

Topdeck

THE GREAT EASTERN

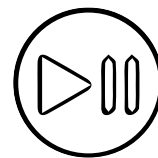


TRIP CODE:
EEDAP-9

TOPDECKER, meet Australasia (TD)

Join us as we travel from Ancient Greece, where the Olympics were first held, to modern-day Prague. We'll follow the torch 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 cobbled streets of Budapest and spires of Prague, this is the gold-medal standard of Europe tours!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Play & Pause



Nights



Download app



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 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
- Walking tour of Belgrade
- Visit the Srebrenica Memorial
- Driving tour of Budapest
- Driving tour of Vienna
- Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- Walking tour of Prague

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | ATHENS

It doesn't get much feta than this! Orient yourself before you meet the group today - exciting times ahead.



MEALS:

- Dinner

DAY 2 | ATHENS TO MYKONOS

Today we hop on a ferry over 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

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

You could totally get used to Mykonos' dreamy backdrop of chalky villages, sky blue churches and laze-worthy beaches. Another free day to spend exactly how you please.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 5 | MYKONOS TO ATHENS

Today it's back on the ferry to Athens for a second dose of ancient vibes. Make sure your camera's charged today – 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. We're driving to Meteora, perched on the nail biting cliffs of Thessaly (Google it). 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

Next stop, Tirana! Your Trip Leader will clue you up on everything you need to know about this former hardline communist state. Add a splash of colour to your Insta story today as you take a wander around.



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 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 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 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 10 | DUBROVNIK TO SARAJEVO, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Roll out of Dubrovnik and into Sarajevo, a city that's still shaking off its tragic past – but first, there's just enough time for a pit stop in historic Mostar. When we reach Sarajevo, we'll show you the sights on a guided tour and round off the day with some delicious local food.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Sarajevo

DAY 11 | SARAJEVO BELGRADE, SERBIA

Gritty but charming Belgrade is up next. 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

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 Andrassy Avenue. Then it's time to meet the major food groups: goulash, cabbage rolls and dumplings.



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

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 fans, opt in for a night out to hear the works of Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and Strauss at the Viennese Chamber Orchestra.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Driving tour of Vienna



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Tickets to the Viennese Chamber Orchestra
- Tickets to the Viennese Chamber Orchestra (dinner included)

DAY 15 | VIENNA TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

First, 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 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
- 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

DAY 17 | PRAGUE

All good things come to an end. Swap number and prepare for 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.

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

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).

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!