

# Topdeck

## GREAT WHITE NORTH



TRIP CODE:  
UESKKY-1

## TOPDECKER, meet North America

Is this trip for me: GLITTERING. OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD. THRILLING.

This is more than a skiing holiday. 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 breath-taking glacial lakes. Hit new heights over towering mountains. And slip, slide, ski, speed or snowmobile your way down the slopes of Whistler, Big White and Banff's Big 3. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, it's time to throw your inhibitions out of the window and join a group of Topdeckers for a week of snow-capped awesomeness. This is your chance.

### 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)

- + Drive the jaw-dropping Sea to Sky Highway
- + Orientation tour of Whistler
- + Peak 2 Peak Gondola pass in Whistler
- + Entry to Glacier National Park
- + Entry to Banff National Park
- + Orientation tour of Banff

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Orientation tour of Whistler
- + Drive the jaw-dropping Sea to Sky Highway
- + Peak 2 Peak Gondola pass
- + Entry to Glacier National Park
- + Entry to Banff National Park
- + Orientation tour of Banff
- + Calgary airport shuttle

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Vancouver  
Canada

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Canada - CAD

# YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME  
TRIP  
LEADER

## DAY 1 | VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA TO WHISTLER

This is it. The OG of ski holidays. The big kahuna. The snow-dusted Canadian adventure you've been dreaming of. Meet the crew in Vancouver and get excited over how incredible the 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:

+ Orientation tour of Whistler  
+ Drive the jaw-dropping Sea to Sky Highway

## DAY 2 | WHISTLER

This is what you came for. This place is a snow-fanatic's ultimate fantasy. And you've got 48 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), we've got your back with an included Peak 2 Peak Gondola pass. 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 SD card with. Tonight, gather the gang for dinner and share all the thrills and spills of your first day.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Peak 2 Peak Gondola pass



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 3 | WHISTLER

This is your day, your way. So, make every second count. Our suggestion? Get involved in some optional ziplining. There are different choices for different levels of crazy - including The Sasquatch: the longest zipline 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
- + Skiing/snowboarding lessons
- + Lift passes
- + Ziplining

## DAY 4 | WHISTLER TO BIG WHITE

Hit the après-skis a little too hard last night? DW you'll have plenty of time to gather your strength as we take the scenic route through Fraser Valley and over the Coquihalla Pass. Our destination? Big White Ski Resort. Take a stroll around the village with your in-the-know Trip Leader before we tuck into another included meal with the gang. Later, you can hit up a local haunt for some live music or just sit back and savour some 'me time' - you'll need energy for tomorrow. Trust us.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner

## DAY 5 | BIG WHITE

Like the name so blatantly suggests: Big White is a big deal. And it's not just a winter wonderland for the slope-bunnies. We're talking snowshoe tours. Ice-skating. Ice-climbing. Sleigh-riding. Fat-biking (the tires are fat, not you). Or you can just do the obvious and hit the slopes to test out your mean skills. Don't worry if your confidence hasn't hit 100% yet - lessons are still available, no matter what level you are. Don't waste a second. Get out there and do your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-here-for thing. Warm up later in a local après-ski and get chatting with your fellow travellers - they're bound to have some stories and tips to share!



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 6 | BIG WHITE

Another day, another chance to flaunt your ski moves. Prepare to shred (or not). DW you'll be taking on red runs in no time. Give your legs a breather and head to the Happy Valley Adventure Park for a high-speed snow-tubing session. Your body will thank you later. Or if you fancy a change in scenery, there's an optional snowmobile tour of British Columbia's B-E-A-U-tiful backcountry on the cards too. Tonight, gather your trip mates and swap stories of epic trails (or epic fails) over dinner. Or give night skiing a go. This is your chance.

### ★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 7 | BIG WHITE TO BANFF, ALBERTA

Another day, another jaw-dropping drive through the wilderness. This time, we'll take the Trans-Canada Highway through Yoho and Glacier National Parks. But first: a quick stop at Lake Louise. 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. After an orientation tour, dinner tonight is on us. Thank us later. Tonight, get the gang together and whip out your best impersonation of a dancing sasquatch at a local bar.

### 🍷 MEALS:

- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Entry to Glacier National Park
- + Entry to Banff National Park
- + Orientation tour of Banff

## DAY 8 | BANFF

Banff is National Geographic on steroids. Like serious Schwarzenegger steroids. And you've got 48 hours to see it all. First choice: 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! Or you could ride the Sulpher Mountain Gondola for insane views over the sweeping mountain ranges. This is what you came for. Later, swap the adrenaline rush for a sugar rush - beaver tail, anyone?

### 🍷 MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### ★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Ski/snowboard hire
- + Skiing/snowboarding lessons
- + Lift passes
- + Sulpher Mountain Gondola



## 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 Icefields. Glaciers. Waterfalls. Alpine lakes. And towering peaks. See it all - plus there's a snowshoe adventure too. Haven't tried poutine yet? Go now. Later, gather the gang for a dance battle and give this incredible adventure the send-off it deserves.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

### ACTIVITIES:

- + Ski/snowboard hire
- + Skiing/snowboarding lessons
- + Lift passes
- + Heli Tour of the Columbia Icefields from

## DAY 10 | BANFF (OR SHUTTLE 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 Insta handles - you'll need them to organise that summer reunion trip.



### 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:

- + 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!**