

Topdeck

WINTER EXPEDITION



TRIP CODE:

EHWXLL-9



Topdecker, MEET EUROPE

Make yourself the lead in a real-life fairy tale as you explore the magical landscapes of Europe in winter. Starting and ending in London, this once-in-a-lifetime trip takes in iconic sights across France, the Swiss Alps, Italy, Western Europe, Germany and the Netherlands - sans the summer crowds. Because ain't nothing better than crisp air, wood fires and mulled wine. Right?

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

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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 Paris
- + Gondola ride in Venice
- + Local guide in Florence
- + Stay in World Heritage-listed Český Krumlov
- + Visit former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau
- + Stay in the scenic Swiss and Austrian Alps
- + Canal dinner cruise in Amsterdam

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + English Channel ferry tickets
- + Driving tour of Paris
- + Visit Liechtenstein
- + Walking tour of Milan
- + Visit Pisa & the Leaning Tower
- + Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- + Visit the town of Orvieto
- + Walking tour of Rome
- + Walking tour of Verona
- + Walking tour of Venice
- + Gondola ride in Venice
- + Walking tour of Munich
- + Visit Lake Bled
- + Walking tour of Ljubljana
- + Driving tour of Budapest
- + Walking tour of Kraków
- + Guided tour of former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau
- + Walking tour of Český Krumlov
- + Walking tour of Prague
- + Walking tour of Dresden
- + Driving tour of Berlin
- + Dutch cheese & clogs demonstration
- + Walking tour of Amsterdam
- + Canal dinner cruise in Amsterdam
- + English Channel ferry ticket

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

London
Europe

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

London
Europe

Trip currencies

- + France - EUR
- + Switzerland - CHF
- + Italy - EUR
- + Liechtenstein - CHF
- + Vatican City - EUR
- + Austria - EUR
- + Germany - EUR
- + Slovenia - EUR
- + Hungary - HUF
- + Poland - PLN

+ Czech Republic - CZK
+ Netherlands - EUR

Your Itinerary



DAY 1 | LONDON, ENGLAND TO PARIS, FRANCE

Leave London for dust as we jump over the English Channel to France for a beauty smackdown. Brush up on your bonjours when you meet the rest of the group and wrap your lips around your first real French meal at our included dinner. See the City of Light at its best on a driving tour and play landmark bingo with the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe.



MEALS:

- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + English Channel ferry tickets
- + Driving tour of Paris

DAY 2 | PARIS

A free day in Paris to get involved with pastries, paintings and the Centre Pompidou. Bike along the Seine on an optional tour or just flâner (stroll) around and drink it in. Check out L'éclair de Génie in Le Marais (don't ask questions), get your obligatory Eiffel Tower #selfie then explore the world's largest grave at the Catacombs. Tonight, experience the razzle dazzle of a cabaret show or hop on a boat down the river to crank the romance dial to 11.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Traditional cabaret show in Paris
- + Seine River cruise
- + Bike tour of Paris

DAY 3 | PARIS TO SWISS ALPS, SWITZERLAND

Tear yourself away from that baguette – fondue awaits! The vistas out your window today are gorgeous. Unlike the Toblerone box, the Swiss Alps aren't all lined up perfectly, so we'll weave up through breathtaking valleys and peaks to reach our destination.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner

DAY 4 | SWISS ALPS

Wake up, eat hearty then go Stallone all over the Alps. Or just settle in with some Gluhwein. If you get a second wind, jump on the revolving gondola to the top of Mount Titlis and test your pano photo skills. Then head back down for some snow angels and hot chocolate.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Scenic excursion to Mount Titlis

DAY 5 | SWISS ALPS TO MILAN, ITALY

Stop in the tax haven of Liechtenstein to deposit your billions before we make our way to fashion's capital: Milan. Home to Gucci, Versace, Prada, Armani and Dolce & Gabbana, you'd think the fashion would be the best looking part of the city. Wrong. The Duomo is the fifth largest Christian church in the world. It took 600 years to build (they're still not finished), it has over 3,400 statues and is prettier than the entire Victoria's Secret fashion show lineup. See it and more on an afternoon walking tour.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Liechtenstein
+ Walking tour of Milan

DAY 6 | MILAN TO FLORENCE

If you're going to make something wrong it better be good looking. Failures don't come any more beautiful than the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Snap a pic (you know the one) then get ready to roll into the land of Tuscan cuisine and birthplace of gelato: Florence.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Pisa & the Leaning Tower

