



TOPDECKER, meet Europe

Is this trip for you? DISTINCTIVE. REWARDING. NOT-YOUR-USUAL.

Done with the standard Euro trip and now you want more? More diverse culture. More fascinating history. More alternative views. More pasta, pierogi, paprika and Pilsner. You're gonna' find it here. From Vienna's Baroque palaces to Amsterdam's cobblestoned streets, Budapest's ruin bars to Berlin's beer halls - and the lesser-known gems of Bratislava and Kraków. This is Eastern Europe at its finest. Time to delve deeper.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Hostel Plus



Nights



Android/iPhone
app download
info



This is a principal
package.

Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

PLEASE NOTE: We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Walking tour of Rome
- + Walking tour of Venice
- + Vaporetto ride in Venice
- + Driving tour of Vienna
- + Orientation tour of Bratislava
- + Driving tour of Budapest
- + Danube River Cruise
- + Walking tour of Kraków
- + Walking tour of Prague
- + Orientation tour of the restored city of Dresden
- + Driving tour of Berlin

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Venice bus tickets
- + Venice shuttle train tickets
- + Walking tour of Venice
- + Vaporetto ride
- + Driving tour of Vienna
- + Orientation tour of Bratislava
- + Driving tour of Budapest
- + Danube River Cruise
- + Walking tour of Kraków
- + Kraków metro tickets
- + Walking tour of Prague
- + Prague metro tickets
- + Orientation tour of the restored city of Dresden
- + Driving tour of Berlin

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Rome
Italy

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Amsterdam
Netherlands

TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Italy - EUR
- + Austria - EUR
- + Slovakia - EUR
- + Hungary - HUF
- + Poland - PLN
- + Czech Republic - CZK
- + Germany - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER

DAY 1 | ROME, ITALY

Ready to sack off the mundane and uncover extraordinary? Meet us in la bella Roma, then prepare for a walking tour to end all walking tours. Slip on your Birks, fill up your water bottle and pack your anti-chafing cream – you're gonna' need it. We're talking a solid few hours of non-stop sights, off-the-tourist-trail hidden gems and a run-down of almost 3000 years of history. Pass by the Pantheon, throw our two cents in the Trevi Fountain, (don't) sit on the Spanish Steps and wind things up under the shadow of the mighty Colosseum. Epic doesn't even cut it. Then, you're in Disneyland for foodies so our included dinner tonight is guaranteed to be good. Buon appetito!



MEALS:

- + Dinner
- + Included today
- + Walking tour of Rome

DAY 2 | ROME TO VENICE

No lies – we have a long drive today. BUT name a better way to get to know your trip mates than handing 'round the AUX cord. Later, we'll park up in Venice – home to over 400 bridges and birthplace of Vivaldi. Acquaint yourself with the usual suspects on a walking tour – ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Accademia Bridge. Then, this beautifully romantic city is yours for the taking. For dinner, score a cheap(ish) meal at Osteria Al Portego or enjoy a spritz overlooking one of Venice's fuchsia-pink sunsets.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Venice bus tickets
- + Venice shuttle train tickets
- + Walking tour of Venice



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Get a personalised trip T-shirt or hoodie: from €21

DAY 3 | VENICE

Centuries-old architecture. Inventive cuisine. And a bucket-load of culture. Venice is just begging to be explored. Do the obvious and hop aboard an optional gondola ride along the Grand Canal. Spend your time seeking out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop. Head off the tourist trail with a trip to Giudecca Island. Or forget all the above and embark on a day-long gelataria-crawl. Go wandering. Chat to the locals. Get lost in the maze of canals and piazzas. That's what makes the memories.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Vaporetto ride



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Gondola ride: from €20

DAY 4 | VENICE TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Order one last coffee in poor Italian (hey, you tried!), this morning we'll weave our way through the Alps to Austria. Ten points if you can guess what Vienna is famous for. Musicians. Grand coffee houses. And strudel (duh!). Enjoy a quick stop at the opulent Schönbrunn Palace (home of the Princess Sisi), before driving by the likes of the Opera House, Hofburg Palace, Museum Quarter and Ringstrasse. The rest of the afternoon is 100% up to you. For dinner, head to Naschmarkt and try some knödel (Austrian dumplings) or go for the obvious choice – schnitzel.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Driving tour of Vienna

