

Topdeck

RED STAR SPECIAL



TRIP CODE:

EERSGG-0



Topdecker, MEET EUROPE

Welcome aboard the Red Star Special, where classic European cities meet stunning natural landscapes. From Berlin to Copenhagen, the Arctic Circle (aka the Land of the Midnight Sun), Moscow, St Petersburg and the Baltics, this trip ticks off loads of amazing scenery and unique cultures. A once-in-a-lifetime trip that will give you bragging rights for years, this is the one to beat. Are you ready for this?

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

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We really appreciate your decision to travel with us, and rest assured that the entire Topdeck team will be pulling out all the stops to make your trip an unforgettable one.

Now it's time to get excited and get ready for a fantastic holiday!

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs, including where to meet, what to bring and what you can expect on your trip of a lifetime! Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can check off the lists or bring it with you when you travel.

Please do bear in mind though, some points should be taken as a guide only - after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary greatly from one person to the next so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much! However, we're sure you'll find the information in general to be very useful.

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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 Berlin
- + Driving tour of Copenhagen
- + Walking tour of Stockholm
- + Walking tour of Oslo
- + Visit the Ringebu stave church
- + Drive the famous Trolls' Path
- + Cruise the majestic Geirangerfjord
- + Visit Trondheim and the town of Hell
- + Visit the Arctic Circle
- + Do a 'polar plunge' in an Arctic river
- + Visit Santa's Village
- + Driving tour of Helsinki
- + Walking tour of Tallinn
- + Driving tour of St Petersburg with a local guide
- + Visit the State Hermitage Museum
- + Walking tour of Novgorod with a local g

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Driving tour of Copenhagen
- + Walking tour of Stockholm
- + Visit the Ringebu Stave Church
- + Drive the famous Trolls' Path Crossing
- + Cruise the majestic Geirangerfjord
- + Visit Trondheim and the town of Hell
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- + Visit the State Hermitage Museum
- + Walking tour of Novgorod with a local guide
- + Driving tour of Moscow with a local guide
- + Guided tour of the Kremlin
- + Guided tour of Moscow's Metro
- + Visit to Lenin's tomb
- + Walking tour of Riga
- + Visit the Hill of Crosses
- + Walking tour of Vilnius
- + Driving or walking tour of Warsaw (time dependent)

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Berlin
Europe

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Berlin
Europe

Trip currencies

- + Germany - EUR
- + Denmark - DKK
- + Sweden - SEK
- + Norway - NOK
- + Finland - EUR

- + Estonia - EUR
 - + Russia - RUB
 - + Latvia - EUR
 - + Lithuania - EUR
 - + Poland - PLN
-

Your Itinerary



**AWESOME TRIP
LEADER**



DRIVER



ON-SITE CHEFS

DAY 1 | BERLIN, GERMANY

With more museums than rainy days and some of the best DJs on the continent, the only thing you'll miss out on in Berlin is sleep – but there's plenty of time for that later. Drop your bags and get the trip admin sorted at the hostel before getting to know your new trip pals over dinner.



MEALS:

+ Dinner

DAY 2 | BERLIN

We'll drive you around to see (what's left of) the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag building. Afterwards, 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? Tonight explore the city after dark - Berlin's nightlife is famous for a reason!



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Third Reich walking tour

DAY 3 | BERLIN TO COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Today we're off to Copenhagen to find out why this city keeps popping up among the top five most liveable cities in the world. Get your bearings on a guided driving tour – and discover why Copenhagen is home to half of Denmark's population.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Lunch
+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Driving tour of Copenhagen

DAY 4 | COPENHAGEN

Today you have the chance to explore the city in true local fashion: on a bike. Romantic streak? Check out The Little Mermaid, a tribute to the fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen's pre-Disney masterpiece. Spoiler alert: the original version has the lovestruck mermaid become foam on the sea after she fails to win the prince's affections. Even back then, it seems, *#thestrugglewasreal*.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 5 | COPENHAGEN TO STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

