

Topdeck

EASTERN JOURNEY



TRIP CODE:
EHWXHG-0



WORTH NOTING...

This is a sector of the 28 Day Winter Expedition trip.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



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

- Dinner cruise on the Danube river
- Walking tour of Kraków
- Guided tour of former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Walking tour of Český Krumlov
- Walking tour of Prague
- Orientation tour of the restored city of Dresden
- Driving tour of Berlin

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Our trip starts this evening in Hungary's capital, Budapest, as we meet our Trip Leader for a welcome briefing. Budapest sits on the banks of the mighty River Danube and is home to Heroes' Square, Parliament House, Buda Castle and Andrassy Avenue. Get to know your fellow travellers over a Hungarian dinner in a local restaurant and then kick your feet up at your comfy hotel for the night. It's gonna be an awesome week and a half!



MEALS:

- Dinner

DAY 2 | BUDAPEST

Free day to explore this amazing place. Opt to visit the Széchenyi thermal baths today if you feel like a bit of a pamper. Relax and then get right back out there. We told you Budapest was a good time, right?



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Dinner cruise on the Danube river

DAY 3 | BUDAPEST TO KRAKOW, POLAND

Kraków's up next on our Winter Pathway. Check out the largest medieval town square in Europe and loads more on a walking tour with your Topdeck family. Then, why not brush up on history at Wawel Castle or enjoy the views on the bank of the Wisla?



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Kraków

DAY 4 | KRAKOW

Your day, your choice. Our top tip? Be sure to check out Kazimierz, the Old Jewish quarter. Labyrinthine streets, markets, bars and cafés - this is where the cool kids hang out. For more great places to visit in Kraków, ask your Trip Leader for the insider info.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 5 | KRAKOW TO Ceský Krumlov, CZECH REPUBLIC

This morning we'll visit the former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Take time to reflect before arriving into fairytale Ceský Krumlov. The entire place is UNESCO World Heritage-listed so prepare to be wowed. Be sure to visit the castle while you're here. After a stroll around town to get your bearings with the crew, embrace the wintry vibe while you tuck into a traditional Czech meal for dinner tonight.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Guided tour of former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Walking tour of Ceský Krumlov

DAY 6 | Ceský Krumlov TO PRAGUE

Prague is all about the charm. Fuel up on trdelník (pastry deliciousness) before a walking tour among grand spires and cobblestone streets. Suss out the castle, cross medieval Charles Bridge and watch 'Death' toll the hour on an astronomical clock that's over 600 years old. Yes, really! After dinner, the night is yours. Get cosy in a café with hot chocolate or go find out why Prague is famous for its nightlife.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Prague

DAY 7 | PRAGUE

You've got a whole free day to tick off everything you didn't get the chance to do yesterday. A trip to Prague wouldn't be complete without a visit to the John Lennon Wall. Want more history? You could always stop by the National Museum or Communist Museum or get a taste of the quirky local culture at a marionette puppet opera (you gotta see it to believe it). Want more? Snap a selfie at Prague's own Eiffel Tower, visit The Museum of Miniatures, eat roast pork from one of the street vendors lining Old Town Square and drink beer. Really. Good. Beer.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague: from 800 CZK

DAY 8 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY

Get to know Dresden - a city virtually destroyed in WWII and then rebuilt. Then: Berlin, we're coming for ya. We'll drive you around to see the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag building before knuckling down with some pork at Hofbräuhaus.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 9 | BERLIN

Almost too many choices on this free day! Do culture, do food, do history. Join the optional Third Reich walking tour for an insight into what the city was like under Nazi rule during WWII, go on a museum crawl or head to the zoo. More culture awaits on Museum Island, with creative types and yummy meals on offer in the Prenzlauer Berg and Kreuzberg neighbourhoods. Tonight, no curfew at clubs = get ready for a night to remember.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Third Reich walking tour: from €12
- Street art and nightlife tour of Berlin: from €20

DAY 10 | BERLIN

The trip's over after breakfast - but that doesn't mean it has to be the end! Who's ready for round two?



MEALS:

- Breakfast

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

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

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!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 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 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket

- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear



THAT'S IT!