

Topdeck

GET SOCIAL: CENTRAL & SOUTHERN EUROPE HIGHLIGHTS



TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. Highlights = the best bits. And this Central and Southern Europe trip is jam-packed with them. You'll see: iconic cities (think Paris, Barcelona and Rome), incredible coastlines (guest-starring the French Riviera) and out-of-this-world mountains (the Swiss Alps – need we say more?). You'll get: a bunch of legends to share the ride, and the snacks. Say yes to 16 days of life-changing Euro adventures. You won't regret it.

WORTH NOTING...

Psst... Bookin' on the 3 June 2023 departure? On Day 4, you'll be crashin' the night in Bilbao instead of San Sebastian. Same goes for all 2024 departures!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Get Social



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
- Orientation walk of Bordeaux with Trip Leader
- Barcelona highlights drive
- Orientation walk of Nice with Trip Leader
- 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
- Spain - EUR
- Monaco - EUR
- Switzerland - CHF
- Italy - EUR
- Vatican City - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | LONDON (ENGLAND) – PARIS (FRANCE)

You wanted iconic, so where better to start than in the OG of classic capitals? Meet the crew in London, stock up on supplies and settle in as we make tracks for the City of Lights. The home of Coco Chanel, lil' Mona and the world's yummiest macarons – Paris has earned its rep as the European capital for all things culture, fashion and cream-filled, carb-loaded deliciousness. Tick off all the showstoppers on a driving tour before getting OUT there! Keen to make the most of it? There's even an optional river cruise on offer this eve.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Paris highlights drive



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Seine River cruise: from €15

DAY 2 | PARIS

We've given you 24 hrs to make every second count à Paris. Create a solid dent in your bucket list with a visit to the Louvre (book your tickets in advance!) and the Musée d'Orsay. Flash some plastic along the Champs Élysées. Discover the hidden gems down Paris's backstreets. Walking not your thing? Give those calves a workout on an optional bike tour. Tonight, get to know the fam better over our welcome meal. Then: dress to impress for an optional cabaret show. Think: sparkling lights, death-defining acrobatics, the can-can and more feathers than are necessary.



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Parisian cabaret show: prices available locally
- Bike tour of Paris: from €34

DAY 3 | PARIS – BORDEAUX

Don't drink your vino out of a cask? You're gonna love the next stop. Bordeaux: where half the city is UNESCO World Heritage-listed and vineyards reign supreme. Get your bearings around this 1200-year-old city with our expert Trip Leader before enjoying some free time to explore. Dinner tonight is up to you. Just make sure you leave room for desert – you're going to want to try a canelé (can-eh-lay). Trust us.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Bordeaux with Trip Leader

DAY 4 | BORDEAUX – SAN SEBASTIÁN (SPAIN)

Peer out the window as we roll through the vineyard-covered French Basque country into Spain. Smell that sweet coastal air: welcome to San Sebastián! This arvo = possibilities. Join the crowds of beachgoers at La Concha. Jump on a ride at one the oldest theme parks in the world. Or take a cold beer up Urgull Hill for incredible views over the bay. Later, choose your pants wisely – if you're embarking on a pintxos-bar-crawl tonight, you're gonna need a LOT of room.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 5 | SAN SEBASTIÁN – BARCELONA

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 – ticking of the likes of Olympic Park, Plaza Espanya, the National Museum and Montjuïc Hill. Then: round up the crew and track down some paella (it's rice, it's nice, don't think twice). Later, there's an optional show on the cards at the oldest flamenco tablaos in Barcelona. Embracing the new and exotic? Tick.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Barcelona highlights drive



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Flamenco show in Barcelona: from €22

DAY 6 | 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 to the ice bar along the beach, or get lost amongst the maze of winding alleys in the Gothic Quarter. Lose yourself, find yourself, then grab a beer. Tonight's your last chance to see what Ed Sheeran was on about and hit the d-floor with your trip mates – we're out of here in the morning.

