



## TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. As you'd expect of the Nordics, this trip is a bit different. From I-N-C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E scenery that will have you fighting over the window seat, to cooler-than-cool cities packed with history, culture and unique local eats – this Scandi adventure is made for exploring MORE in just under two weeks. Ready to drop into a world of fairytale fjords, majestic mountains and glittering glaciers? Let's do this!

### WORTH NOTING...

If you book the 10 Sept 2023 departure for this trip, we got bad news for you chairlift lovers. It's closed in Lynggardsbakkene when you visit Lillehammer on Day 10. BUT, we've already sorted you with an AWESOME alternative – an epic Gondola ride in Voss on Day 6 of your adventure. Sweet!

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



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

- Walking tour of Copenhagen with Trip Leader
- Paddan boat tour
- Orientation walk of Oslo with Trip Leader
- Visit Vøringsfossen Waterfall
- Ferry to the Fjordlands
- Orientation walk of Lillehammer with Trip Leader
- Chairlift up Lynggårdsbakkene ski jump
- Orientation walk of Stockholm with Trip Leader

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Copenhagen  
Denmark

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Stockholm  
Sweden

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- Denmark - DKK
- Sweden - SEK
- Norway - NOK

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)

Quirky cities filled with delish food, fascinating culture and the most attractive people you've ever seen – welcome to Scandinavia! Touch down in Copenhagen and say 'hej' (pronounced 'hi' = win) to the fellow explorers sharing the ride. Then: get pumped for the adventure at our first group dinner. This is gonna be good...



### MEALS:

- Dinner

## DAY 2 | COPENHAGEN

Ready to be versed in all things Copenhagen by our on-road expert? We'll kick things off today with a walking tour – hitting the likes of City Hall, Nyhavn and the National Museum of Denmark. Then: make like Dora and get exploring! Hire a bike and explore this chilled-out Scandi city on two wheels. Tuck into a smorgasbord of Nordic cuisine. Discover the city's thriving craft beer scene. Or go vintage with a visit to Tivoli Gardens – an OG amusement park and the inspo for Disney World. Time it right, and you can take in the sunset from the top of the giant chair swing. Cue: alllll the goosebumps.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Copenhagen with Trip Leader

## DAY 3 | COPENHAGEN – GOTHENBURG (SWEDEN)

Wave 'hej hej' to Copenhagen (yep, it's 'hi' twice – we don't make the rules). Today we've got Sweden in our sights – specifically the canal-packed seaside city of Gothenburg. When we roll in, we'll take to the water on a Paddan boat tour. Expect: a 17th-century moat, a LOT of bridges and historical facts galore. Then? The arvo's all yours. Need local tips? Your Trip Leader's got 'em. Get your culture fix at Gothenburg Museum of Art. Perfect those panos from the viewpoint at Skansen Kronan fortress. Or seek out a traditional cinnamon bun the size of your head. This evening: gather your trip mates and head to Tredje Langgatan street for good grub, good wine and good company. Guaranteed.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Paddan boat tour

## DAY 4 | GOTHENBURG – OSLO (NORWAY)

Say bye to the 'burg – we're on the move after brekkie. Oslo, we're coming for ya! When we pull into Norway's iconic capital, our in-the-know Trip Leader will point out the must-sees for our free day tomorrow. And then? Round up the group and head to a local haunt for some pølse – hot dogs wrapped in potatoey tortilla blankets. Yes please. Or hunt down Illegal Burger for the best one you've ever had. Period.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Oslo with Trip Leader

## DAY 5 | OSLO

You wanted time to delve deeper. So here it is – Oslo-style! Our suggestions? Get to the water for some awesome kayaking. Check out medieval Akershus Fortress. Get steamy in a local sauna (they're everywhere). Or make a beeline for Bygdøy (aka Museum Island). We're talking the Kon-Tiki Museum, Fram Polar Ship, Norsk Folkemuseum and the Viking Ship Museum (obvs). Get the ferry back to Oslo port in time for tonight's included group dinner. And later? Spice up your life with a glass of aquavit (the local tippel) at uber-cool Himkok bar. Think gin, but herbier.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Kayaking on the Oslofjord: from 990 NOK

## DAY 6 | OSLO – VØRINGSFOSSEN WATERFALL – BERGEN

Shotgun a window seat. We're heading west this morning – and the scenery that whizzes past is Out. Of. This. World. Expect jaw-dropping mountain passes, sparkling fjords and a sprinkling of rustic red cabins. You won't find landscapes like this back home. Want another natural wonder thrown into the mix? Of course you do. We'll treat our peepers to Vøringsfossen Waterfall en route – 182 metres of crashing, splashing awesomeness. When we jump off the minicoach in Bergen, wrap your lips around a stack of raspeboller dumplings for dinner. Mmmm...



