

Topdeck

STARS & STRIPES



TRIP CODE:

UHDDLN-9



TOPDECKER, meet North America

O say, can you see? You'll see it all and more on this epic trip through the USA. After experiencing the best of the west, you'll jet east for three unforgettable nights in the city that never sleeps (although we don't recommend you go sans shut-eye). Think: rollerblading along Venice Beach in LA, slurping on chowder at San Fran's Fisherman's Wharf, throwing it all on black in Vegas and Statue of Liberty spotting in New York. It's basically a tour of the US Hall of Fame. Seriously.

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

- LA city tour
- Las Vegas party bus
- Flights and airport transfers between Las Vegas and San Francisco (including 1 checked bag)
- Driving tour of San Francisco
- Chinatown cultural tour
- Airport transfers & flight from San Francisco to New York City (1 checked bag included)
- 7-day NYC Metro Pass
- Local legend walking tour
- 7 day NYC Metro Pass

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Hello, City of Angels! Say hey to the crew and prepare for twelve days of livin' it up on the east coast and beyond. We've got a full day's tour to kick things off, so hang onto your hats! Spoiler alert: we'll tick off a whole bunch of must-see sights as we go.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- LA city tour

DAY 2 | LOS ANGELES

Say #YOLO and add an optional excursion to your LA bucket list - Universal Studios and Disneyland are here! Stars in your eyes? Opt in for a movie star homes tour and swing by some of the biggest and best celebrity cribs you ever did see.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Universal Studios
- Visit Disneyland
- Movie star homes tour

DAY 3 | LOS ANGELES TO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Swap palm trees for Joshua Trees as we make tracks across the Mojave Desert to Sin City itself: Las Vegas. Dress to impress - you're on the guest list for a private party bus! When the beverages run dry, why not keep the good times rolling with some optional nightclub entry passes? What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, after all...



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Las Vegas party bus

DAY 4 | LAS VEGAS

Awww yeah - you've got a free day in Las Vegas to do whatever the heck you want! Feeling ropey after last night? No worries. Today's optionals will help you get out of hangover mode in a jiffy! Take a whirl on the High Roller Observation Wheel or test your aim at a shooting range. Vegas, we love you and your ridiculous ways.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Ride the High Roller Observation Wheel
- Shooting range experience

DAY 5 | LAS VEGAS

Today there's an optional trip to the Grand Canyon to get on board with. That's right - THE Grand Canyon. Bucket list behemoth alert! If you fancy staying put in Vegas, there's an optional helicopter flight over The Strip to cash your winnings in for. Up, up and away!

★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Day trip to Grand Canyon National Park
- Vegas to Grand Canyon flight
- Heli-tour over the Las Vegas Strip

DAY 6 | LAS VEGAS TO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Swap stories of your Vegas antics as we leave casino country behind us. But first, be sure to grab a flower for your hair - you know where we're heading next.

MEALS:

- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Flights and airport transfers between Las Vegas and San Francisco (including 1 checked bag)
- Driving tour of San Francisco

DAY 7 | SAN FRANCISCO

Get exploring! This morning is all about San Fran's best assets - from Golden Gate Park to Fisherman's Wharf. Later, it's time to hit Chinatown on a guided tour. We're talking fortune cookie making, tea tasting AND a slap-up dinner to round things off.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Chinatown cultural tour

DAY 8 | SAN FRANCISCO

Today you're free to roam. What's it gonna be - trolley rides, Lombard Street or Pier 39? If you're looking for some tasty local fare, clam chowder is the way to go. Tonight, you have the option to hit the high seas with a sunset catamaran cruise. San Francisco, we may be falling in love.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Sunset catamaran cruise

DAY 9 | SAN FRANCISCO TO NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Please prepare the cabin for takeoff. Time is precious so today we're flying, not driving. Next stop: NYC. Excitement overload? Yeah, us too. Eek!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Airport transfers & flight from San Francisco to New York City (1 checked bag included)

DAY 10 | NEW YORK CITY

New York City, let's do this! Get your 7-Day Metro Pass at the ready and prepare to take a bite out of the Big Apple. Today we'll hook up with a local legend to show us the best bits of Manhattan. Want an optional Sightseeing Pass? Coming right up!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- 7-day NYC Metro Pass
- Local legend walking tour



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- New York sightseeing pass

DAY 11 | NEW YORK CITY

Ready for the grand finale? Good. You've got one last free day in NYC, so go nuts! Get the view of the city from a helicopter, stuff your face on a Brooklyn pizza or work it all off on a Central Park bike tour. Tonight, there's an included dinner with the crew. What better way to round off the trip of a lifetime?



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- 7-day NYC Metro Pass

DAY 12 | NEW YORK CITY

Our trip ends after breakfast - but if this New York Minute wasn't quite long enough, stick around to see where your blossoming love affair takes you.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- 7 day NYC Metro Pass

MEALS

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

Breakfasts (usually continental breakfasts) are included every day, except on the first morning of your trip. 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 in a mixture of local restaurants and places 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.

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

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.

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!