

Topdeck

GET SOCIAL: EUROPE EXPRESS



TRIP CODE:
TNDLL4

TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tonnes of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. The right kind of express – this 11-day Euro trip is THE G.O.A.T. for those big on ambition but short on time. Tick off the bucket-listers: Venice, Prague and Paris. Add a touch of history with Berlin and Vienna. Throw in the show-stopping Swiss Alps. And we give you the perfect introduction to what this incredible continent has to offer. Plus, you won't be going it alone. With up to 47 other like-minded travel besties joining the ride, the mems you make are lasting F-O-R-E-V-E-R.

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

- Berlin highlights drive
- Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader
- Vienna highlights drive
- Orientation walk in Venice with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk in Paris with Trip Leader

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Amsterdam
Europe

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Amsterdam
Europe

TRIP CURRENCIES

- Germany - EUR
- Czech Republic - CZK
- Austria - EUR
- Italy - EUR
- Switzerland - CHF
- France - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | AMSTERDAM (NETHERLANDS) - BERLIN (GERMANY)

Rise n shine, today's the day! Meet the gang in Amsterdam, stock up on snacks and whip out the AUX cord. Find the Swifties and Team Drizzy early cos they're playing DJ at every poss moment. First stop: Berlin. Tick off all the i-con-ic sights on a driving tour. We're talking: Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin Wall, Reichstag, and Brandenburg Gate. It's only the first day and you've already seen so much. Tonight, we've got an included dinner to get to. Dig into some grub and get to know your new trip mates. They're gonna be your ride or dies for the next 10 days.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Berlin highlights drive

DAY 2 | BERLIN

You've got 24hrs here. Make the most of it. Our advice? Get onto a historic walking tour that's gonna get those daily steps in and fill your brain with facts. Every day's a learning day, right? You'll get local insight into what Berlin was like under Nazi rule and see those incred sights up, close and personal. Or see what all the fuss is about when it comes to German food and eat your way around the city. Treats that slap? Kebabs, pastries, currywurst, pierogi and sausages (obvs). This eve, see if the nightlife really lives up to the hype. FYI, queues for the big clubs are long af – pack your comfy dancing shoes.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Third Reich walking tour: from €20

DAY 3 | BERLIN – PRAGUE (CZECH REPUBLIC)

From one beer capital to the next. Onwards to the spire-filled skyline and mysterious streets of Prague! Our Trip Leader will get us acquainted with this gothic city on a walking tour – complete with quirky clock tower and striking castle on the hill. Then, the rest of the day is yours. Jump on the Metro to whizz through the city. Check out the local beers at a tasting experience. Or find one of the secret cocktail bars in the city. That feeling of discovering something new? Ain't nothing like it.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague: from €40

DAY 4 | PRAGUE – VIENNA (AUSTRIA)

Today we'll head to Austria's Capital: Vienna. Ten points if you can guess what Vienna is famous for! Musicians. Grand coffee houses. And strudel (duh!). Enjoy a quick stop at the opulent Schönbrunn Palace (home of Princess Sisi), before driving by the likes of the Opera House, Hofburg Palace, Museum Quarter and Ringstrasse. The rest of the afternoon is 100% up to you. Wanna see Viennese music in action? Stupid question. There's a sick opportunity to watch the orchestra. Not just watch, but FEEL. Y'know how music can bring a tear to your eye? Get those tissues ready, cos you're about to blubber. Want other dinner plans? Grab your trip mates and head to Naschmarkt to try some knödel (Austrian dumplings) or go for the obvious choice – schnitzel.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Vienna highlights drive



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Viennese orchestra experience: from €45

DAY 5 | VIENNA – VENICE (ITALY)

Wave goodbye to Austria, but don't be sad. We're heading to the motherland of pizza, pasta and hand gestures (approx. 250 are used every day, no cap). Venice is our next stop. Ready for bridges, gondolas and gelato? Bet. Acquaint yourself with the usual suspects on an orientation walk – ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Accademia Bridge. Then, this beautifully romantic city is yours for the taking – soz if we reminded you of your last situationship. Jump on the bus to the other side of the city. Go get an Aperol with your new besties and watch as the sun sets over the canals. You're here. You're living your best life. Nothing else matters.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk in Venice with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

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. Suggestions? Seek out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop. Quench your thirst for history at some of the best museums in Europe (no cap). Hunt down Italian shrimp for the classic Venetian dish: scampi alla veneziana. Get lost. Find yourself. Then, grab a S.Pellegrino at a local bar and watch the world go by. Fun, free and sometimes juicy revelations can be seen on these streets. Later, score a cheap meal at Osteria al Portego and do it Italian-style: with H-O-U-R-S of love, laughter and gossip.

DAY 7 | VENICE – SWISS ALPS (SWITZERLAND)

Today we're rolling into Swiss Alps. Check out the scenery past the window. Jaws'll be on the floor cos they don't have views like this back home. Proud owner of the 'Top of Europe', rushing waterfalls and one of the largest nature conversations in Switzerland, this place is anything but mid. After dinner, sit back in the fresh Alpine air or head into town and mingle with the locals. Then, we're bunking down for the night. This? This is travel.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 8 | SWISS ALPS

Ready for a day in Disneyland for outdoor enthusiasts? You've got a full free day to Experience. It. ALL. Hiking. White-water rafting. Mountain biking. Skydiving. Helicopter-ing. That body and mind of yours is gonna feel better than the post-gym glow. Fact. If you're a thrill-dodger, there's plenty to get excited about too. Jump aboard the Jungfraubahn railway and get all the summit views (minus the effort). Or slip on your Birks and go chasing waterfalls. Haven't had cheese fondue yet? Get your tastebuds ready, this is the place.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 9 | SWISS ALPS – PARIS (FRANCE)

Disclaimer: today is a bit of a drive. Strap in. Prep the card games. And take one more longing glance at the Alps – but don't be sad cos this travel life's still sweet like cinnamon. Aka we're heading to the City of Love. Tick off all the showstoppers with an orientation walk – we're talking: the Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysées, Place de la Concorde and THAT pointy tower.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk in Paris with Trip Leader

DAY 10 | PARIS

Ahh, Paris. There's more here than coffee, croissants and catacombs (iconic staples that still slay, fyi). And to prove it, we've given you a full 24hrs to discover the REAL Paris. Suggestions? Spend your free day ticking off those bucket list items on an optional bike tour. Want more of a laidback, tranquil feel? Hit the River Seine for the cruise option instead. Then: explore the famous market streets – Rue Cler's the place for REAL Paris. Get lost between overflowing shelves of stories at Shakespeare and Co. Books. Or relax and share your fave trip mems at the beaut Tuileries Garden. Want to end your trip on a HIGH? Tonight, after your included farewell dinner, there's an optional cabaret show on the cards. Glam, glitter, grandeur – the home of the Cancan does not disappoint.



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 11 | PARIS – AMSTERDAM (NETHERLANDS)

Back in Amsterdam, this is the moment we've been dreading *sucks up the tears*. On second thoughts, maybe we should just carry on the adventure... You in? Cos London's only a train ride away...



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!