



TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. Q: how do I fit Europe's winter highlights into under three weeks? A: this, right here. Discover the foodie capitals of Berlin and Florence. Ooohh and ahhhh your way around the showstoppers: Paris, Rome, Venice and Amsterdam. Throw in the mind-blowing Alps. And top it off with all the steaming mulled wine, roaring fires, piping-hot pastries and frost-filled activities that makes a Euro winter so spesh. Got *chills*? You will do.

WORTH NOTING...

Hitting Central Europe on the 13 Dec 2024 departure? Christmas in Europe is a VIBE. Quick FYI: you won't be visiting Mauthausen Concentration Camp. It's closed for the festive period on Day 12 of your trip. For Topdeckers joining us on 21 Dec, you'll visit Dachau Concentration Camp instead of Mauthausen.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Get Social



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

- Paris highlights drive
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Orvieto with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Salzburg with Trip Leader
- 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:

London
Europe

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

London
Europe

TRIP CURRENCIES

- England - GBP
- France - EUR
- Switzerland - CHF
- Italy - EUR
- Vatican City - EUR
- Austria - EUR
- Czech Republic - CZK
- Germany - EUR
- Netherlands - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | LONDON (ENGLAND) – PARIS (FRANCE)

Ready to discover the unknown, find your people and experience the new and exotic? We thought so. Meet the crew in LDN – we're hitting the road early for our drive across the Channel. The home of Louis Vuitton, ol' Mona and world's BEST desserts – Paris has earned its rep as the European capital for all things fashion, culture and food. Tick off all the showstoppers on a driving tour before getting out and about in the City of Luuuurve. Wanna see an alternate view of the City of Lights? Jump aboard an optional river cruise. This is gonna be good.



INCLUDED TODAY:



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Paris highlights drive
- Seine River cruise: from €15

DAY 2 | PARIS

There's more here than over-priced handbags and unoriginal poses under the Eiffel Tower. Trust us. Spend your free day ticking off those bucket-list highlights with the gang AND exploring the backstreets. Hunt down the best patisseries in town (ask your Trip Leader for recommendations). Or inject some feel-good vibes at the I Love You Wall. Not a walker? Beat the winter chill and work the calves on an optional bike tour. Tonight, test your epic name-remembering skills (or, not) at our welcome meal. Then: go all-out with an optional evening at the cabaret. Think sparkling lights, glittering costumes and death-defying acrobats!



MEALS:



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Dinner
- Bike tour of Paris: from €34
- Parisian cabaret show: prices and location available locally

DAY 3 | PARIS – SWISS ALPS (SWITZERLAND)

No lies, this is a long drive. BUT you've got banging tunes and scenic views to keep you occupied – not to mention your sick AF trip mates. Home to the 'Top of Europe', rushing waterfalls and one of the largest nature conservations in Switzerland – tonight we're bunking down in the jaw-dropping Swiss Alps. Sit back in the fresh (read: freezing) alpine air with a steaming cup of glühwein and crack open that new pack of playing cards. Good luck dealing in mittens.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 4 | SWISS ALPS

If the Swiss Alps had a Tinder bio it would read: fun-filled outdoor enthusiast – looking for a fellow adrenalin-lovin'-snow-bunny to share adventures with. Swiping right? Snow-hiking. Skiing. Snowboarding. Skydiving. Helicopter-ing. This place has it all. More of a thrill-dodger? Jump aboard the Jungfraubahn railway and get all the white-washed summit views (minus the effort). Then put those elastic waistbands to the test. We're talking creamy Swiss hot chocolate, gooey cheese fondue, carb-filled potato rösti and älplermagronen (think: mac 'n' cheese, but better).

