



TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = bucket-list sights and plenty of free time to do whatever you wanna do, UK-edition. Sweet. We're hitting five INCREDIBLE nations all crammed into one teeny tiny corner of the planet. That's England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, The Republic of Ireland and Wales. Guess what? Each one is filled to the brim with its own unique cultures, languages, accents, foods and facts. Meaning? You'll need to enlist the help of a pro to make sense of it all. Lucky for you, we've got a few of 'em on hand. Ready for it?

WORTH NOTING...

Heading on this trip between November and March? You'll be hitting up Bamburgh instead of Alnwick on Day 4. It's the epitome of northern-winter-ghostly vibes. So keep your eyes PEELED.

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

- Walking tour in Oxford with Trip Leader
- Walking tour in York with Trip Leader
- Scenic drive through North Moors National Park to Whitby
- Visit Durham
- Visit Hadrian's Wall
- Walking tour of Edinburgh with Trip Leader
- Visit Stirling
- Visit Loch Ness
- Visit Glenfinnan
- Walking tour of Glasgow with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Belfast with Trip Leader
- Visit the Giant's Causeway
- Visit Londonderry/Derry
- Orientation walk of Galway with Trip Leader
- Visit the Cliffs of Moher
- Walking tour of Dublin with Trip Leader
- Photo stop at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllant
- Visit Stonehenge
- Visit Bath

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

London
Europe

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

London
Europe

TRIP CURRENCIES

- England - GBP
- Scotland - GBP
- Northern Ireland - GBP
- Republic of Ireland - EUR
- Wales - GBP

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | LONDON (ENGLAND)

One minute you're at home, dreaming of the second you hit London with all you got. Next minute, you're here. Making that dream a reality with a bunch of people who are 100% different but 100% the same. Ready to see what Britain and Ireland are about? Home to fish and chips. Bridgerton actors. Mind-blowing history. And really long names you probs can't pronounce. That's just the tip of the iceberg. First, we'll kick off the good times with our first included group dinner. Bonus points for the weirdest British facts (FYI it's illegal to hold a salmon and look suspicious here – time to make new evening plans).



MEALS:

- Dinner

DAY 2 | LONDON – OXFORD – YORK

The first full day. Let's. GO! We're leaving the Big Smoke behind cos our sights are set on Oxford. Our Trip Leader'll introduce us to the do-not-miss-this sights on a walking tour. Think: Magdalen College, Bodleian Library, Sheldonian Theatre and The Ashmolean Museum (the oldest museum in the country, FYI). Then, we're heading north. Make sure you rest those legs cos we've got another walking tour waiting for us in York. This time it's allll about medieval streets, the original Diagon Alley and 2000 years of history. 2000! Is your mind blown yet? After an AWESOME day of filling your noggin with facts and figures, you're probs gonna wanna let it all sink in. The night is yours. Find a cosy restaurant to get your foodie fill. Take a leisurely evening river cruise. Or settle in a dimly lit cocktail bar with an ambience you'll wanna enjoy all night long.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour in Oxford with Trip Leader
- Walking tour in York with Trip Leader

DAY 3 | YORK – WHITBY & DURHAM – NEWCASTLE

Wake up, it's another day of travel paradise. And we're taking the scenic route. Through North York Moors National Park. It's giving magical. It's giving vast af. It's giving gob-s-m-a-c-k-e-d. Make sure you've got a window seat. And put your phone away – your travel fam sitting in the aisle wanna see England's beaut countryside too. Whitby's our first stop. The gothic coastal town made famous by Captain Cook (and Dracula if you like vamp fiction). After that, a quick visit to the historic city of Durham is on the cards. Then: Newcastle! We've got one night in this iconic city so make the most of it. First step: get up to speed with the Geordie lingo. Examples include: "Howay man!", "Radgie" and "A right bobbly dazzler". Don't get the last two mixed up – you won't pass the vibe check.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Scenic drive through North Moors National Park to Whitby
- Visit Durham

DAY 4 | NEWCASTLE – HADRIAN’S WALL – EDINBURGH (SCOTLAND)

No lies – today is a bit of a drive day. BUT we’ve got some awesome stops along the way. Take a peek at what Roman life was like back in the year 122 with a stop along Hadrian’s Wall. Wander the barrack blocks of Housesteads Roman Fort and soak up the 360-views from the fortress. Next up on our summer shenanigans: Alnwick Castle. Potterheads will recognise this place first-go. Here in winter? Head up to Bamburgh Castle. Goosebumps at the ready cos this place has spooky written all over it. You’ll have free time to wander inside or grab some lunch at the cafe before we cross the border into bonnie Scotland. Dinner in Edinburgh is on us, so line those stomachs with a hearty pub feast. Tonight: you do you. And Make. It. Count.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Hadrian’s Wall



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Alnwick Castle (summer only): from £19
- Visit Bamburgh Castle (winter only): prices available locally