DAY 5 | VIENNA

A whole day in Vienna – prepare to have your heart well and truly stolen. Head to the Museum Quarter and explore. Contemporary art lover? MUMOK is a must. Or if historical architecture gets your heart pumping – Architekturzentrum Wien is for you. Wander around the extravagant Hofburg Palace. Visit St Stephen's Cathedral. Grab a table at Cafe Central for the most boujee afternoon tea you've ever had (be prepared to queue). Or experience Vienna's hipster hub in Neubau. Tonight, enjoy the sweet sounds of Mozart and Bach played by the Viennese Chamber Orchestra at an optional concert. Even if classical music isn't your usual go-to, this is something special.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Tickets to the Sound of Vienna Orchestra: from €40
- + Tickets to the Sound of Vienna Orchestra (dinner included): from €62

DAY 6 | VIENNA TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY VIA BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

Our Vienna love affair was short but oh-so-sweet. Up next? The twin cities of Buda and Pest. But first: a quick whip around Slovakia's fascinating capital. Three countries in one day? Only with us. In the City of Bridges, we'll be chauffeured past the Chain Bridge, Castle District, Gellert Hotel, Heroes' Square and House of Terror on a driving tour. SD cards full and tummies grumbling, it's time to sample some of the local fare. Goulash. Chicken paprikash. Langos. Dobos cake. Hopefully you like paprika, they're kinda obsessed with it here. Later, hang with the hipsters and drink local pálinka (fruit brandy) at one of the original ruin bars.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Orientation tour of Bratislava
- + Driving tour of Budapest

DAY 7 | BUDAPEST

You wanted freedom to explore – here it is. Check out the Central Market Hall. Explore the Jewish Quarter. Play pinball at the Flippermúzeum. Get a harrowing education at the House of Terrors. Hunt down the Anonymous Statue. Soak in the therapeutic waters of the Széchenyi Thermal Baths. Head to Buda Castle and check out all the views from Fisherman's Bastion. Tonight: go one step further with an included dinner cruise down the Danube – Buda Castle and House of Parliament look even better lit up like Christmas. Trust us.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Danube River Cruise

DAY 8 | BUDAPEST TO KRAKÓW, POLAND

Legend has it a dragon had to be defeated in order for Kraków to be built. And you thought your local council was tough! Get acquainted with Poland's beating heart on a walking tour – complete with an introduction to the city's resident dragon. Then? Take Fleetwood's advice and go your own way. Top up your history knowledge at Wawel Castle, explore the hip cafes and boutiques in the Jewish Quarter, head to Schindler's Museum or find a local haunt and tuck into a piled-high plate of pierogi.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Kraków
+ Kraków metro tickets

DAY 9 | KRAKÓW, POLAND

It's your day to delve deeper – need some suggestions? Head to Hamsa in the heart of the Jewish Quarter for some 'Hummus and Happiness', shop for the 'Gold of the Baltic' in the UNESCO-listed Cloth Hall. Or do as the locals do and head to Okraglak for some drool-worthy street food – Zapiekanki is a must! Then: it's time to refine your vodka-palette on an optional tasting tour. Learn the history behind Polish vodka and sample a few uniquely-flavoured varieties as you go. Refuse to drink it without Red Bull? There's plenty of local haunts to pull into for a tasting of the local beer instead. And if things go late, Przystanek is a 24hr pierogi place – just sayin'.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Vodka tasting: from PLN 149

DAY 10 | KRAKÓW TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Onwards to the spire-filled skyline and mysterious streets of Prague! Our Trip Leader will get us acquainted with this picture-perfect city – complete with quirky clock tower – and point out all the must-dos for our free day tomorrow. After dinner, you can hit the town to try some local Czech beer or sample a cocktail at The Alchemist. An old-school venue, with a 1950's vibe. Hint: if you want the full experience, ask for the 'choose your fate' – we'll see you in the morning.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Prague
+ Prague metro tickets

DAY 11 | PRAGUE

Another day, completely your way. Trust us, there's plenty to Czech out (ha!). Seek out the John Lennon wall. Soak up some history at the Communist Museum. Take the funicular up Petrin Hill for alllll the views. Check out what the Dancing House is all about. Or grab a delish roast pork roll at one of the street vendors lining Old Town Square. Fancy yourself as a bit of a beer connoisseur? Don't miss the beer tasting optional this afternoon. 11 different Czech beers + tapas = good times all around.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Local beer tasting in Prague:
from 800 CZK

