



Share the Experience

## PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

### OKTOBERFEST COACH CAMPING TRIPS 2012

Thank you for choosing to holiday with Topdeck! We certainly appreciate your decision to travel with us and rest assured that everyone at Topdeck will be doing their utmost to ensure you have the holiday of a lifetime.

We have prepared the following pre-departure information which we trust will assist you in planning your trip. Some points should be taken as a *guide only* - after all, everyone is different! For instance information such as daily spending money and clothing lists can vary greatly from one person to the next, so please bear this in mind. However, we are sure you will find the information in general to be very useful.

Get ready for a fantastic holiday!

*From all the crew at Topdeck Travel*

### FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Oktoberfest, or “Wies’n” as the locals call it, started way back on 12 October, 1810 when Prince Ludwig of Bavaria married Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen and celebrated the wedding with a horse race in a big field outside the city. The citizens were invited to attend and the Prince even got the Munich breweries to knock up a special brew in commemoration of the event. This was the beginning of what has grown into one of the biggest festivals on the planet.

In 2012 the program of events starts with the tapping of the first barrel at midday on 22 September and continues to the final day on 7 October. During this period the beer tents are open from 10am until 10.30pm every day (9.00am on weekends), and serve over 6.6 million litres of beer to over 6 million visitors.

### BAGGAGE

We recommend soft bags, suitcases or frameless backpacks, plus a small day pack or carry bag. Please limit your luggage to a **maximum of 20kgs**. Maximum allowable size for all backpacks must not exceed 70cm x 50cm x 25cm. Please keep in mind you are staying in twin-share dome tents, and luggage space is not extensive. Please note that due to space and weight restrictions on our coaches, passengers with too much luggage on departure morning in London may be told that they cannot take their entire luggage with them and you will be asked to leave the excess behind. You will have to make your own arrangements to have any excess luggage stored

## SUGGESTED CLOTHING LIST

As a general rule, **pack light!** People invariably bring more than they need, and you will have to transport it around before and after the trip, as well as in and out of the accommodation during the trip!

Remember also that during your trip you are bound to find items that you may wish to buy, so leave room in your luggage for additional purchases. A full coach of passengers with heavy bags may render it overweight, which will result in severe disruption to our schedules and potentially affect our itinerary, so please pack so that your baggage will be less than 20kg by the end of the trip, not just at the start!

The following clothing list is suggested, based on our experience:

- 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- 1 pair thongs / jandals / flip-flops
- 1 pair jeans / trousers
- 1 pairs shorts / skirt
- Warm jacket / coat
- 2 shirts / t-shirts
- 1 sweater / jumper
- 1 rainproof jacket
- Underwear and socks!

General things to pack:

- Sleeping bag
- Towel
- Toiletries inc. toilet paper
- Basic medical kit (inc. plasters, aspirin etc)
- Washing powder
- Conversion plug

Optional:

- Sewing kit
- Sleeping sheet / sleeping bag liner
- Pillow
- Torch

Please keep in mind that it can get VERY COLD overnight during Oktoberfest, so we recommend a **warm sleeping bag** as well as **warm sleeping clothes**, including thermals, just in case. Please also be aware that most things you might want to bring, for instance towels, washing powder, insect repellent etc. are easily purchased in Europe before your trip starts.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Breakfasts:** These are included as per the trip itinerary, and times vary depending on each day's itinerary. Breakfast times will be on display on a large whiteboard at the Topdeck tent located in the campsite. We do offer all passengers a full cooked hot breakfast, as well as cold options, to make sure you start the day on a full stomach!

**Costume:** The traditional dress for the duration of the festival is lederhosen for boys and a dirndl for girls. If you wish, you can buy the whole outfit once in Munich for anywhere from €70 to over €500! If you do decide to purchase traditional dress, it makes a great souvenir after the festival has ended.

**Beer Tent Reservations:** Topdeck Travel is unable to make reservations in the Oktoberfest grounds in behalf of passengers. You are able to enter the tents without a reservation, just make sure you arrive at the beer tents early (especially on weekends) as the tents fill up very quickly. Once the tents are full, you cannot enter. On weekends the tents often close before 11.00 am. During the week the tents are normally open until late in the afternoon.

In order to make a reservation for a table, you must do so with the individual breweries that set up the tents. Further information about this can be found [on the official Oktoberfest website](#).

## INSURANCE

It is **compulsory** for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance before the trip departs covering cancellation, medical expenses including repatriation, loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and public liability. Topdeck can issue travel insurance, please refer to our website [www.topdeck.travel](http://www.topdeck.travel), click on 'Travelling with Topdeck' and then 'Travel Advice' for more information. You must bring a copy of your travel insurance policy with you on the trip.

Your Topdeck Crew will make a record of your basic travel insurance details at the start of your trip, e.g. the name of the insurance company, the 24 hour emergency telephone number, and your policy number. These will be faxed back to our London office to ensure that if you lose your policy details, they can be easily retrieved.

## VISAS AND PASSPORT INFORMATION

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if there is not at least 6 months validity on your passport after your departure date from their country. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries. **It is your responsibility to obtain these prior to the departure of the trip.** Consult your agent to determine which visas you will require.

