

Topdeck

GET SOCIAL: CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE



TRIP CODE:
TCELL4

TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = fast-paced fun with tons of socialising, bucket-list sights and good times all round. Psyched to discover the glorious jumble of lands in Central and Eastern Europe? Ready to share the ride with a mixed bunch of travellers just as pumped as you are? You're in EXACTLY the right place. From the mazy canals of Venice to the sparkly coastlines of the French Riviera, the ruin bars of Budapest to the Gothic-ness of Prague – your wildest Euro dreams will be well and truly made.

WORTH NOTING...

Departing 3 July 2024? You're heading to Genoa instead of the French Riviera on Days 5 and 6. Think: bustling piazzas and a lively nightlife.

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
- Walking tour of Monaco with Trip Leader
- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower
- Walking tour of Florence with local guide
- Visit Orvieto
- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Salzburg with Trip Leader
- Budapest highlights drive
- Walking tour of Kraków with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader
- Orientation walk of Dresden 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
- Monaco - EUR
- Italy - EUR
- Vatican City - EUR
- Austria - EUR
- Hungary - HUF
- Poland - PLN
- Czech Republic - CZK
- Germany - EUR
- Netherlands - EUR

YOUR ITINERARY

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

Get ready to leave the routine behind and uncover extraordinary. We'll hit the road early and drive across the English Channel. Paris, we have arrived. The home of Coco Chanel, the Mona Lisa and the world's yummiest macarons – Paris has earned its rep as the European capital for all things culture, fashion and drool-worthy food. Tick off all the showstoppers on a driving tour before getting OUT there! Keen to make the most of it? There's even an optional river cruise on offer this eve.



INCLUDED TODAY:



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Paris highlights drive
- Seine River cruise: from €15

DAY 2 | PARIS

Today, Paris is all yours. Tick off that bucket list, explore the backstreets or hunt down the best patisseries in town (your in-the-know Trip Leader has plenty of recommendations). Not a walker? Stretch those legs and cruise the city on an optional bike tour. Tonight, it's welcome meal time (get ready to test those mad name-memory skills – or not). Then: there's an optional cabaret on the cards. Think sparkling lights, glittering feathers and incredible acrobats!



MEALS:



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 3 | PARIS – SWISS ALPS (SWITZERLAND)

Banging tunes and scenic views – we'll be trading in Parisian streets for snowy peaks as we head to the mountains. 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 dig out those playing cards you panic bought at the dollar shop. Go Fish, anyone?



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 4 | SWISS ALPS

If the Swiss Alps had a Tinder bio it would read: fun-filled outdoor enthusiast – looking for a fellow adrenaline junkie to share adventures with. Swiping right? Hell yes. Hiking. Biking. Skydiving. Helicopter-ing. This place has it all. Fancy something more grounded? Strap on the Nikes and walk the valley floor. Or simply hop aboard the Jungfraubahn railway for an optional visit to the Jungfrau Mountain summit. Trust us, whatever you choose - you'll have views for days.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Scenic excursion to Jungfrau ('The Top of Europe'): from 165 CHF
- Skydiving in the Swiss Alps: from 474 CHF

DAY 5 | SWISS ALPS – FRENCH RIVIERA (FRANCE)

Trade in your gruezi for bonjour as we head to the sun-soaked and stylish 'Coast of Blue'. The playground for the rich and famous. This, my friends, is the French Riviera. We'll drop our bags and have the afternoon to take it all in. Explore the waterfront promenade, ogle at the superyachts, head to the beach for a dip or find a local haunt for some seriously good seafood. Tonight, gather the gang for a night of glamour. Oh là là!



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 6 | FRENCH RIVIERA, INCLUDING MONACO

This morning, you do you! Laze on the beach or go wild in the designer boutiques in Nice's Old Town. The choice is yours. Later: we'll turn it up a notch as we roll with the jet set on a walking tour of Monaco with our Trip Leader. See how the 1% live (hint: it involves Ferraris and bathing in caviar), stroll by the world-class casinos as you play 'spot the movie set' and let your jaw drop as you learn more facts about the wealth swirling around this city-slash-country.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Monaco with Trip Leader

