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friends plot
their return.

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festivals
are wall-
to-wall.

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Facebook friends plan for Europe.



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COVER: Pilgrims and visitors gather before the Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela, built upon the resting place of St. James, the apostle of Jesus said to have brought Christianity to Spain. Photo via Passport Stock/age fotostock.



The first sign of robins and crocuses

puts a spring in our step, and our thoughts turn to the coming joy of summer in Europe. There's still plenty of time to research a short escape or a longer vacation, and make reservations for your own special European experience.

You'll find much to inspire you here. Summer brings outdoor music festivals from hip hop and jazz to classical and classic rock. Book and movie tourism is a growing trend, and you can follow in the footsteps of Julia Child and Sherlock Holmes, for example.

It is also a special religious year, and you can carve your own spiritual routes from Oberammergau, performed only once a decade, to Santiago de Compostela, center of Spain's Holy Year. You can even "voluntour" at many different projects where you'll meet local people, learn new ways of living and share your dreams.

How about you? What's your dream of you and Europe?

Jean-Philippe Péro
Chairman USA,
European Travel
Commission

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Contact information on page 26.

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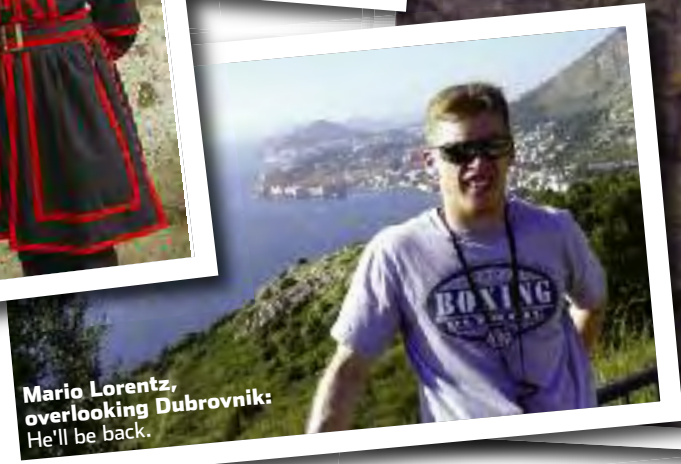




Reynolds Potter
at the Tower:
Ireland beckons.



Libby
York:
Stuck
on
Paris.



Mario Lorentz,
overlooking Dubrovnik:
He'll be back.



Where Next?

Some just got back and some have never been, but most of **SUSAN FAREWELL's** Facebook friends are dreaming about their next trip to Europe.

PERHAPS IT'S THE ART? The architecture? The history? The food and wine? The lifestyle? The ancestors? With Europe, more Americans than ever are checking "all of the above."

Sure, the economy is slow, and people are looking for value for money. But they are also dreaming more than ever of immersion in some place new. Take me away from all this, *por favor*. Stock in Europe-fantasy is not down, it's way up.

It's About Time!

For **Ann Shepphird**, an editor who lives in Santa Monica, her dream trip to Italy is long overdue. "I took two years of Italian in college and somehow I haven't managed to get there yet!" The plan while she was at UCLA was to study for a year in Italy. "I decided against it. It's one of my *biggest* regrets."

Now she dreams of Rome, and of the Amalfi Coast and the hills of Tuscany. Professionally (she specializes in garden and food writing), she's very interested in experiencing the food scene. "But who doesn't

have the dream of renting a farmhouse in Tuscany?" she asks.

Favored Nation

Spain is the main country upon which **Stacy Small** focuses her dream travels. Stacy can indulge; it helps that she owns a luxury travel firm in Los Angeles. "I've been to Barcelona and Madrid multiple times and just love the Spanish culture, the people, the food, the style." But she's going to new places *en España* this summer: to Marbella on the Costa del Sol and to the sunny Balearic isle of Mallorca. She'll make

a stop in Barcelona, "one of my favorite cities in the world." This 2010 dream trip will actually go beyond Spain, to glamorous St. Tropez and to the Lake District of Italy and Switzerland.

In It for the Bière!