We also have a visa chart on our website listing the visas required by some nationalities travelling on our trips. To check go to our website [www.topdeck.travel](http://www.topdeck.travel), click on 'Travelling with Topdeck' and then 'Visa Information'.

Remember that some visas can take up to six weeks to obtain, so do not leave it until the last minute. Also bear in mind that the validity of the visa often runs from the date of issue rather than date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

## SCHENGEN AGREEMENT

France, Italy, Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, Portugal, Luxembourg, Greece, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden are all part of the Schengen Agreement, which means that one visa can be used to cover all of these countries. If you need a visa for any of these countries that your trip visits, **you may require a multi-entry Schengen visa.** The country you will be spending the most time in usually issues the Schengen visa.

## HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS

If you suffer from any kind of medical condition you must advise Topdeck at the time of booking, or at least six weeks prior to the departure of your trip. No vaccinations are currently compulsory for entry into European countries. Please reconfirm this before you leave as conditions could change.

If you require regular medication, you must have an ample supply of medication before your trip departs, as it can be difficult to obtain in some countries. You must be able to administer your own medication, as Topdeck Road Crew will not be able to administer it, and there are no guarantees that there will be anyone with first aid training on board.

## SPENDING MONEY

The main currency in Spain is the Euro (€). Automatic Teller Machines (**ATMs**) are available all over Europe and are the safest and easiest way to have access to cash. Travellers' cheques are also accepted in Europe and are an alternative to using ATMs.

Most well known **credit cards** are accepted in Europe. We recommend that you bring yours along in case you see something special, which you haven't budgeted for. Credit cards **CANNOT** be used for optional excursions.

Based on past experience, we recommend at least €50-€60 Euros per day to cover your normal expenses including sightseeing, small souvenir shopping and non-included meals. If you wish to purchase expensive souvenirs, you will need to budget for more, or use your credit cards for these purchases. Remember, this is a *guideline* figure and can vary greatly between individuals according to your overall personal budget and spending habits!

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

On most trips we have arranged extra activities that we think will enhance your travel experience, but you have a choice as to whether or not you will participate. These are called Optional Excursions and are not included in the cost of your trip. They are usually organised on a group participation basis and should be taken into consideration when budgeting your spending money. See the section called **Optional Excursions on your trip itinerary** to help you assess any extra personal expenses you may incur.

None of the optional excursions on your trip are operated by Topdeck, and nor do they form part of your contract with Topdeck for your trip. Topdeck arranges optional excursions as an Agent of the local supplier. Should you participate in any optional excursions your contract will be with the local supplier of the excursion, and their conditions will apply. We have selected all of these operators based on recommendations from past passengers and Topdeck Road Crew.

## ACCOMMODATION

Your trip will stay in pre-erected, twin-share dome tents with air mattresses. Please ensure you bring your own bedding (e.g. sleeping bag), as it gets **very cold** during the evening in Munich. Whilst it may be warm during the day in the sunshine, at night in Munich during autumn it can often drop below zero degrees Celsius, and we recommend that you bring warm clothes to wear once the sun goes down of an evening. The temperature drops quite suddenly overnight, and you will require a warm sleeping bag for all camping trips.

Camping Thalkirchen has a small supermarkets, bar, showers and public toilets. All Topdeck passengers are situated in a Topdeck area as a large group. Please be aware that for single travellers Topdeck operates a single sex policy when allocating tents.

Please be aware that, during Oktoberfest, Camping Thalkirchen charges for the hot water in the campsite showers. Tokens are available for purchase from the reception of Camping Thalkirchen, or from Topdeck's check in desk. In addition, during Oktoberfest Camping Thalkirchen does not provide toilet paper in the campsite toilets, so we recommend that you bring some with you or purchase some at the campsite supermarket.

## MEALS

Fully cooked breakfasts are included every day you are in Munich, as per your trip itinerary. Please be aware that our breakfasts are a buffet style menu, so if you have special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian or wheat intolerance) there will be some options available for you. However, we cannot cater for tastes or dislikes.

For trips that visit Prague, a buffet style continental breakfast is provided by the hostel.

## TOILETS

In most European countries you will have to pay a small amount to use public toilets at service stations and in city centres. It is a common practice in Europe and should be regarded as a form of 'tipping', as the money goes to the people who clean and/or maintain the facilities. It is very rare that public toilets do not supply toilet paper, but it may be useful to carry a pack of tissues with you. Please keep in mind that, during Oktoberfest, Camping Thalkirchen does not provide toilet paper, so you should either take pack some toilet paper in your luggage, or you are able to purchase rolls at the supermarket in the campsite.

## CLAIM YOUR FREE TOPDECK GLOBAL SIM CARD BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR YOUR TRIP

All our travellers are entitled to claim a free Topdeck global SIM card to use while on their Topdeck trip! Just follow this link to claim yours: [www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim](http://www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim) - use your Topdeck "Booking Reference" and purchase a minimum of \$20 calling credit.

The Topdeck SIM is a "roaming free" SIM card just drop it into your mobile and enjoy savings of up to 90% on calls while travelling throughout Europe.