DAY 7 | FRENCH RIVIERA – PISA (ITALY) – FLORENCE

Squeeze in one last swim. Down your coffee. And wave au revoir to France – we're heading to the boot-shaped peninsula, the home of romance and the mother of carb-laden cuisine. First stop is Pisa, if you do opt for THAT photo, think of something unique (please). Then: make your food baby sing as we roll into the capital of Tuscan cuisine and birthplace of gelato. Quiz your Trip Leader on where to find the best ravioli before a stroll along the Arno River to watch the sunset. Did someone say karaoke? If you're feeling it, join the fam in a battle of the classics at the bar later.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Pisa and see the famous Leaning Tower

DAY 8 | FLORENCE

This morning, we'll delve deeper into this capital of culture. Walk through centuries of history with a local guide – soaking up all the artistic charm and dazzling architecture only Florence can deliver. Uffizi Gallery? Tick. Ponte Vecchio? Tick. Piazza della Signoria? Tick. And the showstopping Duomo? Big. Fat. Tick. This arvo is yours to spend as you please (stuffing your face with every gelato flavour, probably).



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Florence with local guide

DAY 9 | FLORENCE – ORVIETO – ROME

Onwards! First: a pit stop at the hilltop town of Orvieto to see the grand cathedral and dig into a wild boar panini (unless you're a vegetarian, sorry). Then: bella Roma awaits. Strap on your Nikes, fill up your water bottle and pack your anti-chafing cream – today's walking tour is one for the books. We're talking a solid few hours of non-stop sights, off-the-tourist-trail hidden gems and a run-down of almost 3000 years of history. Pass by the Pantheon, throw your two cents in the Trevi Fountain, (don't) sit on the Spanish Steps and wind things up under the shadow of the mighty Colosseum. Epic doesn't even cut it. Tonight: go show that pizza who's boss.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Orvieto
- Walking tour of Rome with Trip Leader

DAY 10 | ROME

Create the ultimate Roman Holiday in one day with a whirlwind of Vespas, espresso, two-cheek kisses and pizza the way it's supposed to taste. Play 'I-spy' with two-and-a-half millennia worth of history on a guided tour (think Vatican City and the Colosseum). Want more? You could always shop till you drop on Via Condotti, head to Capitoline Hill for awesome views of the Roman Forum and Colosseum or just kick back in Piazza Navona for some dolce far niente (delicious idleness). Later: round up your trip mates and get ready to party Roman style (but with fewer gladiators, more Negroni).



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guided tour of Vatican City: from €50
- Guided tour of the Colosseum, Palatine Hill and the Roman Forum: from €50
- Full-day tour of Rome (including the Colosseum and Vatican City): from €95

DAY 11 | ROME – VENICE

No lies – we have a long drive today. Now is the chance to share snaps with your new mates, catch up on some zzzzs and text the 'rents (trust us, you'll be too busy later). We'll park up later in the Floating City – home to over 400 bridges and birthplace of Vivaldi. We're talking about Venice FYI.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 12 | VENICE

Today we'll check out the big dogs of Venice on a walking tour – ticking off the likes of St Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Accademia Bridge. Need suggestions for your free afternoon? Float past the famous Rialto Bridge on a gondola ride. Spend your time seeking out the epic Libreria Acqua Alta bookshop. Or forget all the above and hunt down the perfect gelato. It's your trip after all.



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Venice with Trip Leader

DAY 13 | VENICE – SALZBURG (AUSTRIA)

Wave Italy goodbye from the back of the coach as we turn our attention to Austria. Spend the ride warming up those vocal cords ready to reenact The Sound of Music. Mozart's birthplace and surrounded by breathtaking alpine landscapes – it's no wonder Salzburg was labeled Austria's most inspiring city. Tonight, get to know this mesmerising city on a walking tour before introducing yourself to all its heavenly foodie creations. Strudel, anyone?



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Salzburg with Trip Leader

DAY 14 | SALZBURG – BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)

Our Salzburg sleepover was short oh-so-sweet. Up next? The twin cities of Buda and Pest. We'll be chauffeured past the Chain Bridge, Castle District, Heroes' Square and House of Terror on a driving tour of the city. Afterwards: free time to do your own sweet thing. Our rec? Swing by a few of the city's rooftop bars for sophisticated vibes, creative cocktails and UN-real views.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Budapest highlights drive

DAY 15 | BUDAPEST

A free day to take on the city! Check out the Central Market Hall. Explore the Jewish Quarter. Play pinball at the Flippersmúzeum. Hunt down the Anonymous Statue. And be sure to ask your trusty Trip Leader on their recommendation for the best thermal bath in town. Believe us when we say there are a LOT of pools here – indoors and out – and water temps go up to a massive 40 degrees! Tonight, opt for a dinner cruise down the Danube (Buda Castle and House of Parliament look extra spesh lit up like Christmas). Or hang with the hipsters and drink local fruit brandy at one of the original ruin bars. Maybe even sample a pickled carrot or two (random? Yep, but they're a thing).