Bradley Olman is a social studies teacher (and a photographer) from Little Silver, NJ. But most important for his get-to-Europe dream this year is that his daughter, **Emily**, is studying abroad in Cyprus. As part of her program, she will tour 10 mainland cities, from Amsterdam to Budapest. Choosing where to meet up with her (in Strasbourg) was easy, Bradley says. "I have no interest in a big city, but a trip through beer-wine-asparagus-and-quaint-old-homes country says Alsace-Lorraine and the small villages around it. My favorite beer is La Belle Strasbourgeoise, so I want

to visit the source." We checked, and that would be the brewery in the Strasbourg suburb of Schiltighem.

Aside from *la belle bière*, Bradley says that he loves poking around houses and architecture that date back hundreds of years. At the same time, "Alsace-Lorraine is a place with a very mixed cultural identity so you get the best of both the French and German, and even some Swiss."

First Time to Istanbul

Poland and Turkey top the list of destinations that writer/photographer **Karen Torme Olson** wants soon to see. She travels from her home in Olympia Fields, IL, to Europe as often as she can, via nearby O'Hare International. "I'd especially like to go to Turkey because it's close to Kosovo (Ed. note: "Well, within 525 miles") where my

Shroud of Turin Revealed

The shroud, with its image of a crucified man, went on public view this weekend at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Through May 23, with Pope Benedict XVI visiting May 2. Reserve at www.Sindone.org.

*It is dreadful... not to have a soul
to unburden yourself to... You
know what I mean. I tell my piano
the things I used to tell you.*

—FRYDERYK CHOPIN

Trend: Volunteers in Europe

Programs include Croatia's Adriatic Dolphin Project and Greece's Katelios Group (they protect sea turtles). Volunteers are welcomed to help collect data, protect habitat and rescue endangered sea life.

Stacy Small in Madrid: Marbella's next.



Janet Riccio: Rhine cruiser.



Elaine Clayton and sons at Stonehenge.



Karen Torne Olson in Scotland: Bound for Istanbul.



Ann Shepphird:

Italy finally?



The Gauff family: Holiday on bikes.



Bradley Olman and partner, Hollis.



son is a diplomat with USAID.

"Plus I met a young Turkish woman who made her country sound so fascinating... As for Poland, I'd like to go because that's where my ancestors are from." We find, of course, that DNA is an always-busy dreamweaver when it comes to Americans and Europe.

Friends, Then Castles

Janet Riccio, a Manhattan-based advertising professional, has a trip to Germany on her calendar. She is going to visit her goddaughter and her family in Bad Soden, a suburb of Frankfurt. While there, she says, "I'm hoping to take a trip up the Rhine and explore the castles along the way." Beer! Pretzels! Real *frankfurters*!

Always Wants Paris

Libby York, a jazz singer based in Oak Park, IL, is not dreaming of any place new. Reading *Paris to the Moon* by Adam Gopnik (a friend) made her want desperately to return. "The book captured all that I love about Paris—the architecture, the cafes, the sense of life as art."

This spring, she and her partner, **Greg** (a drummer) will go to celebrate their 10th anniversary as a couple. "I want to embrace on the beautiful bridges and be lovers in the City of Light," she says. "A little romantic fantasy."

She adds that she and Greg will arrive in early May. "Everyone thinks of the song 'April in Paris,' but Yves Montand wrote another song about how *May* in Paris is the best." It pays to know all the old songs.

To Be a Dubliner

Books are also inspiring a European trip for **Reynolds Potter**, a Portland, OR, resident retired

from the real estate and finance games. This summer, he and his wife, **Sharon Mueller**, will be traveling to London for a mid-July graduation. Afterward, they're contemplating a trip to Ireland. "I've read a lot of authors from Ireland such as Joyce and Beckett," he says.

"I'm also very interested in how the country plays such a prominent part in religious history. I've been studying Catholicism, just out of personal interest." He adds, however, "We're not locked into anything. Who knows? There's always a chance we may decide to go to Florence, instead."

Author's Note: The people I am quoting—from all over the country—were contacted mostly through Facebook and e-mail. Some of them I know from high school or college, some from work and others through friends.

I was impressed all over again by how much and how quickly one can learn about places from friends and new acquaintances through Facebook, and other social media. It's multiplying the whole idea of "word-of-mouth."

