





TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Explore the beautiful Adriatic region and the rest of Eastern Europe on this fantastic camping adventure. Visit vibrant, yet under-explored Eastern European cities and enjoy three days sailing in the turquoise waters of the Greek Med, all while making your way from historic Rome to funky Berlin. Camping has never been so exciting!

WORTH NOTING...

This is a sector of the 34 Day European Adventure trip.

A sleeping bag will be REQUIRED for this trip.

WHAT YOU **NEED TO KNOW**

Get Social

18
Nights

Download app

37
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

- Driving tour of Tirana with a local guide
- Visit Budva
- Walking tour of Dubrovnik with a local guide
- Entry to Plitvice Lakes National Park
- Driving tour of Budapest
- Walking tour of Kraków
- Visit former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Walking tour of Prague
- Walking tour of the restored city of Dresden
- Driving tour of Berlin

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | ROME, ITALY

Meet your Trip Leader and step back to 753 BC in one of the world's oldest open-air museums. Make like Caesar (the emperor, not the salad) and work up a 'colossus' hunger as you pass by the Pantheon, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain, sit on the Spanish Steps and visit ancient history's version of the Hunger Games set at the Colosseum. Tonight, you're in Disneyland for foodies. Have fun.

MEALS:

- Dinner

DAY 2 | ROME TO SAILING IN GREECE VIA OVERNIGHT FERRY

Play connect the dots with the stars or let the swell rock you to sleep as we ferry our way from from bella Italia to Greece. Restaurants, bars, and cosy cabin rooms will keep you comfortable.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch

DAY 3 | SAILING IN GREECE

A short drive along the Greek coastline, then it's on to our flotilla of yachts for three days of sun, sand and sailing on the Ionian Sea. By night, flaunt those European tan lines as we drop anchor and hop between authentic Greek tavernas for a hat-trick of feasting, table dancing and ouzo. You know the saying 'too much of a good thing'? Neither do we.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 4 | SAILING IN GREECE

A free day to sail, swim, eat, sleep, repeat. Spend the day your way.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch

DAY 5 | SAILING IN GREECE

More turquoise water. More swimming. More diving off boats. More epic Instagram shots. You could probably get used to this.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch

DAY 6 | SAILING IN GREECE TO TIRANA, ALBANIA

What happens when you paint a former communist capital in vivid colours? According to Tirana's artist-turned-mayor-turned-TED speaker Edi Rama, people start paying taxes and crime rates plummet. True story. We'll kick things off with a driving tour and a group dinner before we let you loose into the night.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Tirana with a local guide

DAY 7 | TIRANA TO DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

Press your nose to the window and soak up all the stunning views that race past the coach window as we head up Montenegro's coast on our way to the most famous walled city in Europe (stopping at Budva on the way). Later, we'll take a wander around Dubrovnik's tiny cobblestoned streets and explore a few hidden cafés and shops before grabbing dinner and checking out the glitzy nightlife.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Budva
- Walking tour of Dubrovnik with a local guide

DAY 8 | DUBROVNIK

Yay! A free day in Dubrovnik! Spend some time checking out the residential homes further up in the Old Town for some awesome views, then relish a cold beer on the wall as the sun sets over the Adriatic. Alternatively, take to the turquoise water with a spot of optional sea kayaking around the city walls. This is the good life.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Sea kayaking around the Dubrovnik Walls
- Game of Thrones tour

DAY 9 | DUBROVNIK TO PLITVICE LAKES VIA ZADAR

Today we'll listen to the ocean play an instrument in Zadar. Yep, you read that right. The Sea Organ is a quirky art installation nested within the city's eclectic mix of Roman ruins and public art. More cool facts await you on a guided city tour with your brainy Trip Leader. Next up: waterfalls and a slice of bliss at Plitvice Lakes National Park.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

DAY 10 | PLITVICE LAKES

Today is brought to you by Mother Nature. Made up of 16 lakes connected by streams and waterfalls and surrounded by 300 square kilometres of national park, Plitvice Lakes didn't make it onto the UNESCO World Heritage list for nothing. Hike up to see the tallest waterfall in Croatia or glide across the crystal blue lakes in a rowboat. Mindfulness just got a whole new meaning.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Entry to Plitvice Lakes National Park

DAY 11 | PLITVICE LAKES TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Hungary for more? Budapest is up next! A driving tour will get you down and Danube (that being the river) with twin cities Buda and Pest. Check out Hero's Square, Parliament House, the National Palace, Fisherman's Bastion and the swanky Andrássy Avenue. Then it's time to meet the major food groups: goulash, cabbage rolls and dumplings.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Budapest

DAY 12 | BUDAPEST

A free day to take on a city with enough baroque, neoclassical and art nouveau architecture to keep you entertained for hours. Tonight, hang with the hipsters and drink local fruit brandy at one of the original ruin bars. Wanna go one step further? An optional dinner cruise on the Danube has your name on it.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Dinner cruise on the Danube River

DAY 13 | BUDAPEST TO KRAKÓW, POLAND

Legend has it a dragon had to be defeated in order for Kraków to be built – bit tougher than the usual council approvals, no? Get acquainted with Poland's beating heart (and the largest medieval town square in Europe) with a walking tour. Buff up on history at Wawel Castle, feed the ducks from the banks of the Wisla and slay a few glasses of mead after dinner. Did someone say optional pub crawl?

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Kraków

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Kraków pub crawl

DAY 14 | KRAKÓW

After breakfast it's your day, your choice. Our recommendations? Well, you could discover Kraków's inner hipster in the Jewish district or shop for amber in the UNESCO-listed Cloth Hall. If all else fails, there's always pierogi and potato pancakes to keep you busy.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 15 | KRAKÓW TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

First, a visit to former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau for a lesson in the resilience of humanity. Then, on to Prague. Get Insta-happy and seek out the John Lennon Wall, soak up some Czech history at the National or Communist Museum or get a taste of the quirky local culture at a marionette puppet opera (you gotta see it to believe it).

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Walking tour of Prague

DAY 16 | PRAGUE

Another free day for the win. Snap a selfie at Prague's own Eiffel Tower, visit a miniatures museum, eat roast pork from one of the street vendors lining Old Town Square and wash it all down with a beer. As in, a really good beer. Prague, we love you.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 17 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY

Get acquainted with 800 year-old Dresden – a city virtually destroyed in WWII and then rebuilt – and check out the Frauenkirche before we make tracks to Berlin. Prep yourself for currywurst, absinthe and more hipsters per capita than anywhere else. We'll drive you around to see (what's left of) the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag building.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of the restored city of Dresden
- Driving tour of Berlin

DAY 18 | BERLIN

Today, why not step out on an optional Third Reich walking tour for a local insight into what the city was like under Nazi rule during World War II? Kreuzberg is a hit for lunch. Afternoon suggestion? Have a picnic at the historic Tempelhof airport-turned-public park. Tonight: explore the city after dark on an optional alternative street art and nightlife tour.

MEALS:

- Breakfast

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Third Reich walking tour
- Street art and nightlife tour

DAY 19 | BERLIN

Like all good things, this trip comes to an end after breakfast. Auf wiedersehen, pet. Facebook friends anyone?

MEALS:

- Breakfast

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!