

Topdeck

ESSENTIAL EUROPE



TOPDECKER, meet Europe

Is this trip for you? BUZZING. PICTURESQUE. SHORT-BUT-SWEET. Essential. Vital. The must-dos. The unmissables. Whatever you call those bits of Europe that you just HAVE to explore, you can rely on our fast-paced Essential Europe trip to properly school you in them. We're talking Rome, Amsterdam, Venice, Paris... the big guns. But that isn't all – this trip also swings by the likes of quaint little Heidelberg and lakeside stunner Lucerne. What a mix, right? Quick maths: take two weeks, turn them into something special.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Hotel



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)

- + Orientation tour of Heidelberg
- + Walking tour of Munich
- + Walking tour of Venice
- + Gondola ride in Venice
- + Walking tour of Rome
- + Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- + Walking tour of Lucerne
- + Driving tour of Paris

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Amsterdam metro tickets
- + Orientation tour of Heidelberg
- + Walking tour of Munich
- + Gondola ride down the Grand Canal
- + Walking tour of Venice
- + Walking tour of Rome
- + Rome metro tickets
- + Walking tour of Florence with a local guide
- + Walking tour of Lucerne
- + Driving tour of Paris

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

London
United Kingdom

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Paris
France

TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Netherlands - EUR
- + Germany - EUR
- + Italy - EUR
- + Vatican City - EUR
- + Switzerland - CHF
- + France - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER

DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS (OR JOIN IN AMSTERDAM)

Meet the crew in London, stock up on snacks and whip out the AUX cord. First stop: Amsterdam. Rather meet us there? No dramas! Get to know the who's who of the group at tonight's included dinner. Cheers to 12 days of adventures with this mixed bunch!



MEALS:

+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Amsterdam metro tickets

DAY 2 | AMSTERDAM

This is your day, your way. Check out the likes of the Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument. For the culture fiends – delve a bit deeper with a visit to the Anne Frank House (make sure you book in advance!) or the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum. Or get yourself a set of wheels and explore Amsterdam's iconic canals, bridges and parks on an optional bike tour. This place is a foodie's wet dream – so you'll have no trouble finding some good eats for dinner. Then there's an option to experience a show in the Red Light district. Or for a more local vibe – head to a canal-side wine bar or brewery.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



**OPTIONAL
ACTIVITIES:**

+ Bike tour of Amsterdam: from
€14

+ Red Light District show: from
€30

DAY 3 | AMSTERDAM TO HEIDELBERG, GERMANY

Next up? A country where beer is officially considered an essential food group (right next to sausage and sauerkraut). Heidelberg is all about hilltop ruins, cobblestoned old quarters and fairytale bridges. Get your bearings on a stroll with your Trip Leader, then the rest of the afternoon is up to you. Take the cable car up to the Palace for some unbeliEVABLE views. Or find a local haunt to chow down on a head-sized pork knuckle – this is Germany after all.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Orientation tour of
Heidelberg

DAY 4 | HEIDELBERG TO MUNICH

Plug 'Munich' into the GPS – we're rolling into the capital of Bavaria today. Kick things off with a walking tour then it's the moment you've been waiting for: an appropriate occasion to wear lederhosen. Head to the 428-year-old Hofbräuhaus for a royal Happy Hour experience or find the Chinese beer garden (or any beer garden for that matter) for a stein-sesh with your trip mates. Prost!



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Munich

DAY 5 | MUNICH TO VENICE, ITALY

You know it as The Floating City, but this place is actually sinking (slowly). Check out the usual suspects on a walking tour with our Trip Leader – ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Accademia Bridge. Then: an included gondola ride along the Grand Canal awaits! Dinner tonight is on you, what delicious carb-laden Italian meal have you been dying to try? Order two.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Gondola ride down the Grand Canal
+ Walking tour of Venice



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 6 | VENICE TO ROME

Hear that? It's la bella Roma calling your name. Dump your stuff at the hotel and prepare for a walking tour to end all walking tours. Pass by the Pantheon, throw our two cents in the Trevi Fountain, sit on the Spanish Steps and check out the mighty Colosseum – getting the scoop on allllllll the ancient history as we go. You're in Disneyland for foodies, so you know dinner tonight is gonna' be good.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Rome
+ Rome metro tickets

DAY 7 | ROME

Time to live out your Eat. Pray. Love. fantasies – today is all about Vespas, espresso, two-cheeked kisses and pizza (the way it's supposed to taste). There's an optional guided tour of Vatican City on the cards, if that's your thing. Or head up to Capitoline Hill for awesome views of the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Feeling something a bit more relaxed? Do as the locals do and indulge in a little dolce far niente (delicious idleness) at a local cafe or piazza. Tonight, shake out those fat pants for round two and hunt down a local restaurant for dinner. Thought you'd tried all the gelato flavours? Head to Fatamorgana – and think again.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Guided tour of Vatican City: from €45

DAY 8 | ROME TO FLORENCE

Florence has more stories than Bilbo Baggins, more culture than a London hipster, AND it gave the world David (the massive marble naked guy FYI). We'll get the lay of the land on an in-depth walking tour with a local guide. Then: it's time tuck into some of that hearty Tuscan cuisine you've been dreaming about at tonight's included dinner. Make room for another scoop (or two) of the good stuff and stroll around the Arno River at sunset. This is what you came for.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Florence with a local guide

DAY 9 | FLORENCE TO LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND

Order one more espresso in poor Italian (hey, you tried!) – we're off to Lucerne after breakfast. Glue your schnoz to the coach window as we wind our way into the heart of the Swiss Alps – cue epic landscapes. Later, check out the lake, Lion Monument, Chapel Bridge, Glacier Gardens and Hofkirche on a walking tour. Then: the rest of the day is 100% up to you. See if you can find the lion in the wall. Or settle in for some alpine specialties and in-house brews at Rathaus Brauerei.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Lucerne

DAY 10 | LUCERNE TO PARIS, FRANCE

The home of Coco Chanel, the Mona Lisa and world's craziest roundabout – Paris deserves its rep as the European capital for all things culture, fashion and bloody good food. Get to know the City of Love with a driving tour – ticking off heavyweights like the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées. Then: you're free to explore this iconic city on your own.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Driving tour of Paris

DAY 11 | PARIS

Don't be alarmed, but this is your last day on tour. So make every second count. Create a solid dent in your bucket list with a visit to the Louvre (get your tix in advance!). Flash some plastic along the Champs Elysées. Or discover the hidden back-streets lined with quaint Parisian cafés and patisseries. Walking not your thing? Get a set of wheels with an optional bike tour. Or jump aboard an optional river cruise down the Seine. Tonight, dress to impress for an optional cabaret show. Or head up the Montparnasse observation tower to see why they call this place the City of Lights. Then, give this trip the sendoff it deserves at tonight's included dinner – we're not crying, you are.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Parisian cabaret show: from €80
- + Seine river cruise in Paris: from €10
- + Bike tour of Paris: from €30

DAY 12 | PARIS TO LONDON, ENGLAND

After breakfast it's time to hit the road back to LDN. Swap those numbers and say your goodbyes. Who said the good times have to end? Pull up Skyscanner and keep the adventure going. We're with you!



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 yoghurt, 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

NO TIP NECESSARY

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 traveling 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!)

Heading on our Namaste India trip? Your luggage is capped at 15kg, so maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

- + 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
- + Towel
- + Toiletries

- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



THAT'S IT!