DAY 5 | EDINBURGH

Kick things off today with a walking tour of this medieval capital – swing by Edinburgh Castle, stroll the Royal Mile, get all the feels from Greyfriars Bobby’s statue and be in awe of St Giles Cathedral. Then? The rest is 100% up to you! Strap on the Nikes and breathe in that fresh air on a hike up Arthur’s Seat. Step aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia. Escape the crowds with a picnic in Princes Street Gardens. Tantalize that tongue on an optional food tour in one of the city’s most beautiful areas. Georgian New Town = next level. Or, there’s an opportunity to have a dram of whisky and learn all about the distilled bev on a one-of-a-kind experience. Tonight, gather the gang for a night on the Old Town – filled with quirky cocktail bars, traditional pubs and craft beerhouses: there’s something for everyone in Scotland’s capital.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Edinburgh with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scottish food tour in Georgian New Town: from £70
- Johnny Walker whisky experience: prices available locally

DAY 6 | EDINBURGH – STIRLING – SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

We might be waving goodbye to Edinburgh, but the mems we made here will stay with us forever. Facts. First up: Stirling. Find the National Wallace Monument. You can tell Braveheart fans (boomers in the fam) back home you’ve stood where the REAL Scottish hero is remembered – bonus points for screaming FREEDOMMM at the top of your lungs. Or grab your mates and wander up to Stirling Castle (on the hill, no cap). Next stop = immense landscapes. Mysterious legends. Culture-rich traditions. And a lot of attractive red-heads. It’s none other than the Scottish Highlands. Tonight, we’re settling in, stuffing our faces and swapping our best bits so far.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Stirling

DAY 7 | SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS – LOCH NESS & GLENFINNAN – SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Today's main character: the Scottish Highlands. The sidekick? Ol' Nessie. We've got a trip to her watery lair if you're up for it. Hear all the legends and see if you can spot the slippery sucker. Then there's Glenfinnan. You've 100% seen the i-con-ic railway bridge. It's Wizarding. World. Famous. Rather do your own thing? No worries! There's plenty to explore around here. Trust us. Later, you've got the evening to enjoy some downtime. Scrolling mindlessly on #traveltok for an hour or so is totally okay with us. *Take note: the Scottish Highlands are BIG – and we're unable to guarantee exact locations right now. So, sit tight and check your Trip Notes or Topdeck app for specific locations closer to take-off.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Loch Ness
- Visit Glenfinnan

DAY 8 | SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS – GLASGOW

Blast Lewis Capaldi as we roll back past more glens, mountains and lochs than you can shake a sporran at. Glasgow's next on the agenda. Get your bearings during a walking tour with your savvy in-the-know Trip Leader. They're gonna give you a rundown of this larger-than-life city as you hit George Square, Glasgow Cathedral, Riverside Museum and MORE. Then? The rest of the day is yours. Pick a direction and walk. Get lost. And lost again. Find something so random your mates back home won't believe it. Maybe you won't believe it yourself until it's Right. There. Drag your trip mates along for the ride. Memes shared are memes that'll live (way) longer than your average TikTok watch-time.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Glasgow with Trip Leader

DAY 9 | GLASGOW – BELFAST (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Rise and shine! We're leaving Scotland behind and setting sail for the Emerald Isle. First up? Belfast. Aka THE place to start getting to know this island-country. Tighten your Air Forces cos we've got a hot walk date with our Trip Leader. They're giving us the deets on The Troubles with visits to significant Protestant and Catholic estates as well as the Belfast Peace Wall. If you want more insider info, there's a black cab tour up for grabs today. It's not any black cab tour, it's Belfast famous. Led by local guides who have lived through The Troubles, these guys point out political murals whilst sharing their own stories. Tonight: head to the Cathedral Quarter to check out the bar scene. Or find a local haunt to warm your feet by the fire and sip on an Irish coffee. It's like a hug for your insides.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Belfast with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Belfast's Famous Black Cab Tour: prices available locally

DAY 10 | BELFAST – GIANTS CAUSEWAY & DERRY/LONDONDERRY – BELFAST

Bestie, you're gonna be stoked for today's Northern Ireland road trip. First up, we've got Giant's Causeway. You ain't ever seen anything like this before. Whether you believe it was formed by an underwater volcano or a giant called Finn, the moment you step foot onto one of these stones and look out to the water... well, there ain't nothing like it. Unfortunately, we can't stay here all day long. Don't cry, we've got a stop at (London)Derry. Fans of Derry Girls, make sure you snap at pic at the mural on Orchard Street. Then, it's back to Belfast for the night.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Giant's Causeway
- Visit Londonderry/Derry

