Segovia with Trip Leader

## DAY 8 | SAN SEBASTIÁN

Forget hitting snooze, this Basque hotspot is begging to be explored. Get your bearings on an orientation walk around town. DW, our in-the-know Trip Leader will point out the best pintxos places along the way. Then the rest is up to you. Join the crowd of beachgoers at La Concha. Hit the surf with the locals. Jump on a ride at one of the oldest theme parks in the world. Or take a cold beer up Urgull Hill for incredible views over the bay. Later, choose your pants wisely – if you're embarking on a pintxos-bar-crawl through the Old Town tonight, or heading to Bar Borda Berri for some slow-roasted beef (melt-in-your-mouth good), you're gonna' need a LOT of room.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of San Sebastián with Trip Leader

## DAY 9 | SAN SEBASTIÁN – ZARAGOZA – BARCELONA

Quick maths: this is our last full day. So, make every second count. We'll make a pit stop in one of the most underrated cities in Spain: Zaragoza. Check out the impressive Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, stroll past the ancient Roman walls and grab a bite to eat at the historic Central Market. After, we'll get the run around Barça on a driving tour before heading to dinner with the gang. Grab your glass of sangria and get cheers-ing. This has been one incredible adventure.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Zaragoza with Trip Leader
- Barcelona highlights drive

## DAY 10 | BARCELONA

We delved deep. We experienced MORE. And now it's time to say goodbye (we're not crying, you are). Swap those socials and get planning that reunion trip – who's up for round two next year?



### 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!**