★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Skydiving in the Swiss Alps:
from 475 CHF
- Scenic excursion to Jungfrau
('The Top of Europe'): from 165
CHF

DAY 5 | SWISS ALPS – PISA (ITALY) – FLORENCE

Start practising your Italian coffee order – we're heading to the land of the long boot. First stop: Pisa. If you're gonna take THAT photo, think of something unique. Please. Then, make your food baby sing as we roll into the capital of Tuscan cuisine and birthplace of gelato. Fact: you can still sample a scoop or two of the good stuff in winter (judgement-free). Tonight: head to a karaoke bar to ballad-battle your trip mates. Someone picked Frozen before your turn? Let it go...



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Pisa and see the famous
Leaning Tower

DAY 6 | FLORENCE

Florence has more stories than you can poke a stick at, more culture than a Melbourne hipster AND it gave the world David (putting dad bods to shame since 1504). We'll get the lay of the land on an in-depth walking tour with a local guide. Then: take your new-found knowledge and hit the streets solo. Uffizi Gallery. Ponte Vecchio. Piazza della Signoria. The Duomo. You can't see it all, but you sure as hell can try! Tonight, rug up and head to Piazzale Michelangelo – even in winter, the sunset is redic. Then, indulge in a centuries-old tradition at Babae restaurant: the only place in Florence with a functioning 'wine window'. We're sold.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Florence with
local guide

DAY 7 | FLORENCE – ORVIETO – ROME

Onwards! First: a pit stop at the hilltop town of Orvieto – to see the grand cathedral and dig into a wild boar panini (unless you're vegetarian, soz). Then: bella Roma awaits. Strap in for one EPIC walking tour. We're talking a solid few hours of non-stop sights, off-the-tourist-trail hidden gems and a run-down of almost 3000 years of history. Pass by the Pantheon, (don't) sit on the Spanish Steps, check out the mighty Colosseum and throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain. Then, gather the gang and go show that pizza who's boss.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Orvieto with Trip Leader

DAY 8 | ROME

You've watched (or been made to watch) Eat. Pray. Love. Now, it's time to make like Julia and put this city to the test. You have 48 hours of freedom to explore. Count your blessings on an optional tour of Vatican City, then play 'I-spy' with two-and-a-half millennia worth of history. Get your steps in on a different optional tour. This time it includes three I-CON-IC sights: Colosseum, Palatine Hill and Roman Forum. Grab a bite on the food and wine tour up for grabs *wipes drool*. Or do as the locals do and indulge in a little dolce far niente (delicious idleness) with a piping-hot macchiato at a local cafe. Tonight, shake out those fat pants for another round of allll the cream-filled, sauce-topped, parmesan-covered carbs!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Vatican City: from €50
- Colosseum, Palatine Hill and Roman Forum tour: from €50
- Food and wine tour: from €69

DAY 9 | ROME – VENICE

After another group brekkie, we're making a beeline for Venice. The drive is your chance to share snaps with your new mates, catch up on some zzzzs and text the 'rents (trust us, you'll be too busy later). We'll park up in the birthplace of Vivaldi this afternoon. Throw on your beanie and acquaint yourself with the who's who of Venice's usual suspects on a walking tour – ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Accademia Bridge. Then, stop and take in the romantic winter vibes with a Venetian hot chocolate overlooking the canal. Yep, you're finally here.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Get a personalised trip T-shirt or hoodie: from €23

DAY 10 | VENICE

You know it as The Floating City, but this place is actually sinking (slowly). So, make like Dora and get exploring! Need some suggestions? Float past the famous Rialto Bridge on a gondola ride. Spend your time seeking out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop. Get lost amongst the misty alleyways and shimmering piazzas. Then find yourself next to a roaring fire with a mug of hot vin brulé. Later, score a cheap meal at Osteria Al Portego or fill up on alllll the drool-worthy Italian pastries (no judgement here).



