

# Topdeck

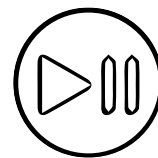
## PLAY & PAUSE: CENTRAL & SOUTHERN EUROPE HIGHLIGHTS



### TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

(Previously called: European Emperor) TRIP VIBE = the perfect mix of group activities and all-important YOU time. Highlights. Best bits. Bucket listers. Whichever word you use, this trip's full of 'em. Think: Paris, Barcelona, Venice and Rome. Add: the French Riviera and the Swiss Alps. Plus: free time to experience it all YOUR way. Tick off the greats, uncover the hidden gems and indulge in all the carb-laden, sauce-swimming, cream-filled delicacies only Europe's A-Team can deliver. It's time to press play on the best 17 days of your life.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Play & Pause



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

- Paris highlights drive
- Visit the Loire Valley
- Orientation walk of Carcassonne with Trip Leader
- Visit Andorra
- Barcelona highlights drive
- Walking tour of Monaco with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

London  
Europe

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Rome  
Italy

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- England - GBP
- France - EUR
- Andorra - EUR
- Spain - EUR
- Monaco - EUR
- Switzerland - CHF
- Italy - EUR
- Vatican City - EUR

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND

London's calling... don't leave it hanging! We're kicking things off in iconic style – welcome to the home of Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and baked beans. First up: meet the small bunch of trip mates who'll be sharing the Euro adventure. Then: settle in for our first group dinner. Hot topic: Marmite or Vegemite? Discuss.



### MEALS:

- Dinner

## DAY 2 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO PARIS, FRANCE

Stock up on snacks and pass 'round the AUX cord – we're hitting the road early to cross the Channel. The home of Louis Vuitton, ol' Mona and world's BEST desserts – Paris has earned its rep as the European capital for all things fashion, culture and food. First: tick off all the showstoppers on a driving tour. Then: quiz your Trip Leader on the best place to try escargots without shelling out (sorry not sorry).



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Paris highlights drive

## DAY 3 | PARIS

Today is your day, your way. Spend your free time ticking off those bucket-list items AND exploring the backstreets. Hunt down the best patisseries in town (your Trip Leader knows where it's at). Get lost amongst the shelves of history at Shakespeare and Co. Bookshop. Or inject some feel-good vibes at the I Love You Wall. Not a walker? Work the calves on an optional bike tour. Or get an alternate view of the City of Love with a river cruise. Tonight, go all-out with an evening at the cabaret. Think: bright lights, OTT costumes, death-defying acrobatics and the can-can (of course).



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Paris: from €30
- Seine River cruise in Paris: from €10
- Traditional cabaret show in Paris: from €65

## DAY 4 | PARIS TO BORDEAUX, VIA LOIRE VALLEY

Don't drink your vino out of a cask? You're gonna love our next stop. Watch rows of centuries-old grapevines rush past as we make our way through the Loire Valley to Château de Chambord. If you're up for it, you'll have time to explore this magnificent Renaissance castle – supposedly designed by Leonardo da Vinci himself. Sixty opulently decorated rooms. Gardens as big as inner-city Paris. And a mind-boggling double helix staircase. This place will have you feeling like French royalty (minus the lead-based face paint obsvs). Later, we'll make tracks to Bordeaux – where half the city is UNESCO World Heritage-listed and vineyards reign supreme. Get the run around this 1200-year-old city with our expert Trip Leader. Then, the rest is up to you.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Loire Valley



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Château de Chambord: from €15

## DAY 5 | BORDEAUX TO CARCASSONNE

Learn your A-B-Cabernet's of good wine with an optional tasting at a local château before we set our sights on Carcassonne. If you've ever played the board game, you'll know that its walled citadel is as medieval as it gets. Get your bearings on a stroll with your Trip Leader – ticking off the Château Comtal, Basilica of Saints Nazarius and fortifications of the ancient city. Tonight, we'll rendezvous back at the hotel for an included group dinner. This day in one word? Magnifique.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Carcassonne with Trip Leader



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bordeaux winery experience: prices available locally

## DAY 6 | CARCASSONNE TO BARCELONA, SPAIN, VIA ANDORRA

We'll roll through the Pyrenees today, with a quick stop in Andorra. Then: onwards to the capital of Catalonia. Bienvenidos to the city of art nouveau, sexy accents and (most importantly) tapas. Get a feel for Barça on a driving tour – swinging by the likes of Olympic Park, Plaça d'Espanya, the National Museum and Montjuïc Hill. And this eve? Track down some bombas – tennis ball-shaped croquettes of dreams. The name's spot on: they're the bomb.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Andorra
- Barcelona highlights drive

## DAY 7 | BARCELONA

Time to do your own spontaneous-this-is-what-I-came-for thing, amigos. But if you need some suggestions, we've got your back. Park Güell and Sagrada Familia are straight-up must-sees. BUT don't think you can just stroll up in there – you're gonna need to book tix online first. Then: explore the crazy that is Las Ramblas, head into the National Museum for an education in over a thousand years of art, or get lost amongst the maze of winding alleys in the Gothic Quarter. Lose yourself, find yourself, then grab a beer at Els Quatre Gats. Later, there's an optional show on the cards at the oldest flamenco tablaos in Barcelona.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Flamenco show in Barcelona: from €15