You know it for the IKEA hotdogs and meatballs (plus ridiculously good-looking people), but Sweden's capital also punches way above its weight in design, fashion and some multicultural vibes you wouldn't expect this close to the Arctic Circle.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Lunch
+ Dinner

DAY 6 | STOCKHOLM

Today we've cleared your schedule – so you can wander the city to your heart's content. Take an optional guided tour of Stockholm City Hall (the famous Nobel Prize banquet venue), or spend the day strolling through one of Stockholm's many museums. Wanna take in some views? Then gaze at the greenery of Djurgården or let a hop-on-hop-off boat transport you around the city's 14 islands.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Stockholm



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Guided tour of Stockholm City Hall

DAY 7 | STOCKHOLM

Today is yours to do as you please. Need some suggestions? Well, you could always pay an optional visit to the Vasa Museum, watch the changing of the guards at the Royal Palace or drink copious amounts of quality coffee. Note: Swedes treat caffeine the way they do their style (very seriously).



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Visit the Vasa Museum

DAY 8 | STOCKHOLM TO OSLO, NORWAY

From the cosmopolitan city vibes of Stockholm to a more laid-back experience in Oslo. Check out endless stretches of Christmas trees and pretty lakes as you settle in for a day of nature-filled sights on the way to Norway's capital. By the afternoon, you'll be all gawped out and more than ready for dinner in the land of the midnight sun.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Lunch
+ Dinner

DAY 9 | OSLO

There's just enough time to wake up and take a stroll through Gustav Vigeland's bizarre and eccentric sculpture park this morning. Then: an optional visit to the Viking Ship Museum, Kon-Tiki Museum and Fram Polar Ship. Take the rest of the day off to soak up Oslo's funky 60s vibe.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Lunch



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Visit The Viking Ship Museum
+ Visit The Kon-Tiki Museum
+ Visit The Fram Polar Ship Museum

DAY 10 | OSLO TO ÅNDALSNES

Next stop: Lillehammer, home of the 1994 Winter Olympics. Do an optional run down the bobsled track before we move on to Åndalsnes. To call the scenery epic would be an understatement (check out Google Images for proof). Also today: a visit to the distinctive Ringebu Stave Church.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Lunch
+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit the Ringebu Stave Church



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Ride the Lillehammer Olympic Bobsleigh

DAY 11 | ÅNDALSNES

Grab yourself a window seat as we wind our way around some of Europe's most scenic roads en route to the famous Trolls' Path Crossing. Sit back and drink in the sheer scale of the breathtaking fjords – long recognised as some of the world's greatest natural attractions. Later, we'll get up close and personal with the impossibly beautiful Geirangerfjord on a sightseeing cruise. One word: wow.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Drive the famous Trolls' Path Crossing
- + Cruise the majestic Geirangerfjord

DAY 12 | ÅNDALSNES TO STEINKJER

Today we'll chase the sun to Trondheim, the religious capital of Norway. Repent your sins – the next stop is Hell. Yes, really (only this one is usually frozen over). Temperatures can dip down as low as -25°C! After snapping up some photographic proof of our visit, we'll make tracks to Steinkjer for the night.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Trondheim and the town of Hell

DAY 13 | STEINKJER TO BJERKA

Today it's back on the coach for a coastal drive to Bjerka, an inland village surrounded by mountains. Look forward to some peace and quiet – not to mention more greenery than you can poke a pine tree at.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 14 | BJERKA TO TYSFJORD

On to Tysfjord for the night to experience the narrowest point in Norway. While you're here, you could get the chance to check out Svartisen, Norway's second largest glacier. Covering a full 370 square kilometres and at just 20 m above sea level, it's the lowest glacier in mainland Europe – making it easily accessible for hikes and nature-based experiences. Top tip: wear your comfy shoes.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit the Arctic Circle



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Visit Svartisen (weather dependent)