(Susan Farewell is the editor-in-chief of her own online travel magazine, FarewellTravels.com.)

The Human Touch

With European countries so close together, it's hard to plan a trip that doesn't involve more than one. That's what appeals to **Mario Lorentz**, an artist who lives in Denver. Planning to use up his airline miles, he's heading over later this year. "I'm not going to plan too much in advance," he says.

Mario has, however, decided to start in Croatia: "I really want to go back because I love the coast there. The neat little villages, the food, the lifestyle. There's more human interaction because people don't live in their cars. I also love that you can take boats to small islands and explore."

After that, he'll keep it loose; maybe take a ferry across the Adriatic to Italy, where his grandfather is from, and which Mario has yet to see.

But Can We Bike It?

Croatia is also on the wish list for **Leslie Gauff**, a real-estate broker in Stowe, VT. "I hear the cycling is great there." Leslie and her hus-

continued on next page

Passion of Oberammergau

The new production will run May 15 through Oct. 3. Every 10 years, this Bavarian village re-enacts the Passion of Christ, fulfilling a vow made during the plague of 1633. PassionPlay-Oberammergau.com.

For all you need to plan your trip:



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Trans-Atlantic Vacation Strategies

Save time, money with tours, packages and city passes.

Trans-Atlantic airlines have reduced overall capacity this spring and summer, and have had success in pushing up fares from last year's depressed levels.

Seats, therefore, could be scarce on the busiest routes. The word is to "shop early" for the destination and dates you want. On the other hand, **fare sales** are sure to develop; those flexible about travel dates should watch for them in newspapers and on websites.

Europe remains in high demand. More than 12 million Americans are expected to make the trip this year, thanks to the improving economy.

The **dollar's increased buying power** helps. It's up more than 11 percent since the fall vs. the euro and other European currencies. *

Hotel prices continue to be especially competitive in European cities; good deals are found the Internet. As always, many of the best bargains are found in **travel packages, tours and cruises**. Basic air-hotel packages bought in advance can save you 30 percent or more this year on airfare and other components.

Europe's cities do their part, offering **public-transit and museum passes** that save money and time. For travel between cities, the famous Eurail Pass is available for a wide variety of time periods and combinations of countries.

* Based on interbank rate of \$1 = €0.74 as of March 22.

You & Europe Checklist

Here are more suggestions from the directors of **European Travel Commission** member national tourist offices:

- Talk to friends and relatives recently returned from Europe. They'll have good ideas about where to go and how to stretch your budget.
- Start with visiteurope.com, as well as with websites of individual countries (see page 26).
- When you know when and where you want to go, check big online agencies, like Travelocity and Expedia, for price ranges. Then check airline, hotel and tour operator sites. Many offer better rates if you buy directly.
- Make certain your passport will be valid for the whole trip. Get instructions and forms at Travel.State.gov/passport. An estimated 94 million Americans now hold passports.
- Search specialized websites for restaurants and B&Bs, and for activities that can introduce you to people in Europe with the same interests.
- When in Europe, stop at city tourist offices for the latest information on events and lodging.
- Discover the best food for the money by sampling the specialties of each region.
- And, very important, practice a few of those always-well-received phrases, such as *por favor*, *guten morgen*, *grazie*, *skål* and *yassou!* ■

Filton College. "I hope to go again soon," he says, "This time to Rome because I love the history and Italian culture. Also, I study Latin."

His brother, **Nicholas**, a freshman and aspiring musician at Gordon College in Wenham, MA, hasn't been across the Atlantic yet, but also hopes to study abroad (Nathan said he does, too), preferably in England. "I am very interested in what remains of the local music scene there, after the fallout of the indie bands in the recent decade. I was inspired by Britpop bands like Oasis, the Stone Roses, Blur, Kasabian, the Arctic Monkeys and others." Did I mention he's an aspiring rock musician?

The Lands I Love

For me, it's all about returning to the countries I love, and seeing as much of them as possible. That would include Greece, where I studied while in college. And also Prague, where I found myself shortly after the Iron Curtain was lifted; I'd like to see how it's changed.



Susan Farewell and daughter Justine, in Athens.