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Danube River cruise: prices available locally

DAY 16 | BUDAPEST – KRAKÓW (POLAND)

As the legend goes, a dragon had to be defeated for Kraków to be built – bit tougher than the usual council approvals emmiright? Get acquainted with Poland's beating heart and the largest medieval town square in Europe on today's walking tour. Then? Take Fleetwood's advice and go your own way. Top up your history knowledge at Wawel Castle, explore the quirky cafes and boutiques in the Jewish Quarter, head to Schindler's Museum (be prepared to queue) or find a local haunt and tuck into a piled plate of pierogi.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Kraków with Trip Leader

DAY 17 | KRAKÓW

It's your day to delve deeper – need some suggestions? Head to Hamsa in the heart of the Jewish Quarter for some 'Hummus and Happiness', shop for amber 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 vodka time! On an optional tasting tour, you'll wander the cobblestone streets with a local guide – learning the history behind Polish vodka and sampling a few flavoured varieties as you go. This stuff is not for mixing with cranberry juice. Trust us.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Vodka tasting: from 218 PLN

DAY 18 | KRAKÓW – PRAGUE (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Onwards to the spire-filled skyline and mysterious streets of Prague! Our Trip Leader will get us acquainted with this picture-perfect city – complete with quirky clock tower – and point out all the must-dos for our free day tomorrow. Tonight? Grab some sma~ený sýr (fried cheese = yes please) for dinner, then head to The Alchemist for the city's best cocktails: small in size but big in character. Hint: ask for a 'choose your fate' off the menu – we'll see you in the morning.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Prague with Trip Leader

DAY 19 | PRAGUE

Free day FTW! Trust us, there's plenty to Czech out (ha!). Seek out 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 beer connoisseur? Don't miss the beer tasting optional this afternoon. 11 different Czech beers + tapas = good times all around.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Local beer tasting in Prague:
from €40

DAY 20 | PRAGUE – DRESDEN (GERMANY) – BERLIN

From one beer capital to the next. Get acquainted with 800 year-old Dresden – a city virtually destroyed in WWII and then rebuilt – before we make tracks to 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. Then: gather the crew and track down some Berliner Weisse wheat beer and a döner kebab (trust us on this one). Prost!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Dresden with Trip Leader
- Berlin highlights drive

DAY 21 | 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, more currywurst, pierogi and local beers (you're in Germany after all). Tonight, it's time to see whether this city's nightlife really lives up to the hype.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 22 | BERLIN – AMSTERDAM (NETHERLANDS)

Our trip may be coming to a close, but it's not over yet! We've got our eye on Amsterdam today. When we get there, you're free to explore the likes of the Dam Square, the Royal Palace and the National Monument. Then, this place is a foodie's haven – give in to temptation and grab a cone of hot chips with mayo. Mmm. Later, head to a canalside wine bar or brewery to keep the good times rolling.



MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 23 | AMSTERDAM

This is our last full day together. So, don't hang about – join the locals and get on your bike! Check out Amsterdam's iconic canals, bridges and parks on an optional bike tour. Or for the culture fiends – delve a bit deeper with a visit to the Anne Frank House (don't forget to book in advance!) or the Van Gogh and Rijksmuseum. If you **did** forget to book your tix to the Anne Frank House, there's the chance to join a virtual reality tour of the Secret Annex instead. After, head to Brouwerij 't microbrewery – a bar inside a windmill serving up craft beers and cheese-laden tapas. Sun's out? The outside terrace is awesome. Whatever you get up to, make sure you're back in time to toast the final night of our European adventure at tonight's group dinner.



MEALS:

- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Bike tour of Amsterdam: from €28
- Anne Frank's last walk and VR experience: from €37

DAY 24 | AMSTERDAM – LONDON (ENGLAND)

24 days. 11 countries. Countless thrills, spills and good times. You embraced it all and shared the Euro ride with a bunch of strangers who are now like family. But now it's time to hit the road back to ol' Blighty. Stick next year's trip in the iCal – who's coming?



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!