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 11 | VENICE – SALZBURG (AUSTRIA)

Today: we're setting a course for Salzburg. So much more than strudel and The Sound of Music – this place has got elegance written on every grand baroque building. We'll tick off the likes of the Mirabell Gardens, Mozart's birthplace, Fortress Hohensalzburg and the Cathedral on a walking tour with our expert Trip Leader. What you get up to tonight is 100% on you. Getting hangry? Pull up a pew at a local restaurant and dig into a weiner schnitzel, washed down with a pint of Ottakringer for good measure.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Salzburg with Trip Leader

DAY 12 | SALZBURG – MAUTHAUSEN – PRAGUE (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Onwards to the spire-filled skyline and mysterious streets of Prague! But first: a sobering visit to former concentration camp Mauthausen. Learn all about the atrocities that occurred here during WWII before we make tracks to the Republic of Czech (say: check). Our Trip Leader will get us acquainted with this picture-perfect city – complete with quirky clock tower – and point out all the must-dos for our free day tomorrow. Tonight? Round up the fam and swing by The Alchemist – the best cocktail bar in the city. Hint: if you want the full experience, we recommend 'choose your fate' off the menu. See you in the morning.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 13 | PRAGUE

That's right folks – it's your day, your way. So get out there and do your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-for thing. Check out the John Lennon wall. Soak up some history at the Communist Museum. Take the funicular up Petrin Hill for allll the views. 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. Czech beers + tapas = good times guaranteed. Tonight, dinner is up to you – just leave room for a trdelnik (or two). It's all your sugary dreams rolled into one cone-shaped, cream-filled, carb-laden dessert *wipes drool from chin*.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague: from €40

DAY 14 | PRAGUE – DRESDEN (GERMANY) – BERLIN

Next up? A country where beer is officially considered an essential food group (right next to sausage and sauerkraut). Halloooo Germany! We'll get acquainted with 800 year-old Dresden on the way. Then: 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 Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and Brandenburg Gate. Tonight: get the group together to see whether this city's nightlife really lives up to the hype. Prost!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

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

DAY 15 | BERLIN

You've got 24 hrs of free time here – don't muck around. Opt in for a local walking tour that's, you know, not boring. You'll get a local insight into what the city was like under Nazi rule and tick off all the must-sees. 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 beer. Rather explore solo? Head to the Mauerpark markets for stalls filled with stuff you didn't know you needed. Explore Museum Island. Take a ride in a Trabi and see why it's Germany's best-loved car. Or turn off Google Maps and simply get lost in the unknown. Tonight, see if Mustafa's döner kebabs meet expectations.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Third Reich walking tour: from €20
- Berlin food tour: from €45

DAY 16 | BERLIN – AMSTERDAM (NETHERLANDS)

Ok, nobody panic – we've only got two days left. But the adventure sure as hell isn't over yet! We've got our eye on Amsterdam next. Once we arrive, chuck on the layers and hit the cobblestones. Check out the likes of Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument. This place is a foodie's wet dream – so you'll have no trouble finding somewhere to settle in for dinner. Tonight, head to Proeflokaal Arendsneest for a selection of over 100 Dutch beers (and all the cosy winter vibes). Insider tip: end the night with a cone of hot chips and mayo – practical and bloody delicious. Dig in.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 17 | AMSTERDAM

This is our last full day. FFS 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!). If you do forget, there's another Anne Frank optional today: a VR experience of the city through her eyes. And for the culture fiends – the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum. Hunt down Winkel 43 for the best appeltaart in the city. Or just get lost amongst backstreets of the different districts – each one's got a unique vibe and plenty to explore. Just make sure you're back in time to toast the final night of our winter getaway at tonight's included dinner. We'll be giving this incredible frosty adventure the send-off it deserves!



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Amsterdam: from €28
- Anne Frank's last walk and VR experience: from €37

DAY 18 | AMSTERDAM – LONDON (ENGLAND)

Seriously? It's over? After breakfast, we'll hit the road. Blast the Trip Song one last time, swap those Insta handles and get planning next year's reunion trip. We hear Europe in summer is pretty sick...



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!