I'm crazy about all the Nordic countries, and there are many places there I have yet to experience. One day, I'd like to cross-country ski near the fjords in Norway. I am also dreaming of a return to Iceland (for the third time) to drive the entire 830-mile distance of its otherworldly Ring Road.

The thing with Europe, I find, is that no matter how often you've gone, and how many countries you've visited, there's always something pulling you back. I don't know anybody who can say, "Been there, done that" about Europe. ■

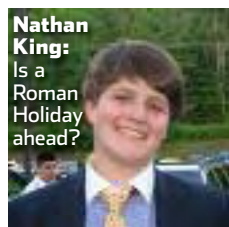
from previous page

band, **Bruce Bell**, have taken their bikes to Europe before. "We loved cycling in Provence especially," she says. "We've also cycled in the Pyrenees."

Last year, Leslie spent 18 days in Europe, first attending a family wedding in Essex, England, and then traveling to St. Tropez, where she has relatives.

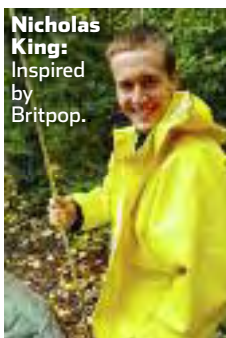
Feed Young Minds

Elaine Clayton, a Westport, CT-based artist and her husband, **Simon Boughton**, a publisher, love traveling to Europe with their two young sons, **Jonah** and **Ali-stair**, because of the educational value. "We like to make connec-



tions with what we've all read." Last September, they combined a visit with her husband's family in Kent, with sightseeing in England's South West.

"One of the highlights was Tintagel near Cornwall. It's the legendary site of King Arthur's Round Table and it's spectacular—situated on top of a sheer cliff." She adds, "We also went to Stonehenge,



Nicholas King: Inspired by Britpop.

which I had always wanted to see. Before going, the boys had never heard of it. But it's funny, since we've been back they are always seeing references to it."

Rocker Research

The educational benefits of visiting Europe range from learning about Druids to discovering new sauces. **Nathan King**, from Cornwall Bridge, CT, had the unusual experience of flying to England with his Kent School football team (American football, *not* soccer) and defeating Bristol's

Swimsuit Issue Stars Lisbon

Portugal's capital, and the beaches of Cascais and Portinho da Arrábida were the only European locations selected for the annual *Sports Illustrated* bathing-beauty special.

Normandy's Impressionist Summer

Rouen's Musée des Beaux-Arts will exhibit €1 billion worth of Impressionist paintings, from Monets to Gauguins. Le Havre, Cherbourg and other Norman cities also offer shows. Rouen-Musees.com.

Monet's "Rouen Cathedral."



King Zygmunt's Column overlooks Warsaw's Castle Square.



iStock photo



Above, composer Chopin was also one of Europe's greatest pianists. Right, St. Dominic's Fair takes over Gdansk in August.

Poland Parties!

Na zdrowie! It's Chopin's 200th Birthday.

PIROGIES AND MAZURKAS, grand palaces and leafy parks, great music and dramatic architecture, and an indomitable spirit have combined to make Poland Central Europe's essential destination.

The nation is blessed with rich, wide plains (under an even wider sky), through which rolls the mighty **Visula**. The river originates in the majestic **Tatras**, and links three of Poland's largest cities—**Warsaw**, **Kraków** and **Gdansk**—on its way to the **Baltic Sea**.

Like a phoenix, Poland rose from the ashes of World War II (followed by almost 50 years of Soviet domination) to become today's vibrant democracy and a vital bridge between East and West.

CHOPIN'S YEAR: From **Nicolaus Copernicus**, giant of Renaissance astronomy, to **Tadeusz Kosciuszko**, **Jan Paderewski**, and **Pope John Paul II**, Poles have had a wide impact on science, art and history.

But this year's party is for composer **Fryderyk Chopin**, born 200 years ago in **Zelazowa Wola**, 25 miles west of Warsaw. The story of how he refined the mazurka and polonaise into staples of classical music is

told in his family home, and in the just-reopened museum in Warsaw bearing his name. Celebratory high points will include the May 9 premiere of *Chopin*, a new ballet by **Patrice Bart**, at Warsaw's grand **Teatr Wielki**, and the **Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition** in October. For details, go to <http://en.Chopin.nifc.pl>.