DAY 7 | FLORENCE

Get schooled on the Medici family, stroll the Ponte Vecchio and learn about leather (new handbag, anyone?) on a morning walking tour. Use the afternoon to meet a guy named David doing his best Blue Steel in the Accademia Gallery, shop the markets and hunt down the best aperitivo spreads.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Florence with local guide

DAY 8 | FLORENCE TO ROME

We're Romeward bound today for a rendezvous with ancient architecture's biggest players. Make like Caesar (the emperor, not the salad) and work up a colossus hunger as you pass by the Pantheon, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain and sit on the Spanish Steps. Tonight, you're in Disneyland for foodies. Have fun.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit the town of Orvieto
+ Walking tour of Rome

DAY 9 | ROME INCLUDING VATICAN CITY VISIT

Create the ultimate Roman Holiday in one day with a whirlwind of Vespas, espresso, two-cheek kisses and pizza the way it's supposed to taste. Pop in on the Pope on an optional tour of the Vatican City, then play I spy with two-and-a-half millennia worth of history. Shop 'til you drop on Via Condotti, head to Capitoline Hill for awesome views of the Roman Forum and Colosseum or just kick back in Piazza Navona for some dolce far niente (delicious idleness).



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Guided tour of Vatican City

DAY 10 | ROME TO VENICE

Snap a selfie at Juliet's famous balcony in Verona and join throngs of lovers leaving notes on the wall (or avoid the crowds and just marvel at the ancient arena). Say ciao to Venice from across the lagoon as we check into our hotel and tuck into a yummy dinner together.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Verona

DAY 11 | VENICE

100+ slowly sinking islands won't explore themselves. Get your bearings on this morning's walking tour before an action packed day. Soak up St Mark's Square and get ready for a quintessential gondola ride on the Grand Canal. Corny smooching not included. This afternoon, snoop the Doge's Palace, cross Rialto Bridge and shop for Carnevale masks. There's so much going on here. Did we mention it's beautiful?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Venice
- + Gondola ride in Venice

DAY 12 | VENICE TO AUSTRIAN ALPS, AUSTRIA

Mountains, skiing and beer = we're on our way to Austria. Time to get your Schwarzenegger impression perfect. Prepare for beautiful scenery playing outside the coach windows and yodel around the mountain as we make our way to the Alps. A home cooked meal will prep you for the high octane, snowy adventure ahead.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Tobogganing in Austria

DAY 13 | AUSTRIAN ALPS

Red Bull was born here and once you ski, snowboard and paraglide you'll see why. Multiple ski zones are in yodelling distance, you lucky thang. Don't be intimidated by some of the world's best skiers zooming past you because beginner slopes are on offer here, too. Prefer the après ski action? You won't be short of options that's for sure.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Skiing in Austria
- + Snowboarding in Austria

DAY 14 | AUSTRIAN ALPS

Ski. Snowboard. Sleigh ride. Repeat. Or just sit and stare at the storybook landscape like a lovesick puppy. There's also hot chocolates and people watching in the chalets if that's more your thing.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Skiing
- + Snowboarding

DAY 15 | AUSTRIAN ALPS TO MUNICH, GERMANY

Leave the Alpine temperatures behind and warm up in Munich. It's time to get to know the city. Why not slide on your Lederhosen and get amongst it at the 426-year-old Hofbräuhaus - the recipes here were passed down from Wilhelm V, the Duke of Bavaria. Prost!



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Munich

DAY 16 | MUNICH TO LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

Give one last prost to Munich before we move on to the magical Lake Bled (yep, that's the one with the fairytale castle in the middle). After you've Instagrammed your heart out, we'll make our way to Ljubljana (lyoob-lya-nah), capital of Slovenia. Jump in the 70-metre funicular and shoot back to the Middle Ages on a walking tour - the Ljubljana Castle and Old Town here have been waiting for you since Celtic times. Tonight, hit up military-barracks-turned-bar-and-gallery-strip, Metelkova Mesto for a tea or vino with a side of live music and underground art installations.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Lake Bled
+ Walking tour of Ljubljana