Every SIM card includes the eKit Travel Journal. The Travel Journal automatically updates your location to Google maps on a daily basis. This allows you to keep track of where you've been, and with the option to publish this on Facebook and twitter you can easily show-off your travels to friends and family. Not only does this provide a hassle free way of keeping in contact, but you can text in your own journal updates or photos for an even more detailed record of your holiday!

- Free Global SIM card and US \$5 bonus call credit, when you purchase \$20 of call credit
- Coverage in 150 countries including all Topdeck destinations

\* Fast low-cost 1<sup>st</sup> class shipping to Australia, UK, Europe, USA and Canada

\* You can upgrade your SIM card's calling plan for even better international rates:

- Passport Plus – International rates from just USD \$0.29 per minute
- Passport SIM / Home & Roam SIM – Free to receive calls in over 60 countries

To redeem your FREE SIM card and \$5 credit **before you travel** visit: [www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim](http://www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim) - and use your Topdeck "Booking Reference". For more information visit the above URL or phone our dedicated 24/7 Customer Service on: **(AUS)** 1800-795-252, **(UK)** 0800-376-2370, **(USA)** 1-888-513-8804, **(CAN)** 1888-513-8804

## DEPARTING ON YOUR TRIP

Our London departure point for all Oktoberfest coach trips is:

<b>Topdeck Travel,</b> 107 Power Road, London, W4 5PY.
--

The closest station is Gunnersbury, which is located both on the District Line and also the Overland train line. At Gunnersbury station take the exit for Chiswick High Road, and turn left. The second street on your right will be Power Road (there is a large Honda car dealership on the corner). A Topdeck representative will be available from 12 noon to assist you with check in.

## DEPARTURE TIMES OF EUROPEAN TRIPS FROM LONDON:

Check-in time at Topdeck Travel:	12.00 - 12.30pm
Departure time by:	1.00pm

## **IF YOU MISS THE DEPARTURE IN LONDON – WHAT TO DO!**

Firstly ring our **emergency number** +44 77 9277 5415 and our staff can advise you what to do next.

If you happen to miss your coach, trips leaving from London travel to Dover where they catch a ferry to Calais, and then drive overnight to Munich. All Oktoberfest camping trips will be stay at:

**Camping Thalkirchen**  
Zentralland Strasse 49  
81379 Munich, Germany

Topdeck's campsite, Camping Thalkirchen, is located just 6 kilometres from the Oktoberfest grounds. To get to Camping Thalkirchen once you are in Munich, take the Metro line U3 (orange line) to Thalkirchen (Tierpark) Station. You can then change to bus 135 direct to camp, or walking only takes about 20 minutes. Please be aware that, between midnight and 8.00am, the campsite closes its gates and only allows people already staying at the campsite entry, so you may not be able to access the campsite until they re-open the next morning.

## **FINISHING YOUR TRIP**

All trips finishing in London finish at 107 Power Road, Chiswick, London W4 5PY. Please be aware that delays often occur during Oktoberfest either on the motorways coming towards Calais or at UK Immigration, which is now in Calais. If this happens and we miss our normal ferry from Calais to Dover, your arrival time back in London could be delayed by up to several hours. Therefore we strongly recommend that you do not book travel out of London on the afternoon your trip finishes.

## **GREAT DEALS ON OUR FESTIVALS AND SHORT BREAK PACKAGES!**

Did you know Topdeck also run a great range of festival and short break packages all year round? These include:

- Pamplona "Running of the Bulls"
- La Tomatina
- Las Fallas
- Edinburgh Fringe Festival
- Christmas and New Years Trips
- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter Trips
- Anzac Day
- Venice Carnival
- Ski packages and MORE

For further details, dates and prices, or to book, please visit our website [www.topdeck.travel](http://www.topdeck.travel)

## **PAST PASSENGER DISCOUNT**

Thinking about booking another trip, festival or short break with us? As a thank you for being a loyal Topdeck customer, you can claim the following discounts on your next trip!

- 5% off any Topdeck trip departing in 2012.

**\*\*Terms & Conditions apply – please see the website for full details\*\***

## TOPDECK REWARDS: REWARDS ON FESTIVAL BOOKINGS

Medal	Discount	Requirement
BRONZE	SAVE 10%*	WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR SECOND TOPDECK FESTIVAL
SILVER	SAVE 12.5%*	WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR THIRD TOPDECK FESTIVAL
GOLD	SAVE 15%*	WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR FOURTH TOPDECK FESTIVAL

\*For terms and conditions please see go to [www.topdeck.travel](http://www.topdeck.travel) and look under 'deals and competitions'

### FINAL CHECKLIST

- Passport
- Airline tickets (where applicable)
- Insurance Policy (you must bring this with you)
- Visas if required
- Camera, Batteries
- Conversion plug
- Topdeck eKit global phone card, sim card or phone
- Sense of excitement!

*We trust you have found this information useful, and we sincerely hope that you have a fantastic holiday with Topdeck! Thanks again for choosing to travel with us.*

*From all the crew at Topdeck Travel*