WARSAW used centuries-old plans, early photos and period paintings to rebuild its war-demolished **Old Town** with its **Castle** and **Market** squares, **Royal Palace**, Gothic **St. John's Cathedral** and colorful narrow-fronted tenement houses.

Glorious additions are the excellent restaurants (try the fabulous **U Kucharzy** and order the duck) and the stunning **Le Regina**

Hotel (also with a superb kitchen). Museums abound, including the **Warsaw Rising Museum**, which graphically follows the searing war years; the **University Library**; and the home of radium-discoverer **Marie Curie**. A Sunday Chopin concert in **Lazienki Park** is a must (and it's free). **KRAKÓW**, which miraculously escaped damage during the war, protects its **Old Town** with a ring of parkland. Stroll to the central square, the largest plaza in all Europe and the heart of

the city. Have a coffee and do some people-watching before visiting **Jagiellonian University** where both Copernicus and Pope John Paul II studied, and the **Museum Czartoryski** to see **Da Vinci's** great "Lady with an Ermine." Take the **Royal Route** to **Wawel Hill**, centuries-long residence of Polish kings, with its magnificent Renaissance chapel.

Kraków's **Kazimiere** is the best-preserved Jewish quarter in Europe. Although virtually all the Jews you meet are visitors, the seven synagogues are in-tact and a dozen Jewish restaurants are busy. The neighborhood combines hip artistic studios with ancient cemeteries and Klezmer concerts. Coming up is the annual **Jewish Cultural Festival**, which draws followers from around the world, June 26-July 4.

A tour of **Auschwitz**, less than an hour's drive from Kraków, is one of life's most sobering experiences. The **Wieliczka Salt Mine**, the only mine in the world working continuously since the Middle Ages, is a must-see.

GDANSK is the port at the mouth of the Visula where the regime-toppling **Solidarity** movement was born. Streets are lined with historic monuments and little shops overflow with magnificent amber jewelry. Board a pleasure boat near the medieval **Zuraw** cargo crane for a day cruise along the Baltic coast. ■

—Roberta Graff

For more information on all that Poland offers, go to Poland.travel.



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the Boeing 787 **Dreamliner**, above, the world's most advanced passenger aircraft.

For LOT's best fares and for more information, go to www.LOT.com or call (212) 789-0970. ■

Royal Wedding Thrills Sweden

Stockholm, city of 14 islands, bursts to life with the advent of summer. This year, love is in the air as well, as the nation will celebrate the wedding of **Crown Princess Victoria**, 32, to fitness entrepreneur **Daniel Westling**, 35. The June 19 wedding, at which the bride is to wear a dress designed by the pioneering **Anna Holtbled**, will take place on the same date (and in the same **Storkyrkan** cathedral), that Victoria's parents, **King Carl XVI Gustaf** and **Queen Silvia**, wed in 1976. As then, the crowned heads of Europe will gather.

Commoners start the fun two weeks earlier with **Love Stockholm 2010**, a festival of music, food, fashion and design that kicks off with **National Day** street parties on June 8.

Victoria was three years old when the Swedish constitution was changed to make her heir to the throne as the king's oldest child; previously, the oldest male child would ascend. Stockholmtown.com.

—Sally Howard

Princess Victoria and Daniel meet the people.

PULSE

What's On What's New

Roulette Takes a Holiday

The **Monte Carlo Casino** is closing its Beaux-Arts halls for the first time since its 1863 opening, not to reopen before February after renovation by Vegas designer **Paul Steelman**.

So where do we go to lose euros in Monaco?

To Monte Carlo's three American-style casinos (including the waterfront **Sun Casino**), wide open for trade. Invest any winnings into a signature vodka cocktail at the rooftop **Zebra Bar** or a night at the new **Black Legend Nightclub**. VisitMonaco.com.



istockphoto

Get lucky: Now there's more time to enjoy Monaco's harbor and nightlife.

