



**STAG
ЯEPUBLIC**

50 TIPS

**FOR A PERFECT
STAG WEEKEND**

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Thank you for downloading our 50 Tips for a Perfect Stag Weekend!

TIP #1 – What goes on tour stays on tour

Yes, all clichés apply to stag weekends. What she doesn't know won't hurt her, and so on, etc.

TIP #2 – Take the piss out of the stag at all times

You don't need to be told this, but he's here to be ridiculed and embarrassed. At the same time, his last weekend of freedom should be memorable for all the right reasons...

TIP #3 – Don't leave the organization to the last minute

The more the best man has organised before departure, the better chance he has of sitting back and enjoying the ride.

TIP #4 – Keep an eye on costs

Eastern Europe may be cheap, but costs can quickly spiral out of control. Remember that people in the group may have different incomes, so decide on a budget that the entire group can afford and book activities in advance so everyone knows what to expect. Get an all-inclusive quote for the weekend and know what you are paying for. If necessary, Stag Republic can even book your group into two nearby hotels to satisfy different budgets.

TIP #5 – Don't change money in the UK, at a change booth or - worst of all - on the street

Eastern Europe is just as full of ATMs as anywhere else in the world, and you will find one as soon as you land at the airport. Exchange rates are competitive and your bank will charge you a flat fee of a couple of quid per transaction - save money by withdrawing as much as you think you will need at the start of weekend.

TIP #6 – Read cancellation policies when you book

If you have a large group, there is a chance that someone will pull out at short notice or be unable to make an activity, so read the small print and make sure you - and everyone else - know the rules before you book. For example, Stag Republic can usually accommodate cancellations 24 hours before arrival, but definitely not afterwards.

TIP #7 – Assign a capable leader or chairman to run the show

Managing a stag party after a couple of drinks has often been likened to herding cats. You need someone in charge who can keep order and get people moving, while putting the stag's interests first and attending to the delicate egos of all present.

TIP #8 – Do not try to please everyone all of the time

It's impossible. The larger the group, the more different opinions there will be on where to go and what to do. Be prepared to compromise, and be prepared to make decisions and put your foot down when necessary (see Tip #5).

TIP #9 – Assign duties to members of the group

This sounds boring, but it can be a lot of fun and help bring the stag party together. Examples include navigator (the guy with the map), bar staff and waitress liaison officer (orders drinks and manages the kitty), clothing referee (enforces stag attire), etc.

TIP #10 – Think about ways of bringing the different group together

It is often the case that members of a large group do not know each other before setting off. Sitting 20 people down in a pub together may not always work - a game or all-action activity is a great way to bring everyone together.

TIP #11 – Plan activities in advance

While getting drunk is a priority, there's loads of cool stuff to do in cities like Budapest, Warsaw, Krakow and Bratislava. In addition to staples like go-carting, paintballing and pistol shooting, Stag Republic has a few surprises in store, like Trabant touring and clay pigeon shooting.

TIP #12 – Think of an effective way of resolving disputes

There is a good chance that a mutiny will break out at some stage of any stag weekend, and often someone has to give way for things to work out. Tossing a coin or rolling a dice may be the fairest and funnest way to settle an argument and bring rebels back into the fold.

TIP #13 – Keep order by drawing up rules with fines for non-compliance

Be creative, the idea should not be to put group members under the table by 10 o'clock. Shots, for example, are a bad idea. For one thing, they are bigger than in the UK - 40ml or 50ml as opposed to 25ml.

TIP #14 – Set up a kitty, and make it fair

A kitty is a great way of maximising the efficiency and speed of ordering drinks, but make sure everyone gets good value out of it. The kitty won't be purring long with five guys on Red Bull Vodka and five on beer, so decide in advance who pays what and whether fines should come out of the kitty.

TIP #15 – Take advantage of table service

Most pubs and restaurants have table service, and this is a fine thing. Assign someone to order beers for the entire group as you are shown to your seats to show you are thirsty and mean business - otherwise you might have to wait for a waiter or waitress to arrive.

TIP #16 – Order bottles to get your drinks faster

It can take a long time to pull 20 pints, if you want your drinks fast in a busy bar, order bottles.

