

# Topdeck

## GET SOCIAL: CENTRAL EUROPE HIGHLIGHTS



## TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. So your boss only gave you two weeks leave? Lucky for you this firecracker of a Euro trip fits so perfectly into 14 days it's almost too good to be true. Get a taste of Europe with the big-gun cities, the bucket-list items and alllllll the carb-loaded, cheese-topped, sugar-filled delights that only Europe can deliver. There's not really a better introduction to Europe than this.

### 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
- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Munich 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
- Germany - EUR
- Netherlands - EUR

# YOUR ITINERARY

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

Meet the crew in London and load up the coach – we're hitting the road early to jump across the channel. The home of Coco Chanel, the Mona Lisa and world's craziest roundabout – Paris deserves its rep as the European capital for all things culture, fashion and bloody good food. Get to know the City of Love with a driving tour. Then? Switch Paris mode ON and get exploring! The first holy-sh\*t-we're-really-here optional to tick off: an evening cruise down the River Seine.



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Paris highlights drive



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Seine River cruise: from €15

## DAY 2 | PARIS

This is your day, your way. So make every second count. Create a solid dent in your bucket list with a visit to the Louvre (get your tix in advance!). Snap a pic of the Arc de Triomphe. Wander the Champs Elysées. Or discover the hidden back-streets on your own. Walking not your thing? Stretch out those legs on an optional bike tour. Tonight, it's time for a welcome meal with the gang. Then dress to impress for an optional cabaret show. Think: sparking lights, death-defining acrobatics, OTT costumes and the can-can (of course).



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 3 | PARIS – SWISS ALPS (SWITZERLAND)

Trade in Parisian streets for snowy peaks. Warm up those vocal cords, we'll be blasting some tunes on the ride into the mountains – stopping for a few pics on the way. Home to the 'Top of Europe', 72 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 alpine air with a cold beverage and crack open that new pack of playing cards. Who knows Rummy?



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 4 | SWISS ALPS

If the Swiss Alps had a Tinder bio, it'd be: fun, outdoor enthusiast – looking for a fellow adrenaline junkie to share adventures with. And we'd swipe right. Hiking. Biking. Skydiving. Helicopter-ing. It's all here. If you're wanting something a bit more low-key, strap on the Nikes and walk the valley floor. Or hop on board the Jungfrau railway for an optional visit to the Jungfrau Mountain summit. Expect plenty of fairytale villages en route. Haven't had cheese fondue yet? Go. Now.



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

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

Buy that mini-fondue set. Down your coffee. And wave goodbye to Switzerland – we're off to the land of the long boot. Get your creative juices flowing for THAT photo at Pisa, then make your food baby sing as we roll into the birthplace of gelato: Florence. Tonight, it's time to hunt down some of that hearty Tuscan cuisine you've been dreaming about – plus a scoop (or two) of the good stuff. Challenge: decide on your favourite flavour in two days.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower

## DAY 6 | FLORENCE – ROME

Florence has more stories than Bilbo Baggins, more culture than a London hipster AND it gave the world David (the massive marble naked guy FYI). We'll get the lay of the land on a walking tour with a local guide. Then: bella Roma awaits! Dump your stuff at your digs and prepare for a walking tour to end all walking tours. Pass by the Pantheon, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain, (don't) sit on the Spanish Steps and check out the mighty Colosseum – getting the scoop on allllllll the ancient history as we go. You're in Disneyland for foodies, so you know dinner tonight is gonna be good wherever you end up.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

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

## DAY 7 | ROME

Time to live out your Eat. Pray. Love. fantasies – today is all about Vespas, espresso, two-cheeked kisses and pizza (the way it's supposed to taste). Get your fill of i-con-ic sights on an optional walking tour. It's a toss up between Vatican City or Colosseum! Feeling something a bit more relaxed? Do as the locals do and indulge in a little dolce far niente (delicious idleness) at a local cafe or piazza. Tonight, shake out those fat pants for round two. Thought you'd tried all the gelato flavours? Head to Fatamorgana – and think again. Later: gather the gang and get ready to party Roman style (but with fewer togas, more cocktails).



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 8 | ROME – VENICE

Order one more espresso in poor Italian (hey, you tried!) – we're off to Venice after breakfast. You know it as The Floating City, but this place is actually sinking (slowly). 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: take a gondola ride down the Grand Canal. When in Venice, right? Dinner tonight is on you, what delicious carb-laden Italian meal haven't you tried yet? Order two.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 9 | VENICE – MUNICH (GERMANY)

Next up? A country where beer is officially considered an essential food group (right next to sausage and sauerkraut). Helloooo 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 find the Chinese beer garden (or any beer garden for that matter) for a stein-sesh with your trip mates. Prost!



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Munich with Trip Leader

## DAY 10 | MUNICH – BERLIN

Another day, another food-obsessed European city. Berlin we love you. Prep yourself for currywurst, bratwurst 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, Zoo Gardens, the Holocaust Museum, Charlottenburg Palace and Alexanderplatz. Then: the afternoon is 100% up to you! Our suggestion? Head to Burgermeister: a public toilet turned best-burger-joint-in-Berlin. Trust us.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- Berlin highlights drive

## DAY 11 | 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. Or put those taste buds to the ultimate test on an awesome AF food tour. We're talking kebabs, pastries, currywurst, pierogi and local beers (this is Germany after all). Tonight, it's time to see whether the nightlife here really lives up to the hype.



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 12 | 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 – time to hit the cobblestones and explore. Check out the likes of Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument with your free time. This place is a foodie's haven, so you'll have no trouble finding somewhere to settle in for dinner. Try traditional Dutch pancakes (sweet/savoury/both at once) or head to the Foodhallen for alllll the world snacks. Later, make a beeline for a canalside wine bar or brewery to keep the good times rolling.



### MEALS:

- Breakfast

## DAY 13 | AMSTERDAM

This is our last full day. So don't hang about – get on your bike! Check out Amsterdam's iconic canals, bridges and parks on an optional bike tour. Or for the history fiends – delve a bit deeper with a visit to the Anne Frank House (don't forget to book in advance!). If you \*do\* forget this top piece of advice, we got you (cos we're good like that) – with an optional virtual reality tour of the Secret Annex. Culture more your thing? Hit the Van Gogh and Rijksmuseum. Whatever you get up to, make sure you're back in time for tonight's group dinner – we'll be going out with a bang.



### MEALS:

- Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

## DAY 14 | AMSTERDAM – LONDON (ENGLAND)

Two weeks. Six countries. Countless good times. What-an-epic-trip. After breakfast, it's time to hit the road back to ol' Blighty. Blast the Trip Song one last time and swap Insta handles – you'll need them to organise next year's reunion!



### 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!**