

# Topdeck

## PLAY & PAUSE: CENTRAL EUROPE HIGHLIGHTS (WINTER)

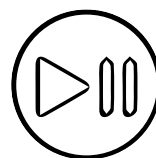


TRIP CODE:  
TWWLL3

### TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = the perfect mix of group activities and all-important YOU time. You did it. You just found a firecracker of a winter trip that fits Central Europe's best bits into one tidy 15-day package. Starring big-gun cities and enchanting hidden gems. Bucket-list highlights and bags of free time. And all the snow-capped, spine-tingling, soul-stirring scenery that only Europe can deliver. This trip puts the #win in winter. You coming?

#### 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

- Paris highlights drive
- Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Salzburg with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Heidelberg 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
- Vatican City - EUR
- Austria - EUR
- Germany - EUR
- Netherlands - EUR

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | LONDON (ENGLAND)

You've watched (or been made to watch) Love Actually. And now you're *actually* in London, in winter, about to have the best damn two weeks of your life. Wild, right? First, say hi (or give a fancy royal wave) to the small bunch of trip mates joining the ride. Then, it's time for our first included group dinner. Ready for Central Europe's highlights in all their sparkling, frost-filled, wintery glory? Let's DO this.



### MEALS:

- Dinner

## DAY 2 | LONDON – PARIS (FRANCE)

Cheerio London – after brekkie, it's time to hop across the English Channel. Use the ride to brush up on your bonjours and s'il vous plaîts – and get to know your awesome AF trip mates. This is what it's all about! The home of Coco Chanel, the Mona Lisa and the world's yummiest pastries – Paris has earned its rep as the European capital for all things fashion, culture and drool-worthy food. Tick off all the showstoppers on a driving tour before tracking down a REAL French meal. Need recommendations? Your in-the-know Trip Leader's got that covered. Bon appétit!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Paris highlights drive

## DAY 3 | 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 those bucket-list items (and keeping those calves warm) on an optional bike tour. Then: explore the backstreets. Hunt down the best patisseries in town. Get lost amongst the shelves of history at Shakespeare and Co. Books. Or uncover the city's secret underworld at Catacombes de Paris. Want an alternate angle? Grab a takeaway chocolat chaud (hot chocolate) and settle in for an optional river cruise down the Seine. Tonight, 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:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Seine River cruise: from €15
- Bike tour of Paris: from €34
- Parisian cabaret show: prices and location available locally

## DAY 4 | PARIS – SWISS ALPS (SWITZERLAND)

Disclaimer: today is a bit of a drive day. But you already knew that, right? Strap in. Get to know your trip mates better. Or just treat your eyeballs to all the jaw-dropping, snow-capped scenery as it whizzes past the window. They don't have views like this back home. Cue the fairytale villages and romantic castles of your imagination – the oh-so-quaint Engelberg will be our base for the next two nights. Later, we'll get stuck into a group dinner before heading to the hotel bar. Or sit back in the crisp (note: freezing) alpine air with a steaming cup of glühwein. Yep, this is what you came for.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

## DAY 5 | SWISS ALPS

There's one word to describe Switzerland in winter: MAGIC. So, here's a free day to discover exactly what that means. Our suggestion for a clear day? Take the revolving gondola to the top of Mt Titlis for all the unbelievable panoramas (without the effort). Or strap on your boots and explore the forest trails – 'holy sh\*t' scenery guaranteed. Rather uncover the gastronomic wonders of this place? Head into town and sip on the world's best hot chocolate by a crackling fire. Whatever you choose, you're gonna have views for days. Dinner tonight is on you – haven't tried cheese fondue yet? Now's your chance (unless you're lactose intolerant, obv).



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic excursion to Mt Titlis:  
from 92 CHF

## DAY 6 | SWISS ALPS – FLORENCE (ITALY)

Pelt your Trip Leader with one last snowball and snap another pic of the dreamy frosted-peaks (it'll never do this place justice) – we're rolling on to the capital of Tuscan cuisine today. You packed your fat pants, right? Before you hunt down some penne alla vodka for dinner (trust us on this one), rug up and take a stroll along the Arno River for those this-is-what-I-came-for-vibes. Then: did someone say karaoke? If you're up for it, join the gang in a battle of the ballads at a local bar. Or hunt down a gelateria for a scoop (or two) of the good stuff. Who said you can't have gelato in winter? You do you – it's your brain freeze, after all.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 7 | FLORENCE – ROME

