

Topdeck

GET SOCIAL: NORTHERN & EASTERN EUROPE HIGHLIGHTS



TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. Whoa. This immense Northern and Eastern Europe adventure has got F-U-N written all over it. 17 days. 10 countries. And a firework of mind-blowing cities, storybook old towns, traditional treats and gobsmacking group experiences. What happens when you combine the buzzing capitals of Germany, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia? Then throw Scandinavia into the mix? THIS does.

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

- Orientation walk of Hamburg with Trip Leader
- Ferry to Copenhagen
- Copenhagen highlights drive
- Walking tour of Oslo with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Stockholm with Trip Leader
- Overnight ferry
- Orientation walk of Helsinki with Trip Leader
- Ferry to Tallinn
- Walking tour of Tallinn with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Riga with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Vilnius with Trip Leader
- Warsaw highlights drive
- Berlin highlights drive

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Amsterdam
Europe

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Amsterdam
Europe

TRIP CURRENCIES

- Germany - EUR
- Denmark - DKK
- Norway - NOK
- Sweden - SEK
- Finland - EUR
- Estonia - EUR
- Latvia - EUR
- Lithuania - EUR
- Poland - PLN
- Netherlands - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | AMSTERDAM (NETHERLANDS) – HAMBURG (GERMANY)

Amsterdam! See you in 17 days: this morning there's no hanging around. Say hallo to your legendary trip mates and pile in the coach – Germany's calling! With more bridges than Venice and Amsterdam combined, no skyscrapers (shook) and the first zoo with no enclosures (amen to that!), Hamburg is one of the hippest cities in Europe. Trust us. Get past the kinda grey first impression and you'll uncover a city teeming with fascinating culture, a strong beer hall scene and more quirky cafes than you can order a matcha latte at. Take a stroll with your expert Trip Leader to tick off St Nikolai Church, the Rathaus, Chilehaus and Miniatur Wunderland. Then: it's time for our first group dinner. Prost to the adventure ahead!



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Hamburg with Trip Leader

DAY 2 | HAMBURG – COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)

Thinking of relocating? Today we're going to find out why Copenhagen keeps popping up among the Top 5 Most Liveable Cities in the World. After a short jaunt in a ferry across the Baltic Sea, we'll tick off the likes of Tivoli Gardens, Christiansborg Palace and star-shaped Kastellet fortress on a driving tour. Then: take a stroll along the waterfront, hear the REAL story of the Little Mermaid (her statue is here) and hum Under the Sea while you hunt down a not-too-'spennie restaurant for dinner.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Ferry to Copenhagen
- Copenhagen highlights drive

DAY 3 | COPENHAGEN

When in doubt, do as the locals do – hire a bike and explore this chilled-out Scandi city on two wheels. Check out the rainbow-coloured houses along Nyhavn waterfront. Tuck into a smorgasbord of Nordic cuisine. Take a dip in the clean canals (clothing optional). Discover the city's thriving craft beer scene. Or swing by Tivoli Gardens – not only the second oldest theme park in the world, but also the most beaut (according to us). Time it right, and take in the sunset from the top of the giant chair swing. Cue: goosebumps. And for dinner? Head to Gasoline Grill – the definition of 'don't judge a book by its cover'.

DAY 4 | COPENHAGEN – OSLO (NORWAY)

No lies, today is an early start. Settle in, bust the tunes, get to know your trip mates better and allow your expert Trip Leader to fill your head with Scandi fun facts. Oh, and make sure you snag a window seat – the views from Øresund Bridge are once-in-a-lifetime. Get your bearings on a walking tour – ticking off the likes of the Royal Palace, Parliament, Oslo Cathedral and the National Theatre. Then? Gather the fam and check out Mathallen Food Hall for alllllll the dinner options (you WILL need to support the Geminis and Librans with decisions).



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Oslo with Trip Leader

DAY 5 | OSLO

Topdeckers to mission control, requesting more time to explore. Permission granted. Today is 100% up to you. But if you need suggestions, hit the water for some kayak fun. Make a beeline for Bygdøy (aka Museum Island). We're talking the Kon-Tiki Museum, Fram Polar Ship and Norsk Folkemuseum. Get the ferry back to Oslo port in your own time – then head to a local haunt for some pølse (a hot dog, all cosy in a tortilla) or hunt down Illegal Burgers for the best one you've ever had. Period.

★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Kon-Tiki Museum: from 12 NOK
- Visit the Fram Polar Ship: from 80 NOK
- Kayaking on the Oslofjords: from 990 NOK

DAY 6 | OSLO – STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN)

More than just meatballs and ABBA (though there's plenty of both), today we're making tracks to the iconic Scandi city of Stockholm. Fun fact: this place is built on an archipelago of 14 islands where Lake Mälaren flows out to the Baltic Sea. Cool, right? Check off Gamla Stan, Parliament House, Riddarholmen Church and the Royal Palace on a walking tour – then the evening is up to you. If your budget's got a lil' stretch, Restaurant Pelikan boasts some seriously drool-worthy traditional food. Or head to Meatballs for the People – 'nuff said.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Stockholm with Trip Leader

DAY 7 | STOCKHOLM

What's that? A free day to experience everything this firecracker of a city has to offer? YES please. Grab a kanelbullar for the road and take a wander around the boutique stores in Gamla Stan. 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 for maritime fans) or the ABBA Museum (a must for Mamma Mia! lovers). And tonight? Round up the gang and swing by Nya Carnegiebryggeriet – a waterfront microbrewery where the beers are easier to drink than the name is to say.