DAY 7 | BARCELONA – FRENCH RIVIERA (FRANCE)

Start practising your bonjours and s'il vous plaît as we follow the Mediterranean coast to the glamorous French Riviera. After getting the run about Nice's Old Town with our Trip Leader, the rest of the afternoon is up to you! Indulge in a bit of celeb spotting. Head to the beach for a dip. Or seek out some seriously good seafood. Tonight, hit up a local bar for happy hour with the gang. This is livin'.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Nice with Trip Leader

DAY 8 | FRENCH RIVIERA, INCLUDING MONACO

Today, you do you! Laze on the beach (sunloungers advised). Or go wild in the designer boutiques in the town centre. Try all the decorative pastries your jeans can handle – then work them off with a walk up Castle Hill for all the views. The choice is yours. Later: we'll turn it up a notch with a boujee visit to Monaco. See how the 1% live (hint: it involves Ferraris and bathing in caviar), stroll by world-class casinos and let your jaw drop at the superyachts parked up along the waterfront.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Monaco with Trip Leader

DAY 9 | FRENCH RIVIERA – SWISS ALPS (SWITZERLAND)

Squeeze in one last swim. Down your (French) coffee. And wave au revoir to the coast – we'll be trading ritz and glitz for snowy peaks as we head to the mountains. Glue your face to the window as we weave our way into one of the largest nature conservations in Switzerland. Tonight we're bunking down in the jaw-dropping Swiss Alps. Sit back in the fresh alpine air, sip on a cold beverage and peel open that new pack of playing cards. Poker, anyone?



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 10 | SWISS ALPS

If the Swiss Alps had a Tinder bio it would read: fun-filled outdoor enthusiast – looking for a fellow adrenaline junkie to share adventures with. Swiping right? Hell yes. Hiking. Biking. Skydiving. Helicopter-ing. This place has it all. Or keep two feet on the ground with a valley walk. You can even hop aboard the Jungfrau railway for a visit to the Jungfrau Mountain summit. Trust us, whatever you choose – your SD card is going to be full of amazing AF pics by the day's end.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic excursion to Jungfrau ('The Top of Europe'): from 165 CHF
- Skydiving in the Swiss Alps: from 475 CHF

DAY 11 | SWISS ALPS – VENICE (ITALY)

No lies – we have a bit of a drive today. Who's got the AUX cord? We'll park up in the Floating City later this afternoon. Home to over 400 bridges and birthplace of Vivaldi, it's time to see what all the fuss is about on a walking tour with our Trip Leader – ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Accademia Bridge. Then, the rest is up to you. Our suggestion? Stop and embrace the moment. Enjoy a spritz or scoop (or two) of the good stuff overlooking one of Venice's fuchsia-pink sunsets. This is it.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Get a personalised trip T-shirt or hoodie: from €23

DAY 12 | VENICE

You know it as the Floating City, but this place is actually sinking (slowly). So get cracking! Do the obvious and take a gondola ride down the Grand Canal. You're in Venice after all. Need some suggestions on how to make the most of your free time? Insider tip: head off the tourist trail with a trip to Giudecca Island. Seek out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop. Or get lost hunting down the perfect gelato. Centuries-old architecture. Inventive cuisine. And a bucket-load of culture. You're not going to be bored.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 13 | VENICE – PISA – FLORENCE

We're hitting the frog and toad after breakfast. First stop: Pisa. Think of a creative pose for THAT photo (please). Then, make your food baby sing as we roll into the capital of Tuscan cuisine. You've got free time to stroll along the Arno River and watch the sunset before hunting down some classic Italian grub. Later: did someone say karaoke? If you're feeling 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 – we mentioned it was invented here, right?



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower

DAY 14 | FLORENCE – ROME

This morning we're time travelling with a local guide – soaking up heaps of history, artistic charm and all the dazzling architecture only Florence can deliver. Uffizi Gallery? Tick. Ponte Vecchio? Uh-huh. Piazza della Signoria? Yep. And the showstopping Duomo? Of course. Then, bella Roma awaits – strap in for one EPIC walking tour. Pass by the Pantheon, (don't) sit on the Spanish Steps, check out the mighty Colosseum and throw your spare cents in the Trevi Fountain. Legend has it if you throw one coin in the Fountain you'll return to Rome. Throw in two, and you'll find love here. Single ladies, assemble!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 15 | ROME

Vespas. Espresso. Two-cheek kisses. Aggressive hand gestures. And pizza the way it's supposed to taste. Here's a free day we prepared earlier. Get lost amongst two-and-a-half millennia worth of history on a guided tour (think Vatican City and the Colosseum). Head up Capitoline Hill for awesome views. Grab a bite at Lost Food Factory (arguably one of the best sandwich spots in town). Or do as the locals do and indulge in a little dolce far niente (delicious idleness) at a local cafe or piazza. Tonight, get the gang together for one last group dinner – we're gonna give this adventure-of-a-lifetime the send-off it deserves!



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Vatican City: from €50
- Guided tour of the Colosseum, Palatine Hill and the Roman Forum: from €50

DAY 16 | ROME

This is where we leave you #Topdeckers. But who said the adventure has to end? Swap those Insta handles and get planning – we hear Greece is lovely this time of year!

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!