

## Changing Money

ATMs/cashpoints are available all over Europe and are the safest and easiest way to access money. Major credit cards are also accepted and we recommend you bring yours along in case you see something special that you hadn't budgeted for.

Some nationals may have access to pre-paid cards that you can use at any ATM just like a debit card that you may want to consider as a viable alternative or addition to your bank card.

Please note credit cards cannot be used to pay for Optional Activities.

Your Trip Leader will advise you when the best time is to take cash out.

## Spending Money

Based on experience, we recommend at least AUD\$50-60 per day. This is to cover daily expenses including sightseeing, small souvenir shopping, non-included meals and optional activities.

Remember, this is a rough figure only and spending habits vary greatly between individuals according to their budget and habits!

## Tipping

Although you may not be accustomed to tipping at home, in many European countries it is customary. In some countries a service charge may be added to your bill, in other countries it is usual to round the bill up to the nearest Euro/NOK or to leave an additional amount of between 5% and 10%. Your Trip Leader will be able to advise you further on the tipping customs in the countries you visit.

**Topdeck Top Tip:** it is a really good idea to hide away somewhere a small amount of cash and/or extra card; this will really come in handy in the unlikely event that you lose your wallet or any other kind of emergency.

## European Currencies

While the predominant currency throughout Europe is the euro (€), there are still many European countries that sit outside the Eurozone for which you will need to use local currency (or rely on your credit/debit cards). It is generally always possible to exchange money into local currency after arriving in the country, but the easiest way is to make a withdrawal from a local ATM/cashpoint.

Below is a list of all the other currencies you will use on your trip:

Norway - Norwegian Kroner (NOK)



## 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 there is not at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date from their country. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain these prior to the departure of this trip. You can consult the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling or your own government's website to determine which visas you will require. We also have a visa chart on our website listing the visas required by some nationalities travelling on our trips. To check go to [www.topdeck.travel/visas](http://www.topdeck.travel/visas). Remember that 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 the visa often runs from the date of issue rather than date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

## Transport

### Coach Time

We try to spend as little time on the coach as possible so that you have more time to enjoy the places you visit. But do please remember that Europe is a large continent and it takes time to get around! On driving days between cities you will be on the coach during the day, stopping off to visit places of interest where possible. Strict driving rules apply in Europe that limit the maximum number of hours your Driver can drive each day. They also limit the maximum number of days that can be driven before a day off must be taken. We have worked hard to make sure this does not affect your trip, but in some cities it means we will use public transport while your Driver has a well-earned rest day. The cost for this is included in your trip price and your Trip Leader will show you how to get around town as the locals do!

**Please note:** this doesn't cover your own local transport while in a city, only when the coach is not in operation

### Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is available for all passengers in Europe on most coaches. For more information about our Wi-Fi allowance and availability per country, please head to our website [www.topdeck.travel/wi-fi](http://www.topdeck.travel/wi-fi).

**Please note:** Wi-Fi charges are subject to change. If you feel necessary, please enquire with us to ensure your particular coach has Wi-Fi availability.

## Health and Safety

We want to make sure you're having the time of your life while travelling with us. Therefore, if you suffer from any kind of medical condition or allergies, we will need to know at the time of booking, or at least six weeks prior to the departure of your trip.

If you require regular medication, you must have a sufficient supply before your trip departs, as it may be difficult to obtain while travelling. You must be able to administer your own medication, as Topdeck Road Crew will not be able to administer it, and there are no guarantees that there will be anyone with first aid training on board.

## Vaccinations

There are currently no compulsory vaccinations required for any of the countries this trip visits. Please reconfirm this with your GP or health professional before you leave as conditions can change.

## General Information

### Public toilets

In most European countries you can expect to pay a small amount to use public toilets at service stations and in city centres. It is a common practice in Europe and should be regarded as a form of 'tipping', as the money goes to the people who clean and/or maintain the facilities. It is very rare that public toilets do not supply toilet paper, but it may be useful to carry a pack of tissues with you.

### Power

All European countries (with the sole exception of the United Kingdom) use a CEE7/16 standard round, two-prong plug and a single adaptor will work in all countries.

### Voltage

Throughout Europe the voltage is a uniform 220v. If the voltage is the same or similar in your home country your appliance will comply. If you have a 110v appliance you will need to use a transformer to avoid damaging your appliance.

## In Cases of Emergency

While we hope you never have to use it, if for any reason you need to contact someone from Topdeck, whether it be that you have missed a trip departure meeting, have become separated from your trip on the road or any other unforeseeable problem, the following options are available to you.

### Emergency Contact

Our Customer Service team is on hand 24/7 to help\*

Please call 1300886332 from within Australia, 0800525366 from within New Zealand, 18006071399 from within North America, 0800982308 from within South Africa, 0362731786 from within Japan, 08452575212 from inside the UK or +44289873305 for the rest of the world. A Topdeck representative will be on hand to help.

\* Please note our Customer Service team may be closed over bank holidays. Please check out [www.topdeck.travel/about-topdeck/contact-us](http://www.topdeck.travel/about-topdeck/contact-us) over these times.

## What to Bring

We recommend soft bags, suitcases or frameless backpacks, plus a small day pack or carry bag. No external framed bags please, as they damage other bags on the coach. Please limit your luggage to a maximum of 20kg. Only one piece of luggage is allowed.

Please note that due to space and weight restrictions on our coaches, passengers with too much luggage on departure morning may be told that they cannot take their entire luggage with them.

Luggage storage facilities are usually available at the departure point, if they are not available you will have to make your own arrangements to have it stored or shipped home. Any luggage left behind will be at your own risk and you will be required to pay any costs incurred.

## Sleeping Bags

A sleeping bag or sleep sheet/insert is required for your trip. Pillow case and bottom sheet are suggested.

*Please note: Each accommodation on this trip provides different bedding. Some provide blankets and pillows with linen and others do not. As such, please bring what you need to feel comfortable.*

## Suggested Packing List

The golden rule is to travel as light as you can. Only bring what you really need and leave plenty of space for things you might want to buy. Don't forget you will have to carry your bag around yourself before and after the trip, as well as in and out of where you're staying while on your trip!

**The following is a suggested clothing list only, based on our experience:**

- 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes
- 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- 1 pair thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- 2 pairs jeans/trousers
- 2 pairs shorts/skirts
- 5 shirts/t-shirts
- 2 sweaters/jumpers
- Smart casual evening wear (if you would like to go out at night)
- 1 rainproof jacket
- 1 warm jacket
- Underwear and socks!

**Other things to pack:**

- Swimwear (polar plunge)
- Towel

- Toiletries
- Hat and Sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc.)
- Washing powder
- Insect repellent
- Conversion plug
- Eye-mask for sleeping (it will be bright at night in Scandinavia)
- Passport (with visas if required!)
- Airline tickets (where applicable)
- Insurance Policy (you must bring these details with you)
- Camera; batteries; chargers

**Optionals to consider:**

- Sewing kit
- Pillow case
- Travel pillow

**Please note:** entry into some religious sites, such as cathedrals and mosques, requires clothing to cover the knees, chest and shoulders.

**That's it – you're now ready for your trip of a lifetime! If you have any further questions, feel free to give our team a shout at any time. Happy travels!**

