



Share the Experience

June 2011

PRAGUE NEW YEARS PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION 2011

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

We have prepared the following information for you which we trust will assist you in planning for your trip. Some points should be taken as a guide only such as personal spending money, which can vary greatly between individuals but we are sure you will find the information in general very useful.

Get ready for a fantastic holiday!

From all the Crew at Topdeck Travel

Baggage

We recommend frameless backpacks, plus a small day pack or carry bag. Remember, if you take too much, you have to carry it around before and after the trip! **Please limit your baggage allowance to a maximum of 20kgs.** Maximum allowable size for all bags must not exceed 70cm x 50cm x 25cm. Please keep in mind you are staying in multi-share hostel accommodation, and luggage space in the dorm rooms is not extensive

Suggested Clothing List

The following clothing list is suggested based on our experience. The basic rule however is "pack light". Our passengers invariably state they wished they had brought half the amount of clothes and remember you are bound to find items to purchase on your trip so leave room for additional purchases during your holiday. Please ensure your bag weight doesn't go over 20kg at the end of the trip not the beginning!!

- Smart casual evening wear
- 1 pairs of jeans / trousers
- 1 pair of walking shoes
- 1 sweater / jumper
- 1 warm jacket / coat
- 2 shirts / t-shirts / long-sleeved shirts
- 1 rainproof jacket
- 1 pair of shoes (smart/casual)
- Underwear and socks
- Hat, scarf, gloves

General

- Basic medical kit (inc. aspirins, plasters)
- Towel
- Sewing kit
- Toiletries

Visa 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 passports 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.topdecktravel.co.uk, click on to 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.

Multiple Entry Visas

Certain trips or your personal travel arrangements may require multiple entry visas. Please check your itinerary for the correct port of entry / exit for your trip.

SCHENGEN AGREEMENT:

France, Italy, Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Portugal, Luxembourg, Greece, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, 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.

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, 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 Trip Leader 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.

Health & 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

Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are available all over the Czech Republic and are the safest and easiest way to have access to cash. Travellers' cheques are also accepted in the Czech Republic and are an alternative to using ATMs, however if your trip is over a weekend or public holiday you may find it difficult to cash your travellers' cheques. The Czech Koruna (CZK) is the main currency used in the Czech Republic. We recommend the equivalent of approximately €50-€60 Euros per day to cover your normal expenses. 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!

Credit Cards

Most well known credit cards are accepted in the Czech Republic. 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.

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.

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.

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 - 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 1st 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 - 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

Starting Your Trip

The starting point for your Prague New Year trip is:

Plus Prague Hostel,
 Plus Prague, Přívozní 1
 Praha 7
 Czech Republic

Prague is easy to reach by all means of transportation. It has one main airport, Ruzyně International Airport. If you come to Prague by train, you will arrive at one of the main stations, which are Hlavní nádraží (formerly called and sometimes still referred to as Wilsonovo nádraží), Praha-Smíchov, Praha-Holešovice, Praha-Libeň and Masarykovo nádraží. All airports and train stations are well connected to all main locations in Berlin by public transport. Prague is served by a far reaching network of bus, metro and rail lines.

Directions: To get to the hostel take Metro line C (red line) in the direction Letňany, and get off at Nádraží Holešovice station. Turn left when you step off the train carriage and go up the escalator. Exit from the front of the station, cross the tram rails to the other side of the road and from there take any tram. Validate your tram ticket in the yellow box on the tram (if you have just come off the metro, you don't need to validate it again) and go one stop to Ortenovo Náměstí. On the corner you will see the Hotel Plaza Alta, walk in this direction. You can see the hostel from here on your left side; just a 2 minute walk from tram stop to hostel.

Check-In Time of Your Trip:

Check-in time at Plus Prague Hostel:	3.00 - 6.00pm
Trip briefing time:	6.30pm

If You Miss the Check-In Time – What To Do!

If you miss the check-in time, your Topdeck trip leader will leave a "What's On" Sheet in reception to advise you of where the group is going to be. You should still be able to check in to your room with the hostel reception staff. If you have any difficulties checking in, ring our London office on +44 (0)20 8987 3300 or our emergency number on +44 (0)77 9277 5415

Finishing your trip

Your Prague New Year trip finishes after breakfast on 2 February. If you have booked post-accommodation through Topdeck please be aware you may need to change rooms on this day.

Accommodation

Your Prague New Year trip will stay at in multi-share hostel accommodation. The number of people in a room varies, however rooms in the hostel are usually 4-6 bedded dorm rooms. Please be aware that this trip **does not** operate a single sex policy and therefore you may be sharing your room with Topdeck passengers of the opposite sex.

Meals

Breakfasts are included every day (except the first morning). Evening meals are included as detailed in the trip itinerary. Many lunches and dinners are not included, so that you can take full advantage of the variety of food available in the Czech Republic. If you have special dietary requirements e.g. vegetarian or wheat intolerance, we will make every endeavour to cater to your specific needs as long as you advise your agent or reservations when you book.

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.

Great Deals on our Festival and Short Break packages!

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

These include:

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

Past Passenger Discount

As a thank you for being a loyal Topdeck customer, you can claim your 5% discount off any Topdeck Europe, Egypt, Africa or Festival trip departing in 2012 when you book your next Topdeck trip (*Terms & Conditions apply – please see the website for full details).

Topdeck Rewards: Rewards on Festival Bookings

		
SAVE 10%*	SAVE 12.5%*	SAVE 15%*
WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR SECOND TOPDECK FESTIVAL	WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR THIRD TOPDECK FESTIVAL	WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR FOURTH TOPDECK FESTIVAL

*For terms and conditions please see go to www.topdeck.travel and look under 'deals and competitions'

Final Checklist

- * Passport
- * Airline tickets
- * Insurance Policy (you must bring this with you)
- * Visas if required
- * Camera, Batteries
- * Conversion plug

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