

Topdeck

PLAY & PAUSE: INTRO TO CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE (WINTER)



TRIP CODE:
TWDBB2

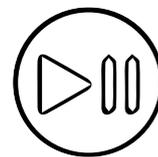
TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = the perfect mix of group activities and all-important YOU time. Ten days. Five Euro cities. One INCREDible introduction to Central and Eastern Europe's winter best bits. Drop into uber-cool Berlin for big city vibes. Discover fairytale streets and seasonal treats in Kraków and Budapest. Soak up the romance of Vienna and charm-filled Prague. And do it all your way – with time to pause and time to play. What you waiting for?

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)

- + Walking tour of Kraków with Trip Leader
- + Budapest highlights drive
- + 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

MORE INCLUSIONS

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YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Berlin
Germany

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Berlin
Germany

TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Germany -
- + Poland -
- + Hungary -
- + Austria -
- + Czech Republic -

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | BERLIN, GERMANY

Thermal undies packed? You're gonna need them when you touch down in Berlin. First: say guten tag to the small bunch of trip mates sharing the ride. Then: get pumped for the adventure at our first included group dinner. Ready for one frost-filled, snowball-sized intro to wintertime Europe? You're in exactly the right place.



MEALS:

+ Dinner

DAY 2 | 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 and local Pilsner beers (of course). This evening, show off your best Bambi impression at one of the city's ice rinks. Or grab some chill time back at the hotel. Choice is yours.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL

ACTIVITIES:

+ Third Reich walking tour:
from €12

+ Berlin food tour: from €35

DAY 3 | BERLIN TO KRAKÓW, POLAND

Legend has it a dragon had to be defeated in order for this place to be built. Game of Thrones, eat your heart out. Welcome to Kraków! Get acquainted with this gem of a city and the largest medieval town square in Europe (size isn't everything, Kraków) on today's walking tour. Then: the arvo's yours. Need tips? *Grabs foam finger and points at Trip Leader* – they've got it covered. Top up your history knowledge at Wawel Castle. Explore the quirky cafes and boutiques in the Jewish Quarter. Head to Schindler's Museum (be prepared to queue). Or find a local haunt and tuck into a heart-and-soul-warming bowl of rosół.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Kraków with
Trip Leader

DAY 4 | KRAKÓW

Today = you do you. Need some suggestions? Head to Hamsa in the heart of the Jewish Quarter for some 'Hummus and Happiness'. Shop for amber in the UNESCO-listed Cloth Hall. Or do as the locals do and drop into Okraglak for some drool-worthy street food – Zapiekanki is a must! Then: it's vodka time. On an optional tasting tour, wander the cobblestone streets with a local guide – learning the history behind Polish vodka and sampling a few flavoured varieties as you go. This stuff is not for mixing with cranberry juice. Trust us. Feeling buzzed? Przepiecek is a pierogi place with your name on it.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL

ACTIVITIES:

+ Vodka tasting: from 149 PLN

DAY 5 | KRAKÓW TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Up next? The twin cities of Buda and Pest. See why they call this place the City of Bridges as we roll past the Chain Bridge, Castle District, Gellert Hotel, Heroes' Square and House of Terror on a driving tour. SD cards full and tummies grumbling, we're gonna take it up a level with a dinner cruise down the Danube. Grab your coat and sit on the upper deck – Buda Castle and House of Parliament look even better lit up like Christmas. Trust us.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Budapest highlights drive
- + Danube dinner cruise

DAY 6 | BUDAPEST

You wanted freedom to explore – here it is. Check out the Central Market Hall. Explore the Jewish Quarter. Play pinball at the Flippermúzeum. Get a harrowing education at the House of Terrors. Hunt down the Anonymous Statue. Soak in the warm therapeutic waters of the Széchenyi Thermal Baths. Or head to Buda Castle and check out all the views from Fisherman's Bastion. Tonight, get stuck into some local fare: goulash, chicken paprikash, langos, dobos cake. Hope you like paprika, they're kinda obsessed with it here. Or hang with the hipsters at one of the original ruin bars. Our suggestion? Try pálinka (traditional fruit brandy) – it's like a warm hug for your insides.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

DAY 7 | BUDAPEST TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Viszlát (bye) Hungary, hallo (erm, hello) Austria! 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: the afternoon is yours. Poke around Princess Sissi's extravagant rooms at Schönbrunn Palace. Explore the Museum Quarter in depth. Head to Cafe Central for the most boujee afternoon tea you've ever had. Or enjoy the sweet sounds of Mozart and Bach played by the Viennese Chamber Orchestra at an optional concert. Culture mode = activated.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Vienna highlights drive



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Visit Schönbrunn Palace:
from €18.50
- + Tickets to the Sound of
Vienna Orchestra: from €60
- + Tickets to the Sound of
Vienna Orchestra (dinner
included): from €100

DAY 8 | VIENNA TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC, VIA MAUTHAUSEN

After another included brekkie, it's 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 embarking on a walking tour to get better acquainted with this picture-perfect city – complete with a 600-year-old Astronomical Clock. Your expert Trip Leader will point out all the must-dos for tomorrow as we go. Tonight, hit the town to try some local Czech beer. Or kick back and unwind in the privacy of your accom. This is your trip, after all.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 9 | PRAGUE

That's right folks – it's your day, your way. So, make like Dora and get exploring. Check out the John Lennon wall. Soak up some history at the Communist Museum. Take the funicular up Petrin Hill for all the views. Stroll the fairytale halls of the Klementinum. Or grab a delish roast pork roll at one of the street vendors lining Old Town Square. Fancy yourself as a bit of a hops connoisseur? Don't miss the beer tasting optional this afternoon. Or satisfy your sweet tooth (so, every tooth) with a sugar-filled serving of trdelník. Think: fire-roasted pastry coated in cinnamon sugar – add Nutella and you've got the stuff of dessert dreams *wipes drool from chin*. Whatever you get up to, make sure you're back in time to toast our winter adventure at tonight's included dinner.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner



OPTIONAL

ACTIVITIES:

- + Local beer tasting in Prague: from 800 CZK

DAY 10 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY, VIA DRESDEN

Today we're swapping one beer capital for the next. But first, 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. This eve, it's time to say auf wiedersehen to your trip mates (no crying). Swap those digits and get that summer reunion trip locked in.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Orientation walk of Dresden with Trip Leader

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!