DAY 15 | TYSFJORD TO SKIBOTN

Today we're headed for Skibotn – where polar ice baths and wood-fired saunas await your arrival. Lifelong bragging rights are awarded to those who take the plunge!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Do a 'polar plunge' in an Arctic river
- + Warm up in a wood-fired sauna

DAY 16 | SKIBOTN TO OLDERFJORD

Onwards and upwards! Today we're heading north for the last time as we prepare to witness the height of the midnight sun (so named as it doesn't set between May and June). If you're lucky with the weather, you can expect to see nature at its absolute best.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Midnight sun Nordkapp experience (weather dependent)

DAY 17 | OLDERFJORD

Fuel up with a late breakfast. Then: a hike through the rugged countryside. After an included dinner with the crew, you'll go to bed counting reindeer and dreaming of fjords.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 18 | OLDERFJORD TO ROVANIEMI, FINLAND

Cross back over the Arctic Circle and practise your best 'Jingle Bells' as we make our way to Rovaniemi – where Santa's Village awaits. Excitement levels: 100/10! Keep your eyes peeled for Santa's reindeer from your window seat.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Santa's Village

DAY 19 | ROVANIEMI TO JYVASKYLA

Next up: the university town of Jyväskylä. This Finnish city boasts a party scene to rival some of the best, so this is your chance to let your hair down and rub shoulders with the locals.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 20 | JYVASKYLA TO HELSINKI

Today we'll make a short journey south to the quirky Finnish capital, Helsinki. Kick back and let us show you the hotspots on a driving tour. Think: art-nouveau buildings and oh-so-fancy cafés.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Driving tour of Helsinki

DAY 21 | HELSINKI TO TALLINN, ESTONIA

More fairytale magic is on the cards today as we hop across to Tallinn with its old city walls and medieval buildings. A walking tour will get you acquainted with the highlights before we hand you over to the city.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Tallinn

DAY 22 | TALLINN

It's all about whatever tickles your fancy today. Check out the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral or visit the KGB museum for a history lesson about the antics of the Soviet Union's former security agency. Pro tip: Old Town is where you'll get the best kind of Estonian #throwback vibes.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 23 | TALLINN TO ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Russia is next! After crossing the border, we'll embark on a tour of St Petersburg: the country's former capital. Later, scoff some blini and caviar (yes, caviar) – and wash it all down with a shot of vodka, if you wish. When in Rome...



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner

DAY 24 | ST. PETERSBURG

Today: a St Petersburg driving tour with a super knowledgeable local guide. Learn all the juicy insider info as you check out oh-so-many bucket list items. Anything called the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood has got to be worth a look (and it really is).



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Driving tour of St Petersburg with a local guide

DAY 25 | ST. PETERSBURG

Dig into breakfast, then we'll whisk you away for a guided tour of the Hermitage Museum. This place spans six palatial buildings, including the epic Winter Palace. You won't want to miss this! Next: a spot of (window) shopping on Nevsky Prospect, the city's main street.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit the State Hermitage Museum

DAY 26 | ST. PETERSBURG TO NOVGOROD

Onwards through the Russian countryside to the World Heritage-listed city of Novgorod. While you're here, why not try a drop of Medovukha (aka the Russian version of mead)?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Novgorod with a local guide

DAY 27 | NOVGOROD TO MOSCOW

We'll roll into Moscow today, where the city is alive in rain, hail or shine. Believe it or not, this city sparkles – so be prepared for an incredible few days ahead. As you explore the city, you'll be able to spot tangible reminders of Russia's involvement in modern history.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner

DAY 28 | MOSCOW

Swing by the greats on today's driving tour – including Moscow University, Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral. Then: check out the Kremlin with our local guide before setting off to roam the streets. And tonight? You could always get fancy with an optional evening at the Russian ballet. Clink that champagne and get those binoculars at the ready!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Driving tour of Moscow with a local guide
- + Guided tour of the Kremlin



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Tickets to a famous Russian ballet