DAY 11 | BELFAST – GALWAY (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

Cram in heaps of brekky, stock up on your new fave snacks (Tayto crisps are top tier) and get your comfies on. We've got a few hours on the road. Whip out UNO or catch up on the zeds – whatever you gotta do to pass the time, before we roll into Galway. It's the edge(ish) of Europe. Ed Sheeran's a clear winner for today's music vibe, obv. Our expert Trip Leader will introduce us to the city with pretty pastel houses along the waterfront on an orientation walk. Then: hit up Quay Street with the fam and get to know the locals – they're some of the friendliest people on earth. Not your vibe? Experience some of the county's culture during an intimate theatre performance at the Druid Theatre.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Galway with Trip Leader

DAY 12 | GALWAY

It's your day, your (Gal)way. You've got 24 hrs to embrace it all, so don't waste a second. Need some suggestions? Set sail for the Aran Islands and rewind to a time of horse-drawn carts, ancient forts and locally spoken Gaelic. Hire a bike and head out to the prehistoric clifftop fort of Dún Aonghasa. Check out the 'Worm Hole'. Or take a picnic to one of the pristine sandy beaches and soak up all the incredible views. This is livin'. Staying around town? Make sure you check out Wolfe Tone Bridge, the Spanish Arch, Lynch's Castle and settle in for a shamrock tea at Cupán Tae. After? It's time for an included group dinner before you find your Galway girl/boy at O'Connor's Pub.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Aran Islands: from €39

DAY 13 | GALWAY – CLIFFS OF MOHER – DUBLIN

Next up: the cobblestone streets of Temple Bar and historic watering holes of the capital. But first, glue your nose to the coach window as we take the scenic route across the Burren to the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher. You're gonna want your camera charged for this one. We'll stop at the award-winning visitor centre (built into a hillside for full-on Hobbit vibes) before rolling into Dublin. Home of saints, scholars and U2 – tonight is yours to take on the buzzing local nightlife. And you wanna be introduced to this city right, right? An optional dinner and dance that'll get your feet stomping and your hands clapping will give you the real Dublin experience. Including the craic.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Cliffs of Moher



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Irish dinner and dance experience: prices available locally

DAY 14 | DUBLIN

Slip on your Birks and down that cup of Joe – we'll get our bearings around this historic city on a walking tour. Tick off Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin Castle, the General Post Office and Temple Bar. Then? You've got the rest of the afternoon to do whatever you want. Got a taste for an Irish bev? Head to the Jameson Distillery. Or the Guinness Storehouse. We've got optional tours at both. Check out the Book of Kells at Trinity College. Take a tour of Kilmainham Gaol. Buy a claddagh ring for someone special along Drury Street. And don't miss out on a cone of brown-bread ice cream at Murphy's. Trust us.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Dublin with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guinness Storehouse tour: prices available locally
- Jameson Distillery tour: prices available locally

DAY 15 | DUBLIN – NORTH WALES (WALES)

Set your alarms for an early start. We're ferrying over to wild Wales – a country that has collectively rejected the letters K, Q, V and Z. Speaking of letters – we'll make a photo stop at the place with the longest name in Europe. Work on your pronunciation for a bit, then we'll roll through the scenic countryside to Llangollen. A cute lil Welsh town on the riverfront – you'll have the afternoon to check out the 13th-century ruins of Castell Dinas Brân, jump aboard the steam train, or take a walk along the canal. Tonight: gather the gang to seek out a local pub for some live music and a hearty feed along the riverfront. *Take note: North Wales is a BIG place – and we're unable to guarantee exact locations right now. So, sit tight and check your Trip Notes or Topdeck app for specific locations closer to take-off.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Photo stop at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch

DAY 16 | NORTH WALES – CARDIFF

Today we're gonna find out why so many English university students flock to study in Cardiff. Hint: it has something to do with the awesome bands that pass through. Check out the Castle on the Hill (yep, another one). Take a tour of Principality Stadium. Wander around Cardiff Bay. And tuck into a Welsh cake at Cardiff Central Market. At dinner tonight, we're going to give this incredible adventure the send-off it deserves – make sure you catch a home-grown act at the Welsh Club or sample a quirky cocktail at The Dead Canary (their menu is as whacky as the name).



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 17 | CARDIFF – BATH & STONEHENGE – LONDON (ENGLAND)

Quick maths: this is our last day. But we're sure as hell not done yet! En route to London, we'll stop by the gobsmackingly beautiful Bath to take in the Abbey, Royal Crescent and Roman Baths. You've got free time to take a tour of the Baths and sample the healing (read: disgusting) spa water. Or treat yourself to a classy lunch at The Pump Room. Get a Bath Bun (or two) takeaway before we make tracks to our next stop: the mystical stones of Stonehenge. One of the most iconic prehistoric sites in the world, take it alllllll in before piling back on the coach for the drive back to ol' Blighty. Swap TikTok handles and start planning that reunion trip – where to next?



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Stonehenge
- Visit Bath

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!