## DAY 8 | BARCELONA TO FRENCH RIVIERA, FRANCE

Start practising your bonjours and s'il vous plaît as we follow the Mediterranean coast to the glamorous French Riviera. After dumping your stuff and getting the run about town with our Trip Leader, the rest of the afternoon is up to you! Find a local haunt for some seriously good seafood. Indulge in a bit of celeb spotting. Or head to the beach and soak up those chill coastal vibes. Tonight, we'll regroup for another included dinner. Bon appétit, mes amis!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



## DAY 9 | FRENCH RIVIERA, INCLUDING MONACO

This morning, you do you. Sleep in. Laze on the beach. Go wild in the designer boutiques in Nice's Old Town. Try all the decorative pastries your elastic waistband can handle – then work them off with a walk up Castle Hill for all the views. Later: roll with the jet set on a walking tour of Monaco and see how the 1% live (hint: it involves Ferraris and bathing in caviar). Feeling lucky? Hit the tables at the Monte Carlo Casino and make it rain (or not).



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Monaco with Trip Leader

## DAY 10 | FRENCH RIVIERA TO SWISS ALPS, SWITZERLAND

From coastal views to sweeping mountain vistas, today we're off to the Swiss Alps! Warm up those vocal cords, we'll be busting out some bangers on the ride into the mountains. Or plug in your AirPods and catch some zzzs. Then: cue the fairytale villages of your imagination – the oh-so-quaint Engelberg is where we'll be spending the night. This evening: we'll get stuck into a group dinner before heading to the hotel bar or relaxing in the fresh alpine air.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 11 | SWISS ALPS

Yep, you're finally here. So, don't muck about – get exploring! Hiking. Biking. Thrill-seeking. Cheese-eating (unless you're lactose intolerant). Need some suggestions? You could take the revolving gondola to the top of Mt Titlis for all the epic views (without the effort), then head back down in search of the world's best hot chocolate. Or sit back and enjoy a cold beer back at the hotel. How you spend today is 110% up to you.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic excursion to Mt Titlis (summer only): from 92 CHF

## DAY 12 | SWISS ALPS TO VENICE, ITALY

Buy that mini-fondue set for mum and wave goodbye to the Alps – we're heading to that famous sinking city today. After checking in at the hotel, it's time to see what all the fuss is about. Acquaint yourself with the who's who of Venice's usual suspects on a walking tour – ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Accademia Bridge. And then – this beautifully romantic city is yours for the taking. Our suggestion? Enjoy a spritz overlooking one of Venice's fuchsia-pink sunsets. This is your moment.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Get a personalised trip T-shirt or hoodie: from €21

## DAY 13 | VENICE

Centuries-old architecture. Inventive cuisine. And a bucket-load of culture. Venice is just begging to be explored. After an optional gondola ride along the Grand Canal, you've got the whole day to do just that. Need suggestions? Insider tip: spend some time seeking out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop or head off the tourist trail with a trip to Giudecca Island. Go wandering. Discover the maze of canals and piazzas. Soak up the atmosphere. That's what makes memories.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Gondola ride in Venice: prices available locally

## DAY 14 | VENICE TO FLORENCE, VIA PISA

Onwards! We're rolling on to the capital of Tuscan cuisine and birthplace of gelato. But first: Pisa. If you're gonna take THAT photo, think of something unique. Please. Tonight, we've got an al fresco dinner on the cards. Then, did someone say karaoke? If you're up for it, join the gang in a battle of the classics at the bar later. Or hunt down a gelateria for a scoop (or two) of the good stuff. What'll it be? Salted caramel? Lavender? White chocolate? Cinnamon? Must. Try. Them. ALL.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower

## DAY 15 | FLORENCE TO ROME

Florence has more stories than Shakespeare, more culture than a London hipster AND it gave the world David (putting dad bods to shame since 1504). We'll get the lay of the land on an in-depth walking tour with a local guide. Then: bella Roma awaits! Dump your stuff at the hotel, strap on your Nikes and pack your anti-chafing cream – this walking tour is one for the books. We're talking a solid few hours of non-stop sights, off-the-tourist-trail hidden gems and a run-down of almost 3000 years of history. Pass by the Pantheon, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain, (don't) sit on the Spanish Steps and wind things up under the shadow of the mighty Colosseum. Epic doesn't even cut it. For dinner tonight, ask your Trip Leader where to find the best cacio e pepe – trust us, you won't be disappointed.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader

## DAY 16 | ROME

Time to live out your Roman Holiday fantasies – today is all about Vespas, espresso, two-cheeked kisses and pizza (the way it's supposed to taste). Head up Capitoline Hill for awesome views of the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Battle the lunchtime rush for a slice at Pizzarium Bonci. Hunt down the Mouth of Truth. Or simply do as the locals do and indulge in a little dolce far niente (delicious idleness) at a local cafe. Whatever you do, just be back in time for tonight's last dinner with the gang. You're in Disneyland for foodies so you know it's gonna be good.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Vatican City:  
from €45

## DAY 17 | ROME

Wait! It's over? Wipe away the tears and say ciao-for-now to your trip mates. Who said the adventure has to end here? Greece is lovely this time of year...



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

# 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

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

## 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!**