



# PLAY & PAUSE: GREAT EUROPEAN (WINTER)



TRIP CODE:  
TWXLL2

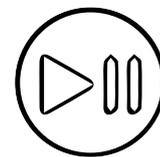
## TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

(Most similar to this previous trip: Winter Expedition) TRIP VIBE = the perfect mix of group activities and all-important YOU time. Great expectations? You should have. This immense wintery adventure around Europe's most enchanting cities and spellbinding landscapes is the REAL fairytale. Discover the legendary capitals of Paris, Rome, Berlin and Amsterdam. Mix in the myths of Eastern Europe. And sprinkle the snow-capped peaks of the Swiss AND Austrian Alps on top. This trip is pure magic. Trust us.

### 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)

- + Paris highlights drive
- + Visit Liechtenstein
- + Orientation walk of Milan with Trip Leader
- + Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- + Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- + Orientation walk of Orvieto with Trip Leader
- + Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader
- + Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader
- + Walking tour of Munich with Trip Leader
- + Visit Lake Bled
- + Budapest highlights drive
- + Danube dinner cruise
- + Walking tour of Kraków with Trip Leader
- + Walking tour of Český Krumlov with Trip Leader
- + Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader
- + Orientation walk of Dresden with Trip Leader
- + Berlin highlights drive

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Paris highlights drive
- + Visit Liechtenstein
- + Orientation walk of Milan with Trip Leader
- + Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- + Walking tour of Florence with local guide
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- + Walking tour of Český Krumlov with Trip Leader
- + 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 -
- + France -
- + Switzerland -
- + Italy -
- + Liechtenstein -
- + Vatican City -
- + Austria -
- + Germany -
- + Slovenia -
- + Hungary -
- + Poland -
- + Czech Republic -
- + Netherlands -

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | LONDON (ENGLAND)

Great Britain. The ONLY place to kick off your Great Euro Winter escape. First: meet the small bunch of trip mates who'll be sharing the ride. Then: get pumped for the adventure at our first included group dinner. Ready for just under a month's worth of magical cities, frosty canals, glittering mountains and Frozen-style castles? You're in exactly the right place.



### MEALS:

+ Dinner

## DAY 2 | LONDON – PARIS (FRANCE)

Warm up with a cup of Earl Grey and wave cheerio to Blighty – we're hitting the road early to jump across the Channel. The home of Coco Chanel, the Mona Lisa and the world's yummiest pastries – Paris deserves its rep as the European capital for culture and drool-worthy food. We'll tick off all the showstoppers with a driving tour around the City of Luuurve. And for dinner? If you're feeling brave, your expert Trip Leader knows where you can try escargot without \*shelling out\* (sorry not sorry). Bon appétit!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Paris highlights drive

## DAY 3 | PARIS

Yep, you're finally here – so, this is your day to simply do you. Create a solid dent in your bucket list with a visit to the Louvre (book your tickets in advance!) and the Musée d'Orsay. Hunt down the cosiest patisseries in town (your Trip Leader knows where it's at). Get lost amongst the shelves of history at Shakespeare and Co. Bookshop. Flash some plastic along the Champs Elysées. Or inject some feel-good vibes at the I Love You Wall. Feeling frosty? We got you – keep those calves warm on an optional bike tour. Or get an alternate view of the City of Light with a river cruise down the Seine. Tonight, go all-out with an optional evening at the cabaret. Think: bright lights, OTT costumes and death-defying acrobatics. You're in the home of the can-can after all.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Seine River cruise: from €10

+ Bike tour of Paris: from €30

+ Parisian cabaret show: from  
€75

## 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 simply soak up 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. 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' moments 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 going to 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 64 CHF

## DAY 6 | SWISS ALPS – LIECHTENSTEIN – MILAN (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 outta here after breakfast. After making a pit stop in the teeny-tiny country of Liechtenstein, we'll roll into the style capital of the world: Milan. Home to all the big-name labels and the fifth largest Christian church in the world – take a stroll with your Trip Leader, before having the rest of the afternoon off to do your own spontaneous thing. Window shop your way around the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. Soak up the views (and I-N-C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E architecture) from inside the Duomo. Walk the runway at the Triennale Design Museum. Or find a painfully stylish bar to indulge in an aperitivo. Here at Christmastime? Try panettone. It originated here, so you know it's gotta be better than the packaged one your crazy aunt brings every year.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Liechtenstein  
+ Orientation walk of Milan  
with Trip Leader