TIP #17 – Do not all order at once

Either have one person order for the entire group or, if you are all want something different, one-by-one around the table. Assign a bar staff and waitress liaison officer (see Tip #9) to prevent double ordering.

TIP #18 – Pay up in good time to ensure a speedy exit

There is nothing worse than being ready to leave and having to wait for staff to tot up the bill. Ask for the cheque when you order the last round of drinks.

TIP #19 – Check prices on the menu and keep an eye on the tab

Make sure you are not being stung with extra drinks by keeping a rough idea of what you have been ordering.

TIP #20 – If you do notice an anomaly in the bill, be polite

There is probably a logical explanation. The more courteous and understanding you are, the more likely the situation will be sorted out amicably. Bear in mind that if you are being ripped off, there is every chance they will refuse to pay the bill. Leave, don't go back and let us know so we can warn others to stay away. One thing's for sure, causing a scene won't get you anywhere.

TIP #21 – Don't forget to tip

Many restaurants, particularly in Poland, add a service charge of 10% or 15%, so you don't need to give a tip. Others add the service charge without telling you, so keep your eyes open. Otherwise knock a zero off the bill and round up to calculate the tip.. You are not expected to give tips at the bar, but round up and you won't go home with pockets full of change.

TIP #22 – Know how to tip

It is not good form to leave all your change behind on the table when you leave. When handing over a larger denomination of change, let the staff know how much you are paying in total and you will receive the correct change, with the tip deducted. So if the bill comes to Ft 7,140, for example, give the waiter Ft 10,000 and say Ft 8,000 and he will bring you back your Ft 2,000 change. Beware, saying "thank you" can be taken to mean "keep the change".

TIP #23 – Read up on the best bars and clubs in advance, or recruit a local guide

No one likes wondering aimlessly around town, so get some advice on where to go and how to get there before you arrive, or sign up for a guided nightlife tour with Stag Republic. Remember, the larger your group, the harder it will be to find a bar, club or restaurant you will fit into.

TIP #24 – You can't trust the guidebook for party tips

Guidebooks have trouble keeping up and they often play it safe, so don't be surprised if the hot club you read about has closed down or turns out to be nothing special. We live and party here, so we know what's hot and what's not, and what will suit your group.

TIP #25 – There are no licensing laws in Eastern Europe - or so it seems

The good news is that bars and clubs stay open all night. The bad news is that if you are not careful, half the group will pass out by midnight and miss all the fun. A daytime activity or two can go a long way towards staving off the inevitable collapse.

TIP #26 – Start slow on the drinks - remember that things get going much later

Knocking back five tequilas in succession to pay fines for talking to the missus on the phone at the airport at 4 o'clock seems like fun at the time, but you will never see the actual nightlife scene, which kicks off at midnight. Try not to mix and if you are feeling the pace, there's no shame in ordering water until you perk up - and you will feel the benefits in the morning.

TIP #27 – Don't force drinks on your friends who are already wasted

It may be hilarious at the time, but you will regret it when you have to carry them home and clean up the mess on the carpet. Wouldn't you prefer to take a nice girl home? Exactly.

TIP #28 – Don't pass out in a bar

Bouncers will physically throw you out and it will hurt the next day.

TIP #29 – Beware nightclub bouncers (especially in shady strip clubs)

OK, sounds obvious, but bouncers in Eastern Europe are often gangsters and usually nothing more than hired thugs. If you do pick a fight, be aware that they will call their friends and that there is likely to be no legal recourse if things get out of hand. But keep your wits about you and you'll be OK.

TIP #30 – Dress code: Casual

Wear what you feel comfortable in, in most places no one will care, particularly in summer, when shorts and flip-flops are fine almost anywhere. Only the top clubs have a dress code (i.e. no trainers), but even this is a relatively recent trend.

TIP #31 – Keep things moving

Don't stay in one place too long, there is plenty to see. Delegate someone to prevent extra rounds being ordered and get slow drinkers to finish their drinks.

TIP #32 – When walking around town, keep an eye out for late-night fast food options

You will be peckish later and there is much more than McDonald's and Burger King to choose from. A late-night fast-food restaurant or bar also makes a great place for stragglers to meet up. Ask your Stag Republic guide or check our printed guide for more tips.