DAY 17 | LJUBLJANA TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Your house in Budapest awaits. A driving tour will get you down and Danube (that be the river) with twin cities, Buda and Pest. Check out Hero's Square, Parliament House, the National Palace, Fisherman's Bastion and swanky Andrassy Avenue. After gorging on goulash, cabbage rolls and dumplings, roll into bed at your comfy hotel.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Driving tour of Budapest

DAY 18 | BUDAPEST

Free day! Indulge in a spa treatment at the world famous Gellért Baths and visit the Buda Castle or House of Terror Museum. Tonight, hang with the hipsters and drink local fruit brandy at one of the original ruin bars.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner

DAY 19 | BUDAPEST TO KRAKOW, POLAND

Legend has it a dragon had to be smited in order for Kraków to be built (with a sulphur stuffed lamb as bait). Bit tougher than the usual council approvals, no? Meet Poland's beating heart - and the largest medieval town square in Europe - on a walking tour. Buff up on history at Wawel Castle, feed the ducks amongst the slushy snow on the bank of the Wisla and after dinner, slay a few glasses of mead.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Kraków

DAY 20 | KRAKOW

Get all up in the streets of Kraków today and let the statement, "Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire" really sink in at Oskar Schindler's factory. Go 327-metres underground to see hundreds of shades of rock salt in the Wieliczka Salt Mine, visit a centuries-old synagogue in the Jewish district and shop for amber in the UNESCO World Heritage listed Cloth Hall. Your day, your choice.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 21 | KRAKOW TO CESKÝ KRUMLOV, CZECH REPUBLIC

This morning we pay our respects at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Afterwards, take some time to reflect before arriving into the fairytale that is Český Krumlov. The entire place is UNESCO World Heritage listed but basically it's all about the castle. And not just because bears live in the moat. After a stroll around town to get your bearings, embrace the wintry vibe while you tuck into a traditional Czech meal.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Guided tour of former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau
- + Walking tour of Český Krumlov

DAY 22 | CESKÝ KRUMLOV TO PRAGUE

Prague is all about the charm. Fuel up on trdelník (pastry deliciousness) before a walking tour among spires and cobblestone streets. Suss out the castle deemed worthy by Guinness World Records as being the largest ancient castle in the world, cross medieval Charles Bridge and watch 'Death' toll the hour on an astronomical clock that's over 600 years old. After dinner, get cosy in a café with hot chocolate.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Prague

DAY 23 | PRAGUE

Channel your inner bohemian and seek out the John Lennon memorial wall to start your free day. Soak up some more Czech history at 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). 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:

- + Beer tasting in Prague

DAY 24 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY

Get acquainted with 800-year-old 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:

- + Walking tour of Dresden
- + Driving tour of Berlin

DAY 25 | BERLIN

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 memorable meals available 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
- + Berlin Alternative Tour & Nightlife tour

DAY 26 | BERLIN TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Amster-DAM it's going to be a good day! Start dreaming of cheese and clogs as we roll through tulip and windmill dotted fields to Amsterdam. Get your bearings on a walking tour of the vibrant capital and see the Dam Square, Royal Palace and National Monument. End the night with a cone of hot chips with mayo. Mmm.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Dutch cheese & clogs demonstration
- + Walking tour of Amsterdam

DAY 27 | AMSTERDAM

Get on your bike and ride! Do as the locals do and join the 881,000 bicycles on an optional city bike tour to soak up the wintery canal vistas before retreating with hot chocolate, poffertjes and stroopwafels. Take on the city's 51 museums (must-dos: Van Gogh Museum and the Anne Frank House). Still thirsty for more? Check out the Heineken Experience for an interactive visit and tasting at the brewery. Top it off with a dinner cruise on the canal.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Canal dinner cruise in Amsterdam



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Bike tour of Amsterdam

DAY 28 | AMSTERDAM TO LONDON, ENGLAND

Today it's back on the ferry as we journey back to London. Start planning the next adventure. Facebook friends?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + English Channel ferry ticket

Meals

Breakfasts are included every day in the hotel (except on the first morning). They are usually 'continental breakfasts', which are typical in most European countries. A typical breakfast may consist of cereals with milk or yoghurt, bread, croissants, cold meats, cheese and a range of spreads, with fruit juice, tea or coffee to drink. It is rare to get a hot breakfast in continental Europe, though on some occasions there may be some hot food available as well.

Included evening meals are in local restaurants or accommodation places, and are either two or three courses. In most cases table water is provided with the meals, and if you wish to purchase additional drinks you can do so at your own expense.

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!