Waterloo Replay

Before it was a London bridge, Waterloo was a small village in Belgium (just south of Brussels) and shorthand for the final, bloody defeat of **Napoleon Bonaparte**.

The battle, fought on June 18, 1815, saw the desperate Emperor march against the dogged—and victorious—British and Prussian forces of the **Duke of Wellington** and **Gebhard von Blücher**.

Waterloo not only ended the Napoleonic Wars, it led to the most peaceful 99 years in European history. Each June, several thousand British and French re-enactors test the *entente cordiale* on the grassy field. Shoulder a musket and join in: 1815.be.

—S.H.



Bataille de Waterloo 1815

Does Napoleon get to win this time?

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Two nights in a classic room, daily breakfast, one dinner and service starts at only €145 per person in Bettoja's centrally located Nord; €185 at the Mediterraneo. www.BettojaHotels.it.

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Traveling by train produces only 12 percent of the CO₂ per person that car or air travel emit. Eurail Passes enable travelers to make the most of the world's best rail network. EurailTravel.com.



Hagia Sophia, central to the story of Istanbul.

Istanbul2010

Capitals of Culture 2010

ISTANBUL: Air, Water, Fire

On Turkey's **Bosporus**, Europe's largest city is welcoming visitors to a rich 2010 program as one of Europe's three Cultural Capitals.

Exhibitions, music and theater tell the story of this gateway between Europe and Asia, from its legendary beginning as **Byzantium**, to the founding of **Constantinople** by the Romans, to its role as the center of the **Ottoman Empire**, to today's rapidly modernizing metropolis.

The celebration is now in its "air" segment, inspired by the many minarets reaching heavenward. Performance will play a big role, including classical Turkish con-

certs, appearances by the **Tokyo Ballet** and **La Scala's** concert version of *Aida*. The theme for summer is "water," focusing on the surrounding seas; for fall it's "fire," to reflect on modernization. Istanbul2010.Org.

Once-Rusty RUHR Shines

Germany's old industrial Ruhr district is a mega-Cultural Capital, with action shared by **Essen**,



A Ruhr mine shaft, recycled.

Top: Péc's Cathedral of St. Peter. Dortmund, Gelsen-

kirchen and other cities that have metamorphosed from a skyline of smoke-belching stacks into today's offbeat metropolis, steeped in culture, history and environmental harmony.

On July 18, the busy **Ruhr motorway** will be closed for 37 miles. Eastbound lanes will be lined with 20,000 tables for an epic communal banquet, all visitors welcome; westbound lanes will be open to any means of transport *without* an engine. Over the year, 3,000 concerts and other happenings have been scheduled. Ruhr2010.de.

Historic Pécs Steps Up

Pécs, a metro center of southern Hungary, dates to Celtic and Roman times, with the Magyars arriving in the 9th century. The **Gazi Kasim Mosque** (now a church) testifies to the 100-year era of Ottoman rule. The **Vasarely Museum** is dedicated to the illusionary works of the founder of Op-Art.

As a Cultural Capital, Pécs offers a broad program of dance, theater and music, including an open-air **Theater Festival**, June 3-12, and a **Gypsy Orchestra** concert, Aug. 7. Pecs2010.hu. ■

more Pulse on next page

Spain Celebrates a Holy Year

Santiago de Compostela, one of Christianity's most important and popular pilgrimage destinations for 1,000 years, is celebrating the **Holy Year of St. James**. The tomb of the apostle (and Spain's patron saint) lies in the cathedral's crypt, and a Holy Year is declared when his July 25 feast day falls on a Sunday (this happens only 14 times in a century).

Each year, thousands of pilgrims walk the **Way of St. James**, the traditional route across northern Spain dotted with historic monasteries and markers adorned with the scallop-shell emblem of James.

Visitors also can take guided tours of the cathedral and the city, with its stone buildings and famous cobblestone streets. Or they can relax in Santiago's many *tapas* and wine bars. Recommended too, is the superb seafood of Galicia, including lobster and, yes, scallops.

Holy Year highlights include cathedral masses on the Feast of St. James; a procession in August with the **World Youth Day Cross**, the latter en route to Madrid for the 2011 Catholic youth gathering; and a visit Nov. 6 by **Pope Benedict XVI**. CatedraldeSantiago.es.