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Vøringsfossen Waterfall

## DAY 7 | BERGEN

Today's your day, your way. Time to delve deeper into 'the city of seven mountains' (and 200 days of rain a year – hope you've packed your jacket). Need pointing in the right direction? Your expert Trip Leader's ON it. Wander the cobbled streets and check out the traditional wooden houses. Sample the local salmon at Bergen Fish Market – FYI this place has been around since 1276 (but the fish have changed since then). Or tuck into a reindeer sausage at Trekrøneren hot-dog hut. Sorry Rudolph.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 8 | BERGEN – THE FJORDLANDS

Warning: our next drive contains scenes which some viewers made find INCREDible. After another included brekkie, settle in for more beaut mountain-meets-water views as we wind our way up to the Norwegian Fjordlands. A hop, skip and a short ferry ride across the Sognefjord later, this watery wonderland is yours to discover! Our hot (correction: cold) tip? Soak up all the snow-capped, fairytale-style amazingness in the charming AF village of Balestrand. Yep, you're really here.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Ferry to the Fjordlands

## DAY 9 | THE FJORDLANDS

Hear that? That's the sound of a free day in the mind-blowing Fjordlands. Practise your bows and curtsies – 'the king of the fjords' awaits. Take to two wheels and W-O-W your way past soaring mountains and glistening glaciers. Sharpen your spears, sling on a horned helmet and head to Viking Valley for the lowdown on how the locals lived approx 1,000 years ago. Or hop on a cruise AND ride the Flåmsbana train. Beaut views. Relaxed vibes. And UNESCO-approved heritage in one BIG package. Tonight: swap stories over our included group dinner.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Fjordcruise & ride the historical Flåmsbana train: from €210

## DAY 10 | THE FJORDLANDS – LILLEHAMMER

Time to tunnel outta here. This morning we're heading eastwards via the Lærdal Tunnel – the world's longest road tunnel. Then: Lillehammer's calling! Our fact-filled Trip Leader will give us the run around the Netflix-famed ski town on an orientation walk. Next: put those included chairlift tix to good use (read: their only use) and feast your eyes on allllll the city-and-lake panos from the top of Lynggardsbakkene ski jump. And after? Rewind time at Maihaugen open-air museum. Crank up the culture at Lillehammer Art Museum. Or do as the locals do and sniff out a steaming bowl of fårikål lamb stew (unless you're veggie, obv).



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Lillehammer with Trip Leader
- Chairlift up Lynggardsbakkene ski jump

## DAY 11 | LILLEHAMMER – ÖREBRO (SWEDEN)

Dust off those brekkie crumbs and say so long to ski-ville – today it's time for Sweden: Part Two. Ngl, we've got a bit of a drive. BUT it's the perfect opportunity to text the 'rents, catch some zzzs or simply soak up all the screensaver-worthy scenery that fills the coach window. Our home for the eve? The medieval city of Örebro in the heart of the Swedish lakes region. Engage explorer mode and check out the Disney-vibes castle. Then ask you-know-who for dinner recommendations (your Trip Leader, not Voldemort).



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 12 | ÖREBRO – STOCKHOLM

Onwards! This morning we're making tracks for the iconic Scandi city of Stockholm. Fun fact: this place is built on an archipelago of 14 islands where the Lake Mälaren flows out to the Baltic Sea. Cool, right? After our Trip Leader helps us get our bearings, grab a kanebullar for the road and go explore! Snap a pic at Stortorget and watch the changing of the guard at The Palace. Take the ferry across to Djurgården and hit up the Vasa Museum (a must), Skansen Museum and the ABBA Museum. Or head to ultra-hip Södermalm for a local vibe and trendy cafes. Whatever you choose, make sure you're back in time for tonight's group dinner – we're going to give this Scandi adventure the send-off it deserves!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Stockholm with Trip Leader

## DAY 13 | STOCKHOLM

You came. You saw. You cultured. And just like that, it's over. Get down to breakfast and swap those socials – you're gonna need them for next year's reunion trip. 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!**