DAY 29 | MOSCOW

Down we go for a guided tour of the not-so-mundane Moscow Metro. If you're picturing the Piccadilly or Central Line in London, think again. Not even close! We're talking chandelier-lined stations, each one more decadent than the last. Later, we'll keep our history lesson going with a visit to Lenin's tomb and an optional guided tour of the Kremlin Armoury.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Guided tour of Moscow's Metro
- + Visit to Lenin's tomb



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Guided tour of the Kremlin Armoury

DAY 30 | MOSCOW TO VELIKIYE LUKI

Today it's out of Moscow and onwards to Velikiye Luki, where we'll stay overnight. Quick fact: this town is also known as 'Small Stalingrad'. Who knew?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner

DAY 31 | VELIKIYE LUKI TO RIGA, LATVIA

Goodbye Russia, and hello Latvia. Riga's up next – another World Heritage star in an already studded Baltic lineup. Late medieval sights and lots of art nouveau await us on today's guided walking tour. Key highlights include: Power Tower, the Freedom Monument and Riga Cathedral. Oh, and the impressive House of Blackheads building – but more on that later.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Riga

DAY 32 | RIGA

You've got a free day today, so take the chance to explore Riga's wooden buildings and medieval Old Town while you can. Set on the Baltic Sea at the mouth of the River Daugava, Riga offers a wide range of water activities, from canal boat tours to swimming at the beach. Tonight, why not hit up the town's cellar bars?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 33 | RIGA TO VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

Today we'll set our sights on Vilnius: the capital of Lithuania. This city is home to Europe's largest baroque Old Town and the world's only statue of Frank Zappa (we know – the connection escapes us, too). Today's walking tour will cover the Town Hall, Gediminas Tower and Vilnius Cathedral. Pro tip: as you make your way around, keep an eye out for the Gate of Dawn and St Anne's Church.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit the Hill of Crosses
- + Walking tour of Vilnius

DAY 34 | VILNIUS TO WARSAW, POLAND

On today's driving tour, you'll find that modern day Warsaw is a far cry from its war-torn past. Once home to Frederic Chopin and Marie Curie, the city has loads to offer when it comes to history and culture – and its nightlife doesn't disappoint, either!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Driving or walking tour of Warsaw (time dependent)

DAY 35 | WARSAW

Today, Warsaw is all yours. From the Warsaw Rising Museum to the Neon Museum (which houses Poland's collection of Cold War era neon signs), this city is sure to keep you busy. Make sure you take some time to stroll along the newly-refurbished riverbank or check out some great views from the top of the Palace of Science and Culture! Oh – and don't leave the city tomorrow without trying some stuffed parcels of deliciousness called pierogi. Cottage cheese and onion fillings may sound unusual, but trust us – they don't have our seal of approval for nothing.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 36 | WARSAW TO BERLIN, GERMANY

Time to return to the scene of the crime, #Topdeckers: today it's back to Berlin. Tonight, we'll reminisce over our amazing adventure over one last included dinner (sob).



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner

DAY 37 | BERLIN

We're outta here after breakfast. Swap numbers and start planning your next trip!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

Meals

Breakfasts are included every day (except on the first morning). Included meals will be a combination of those prepared by Topdeck On-Site Chefs, local restaurants and places in which we stay.

If you have any dietary requirements we will make every effort to cater to your specific needs as long as you advise your travel agent or Customer Service Consultant when you book, or make note of this in the Topdeck app when you check in (refer below). However, please be aware that although we will do everything in our power to arrange it, we cannot guarantee that every restaurant we use will be able to cater to all dietary needs, particularly in Eastern Europe. We also cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu

Topdeck Travel App

Our travel app is **AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD BEFORE YOU TRAVEL**. With a range of cool features including a Currency Converter, Budget Planner, Check-In tool and Social Timeline (so your next #TravelEnvy post is never too far away) you can plan your trip like a pro.

Think of it like your very own Topdeck Trip Leader, always on call with the latest info, weather, maps and city guides to give you the trip of a lifetime, all in the palm of your hand.

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Passenger safety

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.

OTHER INFORMATION



THAT'S IT!