—Mary Ann Poust



Michelle Chaplow/Alamy



Modern-day pilgrim with the scallop shell of St. James. Inset, bound for Santiago in the Middle Ages.

Lady Beefeater

After 22 years in the British Army, Moira Cameron became the first woman ever to serve among the yeoman warders guarding the Tower of London. She is pictured with Reynolds Potter on page 6.

Free Trips!

To win a Free Vacation to Norway or Iceland via Icelandair, go to page 24, or directly to visiteurope.com.

Pompidou Goes to Metz

Paris's popular Centre Pompidou will soon have a branch to help show off its vast collections. The flashy Centre Pompidou-Metz opens May 10 in the capital city of Lorraine. First show: "Masterpieces?"

What Made Turner Tick

...and Klee, and Ensor, and Vermeer...

Dramatic paintings by J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851), the British Romantic "painter of light," are shown next to works that inspired him in **Turner and the Masters** at the **Grand Palais** in Paris. Works by Canaletto, Rubens, Rembrandt, Titian and Turner's contemporary rival, John Constable, illuminate Turner's

Bern's **Paul Klee Center** will link two contemporaries often regarded as modern art's polar opposites. Klee's understated canvasses and tendency toward irony contrast sharply with Picasso's drama and sensuality. Yet the exhibit reveals that Klee was impressed and influenced by Picasso. The exhibition comprises some 180 works from the Center's collection and from museums and private collections around the world. June 6–Sept. 29, PaulKleeZentrum.ch.

James Ensor's swirling surfaces and fiendish touch often are ranked with the surreal Bosch and Breugel. Ostend will honor its native son on the 150th anniversary of his birth with **Visiting**

PULSE

What's On What's New

obsession to prove he was as good as the painters he most admired.

When the show moves to Madrid's **Prado**, it will expand to 80 paintings, including "Light and Colour," "The Morning after the Flood" and "Peace. Burial at Sea," important canvasses from the end of Turner's career. [Grand Palais to May 24, Grand Palais.fr](http://GrandPalais.fr); [Prado, June 22 to Sept. 19, MuseodelPrado.es](http://Prado.es).

Klee Meets Picasso at



Left, Vermeer's 'The Procuress' at the Mauritshuis. Above, 'Mona Lisa' by Ensor, in Ostend.

Ensor at the **MuZEE Ostend**. The show depicts Ensor as seen through the artists, writers and collectors who visited him in his hometown. The list includes Kandinsky, Nolde and Vuillard. The exhibition is one of 150 activities planned inside and outside the



Turner's 'Bridge of Sighs...' (in homage to Canaletto) from **Turner and the Masters**. Left, the poster for the **Klee Meets Picasso** show in Bern.



together three recently restored and rarely united paintings from the early career of Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675): the Mauritshuis's "Diana and her Nymphs" (c. 1653), "Christ in the House of Martha and Mary" (c. 1655) from the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh and "The Procuress" (1656) from Dresden's Staatliche Kunstsammlungen. Together with Vermeer's "View of Delft" (c. 1660) and "Girl with a Pearl Earring" (c. 1665) in the Mauritshuis' permanent collection, the exhibit is a unique opportunity to trace Vermeer's development. May 12-Aug. 22, Mauritshuis.nl.

MuZEE, Muzee.be.

A newly installed permanent architectural sculpture, "Room With My Soul Left Out, Room That Does Not Care" is the highlight of **Dream Passage**, featuring the work of American Bruce Nauman at the **Hamburger Bahnhof** museum in Berlin. The expansive work evokes the conflicting experiences of confinement and abandonment. The central hall of the museum holds other examples of Nauman's "experience architecture," such as "Corridor Installation" in which visitors face their own images caught by video cameras. May 28-Oct. 10, HamburgerBahnhof.de.

The Young Vermeer at the **Mauritshuis** in The Hague brings

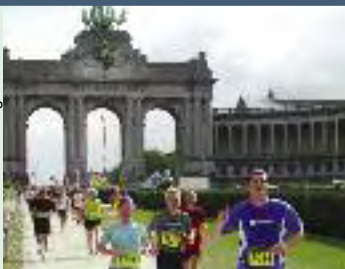


'Girl Braiding Her Hair' (1887) from **Albert Anker: Beautiful World**.

