

# Topdeck

## USA & CANADA ADVENTURE



TRIP CODE:  
UEECCN-1

## TOPDECKER, meet North America

Is this trip for you? HISTORIC. DIVERSE. LIVELY.

Game time: would you rather travel the USA or Canada? Psych! On this 12-day adventure you get both rolled into one. Thank us later. From the land of the free and beyond, we'll tick off the A-listers Boston, Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto, Detroit and Chicago. Plus, get sprayed (in the best way) by the mighty Niagara Falls. Visit the homes of sporting legends. Test our waistbands with alllll the diverse foodie delights. And uncover the culturally rich neighbourhoods at the heart-and-soul of these incredible cities. You ready to embrace it all? We thought so.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Hostel Plus



Nights



Android/iPhone  
app download  
info



This is a principal  
package.

# Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

## ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

**PLEASE NOTE:** We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

### ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Driving tour of Chicago
- + See Niagara Falls
- + Driving tour of Detroit
- + Walking tour of Toronto
- + Walking-driving tour of Boston

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Driving tour of Chicago
- + Driving tour of Detroit
- + See Niagara Falls
- + Walking tour of Toronto
- + Walking-driving tour of Boston

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Chicago  
United States

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

New York  
United States

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- + United States - USD
- + Canada - CAD

# YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME  
TRIP  
LEADER

## DAY 1 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

This is it. The moment you've been dreaming about. The start of your big North American adventure. Meet the gang at the hostel – we're kicking things off in Chi-Town with a driving tour around the Magnificent Mile, John Hancock Building, Navy Pier and Millennium Park. And on the menu for tonight's included dinner: Chicago's famed deep-dish pizza. You know you wanna try it.



**MEALS:**

+ Dinner



**INCLUDED TODAY:**

+ Driving tour of Chicago

## DAY 2 | CHICAGO

Today, you've got a full free day to spend exploring the Windy City. Need some suggestions? We're glad you asked. Hire yourself a set of wheels and delve deeper into the city's countless culturally rich neighbourhoods. Get float-y and take in the city's famous landmarks on an architecture boat cruise. Or opt for the bird's eye view on a heli-tour. If you picked the right season, you might even be able to catch a Cubs game at Wrigley Field. Snap THAT pic at 'The Bean'. Wander along the riverfront. Gape at the masterpieces in Chicago's Institute of Art. Then: get the gang together and head to one of Uptown's jazz bars.



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast



**OPTIONAL  
ACTIVITIES:**

- + Bike hire: from \$35 USD
- + Chicago city architecture boat cruise: from \$40 USD
- + Heli-tour over Chicago: from \$125 USD

## DAY 3 | CHICAGO TO DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Today, we roll onto Detroit – where a driving tour of the city's A-listers awaits. Tick off the likes of Fox Theatre, Ford Field, Campus Martius, the Guardian Building and the infamous American vs Lafayette Coney Island hotdog stores. You gotta try them both, obv. After an included dinner with the gang, it's time to see why they call this place Rock City (hint: it's got nothing to do with the landscape).



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

## DAY 4 | DETROIT

You wanted more free time to explore – so here's 24hrs we prepared earlier. Don't waste a second. Head to the Henry Ford Museum to uncover over 300 years of American innovation. Find out "What's Going On" with a trip to the Motown Museum. Soak up the city's incredible art scene with a visit to Detroit Institute of Arts. Gape at the Guardian Building (aka Detroit's Cathedral of Finance). Sip your way around the hipster craft brewery scene. Then: head to Greektown for all your foodie desires (with a few hip bars thrown in for good measure).



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Driving tour of Detroit

## DAY 5 | DETROIT TO TORONTO, ONTARIO VIA NIAGARA FALLS

Down that coffee and wave goodbye to Detroit - we're outta here after breakfast. But before crossing back into Canada, we'll treat our eyeballs to the 'holy sh\*t'-worthy Niagara Falls. Watch from Table Rock as 600,000 gallons of water cascade into a thunderous show of mist and rushing water. Wanna get closer? There's an optional boat tour on the cards (if you brought your raincoat). When we reach T-dot, tick off all the showstoppers on a walking tour - we're talking the CN Tower, Rogers Centre, Old City Hall, Yonge-Dundas Square and Hockey Hall of Fame. Then, get stuck into an included dinner with the gang before we sample a slice of this city's famous nightlife.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ See Niagara Falls

+ Walking tour of Toronto



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Niagara Falls boat tour: from  
\$40 CAD

## DAY 6 | TORONTO

Sum up Toronto in one word: diverse. Welcoming over 40 million people annually to the city that speaks over 140 different languages and is home to Canada's largest LGBTIQ+ community – this place has got acceptance down to a tee. And you've got 24hrs of freedom to embrace it all. So, don't muck about. Do the obvious and scale the CN Tower – with a stomach-churning glass viewing platform at over 342m high, this one's pretty epic. Let your inner hockey-freak flag fly at the Ice Hockey Hall of Fame (home to the Stanley Cup). Wander the cobbled alleyways of the Distillery District. Put your waistbands to the test at St Lawrence Market. Explore the ninety-eight OTT rooms of Casa Loma. Channel your inner hipster at Kensington Market. Then, head to Chinatown for cheap beers and drool-worthy dumplings. This is what you came for.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Climb the CN Tower: from  
\$25 CAD