DAY 12 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY VIA DRESDEN

From one beer capital to the next. Get acquainted with 800 year-old Dresden – a city virtually destroyed in WWII and then rebuilt – before we make tracks to Berlin. Prep yourself for currywurst and more hipsters per capita than anywhere else. We'll drive you around to see the main sights including (what's left of) the Berlin Wall, the Holocaust Memorial, Museum Island and Alexanderplatz. After dinner, get the group together to see whether this city's nightlife really lives up to the hype.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Orientation tour of the restored city of Dresden
- + Driving tour of Berlin

DAY 13 | BERLIN

A city exploding with culture, history and bloody good food – you've got 24hrs to make the most of it. Our advice? Opt in for a historic walking tour that's actually interesting. You'll get a local insight into what the city was like under Nazi rule and tick off the likes of the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and Brandenburg Gate. Plus, all the insider tips on how to spend the rest of your free day. Or put those elastic waistbands to the ultimate test on a locally-led food tour. We're talking kebabs, pastries, more currywurst, pierogi and local Pilsner beer. Tonight, seek out Burgermeister for dinner. This place used to be a public toilet (ew) but now serves up the best burgers in Berlin (yum). Or see if Mustafa's kebabs meets expectations.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Third Reich walking tour: from €12
- + Berlin food tour: from €35

DAY 14 | BERLIN TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Ok, nobody panic – the adventure is coming to a close. But we're not done yet! The GPS is set for Amsterdam today. Once we arrive, hit the cobblestones and explore the likes of the Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument. This place is a foodie's haven so you'll have no issues finding somewhere to settle in for dinner. Give into temptation and grab a cone of hot chips with mayo. Mmm. Later, there's an option to experience a show in the Red Light district. Or for a more local experience – head to a canal-side brewery or wine bar.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Red Light District show: from €30

DAY 15 | AMSTERDAM

This is our last full day together. So, don't hang about - join the locals and get on your bike! Check out Amsterdam's iconic canals, bridges and parks on an optional bike tour. History buffs should pay a visit to the Anne Frank House (don't forget to book in advance!). And for the culture fiends - the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum. Or if you're wanting a more local vibe, head to Hannekes Boom for waterfront views, good food and all-round good vibes. Whatever you get up to, make sure you're back in time to toast the final night of our European adventure at tonight's group dinner.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Bike tour of Amsterdam: from €14

DAY 16 | AMSTERDAM TO LONDON, ENGLAND

Seriously? It's over? After breakfast, we'll make tracks to LDN. Blast the Trip Song one last time – who's up for a reunion trip next year?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

MEALS

Your included meals are detailed in the 'Included Essentials' section of this document.

Breakfasts (usually continental breakfasts) are included every day, except on the first morning of your trip. A typical continental breakfast may consist of cereals with milk or yogurt, bread, croissants, cold meats, and cheese – with fruit juice, tea or coffee to drink. It is rare to get a hot breakfast in continental Europe, though on some occasions some hot food may be available.

Included meals will be provided at local restaurants and the accommodations in which we stay. In most cases, table water is provided with meals. If you wish to purchase additional drinks, you can do so at your own expense.

If you have any dietary requirements, we'll make every effort to cater to your needs – as long as you advise your travel agent or Customer Service Consultant when you book. You can also make a note of dietary requirements in the Topdeck app when you check-in.

PLEASE NOTE: Although we'll do everything in our power to cater to your needs, we cannot guarantee this will be possible in every restaurant we visit. We also cannot cater to tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

TIPPING

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save travelling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

PLEASE NOTE: The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



PASSENGER SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, 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

details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck 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.

RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers 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. 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 could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn'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 again.

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 of 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 (trust us).

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 holiday AND have 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 hotel 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!

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance.

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 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.

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.

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.)

- 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 rainproof jacket
1 warm jacket
Underwear and socks
Swimwear
Snow gear
Towel
Toiletries
Hat and sunscreen
Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
Insect repellent
Conversion plug
Reusable water bottle



THAT'S IT!