Florence has more storylines than Game of Thrones, more culture than a Fitzroy hipster AND it gave the world David. First up today, we'll get the inside scoop on this incredible city with a locally guided walking tour. Later, bella Roma is calling our name. Slip on your boots, grab your beanie and pack your camera – this afternoon's walking tour is one for the books. 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, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain, (don't) sit on the Spanish Steps and wind things up under the shadow of the mighty Colosseum. One word, four syllables: INCREDIBLE. Tonight, you're in Disneyland for foodies – so shake out those fat pants and ask your Trip Leader where to find the best cacio e pepe. You won't be disappointed.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader

## DAY 8 | ROME

Two-and-a-half millennia of history. Vespas. Espresso. Two-cheek kisses. Aggressive hand gestures. And pizza the way it's supposed to taste. There's a reason Rome is on the top of Europe's must-do list. And it's even better in winter (in our totally unbiased opinion). Here's a free day we prepared earlier. Don't just skim the surface, experience every moment to the fullest. Count your blessings and play I-spy with historical masterpieces on an optional tour of Vatican City. Or get your daily step count in during a guided tour of the Colosseum, Palatine Hill AND Roman Forum. You could also check out Castel Sant'Angelo (aka Hadrian's Tomb). Snack on roasted chestnuts and stroll along the Tiber River. Shop till you drop on Via Condotti. Or strap on the skates and hit the rink (depending when you're here, obvs). Tonight, prepare for more carb-loaded deliciousness at our included dinner. When in Rome...



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 9 | ROME – VENICE

Tums filled with another included brekkie, we're making tracks for that famous sinking city today. After checking in at the hotel, it's time to see what all the fuss is about. 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. And then – this beautifully romantic city is yours for the taking. Our suggestion? Grab a macchiato overlooking the canal and watch the gondoliers guide their vessels through the fog. This place has romance written all over it. Later, score a cheap meal at Osteria Al Portego or fill up on alllll the drool-worthy Venetian pastries (no judgement 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

Centuries-old architecture. Inventive cuisine. And a bucket-load of culture. Venice is just begging to be explored. Good news: you've got the whole day to do just that. Jump on a gondola and explore the gobsmacking Grand Canal, without the filter. Seek out the ramshackle-chic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop or head off the tourist trail with a trip to Giudecca Island. Go wandering. Get lost in the maze of canals and piazzas. Then seek out Café Florian for a piping mug of rich hot chocolate and zaletti biscuits. That's what makes memories.



### 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. Don your fave beanie and slip on your woolly socks – 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. Getting hangry? We got you – dinner tonight is on us. Then: settle into a cosy, lantern-lit beer hall. Or head back to the hotel for some recharge time. It's 100% up to you.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Salzburg with Trip Leader

## DAY 12 | SALZBURG – HEIDELBERG (GERMANY)

Down one last cup of Austrian coffee, we're making tracks to fairytale Heidelberg today. This place is all about hilltop ruins, cobblestone old quarters and Nobel Prize winners (they're a brainy bunch here). Get your bearings on a stroll with your Trip Leader, then the rest of the afternoon is 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



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Heidelberg with Trip Leader

## DAY 13 | HEIDELBERG – AMSTERDAM (NETHERLANDS)

Our trip may be coming to a close, but it's not over yet! We've got our eye on Amsterdam today. Dump your stuff and hit the cobblestones – Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument are waiting. For dinner tonight, you're gonna be spoilt for choice – Dutch steakhouses, trendy vegan haunts, fancy à la carte menus and the best takeaway hot chips you've had in your life. Guaranteed. Later: head to Hannekes Boom for waterfront views and good vibes galore. Or grab a bar (or six) of Tony's Chocolonely and watch life float by on the canals. It's ALL the chills.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 14 | 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!) or see the city through her eyes on an optional VR experience. And for the culture fiends – the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum. Then get lost amongst backstreets of the different districts – each with their own unique vibe. Just make sure you're back in time to toast the final night of our wonder-filled adventure at tonight's included dinner.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 15 | AMSTERDAM – LONDON (ENGLAND)

After breakfast, it's time to head back across the Channel to London Town. Get a warm piece of appeltaart to takeaway. 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!**