

Topdeck

WINTER SCANDI EXPRESS



TRIP CODE:
TWJCC1

TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

Is this trip for me? STUNNING. TRENDY. ENRICHING. Disclaimer: this is not your average European winter trip. This 8-day adventure is saturated with hip cities, amazing scenery, quirky culture and all sorts of hidden gems only a place like Scandinavia can deliver. Skiing? Yep. Saunas? You bet. Salted herring? Well, yeah... From Copenhagen to Oslo, round-tripping through Stockholm back to the Danish capital – we'll discover the best these Scandi cities have to offer, and discover ourselves along the way. You in?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Hostel Plus



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
- Walking tour of Oslo
- Walking tour of Stockholm

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Copenhagen
Denmark

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Stockholm
Sweden

TRIP CURRENCIES

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

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 uber-cool Copenhagen, dump your stuff and meet the gang. We may be a mixed bunch, but we're all in it together – the way it was meant to be. Get your bearings on a walking tour – ticking off the likes of Tivoli Gardens, City Hall, Nyhavn and the National Museum of Denmark before taking a stroll along the canal to see the bright townhouses. You'll soon find out why this city keeps popping up among the top most livable cities in the world. Then tonight? Dinner is on us. Cheers to that!



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Copenhagen

DAY 2 | COPENHAGEN

When in doubt, do as the locals do – hire a bike and explore this chilled-out Scandi city on two wheels. Wander along the waterfront in Nyhavn. 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 spend the day at one of the many museums. Tivoli Gardens is not only the 2nd oldest theme park in the world, it's also the most beautiful (according to us). Time it right, and you can take in the sunset from the top of the giant chair swing. Cue: goosebumps. For dinner tonight, head to Gasoline Grill – the definition of 'don't judge a book by its cover'.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 3 | COPENHAGEN TO OSLO, NORWAY

No lies, today is an early start. So, settle in, bust the tunes, get to know your trip mates better and allow your expert Trip Leader to fill your head with alllll the 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? We know this place ain't cheap, so dinner is on us tonight. Thank us later.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Oslo

DAY 4 | OSLO

There's a reason you came in winter – and today's your chance to experience alllll the glittering-snow-dusted-magic of a Norway ski resort. Sign up for a full day on the slopes and get shredding. Staying in town? No worries. History buffs should check out Akershus Fortress. Culture fiends can hunt down a local sauna (they're everywhere). Art-lovers can't miss Vigeland Park. And the foodies? Head to trendy Grünerløkka and eat your heart out. If it's been snowing, tick 'ski on top of an Opera House' off your bucket-list. Or head to Spikersuppa for a spot of night ice skating. This is the winter vibe you've been chasing.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Skiing in Norway: from 840 NOK

DAY 5 | OSLO

Topdeckers to mission control, requesting more time to explore. Permission granted. Today is 100% up to you. But if you need some suggestions, jump on board an optional trip out to 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 your own time – then head to a local haunt for some pølse or hunt down Illegal Burgers for the best one you've ever had. Period.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Viking Ship Museum: from 100 NOK
- Visit the Kon-Tiki Museum: from 12 NOK
- Visit the Fram Polar Ship: from 80 NOK

DAY 6 | OSLO TO STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

More than just meatballs and ABBA (though there's plenty of both) – we're making tracks to the iconic Scandi city of Stockholm. Fun fact: this place is built on an archipelago of fourteen islands where the 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 rest is up to you. If your budget will allow it, Restaurant Pelikan boasts some seriously drool-worthy traditional food. Or head to Meatballs for the People – 'nuff said.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 7 | STOCKHOLM

Quick maths: this is your last full day. So don't F-about, get exploring! Get yourself a kanebullar 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), Skansen Museum and the ABBA Museum. Or head to ultra-hip Södermalm for a local vibe and trendy cafes. There's even a guided tour of City Hall on offer, if you want it. Whatever you choose to do, 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:

- Walking tour of Stockholm



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Stockholm City Hall: from 90 SEK
- Visit the Vasa Museum: from 130 SEK

DAY 8 | STOCKHOLM TO COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Wave goodbye to Sweden – we're taking the scenic route back to Denmark. Cue: frosted lakes and snow-capped forests for days. Time to swap those socials and say those goodbyes (no crying). But no one said the adventure has to end – Western Europe is just a stone's-throw 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!