

# Topdeck

## DELVE DEEP: USA WEST COAST



TRIP CODE:  
TSALL2



## TOPDECKER, meet North America (TD)

(Most similar to this previous trip: California Calling) TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. 'You could travel the world, but nothing comes close to the golden coast'. And yes, Katy Perry – we'd have to agree. Roll from the sun-soaked and painfully attractive Pacific Coast, through the red expanses of the desert, to the jaw-droppingly beautiful vistas of Yosemite and golden hues of San Fran. West is best? It's time to find out. Welcome to your insider guide.

### 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

- Los Angeles highlights drive
- Hollywood Hills hike with local guide
- San Diego highlights drive
- Stargazing tour at Lowell Observatory
- Entry to Grand Canyon National Park
- Las Vegas Strip highlights drive
- Pole fitness class
- Entry to Yosemite National Park
- San Francisco highlights drive

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Los Angeles  
United States of America

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

San Francisco  
United States of America

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- United States of America - USD

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

La la land: a city characterised by its blissful lack of touch with reality. And the perfect place to sack off your everyday routine and catapult into a two-week Californian adventure. First: meet the fellow explorers sharing the ride. Then we'll begin to get our bearings around this ginormous city on a driving tour. Get ready for LA big guns: Santa Monica and Venice Beach. Spot roller skaters gliding along Santa Monica boardwalk – their skills? Next level. Witness alllll the palm trees. You're bouta see that Venice Beach pic for real. No filter required. Tonight, it's time get to know the gang a little better with an included group dinner.



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Los Angeles highlights drive

## DAY 2 | LOS ANGELES

Sun-kissed. Creative. Ruggedly good looking. LA is your ideal Tinder date – minus the swiping and awkward small talk. This morning we'll take to the Hollywood Hills with a local guide – expect the inside scoop on the movie biz and some BIG white letters (if you're looking for a sign, this is it). Afterwards, rest your legs and keep those eyes peeled. We're bouta see star-studded scenes on another driving tour. Spot your fav celebs at Hollywood's Walk of Fame. There's more than \*drumroll please\* 2700 concrete stars. For real. Then: turn up the boujee volume, we're heading to Beverly Hills. Swoon in shopping heaven along Rodeo Drive. Ogle super luxurious cribs with big name owners. Think: Hayley Bieber, Queen Bey, Tay Tay Swift. You never know who you're gonna rub shoulders with in the 90210 zip code. Hint: the bigger the sunnies, the bigger the star.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Hollywood Hills hike with local guide
- Los Angeles highlights drive

## DAY 3 | LOS ANGELES TO SAN DIEGO

Jump back on the minicoach amigos, today we're heading down the Pacific Coast to San Diego. After a drive around town, we'll park up at Mission Beach. Your next mission? Explore this beaut of a city! Ride the rollercoaster at Belmont Park. Stretch your legs along the beachfront boardwalk. Tuck into a California Burrito – they were born here. Or get your culture fix at Balboa Park, chock-a-block with alllll the museums and galleries. And this eve? Make a beeline for Old Town and get stuck into an authentic Mexican feast. Technicolour flags, tortillas and tequila = good times all round.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- San Diego highlights drive

## DAY 4 | SAN DIEGO

This is your day to delve deeper – need some suggestions? If aircraft carriers are your thing, there's an optional trip to the USS Midway to get on board with. Or take Fleetwood's advice and go your own way – slip on the Nikes and hit the lesser-known hiking trails around Balboa Park or head to Little Italy for not-so-little food portions. Later, find out why they call this place 'America's Craft Beer Capital' on a micro-brewery crawl with your trip mates. Or take a picnic down to the beach and watch the sun go down. This is what you came for.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the USS Midway: from \$16 USD

## DAY 5 | SAN DIEGO TO PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

There's time for one last dip in the Pacific Ocean before we roll onto Arizona today. This state is made for road trips. Stretches of endless sky. Expanses of red desert. Centuries-old history. And some pretty famous rock formations. Next: straighten your neckerchief and shine up that sheriff badge. When we pull up in Prescott, the saloons of Whiskey Row await. During the Cali Gold Rush this place was heaving with cowboys and miners searching for a shot (or a shoot). After going down in a blaze of flames in 1900, it was rebuilt to its heyday glory. Ready for a real wild (west) experience? Get out there, partner!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 6 | PRESCOTT TO GRAND CANYON REGION

