

Topdeck

GET SOCIAL: CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE EXPRESS (WINTER)



TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. You ordered: a winter Euro trip that's a little bit different. We deliver: 11 days of frosty, fun-filled adventures in Central and Eastern Europe. Ticking off Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic PLUS Hungary and Slovakia for good measure, this snowball-sized trip packs a punch. Hit the iconic capitals. Soak up all the seasonal vibes. And meet your people along the way. Prepare for allllll the goosebumps.

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

- Walking tour of Warsaw with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Krakow with Trip Leader
- Budapest highlights drive
- Orientation walk of Bratislava with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader
- Berlin highlights drive

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Berlin
Germany

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Berlin
Germany

TRIP CURRENCIES

- Poland - PLN
- Hungary - HUF
- Slovakia - EUR
- Czech Republic - CZK
- Germany - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | BERLIN, GERMANY TO WARSAW, POLAND

Say hallo and then auf wiedersehen to Berlin. We'll be back in 10 days. It's time to stock up on paprika chips and pretzel sticks – we're hitting the road early for Poland's beating heart. Get to know the gang better en route. Best thermal undies? Fave mulled drink? Share with the class. Then: when we roll into Warsaw, our Trip Leader will point out all the must-sees for tomorrow on a walking tour of the Old Town. We'll round off the day with our first included group dinner. Ready for one mind-blowing winter adventure? This. Is. Happening.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Warsaw with Trip Leader

DAY 2 | WARSAW

You've got 24 hours of free time here, so don't muck around. Go all Willy Wonka at the E. Wedel Chocolate Cafe (the hot choc here is *chef's kiss*). Drop by the Neon Museum for flashy signs and vintage vibes. Regret that big lunch as you squeeze through the narrowest house in the world. Or simply wander the cobbled streets, gawp at the grand palaces and settle into a cosy bar. Tonight: gather the fam and embark on a mish to find Warsaw's best pierogi. We believe in you.

DAY 3 | WARSAW TO KRAKÓW

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 this gem of a city on a walking tour – complete with an introduction to its resident dragon. Then? Take Fleetwood's advice and go your own way. Top up your history knowledge at Wawel Castle, explore the hip cafes and boutiques in the Jewish Quarter, head to Schindler's Museum (prepare to queue) or find a local haunt and tuck into a piled-high plate of Polish pancakes.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Krakow with Trip Leader

DAY 4 | KRAKÓW

Ready for round two exploring Kraków's frosty, fairytale streets? We've got some suggestions for your free day. Head to Hamsa in the heart of the Jewish Quarter for some 'Hummus and Happiness', shop for the 'Gold of the Baltic' 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 time to refine your vodka palette on an optional tasting tour. Learn the history behind Polish vodka and try a few uniquely flavoured varieties as you go. Refuse to drink it without Red Bull? There are plenty of bars to sample the local beer instead.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Vodka tasting: from 149 PLN

DAY 5 | KRAKÓW TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Our Kraków love affair was short but oh-so-sweet. Up next? Ngl – we’ve got a bit of a drive towards the twin cities of Buda and Pest. BUT it’s totally worth it, trust us. When we arrive, we’ll be chauffeured past the Chain Bridge, Castle District, Gellert Hotel, Heroes’ Square and House of Terror on a driving tour of the city. Then: swing by 360 Bar and shotgun a rooftop igloo complete with eye-popping views of the icy skyline. It doesn’t get more winter-y than this.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Budapest highlights drive

DAY 6 | BUDAPEST

You wanted freedom to explore – here it is. Check out the Central Market Hall. Explore the Jewish Quarter. Play pinball at the Flippersmúzeum. 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.

DAY 7 | BUDAPEST TO BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

Wave goodbye to Budapest from the back of the coach – today we’re plugging Bratislava into the GPS. After a whip around town with our Trip Leader, the afternoon’s free to do your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-for thing. Check out all the panoramic views from Bratislava Castle, wander through the Gothic Old Town and warm up with some kapustnica (cabbage soup) or bryndzové pirohy (Slovak dumplings). Keen to see the city from an alien’s POV? Obvs. This eve: round up the gang and channel some extraterrestrial energy at the UFO Observation Deck, shaped like a flying saucer.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Bratislava with Trip Leader

DAY 8 | BRATISLAVA TO PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

After another group brekkie, it’s 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. Then: get stuck into some smažený sýr (fried cheese = yes please) and watch the quirky show the 600-year-old Astronomical Clock puts on every hour. Tonight, rally the troops and head to a traditional pub to sample some of that famous Czech beer. Or – if you’re here in December – warm up with some mulled wine under the ginormous Christmas tree in Old Town Square.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader

DAY 9 | PRAGUE

Another day done completely your way. 'Czech' out (sorry not sorry) the John Lennon wall. Soak up some history at the Communist Museum. Take the funicular up Petrin Hill for allll the views. 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 fully commit to the sugar rush with a 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*.

★ OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague:
from 800 CZK

DAY 10 | PRAGUE TO BERLIN, GERMANY

From one beer capital to the next – today we're swapping Prague for 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. There's also a chance to discover how the city operated under Nazi rule with a Third Reich walking tour. Then: it's time to give this I-N-C-R-E-D trip the send-off it deserves at our final group dinner. We're not crying, you are.

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Berlin highlights drive



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Third Reich walking tour: from
€12

DAY 11 | BERLIN

What? It's all over? One wintry whirlwind of Central and Eastern Europe's best bits = completed. Swap Insta handles and get planning the next adventure. Southern Europe in summertime? Do it.

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!