

Topdeck

THE GREAT EASTERN



TRIP CODE:
EEEDAP-0

TOPDECKER, meet Europe

Join us as we travel from Ancient Greece to modern-day Prague on this incredible tour of Europe's greatest cities and most spectacular scenery. From the island paradise of Mykonos and rugged beauty of Croatia, the cobble streets of Budapest to the spires of Prague, this is the gold-medal standard of Europe tours!

WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Hostel Plus



Nights



Android/iPhone
app download
info



This is a sector
trip.

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)

- + Driving tour of Athens
- + Visit the cliffside monasteries of Meteora (entry not included)
- + Driving tour of Tirana with local guide
- + Walking tour of Dubrovnik with a local guide
- + Visit Budva
- + Walking tour of Sarajevo
- + Visit the Srebrenica Memorial
- + Driving tour of Belgrade
- + Driving tour of Budapest
- + Driving tour of Vienna
- + Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- + Walking tour of Prague

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Driving tour of Athens
- + Visit the cliffside monasteries of Meteora (entry not included)
- + Driving tour of Tirana with a local guide
- + Visit Budva
- + Walking tour of Dubrovnik with a local guide
- + Walking tour of Sarajevo
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YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Athens
Greece

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Prague
Czech Republic

TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Greece - EUR
- + Albania - ALL
- + Montenegro - EUR
- + Croatia - HRK
- + Bosnia and Herzegovina - BAM

- + Serbia -
 - + Hungary - HUF
 - + Austria - EUR
 - + Czech Republic - CZK
-

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER

DAY 1 | ATHENS, GREECE

It doesn't get feta than this! Get to know Athens before you meet the group today. Exciting times ahead!



MEALS:

+ Dinner

DAY 2 | ATHENS TO MYKONOS

All aboard the ferry to Mykonos (aka 'that island with the cute windmills'). Epic beaches, sinfully good local restaurants and a bustling nightlife... What's not to love?



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

DAY 3 | MYKONOS

You've got a free day in para-para-paradise. Loving it? We hope so! Soak up those rays and dive into 50 shades of blue.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 4 | MYKONOS

Another day to spend exactly how you please amidst Mykonos' dreamy backdrop of chalky villages, sky blue churches and laze-worthy beaches. Ahhhhh.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 5 | MYKONOS TO ATHENS

Today it's back on the ferry to Athens for a final dose of ancient architecture and tragic myths. Make sure your camera's charged - we're taking you on a driving tour.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Driving tour of Athens

DAY 6 | ATHENS TO METEORA

Leave your fear of heights in Athens, 'cos today we're off to see the monasteries of Meteora - perched high atop the nail-biting cliffs of Thessaly. Later, round off the day with good friends, good food and some FaceTiming.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit the cliffside monasteries of Meteora (entry not included)

DAY 7 | METEORA 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
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Driving tour of Tirana with a local guide

DAY 8 | 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 make 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 nightlife.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 9 | 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 enjoy a cold beer on the wall as the sun sets over the Adriatic. Alternatively, take to the water for a spot of optional sea kayaking around the city walls. There's also a Game of Thrones tour to get stuck into if that's your jam.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Sea kayaking around the ancient City Walls of Dubrovnik: from HRK 220
- + Game of Thrones tour in Dubrovnik: from €15

DAY 10 | DUBROVNIK TO SARAJEVO, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Roll out of Dubrovnik and into Sarajevo, a city that's still shaking off its tragic past. We'll show you the sights on a guided tour before rounding off the day with some delicious local food.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Sarajevo

DAY 11 | SARAJEVO TO BELGRADE, SERBIA

Gritty but charming Belgrade is up next. While we're here, we'll take some time to honour the victims of the 1995 genocide at the haunting Srebrenica Genocide Memorial, a sobering reminder of the greatest atrocity on European soil since the Second World War.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Belgrade
- + Visit the Srebrenica Memorial

DAY 12 | BELGRADE TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Today's driving tour will teach you everything you need to know about twin cities Buda and Pest. Along the way we'll check out Heroes' Square, Parliament House, the National Palace, Fisherman's Bastion and the swanky Andrassy Avenue. Then: time to indulge in some delicious local fare. Expect plenty of paprika!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Driving tour of Budapest

DAY 13 | 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: from €35

DAY 14 | BUDAPEST TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Prepare your retinas – there's gonna be some amazing scenery playing outside the coach windows today as we make our way to Vienna. Don't forget to wave hello to the president as we go past the Hofburg Palace! Vienna is famous for three things: musicians, grand coffee houses and, of course, apple strudel. Classical music fan? Good news. Later you can opt in to hear the works of Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and Strauss played by the the Viennese Chamber Orchestra.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Driving tour of Vienna



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 15 | VIENNA TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

First today: a visit to former concentration camp Mauthausen 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 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
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- + 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



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Local beer tasting in Prague: from CZK 800

DAY 17 | PRAGUE

All good things must come to an end! Swap number and start planning the next adventure.



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.

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[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!