

Topdeck

GET SOCIAL: EUROPE EXPRESS (WINTER)



TRIP CODE:
TWNLL3

TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. This 11-day Euro trip is THE ONE for those big on ambition but short on time. And doing it in winter = alllllll the hot-chocolate-sipping, fireplace-sitting, snow-angel-making, beanie-wearing vibes. Combine the bucket listers: Paris, Venice and Amsterdam. Mix in the show-stopping Swiss Alps. Sprinkle a touch of German magic with Munich and Heidelberg. And the cherry on the (fruit)cake? The BEST bunch of trip mates to share it all with. It's a foolproof recipe for winter fun.

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
- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Munich with Trip Leader

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
- Germany - EUR
- Netherlands - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

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

Meet the crew in London, stock up on snacks and whip out the AUX cord. Best to work out who the T-Swift fans are early. First stop: the City of Love. Tick off all the showstoppers with a driving tour – we're talking: the Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysées, Place de la Concorde and THAT pointy tower. And later? Switch Paris mode ON and get out there!



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Paris highlights drive

DAY 2 | PARIS

There's more here than over-priced handbags and unoriginal poses under the Eiffel Tower. And to prove it, we've given you a full 24 hrs to discover the REAL Paris. Our suggestion? Spend your free day ticking off the bucket listers (and keeping those calves warm) on an optional bike tour. Then: explore the backstreets with the gang. Hunt down the best patisseries in town. Or uncover the city's secret underworld at Catacombes de Paris. Want an alternate angle? Grab a takeaway chocolat chaud and settle in for an optional river cruise down the Seine. Tonight, get to know the gang better at our welcome dinner. And later, there's an optional cabaret show on the cards – just to really round things off. You're in the home of the can-can after all.



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Paris: from €30
- Seine River cruise: from €10
- Parisian cabaret show: from €75

DAY 3 | PARIS – SWISS ALPS (SWITZERLAND)

Disclaimer: today is a bit of a drive day. But you already guessed that, right? Strap in. Get to know your trip mates better. And bust out some bangers as the most jaw-dropping, snow-capped scenery wizzes past the window. They don't have views like this back home. Proud owner of 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. Dealing in mittens? Best of luck.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 4 | SWISS ALPS

This place is Disneyland for outdoor enthusiasts. And you've got a full free day to experience every second to the fullest. Snow-hiking. Skiing. Snowboarding. Skydiving. Helicopter-ing. It's all here. But if you identify as a thrill-dodger, there's plenty to get excited about too. Jump aboard the Jungfrau railway and get all the white-washed summit views (minus the effort). Or engage explorer mode and go chasing waterfalls. Fact: TLC were wrong. And when the sun goes down, there's an optional night sledding experience to get on board with. Tonight, if you haven't had cheese fondue yet, do it NOW!

★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Skydiving in the Swiss Alps: from 450 CHF
- Skiing/snowboarding: from 179 CHF
- Scenic excursion to Jungfrau ('The Top of Europe'): from 161.80 CHF
- Night sledding in the Swiss Alps: from 79 CHF

DAY 5 | SWISS ALPS – VENICE (ITALY)

Take one last peek at the peaks – we're rolling into Italy later today. Welcome to Venice, Topdeckers! You know it as The Floating City, but this place is actually sinking (slowly). So, don't waste a second. Check out the usual suspects on a walking tour with our Trip Leader – ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Accademia Bridge. Then: the rest is up to you. What delicious carb-laden Italian meal have you been dreaming about? Order two.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Get a personalised trip T-shirt or hoodie: from €21

DAY 6 | VENICE

You wanted the freedom to do your own spontaneous-this-is-what-I-came-here-for thing. So here's a free day we prepared earlier. Need some suggestions? Float past the famous Rialto Bridge on an optional gondola ride. Spend your time seeking out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop. Or forget all the above and hunt down the perfect gelato (who says you can't have brain freeze in winter too?). Get lost. Find yourself. Then grab a macchiato overlooking the canal and watch the gondoliers guide their vessels through the fog. This place is magic. Later, rally the troops and score a cheap meal at Osteria Al Portego, or fill up on alllll the drool-worthy Italian pastries (no judgement here).

★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Gondola ride down the Grand Canal: from €30

DAY 7 | VENICE – MUNICH (GERMANY)

Order one last espresso in poor Italian (hey, you tried!). Next up? A country where beer is officially considered an essential food group (right next to sausage and sauerkraut). Kick things off with a walking tour, then: it's the moment you've been waiting for: an appropriate occasion to wear lederhosen. Head to the 428-year-old Hofbräuhaus for a royal Happy Hour experience or find a toasty local pub for a stein-sesh with your trip mates. Prost!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Munich with Trip Leader

DAY 8 | MUNICH – HEIDELBERG

Dust off those crumbs from this morning's group brekkie – today we're making tracks to fairytale Heidelberg. This place is all about hilltop ruins, cobblestone old quarters and super-smart Nobel Prize winners (must be something in the water here *downs glass*). Plan for this arvo? It's totally up to you. Take the cable car up to the Palace for some unbeliEVABLE views. Or find a local haunt to chow down on a head-sized pork knuckle – this is Germany after all.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 9 | HEIDELBERG – AMSTERDAM (NETHERLANDS)

Quick maths – we've only got two days left. But the adventure sure as hell isn't over yet! Plug 'The Dam' into the GPS – we're making tracks to the Venice of the North. Once we arrive, it's time to don your beanie and hit the cobblestones to scope out the city. Check out the likes of the Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument. This place is a foodie's dream – so you'll have no trouble finding somewhere to settle in for dinner. Tonight, round up the fam and head to Proeflokaal Arendsnest for a selection of over 100 Dutch beers (and all the cosy vibes).



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 10 | 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!). And for the culture fiends – the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum. Fight off that winter chill with a cone of hot chips and mayo (practical and delicious). Get lost amongst backstreets of the different districts – each one's got a unique vibe and plenty to explore. Or strap on your skates and hit the ice rinks. Just make sure you're back in time to toast the final night of our express-adventure at tonight's included dinner.



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Amsterdam: from €25

DAY 11 | AMSTERDAM – LONDON (ENGLAND)

Amster-DAMN that was good. But now it's time to head back across the Channel to London Town. Blast the Trip Song one last time. And get planning – that reunion trip won't book itself! 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!