## DAY 7 | TORONTO TO MONTREAL, QUEBEC

We're swapping Toronto for Montreal today. Sorry, not sorry. Dump your stuff and get exploring – this place packs some serious colonial history. Head to Old Montreal and check out the Place d'Armes, Place Royal and Notre Dame Basilica. Get all the views of City Hall and Nelson's Column from Place Jacques-Cartier. Stroll along the waterfront and Old Port. Then: flash some plastic amongst the boutiques and stalls in Bonsecours Market. Just be back in time for tonight's included dinner with the gang.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

## DAY 8 | MONTREAL

Today, it's all about you. Need some suggestions? Put your fat pants to the test on a food tour of the Mile End district. Think: three hours of the best carb-laden, cheese-topped, bagel-shaped stops in the city. Mmmmm. Or tackle the Lachine Rapids with an adrenaline-fuelled jet boating experience. Spoiler: you will get wet. Prefer to do your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-here-for thing? Climb Mt Royal for alllll the views. Get your history-fix at the Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History. Or uncover the maze of shops and museums hidden beneath the city streets at the Underground City. Tonight, you're in Disneyland for foodies – go get it.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

+ Food tour of Montreal: from  
\$45 CAD

+ Jet boating in Montreal: from  
\$55 CAD

## DAY 9 | MONTREAL TO QUEBEC CITY

Spend the morning ticking off the last Montreal must-eats on your list, before we roll out this afternoon. Quebec is calling our name. Oh là là. Fun fact: Quebec City is one of North America's oldest settlements. True story. After tonight's included dinner, we'll have the option to wander the cobblestone streets on a spine-tingling ghost tour. With over 400 years of murder, tragedy and hauntings – you might need a spare pair of undies for this one.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

+ Ghost tour of Quebec: from  
\$25 CAD

## DAY 10 | QUEBEC CITY TO BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Au revoir, Quebec – time to head back to the States. Disclaimer: we've got a bit of a drive across the border so, catch up on some zzz's or verse your trip mates to a not-so-friendly game of UNO. A city that was key to the American Revolution and Independence movement, Boston has got a history – and our expert Trip Leader has the low-down on today's walking-driving tour. Tick off the likes of Bunker Hill, Charleston Bridge, the USS Constitution and North End Neighbourhood. Then? Head to Faneuil Hall Marketplace for alllll the foodie goodness or hunt down the perfect cannoli in North End. It doesn't get much better than this.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking-driving tour of  
Boston

## DAY 11 | BOSTON

Right, this is your day – your way. But if you need some suggestions, we've got a couple of the best optional activities lined up. Get on your bike and explore six different neighbourhoods with an in-the-know-local (countless historical facts included). Or brush up on your Red Sox trivia with a visit to Fenway Park. Rather do your own spontaneous thing? No worries. Follow the story of the American Revolution along the Freedom Trail. Jump aboard the USS Constitution. Check out the Boston Tea Party Museum. Whatever you do, just be back in time for tonight's dinner with the gang – we're gonna give this incredible adventure the send-off it deserves!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Guided tour of Fenway Park:  
from \$25 USD
- + Bike tour of Boston: from \$60  
USD

## DAY 12 | BOSTON TO NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

And just like that, it's nearly over. Pile into the coach one last time and swap those socials – you'll need them for that reunion trip. When we reach NYC – it's time to say our goodbyes. Who's sticking around?



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast

## MEALS

Your included meals are detailed in the 'Included Essentials' section of this document.

Breakfasts (usually continental breakfasts) are included most days. A typical continental breakfast may consist of cereals with milk or yogurt, bread, croissants, cold meats, and cheese – with fruit juice, tea or coffee to drink. It is rare to get a hot breakfast, though on some occasions some hot food may be available.

Included meals will be provided at local restaurants and the accommodations in which we stay. In most cases, table water is provided with meals. If you wish to purchase additional drinks, you can do so at your own expense.

If you have any dietary requirements, we'll make every effort to cater to your needs – as long as you advise your travel agent or Customer Service Consultant when you book. You can also make a note of dietary requirements in the Topdeck app when you check-in.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Although we'll do everything in our power to cater to your needs, we cannot guarantee this will be possible in every restaurant we visit. We also cannot cater to tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

## TIPPING

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save travelling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

## TIPPING CULTURE IN NORTH AMERICA

In North America, tipping is customary. Please bear in mind that you will be expected to leave a tip for optional meals and activities, as well as during nights out.

# TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

## TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

## ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

## CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

## BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

## MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



# PASSENGER SAFETY

## **NIGHTS OUT**

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, 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 details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck 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.

## **RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS**

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

## **DRUG USE**

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers 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. 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 could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn'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 again.

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 of 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 (trust us).

## **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 holiday AND have 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 hotel 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!

## OTHER INFORMATION

### 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.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit [www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance](http://www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance).

### 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 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.

**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.

### 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.)

- + 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 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



**THAT'S IT!**