## DAY 7 | MILAN – PISA – FLORENCE

We're rolling on to the capital of Tuscan cuisine today. You packed your fat pants, right? But first: the wonky tower of Pisa. If you're gonna take THAT photo, think of something unique. Please. Before our included dinner tonight, 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? No one.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Pisa and see the famous  
Leaning Tower

## DAY 8 | 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, don your beanie 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.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Florence with local guide

## DAY 9 | 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, you're in Disneyland for foodies – so you know dinner tonight is gonna be good. Need pointing in the right direction? Your Trip Leader's on it.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

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

## DAY 10 | 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 24 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. Head up Capitoline Hill for awesome views. Grab a bite at Lost Food Factory (arguably one of the best sandwich spots in town). 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 round two. Cue: alllllll the cream-filled, sauce-topped carbs!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Guided tour of Vatican City:  
from €60

## DAY 11 | ROME – VENICE

The drive to Venice 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 later 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 actually here.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 12 | 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. Need suggestions? Go classic with an optional gondola ride down the Grand Canal. Sift through the titles in the floodproof(ish) Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop. Head off the tourist trail with a trip to Giudecca Island. 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 the memories. Later, score a cheap meal at Osteria Al Portego or fill up on alllll the drool-worthy Italian pastries (no judgement here).



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Gondola ride down the Grand Canal: from €30

## DAY 13 | VENICE – AUSTRIAN ALPS (AUSTRIA)

Order one last coffee in poor Italian (hey, you tried!) and prepare yourself for some I-N-C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E scenery as we make our way to the Austrian Alps. So much more than schnitzel, strudel and The Sound of Music, this thrill-seekers' paradise should have been sponsored by GoPro. After an included dinner tonight, kick back, relax and enjoy whitewashed serenity. Your time never looked better.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Tobogganing in the Alps: prices available locally

## DAY 14 | AUSTRIAN ALPS

Rise and shine – the Austrian Alps await! This place is a snow-fanatic's ultimate fantasy and you'll have a full day to shred to your heart's content. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned pro, ask your Trip Leader for the best slopes for you – then hit the powder! Rather soak up the snow-capped scenes from above? Tandem paragliding has your name on it. Or just sit back and enjoy a day sipping hot chocolate surrounded by gob-smacking alpine scenery. It's 100% up to you.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Skiing in the Alps: from €150  
+ Tandem paragliding: from €144 (plus €24 deposit)

## DAY 15 | AUSTRIAN ALPS

Icing sugar-dusted mountain ranges. Ski runs glistening in the morning sun. This place? Magical. Hit the slopes early and make the most of your last day here. Or strap on the snow-shoes and arrange a hike through the valley. Tonight, get the gang together for a wiener schnitzel and cup (or two) of piping hot glühwein. It doesn't get more winter-y than this.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

### ACTIVITIES:

+ Skiing in the Alps: from €150

## DAY 16 | AUSTRIAN ALPS – MUNICH (GERMANY)

Next up? A country where beer is officially considered an essential food group (right next to sausage and sauerkraut). Say hello to Germany! We'll kick things off with a walking tour of Munich 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 a cosy beer hall for a giant-sized pork knuckle with your trip mates. Prost!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Munich with Trip Leader

## DAY 17 | MUNICH – LAKE BLEED (SLOVENIA) – LJUBLJANA

After another included brekkie, we're plugging Ljubljana into the GPS. Try pronouncing it, we dare you. But first: a visit to the mesmerising Lake Bled. It's even better without the filter, trust us. Take a stroll around the glistening blue lake. Or hire a boat across to the island and ring the wishing bell. You wished for more wishes, didn't you? After we roll into Slovenia's hip capital, you'll have the whole afternoon to explore on your own. The castle has been waiting for you since Celtic times – so don't keep it hanging any longer. Tonight, gather the fam and hit the town for a vino with a side of live music. Or chill back at the hotel and recharge those batteries – there's still 12 days of adventuring left!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Lake Bled

