





TOPDECKER, meet North America

From the landmark-filled US capital to the toe-tapping energy of New Orleans, Orlando's white-knuckle rides and the people-watching paradise that is Miami, this trip really does have it all. Thankfully, between all those buzzing stops you'll get to enjoy a little down time in the ol' South. And with a couple of days to laze by the beach, you'll be more than ready to take on the mighty sunshine states. Let's do this!

WORTH NOTING...

This is a sector of the 25 Day Road Trip USA trip

Please note that optional activities and prices are subject to change.

WHAT YOU **NEED TO KNOW**

Delve Deep

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Nights

Download app

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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).

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Driving tour of Philadelphia
- Washington, DC Night Illumination Tour
- Speedway tour
- Driving tour of Miami
- Everglades airboat experience

IMPORTANT: please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

YOUR ITINERARY

AWESOME TRIP LEADER

DRIVER

DAY 1 | NEW YORK CITY TO WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Meet with the gang bright and early in NYC before we hit the road to Philadelphia. Note: cheesesteak recommended. Tonight, see Washington all lit up on an illumination tour and make the most of your night with a chance to bond with the crew over dinner.

MEALS:

- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Philadelphia
- Washington, DC Night Illumination Tour

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Entry to the One Liberty Observation Deck

DAY 2 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

'Gram yourself in front of some of the USA's most iconic buildings, recreate famous movie moments, play spot the senator... Today you can get a real feel for the powerhouse that is DC. Get your bearings and tick off all the must-see places with an optional segway or bike tour. However you travel, this is the place to clue yourself up on all things American history and visit some of the many memorials, monuments and museums.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike or segway tour of Washington, DC

DAY 3 | WASHINGTON, D.C. TO CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Swap the capital for North Carolina's biggest city. Take it easy with a stroll around Charlotte's museums and sample some old-school foodie classics, or opt in to go fast and furious on a Speedway tour.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Speedway tour

DAY 4 | CHARLOTTE TO SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Sample the charm of Charleston, then it's onwards to Savannah.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 5 | SAVANNAH

Slow the pace with an optional Slow Ride pub crawl, or simply take a wander around the city. Watch out for horse-drawn carriages!

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Slow Ride pub crawl

DAY 6 | SAVANNAH TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Roll into Orlando today, where there's year-round sunshine and a certain friendly mouse reigns supreme.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 7 | ORLANDO

Opt in to spend the day with the characters you loved as a kid at Walt Disney World – or, for the thrill-seeking option, make sure you check out Universal Studios to unleash your inner movie buff. Did we mention you can also go to the Kennedy Space Center today if you so choose? So. Many. Options.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Walt Disney World
- Visit Universal Studios Orlando
- Visit the Kennedy Space Center

DAY 8 | ORLANDO TO MIAMI

B'bye Magic Kingdom and mouse ears, we're off for an Everglades airboat tour on the way to Miami. After a driving tour of the city, you can thank Miami's distinct Latin flair for our seriously tasty dinner.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Miami
- Everglades airboat experience

DAY 9 | MIAMI

Take a trip to Little Havana to people-watch in the cafés, stroll by pretty pastel houses and dodge the Speedo-clad skaters of South Beach, or take an optional speed boat trip. After an authentic Cuban dinner, see Miami come to life at night (if this place could get more lively) and join a club crawl.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Miami speedboat ride

DAY 10 | MIAMI TO FLORIDA GULF COAST

Ease into things in Florida's Gulf Coast by throwing yourself into the nightlife at one of its many beach bars.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 11 | FLORIDA GULF COAST TO PANAMA CITY BEACH

'Gators, begone! We're off to seek out turquoise waters and sandy beaches. At Panama City Beach you can while away the afternoon shopping, exploring or just plain lying around doing very little.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 12 | PANAMA CITY BEACH TO NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

A relaxing day by the beach will just about ready you for the awesome assault on the senses that is New Orleans. Music lovers will be spoilt for choice with all of the city's jazz clubs and dancing spots. Foodies will have a hard time picking between gumbo and po-boys, jambalaya and muffulettas, beignets and bananas Foster. Maybe just try 'em all.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 13 | NEW ORLEANS

Today's the day to tick off any leftover items on your 'things I MUST do in the Bayou' list. Swing dance in NOLA, creep yourself out in one of the 'Cities of the Dead', find out what a steam calliope sounds like, or just have a taste of true New Orleans crawfish. Today's optionals? We're glad you asked. Choose from a swamp tour, a cooking demo or a paddleboat cruise.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Cooking demonstration
- Swamp tour
- Paddleboat cruise

DAY 14 | NEW ORLEANS

One more breakfast, then we're outta here. Swap numbers and start planning the next grand adventure.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

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!