Disclaimer: this is a bit of a drive day. So, stock up on snacks and share around the AUX cord – we're going to blast some banging tunes all the way to Flagstaff (the gateway to the Grand Canyon). This eve, get all starry-eyed with a night-time tour at Lowell Observatory. Stargazing got you feeling tiny? We'll continue the theme tomorrow – you've seen the pictures, but nothing can prepare you for the feels you'll have standing on the edge of something so mighty.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Stargazing tour at Lowell Observatory

## DAY 7 | GRAND CANYON REGION TO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

This is it folks, the moment you've been waiting for. The grandest of canyons awaits! One word to describe this place: mesmerising. And the only way to see one of the world's most incredible natural wonders in its entirety, is from the sky. DW we've organised an optional heli-tour for you. After you've filled your SD card, we'll make tracks to Sin City. Seriously, this place is so neon it hurts to look at. But we'll do just that on a driving tour, before settling in for another group feed.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Entry to Grand Canyon National Park
- Las Vegas Strip highlights drive



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Heli-tour over the Grand Canyon: from \$290 USD

## DAY 8 | LAS VEGAS

From big-budget stage shows, Michelin-star restaurants and Eiffel Tower clones – Vegas is the definition of OTT. But you can't help love it anyway. We're kicking off the entertainment with an included pole fitness class today. Everyone looks better upside down, right? This arvo: time to delve deeper into America's Playground. Our suggestions? Take an optional heli-tour over The Strip. Catch a ride on the High Roller Observation Wheel. Check out a shooting range, if that's your thing. Or hit up a Vegas-style pool party. Anything goes in this town.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Pole fitness class



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Heli-tour over the Las Vegas Strip: from \$130 USD
- Ride the High Roller Observation Wheel in Las Vegas: \$40 USD
- Visit a Las Vegas shooting range: from \$100 USD

## DAY 9 | LAS VEGAS TO YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK REGION, CALIFORNIA

Shake the confetti from your hair – we're outta here. Next stop? The Sierra Nevada Mountains. This place is Disneyland for outdoor enthusiasts. Where sheer-faced granite walls reign supreme, giant sequoia trees loom over dense forest floors and the sound of thundering waterfalls fill the air. Keen to show off your spider-monkey-worthy swinging skills? There's an optional aerial adventure course on the cards. Over dinner tonight, make a plan of attack for your free day tomorrow – your expert Trip Leader has plenty of suggestions.



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Aerial adventure course: prices available locally

## DAY 10 | YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

There aren't enough adjectives to describe this place – so we're not going to try. You've got a full day to experience the magic of Yosemite (yo-sem-it-ee) for yourself. Don't waste a second. Start with the Mist Trail for incredible views that compensate for the burning calves. Follow the trail to the top of Vernal Falls and be rewarded with a refreshing dip in Emerald Pool. Want more of a challenge? Follow 'nature's staircase' to the top of Nevada Falls. DW if walking isn't your thing – there's a free shuttle to get around. Keep your eyes peeled for deer, bears and golden eagles. David Attenborough wannabes eat your heart out. Worked up an appetite? Dinner tonight is on us.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Entry to Yosemite National Park

## DAY 11 | YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK REGION TO SAN FRANCISCO

The trip might be winding down – but the adventure sure as hell isn't over yet! We've got our eye on San Fran next. Home of Alcatraz prison and one famous red bridge that's pretending to be golden (we see you). Learn the who's who of 'The City' on a driving tour – including Pier 39, the Fisherman's Wharf and The Painted Ladies. Then: for the full local vibe track down a steaming plate of Joe's Special. What happens when you throw eggs, spinach and ground beef together? THIS.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- San Francisco highlights drive

## DAY 12 | SAN FRANCISCO

This is our last full day. So, don't hang about! Fuel up with a stack of pancakes that'll put your elastic waistbands to the test. Then, hire a set of wheels and ride across the Golden Gate Bridge into Sausalito. History buffs will want to tour Alcatraz (get your tix in advance!). Or wander the waterfront and get a pic with the locals at Pier 39. Union Square is the place to flash some plastic before you head home. Then: take a box of Pepple's Donuts to Marshall's Beach to watch the sunset. And tonight? It's our final group din – let's give this epic adventure the send-off it deserves!



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Alcatraz: from \$46 USD

## DAY 13 | SAN FRANCISCO

You tried the food. Met the locals. Stood on the edge. Said yes to the new and exotic. And all in under two weeks! Time to say our goodbyes, swap those Insta handles and start planning next year's reunion. Our Delve Deep: Mexico trip is pretty sweet. Just putting it out there...



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Shuttle to Los Angeles: from \$60 USD

# 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!**