## DAY 18 | LJUBLJANA – BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)

Our Ljubljana love affair was short but oh-so-sweet. Up next? The twin cities of Buda and Pest. See why they call this place the City of Bridges, as we're chauffeured 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 19 | 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. Hopefully 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 20 | BUDAPEST – 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 Poland's beating heart and the largest medieval town square in Europe on today's walking tour. Then? Take Fleetwood's advice and go your own way. 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 rosól.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Kraków with Trip Leader

## DAY 21 | 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 head to Okraglak for some drool-worthy street food – Zapiekanki is a must! Then: it's vodka time. On an optional tasting tour, wander the cobblestoned 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 PLN 149

## DAY 22 | KRAKÓW – CESKÝ KRUMLOV (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Up next? Český Krumlov. The entire place is UNESCO World Heritage-listed so prepare to be seriously WOW-ed. Take a wander around this historic city with your in-the-know Trip Leader – before getting out and exploring solo. A grand medieval castle. Twisting cobblestone streets. Disney-style Gothic churches. And a scenic meandering river. This place is what they meant by 'fairytale'. Fact: they've been brewing beer here since the 1300s. So, get the lowdown on the OG of Czech beer at Eggenberg Brewery before our included dinner tonight.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast  
+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Český Krumlov with Trip Leader

## DAY 23 | CESKÝ KRUMLOV – PRAGUE

Onwards to the spire-filled skyline and mysterious streets of Prague! Get acquainted with this picture-perfect city as our Trip Leader takes us on a wander through Wenceslas Square, past the largest ancient castle in the world and across medieval Charles Bridge. Try to catch the quirky show the 600-year-old Astronomical Clock puts on every hour. And – if you're here in December – warm up with some mulled wine or steaming palacinky pancakes under the ginormous Christmas tree in Old Town Square for alllll the festive cheer.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader

## DAY 24 | 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\*.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

### ACTIVITIES:

+ Local beer tasting in Prague:  
from 800 CZK

## DAY 25 | PRAGUE – DRESDEN (GERMANY) – BERLIN

From one beer capital to the next. 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. We'll drive you around to see the main sights including (what's left of) the Berlin Wall, Museum Island, the Holocaust Museum and Alexanderplatz. Then: tonight dinner is on us. Prost!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Orientation walk of Dresden  
with Trip Leader

+ Berlin highlights drive

## DAY 26 | BERLIN

You've got 24 hrs here. Make the most of it. Our advice? Opt in for a historic walking tour that's, you know, not boring. 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, get the in-the-know tips on where to spend your free time later. Or put those taste buds to the ultimate test on an awesome AF food tour. We're talking kebabs, pastries, more currywurst, pierogi and local beers (you're in Germany after all). This evening, show off your best Bambi impression on one of the city's ice rinks. Or grab some R&R back at your digs. Choice is yours.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### OPTIONAL

### ACTIVITIES:

+ Third Reich walking tour:  
from €12

+ Berlin food tour: from €45

## DAY 27 | BERLIN – 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 – think Dutch steakhouses, trendy vegan haunts and pancake places galore. Our recommendation? Hunt down some hot chips and mayo, park up on a bench and watch life float by on the canals. It's a mood.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

## DAY 28 | AMSTERDAM

And just like that, this is our last full day together. FFS don't hang about! Join the locals and check out Amsterdam's iconic canals, bridges and parks on an optional bike tour. Or for the culture fiends – delve a bit deeper with a visit to the Anne Frank House (don't forget to book in advance!). Then: there's 51 museums here but the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum should be top of your list. Or get lost amongst backstreets of this city's diverse districts – each one's got a distinct vibe. Whatever you get up to, make sure you're back in time for tonight's included dinner – we'll be going out with a bang!



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner



### OPTIONAL

### ACTIVITIES:

+ Bike tour of Amsterdam: from  
€25

## DAY 29 | AMSTERDAM – LONDON (ENGLAND)

Stock up on stroopwafels. Down that cup of Joe. And pile onto the coach – we're heading back to London Town after breakfast. Crank the trip song one last time and swap those digits. Who's up for a summer reunion trip?



### 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.

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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](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!**