

# Topdeck

## GREAT WHITE NORTH



TRIP CODE:

UESKKY-0



## Topdecker, MEET NORTH AMERICA

Keen to flex your skills at Whistler, Big White and the Big 3 ski resorts in Banff? Skiers and snowboarders will be in snowy heaven (and beginners won't find it hard to find their feet) on this epic snow-fari of a lifetime. You'll climb mountains, follow alpine passes, check out some beautiful lakeside spots and finish up at some hot springs. Bliss!

### 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

## 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)

- + Drive the Sea to Sky Highway
- + Hot springs, Banff
- + Entry to Glacier National Park

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Entry to Glacier National Park
- + Entry to Banff National Park
- + Entry to hot springs
- + Calgary airport shuttle

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Vancouver  
North America

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Banff  
North America

## *Trip currencies*

- + Canada - CAD

# Your Itinerary



**AWESOME TRIP  
LEADER**

## DAY 1 | VANCOUVER TO WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Instructions: press nose to window in the ever-so-pretty Stanley Park before we make the beautiful drive to Whistler along the Sea to Sky Highway (cue jaw-dropping views of the mountains and Howe Sound). The Whistler nightlife will be waiting for you and your new Topdeck family post-dinner.



**MEALS:**

+ Dinner

## DAY 2 | WHISTLER

Welcome to the holy grail of ski resorts. Whether you're a pro-plunker (skier) or complete beginner, you've got two days to show the slopes who's boss. Fancy some optional skiing or snowboarding lessons? You got it. There's also a peak-to-peak gondola with amazing views of Whistler's soaring mountains, glaciers and forests. After all that action, there's the après-ski to wind down (or up) with. Did you know? Whistler has one of North America's best après bars – and loads of live music venues, too.



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast



**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

- + Ski/snowboard hire
- + Skiing/snowboarding lessons
- + Lift passes

## DAY 3 | WHISTLER

Eat. Sleep. Ski. Repeat. Or, you could always take it easy and soak up the après vibes. Craving an adrenaline rush? Then say yes to some optional ziplining. Tonight, there's an optional Whistler nightlife tour to get on board with, so dress to impress.



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast



**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

- + Ski/snowboard hire
- + Skiing/snowboarding lessons
- + Lift passes
- + Ziplining in Whistler
- + Nightlife tour of Whistler

## DAY 4 | WHISTLER TO KELOWNA

Watch the scenery change from white to green as we take the scenic route through Fraser Valley and over the Coquihalla Pass. Our next stop? British Columbia's biggest wine region, Kelowna. Fact: Kelowna means 'grizzly bear' in Salish. Who knew?



**MEALS:**

+ Breakfast  
+ Dinner

## DAY 5 | KELOWNA (BIG WHITE DAY TRIP)

Big White is a big deal: it's the highest peak in the Okanagan Highland, and it's also home to Western Canada's largest night skiing area. Here, there are tubing and ice skating opportunities - not to mention the skiing and snowboarding. And if the Kelowna Rockets ice hockey team are playing, there's the chance to see them take to their skates.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Ski/snowboard hire
- + Skiing/snowboarding lessons
- + Lift passes

## DAY 6 | KELOWNA (BIG WHITE DAY TRIP)

Today, we make the journey back up to Big White for another round of flawless pow. Need a confidence boost? Take the optional ski or snowboard lessons and you'll be shredding like a pro in no time. If you'd rather feel the wind in your hair on a cross-country jaunt, hop on a snowmobile tour and soak up the alpine vistas. You won't regret it!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Ski/snowboard hire
- + Skiing/snowboarding lessons
- + Lift passes
- + Snowmobile tour

## DAY 7 | KELOWNA TO BANFF, ALBERTA

Straddle the Continental Divide as you saddle up for Kicking Horse Pass. It's high, it's picturesque, and it takes you to Lake Louise for a pitstop. Think cobalt blue waters, glacier-clad peaks and you'll be somewhere close! Then, it's up and onwards to the majestic Glacier National Park. Expect alpine scenery, ancient forests and a little (read: big) slice of paradise. Banff is up next, so get pumped.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Entry to Glacier National Park
- + Entry to Banff National Park

## DAY 8 | BANFF

Banff is National Geographic on steroids: picture perfect in every way, and the ideal place to spend a free day. Ready to ride? Three world-class ski resorts are yours to choose from. However you spend your day, we'll round things off with a muscle-relieving dip in the hot springs. All together now: ahhhhh.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Entry to hot springs



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Ski/snowboard hire
- + Skiing/snowboarding lessons
- + Lift passes

## DAY 9 | BANFF

It's your last full day in the Great White North, so make it count with an optional ride on the Banff Gondola. Trust us, the views of the Bow Valley and its mountain surrounds will give you goosebumps. Tonight, there's a final dinner with the crew (try not to get too emosh).



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Ski/snowboard hire
- + Skiing/snowboarding lessons
- + Lift passes
- + Ride the Banff Gondola

## DAY 10 | BANFF OR CALGARY

After breakfast, take your last look at the Rocky Mountain-dominated skyline and put away your thermals: the time has come to bid farewell to your Topdecker brethren. Heading to Calgary airport? There's a shuttle bus on hand.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Calgary airport shuttle

## 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:

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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:

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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

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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

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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.

## *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
- + Snow gear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle



**THAT'S IT!**