

# Topdeck

## PLAY & PAUSE: INTRO TO CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE



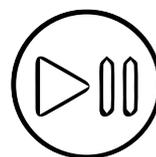
TRIP CODE:

TDEHL2

## TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

(Previously called: Democracy Road - Summer) TRIP VIBE = the perfect mix of group activities and all-important YOU time. Five incredible Euro capitals, each with their own thing goin' on. Budapest's drama. Vienna's grandeur. Prague's mystery and Berlin's alternative vibes. Then there's something-for-absolutely-everyone-Amsterdam. In just ten crazy-awesome days, you'll get under the skin of this unique corner of Europe – with a bunch of legends just as stoked to be here as you are. PLUS you'll get time and space to experience it all exactly how you want to. Ready?

### 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

- Danube dinner cruise
- Vienna highlights drive
- Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Dresden with Trip Leader
- Berlin highlights drive

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Budapest  
Hungary

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

London  
Europe

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- Hungary - HUF
- Austria - EUR
- Czech Republic - CZK
- Germany - EUR
- Netherlands - EUR
- England - GBP

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Leave the everyday behind and uncover extraordinary. We'll rendezvous in the twin cities of Buda and Pest and say szia (read: hi) to the small bunch of travel buds sharing the adventure. Then: we'll kick things off with an included dinner cruise down the Danube – Buda Castle and House of Parliament look extra spesh lit up like Christmas. Trust us. SD cards full, it's time to check out those ruin bars everyone's raving about. Our fave? Szimpla Kert. Grab a cup of pálinka (fruit brandy) and go explore the neon-lit maze.



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Danube dinner cruise

## DAY 2 | BUDAPEST

You wanted freedom to explore – here it is. Need recommendations? We've got it covered. Check out the Central Market Hall. Explore the Jewish Quarter. Play pinball at the Flippersmúzeum. Escape the crowds on Margaret Island. Hunt down the Anonymous Statue. Soak in the therapeutic waters of the Széchenyi Thermal Baths. Head to Buda Castle and check out all the views from Fisherman's Bastion. And tonight? It's time to sample some of the local fare. Goulash. Chicken paprikash. Langos. Dobos cake. Hope you like paprika, they're kinda obsessed with it here.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 3 | BUDAPEST TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Wave goodbye to Budapest, we're heading to Austria – a country that just screams elegance and grace. Ten points if you can guess what Vienna is famous for. Musicians. Grand coffee houses. And strudel (duh!). Prepare to have your heart captured as we drive by the likes of the Opera House, Hofburg Palace, Museum Quarter and Ringstrasse. Then: there's the option to have a poke around the opulent gardens and extravagant interiors of Schönbrunn Palace, if you fancy it. Later: the afternoon is yours. Explore the Museum Quarter in depth. Head to Cafe Central for the most boujee afternoon tea you've ever had (be prepared to queue). Or enjoy the sweet sounds of Mozart and Bach played by the Viennese Chamber Orchestra at an optional concert.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Vienna highlights drive



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Schönbrunn Palace: from €18
- Tickets to the Sound of Vienna Orchestra: from €60
- Tickets to the Sound of Vienna Orchestra (dinner included): from €100

## DAY 4 | VIENNA TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC, VIA MAUTHAUSEN

Onwards to the spire-filled skyline and mysterious streets of Prague! But first: a visit to former concentration camp Mauthausen for a lesson in the resilience of humanity. Dump your bag at the hotel, before getting better acquainted with this picture-perfect city (complete with quirky clock tower) on a walking tour. Your expert Trip Leader will point out all the must-dos for tomorrow as we go. After dinner, you can hit the town to try some local Czech beer or sample a cocktail at The Alchemist. An old-school venue, with a 1950s' vibe. Hint: if you want the full experience, ask for the 'choose your fate' – we'll see you in the morning.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit former concentration camp Mauthausen
- Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader

## DAY 5 | PRAGUE

Another day done completely your way. Trust us, there's plenty to Czech out (ha!). Seek out the John Lennon wall. Soak up some history at the Communist Museum. Take the funicular up Petrin Hill for alllll the views. See what the Dancing House is all about. Or grab a delish roast pork roll at one of the street vendors lining Old Town Square. Fancy yourself as a bit of a beer connoisseur? Don't miss the beer tasting optional this afternoon. 11 different Czech beers + tapas = good times all around. And later? Wander the cobble streets, catch a smooooth jazz performance on Charles Bridge, or kick back at the hotel and let it all sink in.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague: from 800 CZK

## DAY 6 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY, VIA DRESDEN

From one beer capital to the next. Get acquainted with 800-year-old Dresden – a city virtually destroyed in WWII and then rebuilt – before we make tracks to Berlin. Prep yourself for currywurst and more hipsters per capita than anywhere else. We'll drive you around to see the main sights including (what's left of) the Berlin Wall, the Holocaust Memorial, Museum Island and Alexanderplatz. Tonight: there's another included dinner in store, so prepare for hearty food and good times aplenty.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Dresden with Trip Leader
- Berlin highlights drive

## DAY 7 | BERLIN

You've got 24 hrs here. Make the most of it. Our advice? Opt in for a historic walking tour that's actually interesting. You'll get a local insight into what the city was like under Nazi rule and tick off the likes of the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and Brandenburg Gate. Plus, all the insider tips on how to spend the rest of your free day. Or put those elastic waistbands to the ultimate test on a locally led food tour. We're talking kebabs, pastries, more currywurst, pierogi and local Pilsner beers (of course). Regroup with the gang later to put the city's famed nightlife to the test. Or just relax on a sunny terrace with a bevvie or two – Germany is the OG of beer gardens, after all.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Third Reich walking tour: from €12
- Berlin food tour: from €35

## DAY 8 | BERLIN TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Ok, nobody panic – the adventure is coming to a close. But we're not done yet! Set the course for Amsterdam and use your free time to check out the likes of Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument. This place is a foodie's haven so you'll have no issues finding somewhere to settle in for dinner. Give into temptation and grab a cone of hot chips with mayo. Mmm. Later, grab a bar (or six) of Tony's Chocolonely and watch life go by on the canals. This is what it's all about.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 9 | AMSTERDAM

This is our last full day together. So, don't hang about – join the locals and get on your bike! Check out Amsterdam's iconic canals, bridges and parks on an optional bike tour. History buffs should pay a visit to the Anne Frank House (don't forget to book in advance!). And for the culture fiends – the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum. Or if you're wanting a more local vibe, head to Hannekes Boom for waterfront views, good food and all-round good vibes. Whatever you get up to, make sure you're back in time to toast the final night of our European adventure at tonight's group dinner.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Amsterdam: from €14

## DAY 10 | AMSTERDAM TO LONDON, ENGLAND

London calling... time to hit the road to ol' Blighty. Blast the Trip Song and swap Insta handles – you'll need them to organise next year's reunion trip. Where to next?



### 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!**