★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Vasa Museum: from 130 SEK

DAY 8 | STOCKHOLM – OVERNIGHT FERRY TO HELSINKI (FINLAND)

Today = MORE of Stockholm's best bits. Get the gang together and turn those knuckles white at Gröna Lund amusement park. Hop on a boat and soak up the sights on a canal tour. Go all futuristic with a gondola ride around the Ericsson Globe (the world's biggest spherical building, FYI). Or head to hipper-than-hip Södermalm for indie boutiques, vintage stores and trendy bars galore. This evening: it's all aboard the overnight ferry. Crack open that new pack of UNO and settle in for the night. When you wake up – you're in Finland! Magic.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Overnight ferry

DAY 9 | HELSINKI

Helsinki is ours today. Hell. Yes. First, our in-the-know Trip Leader will point out the city's hot spots. Then: the day's free for ALL the fun. Soak up fresh air and tranquil vibes on a hike through Nuuskio National Park. Jump on an old-school tram for retro vibes. Show off your mad bartering skills (or not) at Market Square. Or drop into Helsinki Bryggeri to check out the local craft beer scene. And tonight? Track down some karjalanpiirakka rice pies, grillimakkara sausages, or mashed potato and reindeer (sorry Rudolph...).



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Helsinki with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Nuuskio National Park hike: from €50

DAY 10 | HELSINKI

Good news klaxon: you've got 24 hours of free time today. So don't muck around! Keen to find out why the Finns are some of the happiest people in the world? Swing by a sauna and let the löyly hot steam work its magic. Experiencing this the real way means kissing goodbye to your swimmers, BTW. Clothing a bit of a deal-breaker? Take the ferry over to Suomenlinna island fortress for epic views. Or head to Hakaniemi Market Hall for all your snack and souvenir needs. This evening: quiz your Trip Leader on where to find the best leipäjuusto – the squeakiest cheese in the kingdom.

DAY 11 | HELSINKI – TALLINN (ESTONIA)

After a group brekkie, you've got another morning to do whatever the hel(sinki) you want. Top up your culture fix at Kiasma modern art museum. Unleash your inner hipster in uber-cool Kallio's coffee shops and vegan bistros. Or embrace another round of sauna sweats. We salute you. This afternoon, we're hopping on a ferry bound for Tallinn. Prepare for some red-hot facts about this stunner-of-a-city on a walking tour with our Trip Leader. And then? Get exploring the fairytale Old Town (seriously – this place looks like it's dropped straight out of Disney) and dig into some classic Estonian eats. Pirukas – doughy pastries of dreams – is where it's at.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Ferry to Tallinn
- Walking tour of Tallinn with Trip Leader

DAY 12 | TALLINN – RIGA (LATVIA)

Say nägemist (see ya!) to Estonia – it was short, but it sure was sweet. Press your nose to the coach window and soak up all the beaut views racing past as we make our way to mega-medieval Riga. When we jump off, get pumped to discover the iconic sights on another Grade A walking tour. We're talking: Riga Cathedral, the Freedom Monument, Laima Clock and House of the Blackheads (a fancy Gothic building – doesn't need a charcoal mask). Later: dust off your broomstick and drop into Black Magic bar for a sip of black balsam – a traditional Latvian liqueur. Harry Potter, eat your heart out.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Riga with Trip Leader

DAY 13 | RIGA – VILNIUS (LITHUANIA)

Shake off that magic potion and shut your spellbook for now: this morning we're plugging Vilnius into the GPS. Blast the Trip Song and swap stories of the adventure so far – it sure ain't over yet! When we pull up in Vilnius, our Trip Leader's ready to point out all the who's who of Lithuania's crazy-gorgeous capital. And then? We know you've got a thing for Old Towns now – and this one's a beauty. Go get it. Afterwards, gather the fam and hunt down some steaming potato pancakes. Be sure to leave room for grybukai – mushroom-shaped cookies – for afters. Super Mario would go wild for these babies.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Vilnius with Trip Leader

DAY 14 | VILNIUS – WARSAW (POLAND)

Tums full after another group brekkie, today we're heading to our tenth country in two weeks. HECK yes. When we roll up in Poland's beating heart, we'll take in the main sights the laziest way possible – by driving tour. Those calves need a rest: we got you boo. Then, time to take Fleetwood's advice and go your own way. Discover the devastating impact the Nazi occupation left on this proud city. Wander the streets and gawp at the grand palaces. Or just embark on a mish to find Warsaw's best pierogi. We believe in you.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Warsaw highlights drive

DAY 15 | WARSAW – BERLIN (GERMANY)

Ding ding! This morning it's time for Germany: Round 2 as we make tracks for Berlin. Prep yourself for currywurst and more hipsters per capita than anywhere else. We'll drive you around the main sights including (what's left of) the Berlin Wall, Museum Island, the Holocaust Museum and Alexanderplatz. Then: hunt down a pretzel the size of your face and some Berliner Pfannkuchen – the doughnut's German cousin. Mmm...



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Berlin highlights drive

DAY 16 | BERLIN

A city exploding with culture, history and bloody good food – you've got 24 hrs to make the most of it. Our advice? Opt in for a historic walking tour that's actually interesting. You'll 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, all the insider tips on how to spend the rest of your free day. Or put those elastic waistbands to the ultimate test on a locally-led food tour. We're talking kebabs, pastries, more currywurst, pierogi and local Pilsner beer. Whatever you choose to do, make sure you're back in time for tonight's group dinner – we're going to give this adventure the send-off it deserves!



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Third Reich walking tour: from €12
- Berlin food tour: from €35

DAY 17 | BERLIN – AMSTERDAM (NETHERLANDS)

This is where we leave you #Topdeckers. Swap Insta handles – you'll need them to organise next year's reunion. But who said the adventure has to end here? London's only a train ride away... Race you to the Eurostar!



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!