



# PLAY & PAUSE: SOUTHEAST EUROPE



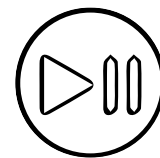
## TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = the perfect mix of group activities and all-important YOU time. An epic Euro trip, but make it different. Enter: this jaw-dropping adventure around Southeast Europe. We're hitting up the Balkan beauties: Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. And... \*Rome and Budapest joined the chat\* – these guys are on board too. Prepare for crazy-cool cities, dreamy beaches and immense local eats. PLUS a balance of inclusions and time to do your own sweet thing. Ready to hit play on the best ten days of your life?

### WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Play & Pause



Nights



Android/iPhone app download info



This is a sector trip.

# 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)

- + Overnight ferry to Split
- + Orientation walk of Split with Trip Leader
- + Orientation walk of Mostar with Trip Leader
- + Orientation walk of Belgrade with Trip Leader
- + Orientation walk of Budapest with Trip Leader
- + Danube dinner cruise

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Overnight ferry
- + Orientation walk of Split with Trip Leader
- + Orientation walk of Mostar with Trip Leader
- + Orientation walk of Belgrade with Trip Leader
- + Orientation walk of Budapest with Trip Leader
- + Danube dinner cruise

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Rome  
Italy

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Budapest  
Hungary

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Italy -
- + Vatican City -
- + Croatia -
- + Bosnia & Herzegovina -
- + Serbia -
- + Hungary -

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | ROME, ITALY

You. Us. Bella Roma. Name a more iconic trio, we'll wait. Welcome to the home of pizza, piazzas and pizzazz. First: say ciao to the small bunch of trip mates sharing the adventure. Then: we'll get our first taste of those legendary Italian dishes at tonight's included dinner. You wore your fat pants, right?



### MEALS:

+ Dinner

## DAY 2 | ROME

You've got 24 hours to live out all your Eat. Pray. Love. fantasies. Get out there and do your own, spontaneous, this-is-what-you-came-for thing. But if you need some local tips, we've got your back. Count your blessings on an optional tour of Vatican City. Hike up Capitoline Hill for awesome views of the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Head to the Knights of Malta Keyhole to see an alternative view of the city. Battle the lunchtime rush for a slice at Pizzarium Bonci. Hunt down the Mouth of Truth. Or simply do as the locals do and indulge in a little dolce far niente (delicious idleness) at a local cafe. You're in Disneyland for foodies, so finding dinner tonight is gonna to be a breeze. Thought you'd tried all the gelato flavours? Head to Fatamorgana – and think again.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

+ Locally guided tour of  
Vatican City: from €45

## DAY 3 | ROME TO SPLIT, CROATIA, VIA OVERNIGHT FERRY

Truth bomb: you've got a bit of a travel day today. We'll head from Rome to Ancona – where we'll swap the coach for a ferry. On board you'll have a cabin for the ride. Plus, you've got your awesome trip mates for company. UNO, anyone? Or just make the most of the down time – relax, refresh and recharge those batteries. And when you wake up? You're in Croatia – heck, yes! Please note: single cabins aren't available on the overnight ferry. You'll be sharing a cabin with up to 3 trip mates of the same gender.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Overnight ferry

## DAY 4 | SPLIT

Wave farewell to the ferry and bok (read: hi) to sunny Split! It's time to explore this stunner-of-a-city however YOU choose – but your in-the-know Trip Leader's got recommendations, obvs. Keen to tick off a few thousand years of history? There's an optional walking tour on the cards to discover the likes of Diocletian's Palace, Saint Domnius Cathedral and the Riva. Or head up Marjan Hill for immense sunset views over the city. This is what you came for. Tonight: round up the fam and hunt down some black risotto (disclaimer: prepare for sexy Victorian-era stained teeth).



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Orientation walk of Split with  
Trip Leader



### OPTIONAL

#### ACTIVITIES:

+ Walking tour of Split with  
local guide: from 80 HRK

## DAY 5 | SPLIT

You wanted more time to explore – so here’s a free day we prepared earlier. Go get it. Our hot tips? ‘Split’ (we had to do it) your time between chill Kasjuni Beach and the cobbled streets of the Old Town. Track down some fresh-off-the-boat seafood along the harbour. Or take to the sea on an optional boat trip to the eye-popping Blue Lagoon or Brac island’s shark fin-shaped beach. And this evening? We’ll dig into more local eats at another included group dinner. Živjeli (ji-vo-li) – cheers to that!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Boat trip to Brac island or the Blue Lagoon: prices available locally

## DAY 6 | SPLIT TO SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, VIA MOSTAR

So long Split! This morning it’s time to make tracks for up-and-coming Sarajevo – a city that’s shaking off its tragic past. But first: a quick stop in Mostar to see the scenic AF Old Bridge (and the Red Bull-style-bridge-jumpers). Then: we’ll roll into Sarajevo, where there’s free time to get your explore on. Our suggestion? Head to Bascarsija – an Ottoman-influenced 15th-century bazaar and cultural heart of the city. Or sit back at a riverside café and let it all sink in.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Orientation walk of Mostar with Trip Leader

## DAY 7 | SARAJEVO

You wanted freedom to do your thing. So this is your chance to discover one of Europe’s most underrated cities. There’s an optional walk around the Sarajevo Museum, Gazi Husrev-Beg’s Bezistan, the Latin Bridge and Sebilj Fountain, if you’re up for it. Then: it’s your turn to hit the streets. Check out the Sarajevo Roses – resin-filled memorials to the Siege of Sarajevo. Marvel at Vijecnica’s amazing stained-glass ceiling. Head to Sevdah Art House and tuck into Bosnian coffee and pastries as you learn about the history of traditional Sevdah music (it’s folk). Or hike up to Yellow Bastion Hill for ultimate views over the city. Later, find a local restaurant and fill up on cevapi, washed down with a glass of bambus (red wine + coke – don’t knock it until you try it).



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Walking tour of Sarajevo with local guide: prices available locally

## DAY 8 | SARAJEVO TO BELGRADE, SERBIA

After another brekkie with the gang, we’re making a beeline for Belgrade. This ‘White City’ has been razed to the ground 44 times, and fought over by more empires than you can shake a shiny sword at. First: we’ll soak up some of the top sights on a whip around town with our Trip Leader. Expect a pick-and-mix of Soviet-era blocks and fancy art nouveau architecture. Afterwards, it’s time to locate some sarma (pickled cabbage rolls: better than they sound) and knedle dumplings (why shouldn’t plums and mashed potato be friends?). Wash it all down with the local poison – šljivovica plum brandy – or a chilled craft beer at Dogma Brewery.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Orientation walk of Belgrade with Trip Leader

## DAY 9 | BELGRADE TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Slurp up that Serbian coffee – today we're setting course for the twin cities of Buda and Pest. Here we'll get the local low-down from our Trip Leader, and start sampling the treats on the streets. Goulash. Chicken paprikash. Langos. Dobos cake. Hope you like paprika, they're kinda obsessed with it here. Tonight, we'll give this incred adventure the send-off it deserves with an included dinner cruise down the Danube. Buda Castle and House of Parliament look extra spesh lit up like Christmas. Trust us.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Orientation walk of Budapest with Trip Leader
- + Danube dinner cruise

## DAY 10 | BUDAPEST

Wait, it's over? Swap Insta handles at breakfast – you'll need them to organise next year's reunion trip. Where to next?



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast

## 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.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[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](http://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!**