TIP #33 – You have paid for breakfast

The only way you will be able to enjoy the breakfast that comes with your hotel room is to stay out drinking and partying all night. Make this your target.

TIP #34 – Set up photo opportunities

Try to get some sights in the background to impress the girls back home. If you are too lazy to go out sightseeing, take a scenic boat cruise along the Danube (stripper optional), for instance. Try to look sober, particularly in the daylight hours.



TIP #35 – Take two cameras - one for the girls back home, one NOT for the girls back home

The wrong photo in the wrong hands can cause a lot of grief and stress. You do want the wedding to go ahead, right?

TIP #36 – Clear photos with the stag

Ask for permission before e-mailing incriminating photos around the world or uploading videos onto YouTube. Stag Republic does not condone blackmail.

TIP #37 – Save all photos in the same place

If you want to see all those hilarious photos ever again, get someone to bring a laptop and universal memory card reader. This way, you can set up a photo editing suite at the airport for the return journey and even start burning the CDs on the plane on the way home. Stash the laptop in the hotel safe to be sure.

TIP #38 – Travel light, bring plenty of deodorant

You will not be wearing most of those clothes, so don't pack them. In fact, you'll be lucky if you change your clothes once during the course of the weekend. All you really need is your bank card, a passport and plenty of mouthwash and deodorant.

TIP #39 – Keep plans a closely guarded secret

If you have a surprise for the stag, keep it a surprise for everyone. The more people know, the more likely it is to leak out and end in a damp squib.

TIP #40 – Go to the baths

Despite and almost certainly because of the way you will be feeling the morning after, a couple of hours soaking in the revitalising hot water of Budapest's thermal baths is an absolute must. A hot Stag Republic guide makes it all the more enjoyable. Oh, and do not to stare at the local girls, at least not too hard.

TIP #41 – The stereotypes about the beautiful Eastern European women are absolutely true

Except for the one about moustaches and armpit hair. In fact, they had to cancel the waxing bit of "Hungary's Next Top Model" because there was no point.

TIP #42 – If you have a budget, stick to it

Spending can quickly get out of control when you have a wallet full of "monopoly money". Don't take more money out of the bank than you can afford to spend, and factor in the casino or strip club, which can get expensive.

TIP #43 – Only go to strip clubs you know you can trust

Strip clubs, particularly in Budapest, can be very dodgy places. Drinks may be mega expensive and non payment is not an option, so do not order anything (or let a girl order anything) until you know exactly what it will cost. All Stag Republic nightlife tours take in a reputable strip club.

TIP #44 – Practice safe sex

You don't want an itchy souvenir, or worse, to take home.

TIP #45 – Only call or hail taxi companies approved by Stag Republic

There are some cowboys out there. In Budapest, always dial a cab or get your guide to do it for you. It will arrive within a couple of minutes in the centre of town, but if you don't have time to call, haggle, haggle, haggle or be prepared to get ripped off.

TIP #46 – Never flag down a cab and say "take me to a strip club"

You may as well be saying "take all my money and if you want, beat the living crap out of me and leave me in the middle of nowhere to try to find my way back home." Cab drivers get a commission from mafia-run strip clubs, so they won't take you to the nearest and definitely won't take you to the best. Only go to strip clubs recommended by your Stag Republic guide.

TIP #47 – Book a stripper dinner, or take a boat cruise

Stag Republic can organise a stripper for your exclusive entertainment at almost any venue, so why risk getting ripped off and beaten up in some shady club?

TIP #48 – The larger your group, the better you can spread costs

Many activities have a flat price, regardless of the size of your group - so the more of you sharing a boat cruise, limo or stripper the less it will cost per head.

TIP #49 – It is your bank, not your travel agency, that charges the 3% credit card booking fee

This is a standard charge. With Stag Republic, you pay a deposit of just 25% and pay the rest in cash, so this fee is greatly reduced.

TIP #50 – Aika Selzer

Obvious.

TIP #51

**For free expert advice on organising your stag weekend in Eastern Europe
call Stag Republic on**

**0800 027 4836 (free from the UK)
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