Trend: Finding Family Roots

More Americans are tracking down family history in Europe than ever before. Try GermanOriginality.com, SwissRoots.org and VisitDenmark.com/heritage (1.5 million Americans claim Danish heritage).

Big Stock Photo



Running Wild

More than 100 marathons are scheduled in Europe over the next 20 weeks. Most weekends will see at least two; six take place on Sunday, May 9. Sort it out with MarathonGuide.com.

Berlin Marathon, 2009.



El Greco's 'Tears of St. Peter,' from his final 'Apostle' series.

"Tete de femme," Picasso, 1907, from Klee Meets Picasso.

'Nude,' (1910) by Charles Guerin, at the Amsterdam-Hermitage.

BRUSSELS: El Greco at the Center for Fine Arts (BOZAR) in Brussels is an overview with "The Disrobing of Christ," "The Tears of Saint Peter" and his final, remarkable "Apostles" series. Through Sept. 9, Bozar.be.

LONDON: Tate Britain takes a fresh view of sculptor Henry Moore with a survey of 150-plus stone sculptures, bronzes and

drawings. To Aug. 8, Tate.org.uk. **PARIS:** The Centre Pompidou is featuring a retrospective of Lucien Freud, showing 50 large works, plus graphics and photos of the London studio where most of his work was done. Through July 19, CentrePompidou.fr. **AMSTERDAM:** Matisse to Malevich brings modern masterpieces from St. Petersburg to the

Hermitage Amsterdam, through Sept. 17, Hermitage.nl.

BERN: The Museum of Fine Arts is marking the centenary of the death of a favorite national painter with Albert Anker: Beautiful World. Typical Anker subjects were his village, the world of children in school and at play, portraits and still life. May 7-Sept. 5, Museen-Bern.ch.

ROME & LAUSANNE: An exhibit of 160-plus works by the American artist Edward Hopper includes some works never before exhibited, such as the stunning "Girlie Show." Fondazione Roma Museum, through June 13, MuseodelCorso.it; Fondation de l'Hermitage, June 25-Oct. 17, Fondation-Hermitage.ch. ■

—Eleanor Berman

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A truly complete Belgian bar would require 450 taps.

Sliánte to Culture!

Raise a glass to these Euro-libations.

WHAT BETTER WAY TO DRINK in the local culture than with a glass of an iconic brew, wine or spirit? All European destinations have a signature quaff. Here are some of them to try:

Plum Lightning In Maramures, a forested northwestern corner of Romania surrounded by the Carpathian mountains, the drink of choice is *horinca*—a double-distilled plum brandy prized for its clarity and its 80-proof wallop. Considered as much a local treasure as the distinctive Maramurian folk art and carved wooden gates, *horinca* is made from the ripe plums that fill marketplaces come fall in timeless villages like Barsana and Tisa.

Similar plum brandies are

found throughout Central Europe. In Hungary it is called *palinka*, and in Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia it usually goes by *slivovitz*.

In Maramures, following medieval ritual, the fruit is crushed in large oak barrels and left to ferment until the first snowfall. Shots of fruity *horinca* pair well with a snack of the local cheese, made from sheep's milk, and smoked pork bacon with onion. *Horinca* is raised to shouts of *Noroc!* (Good luck!) at births, wakes and everything in between.

Beer Culture The distinctive golden malt taste of Belgian ale is reason enough for any beer lover to visit. Home to some 125 breweries and more than 450 varieties of beer, Belgium has made beer an

intrinsic part of the culture, a source of pride and identity for the 10.7 million residents of this lively country.

As in much of northern Europe, monks were among the early brewers in Belgium, and some popular beers are still fermented in a handful of Trappist monasteries.

Travel along the official beer route, crisscrossing from Arlon to Antwerp, and you'll find that each small town has its own signature beer, like Hoegaarden and Chimay, and its own style of drinking glass. And that beer—and only that beer—is to be served in *that* glass. In Belgium, beer is fun, but it's no joke.

For dates of the frequent beer festivals and for beer tours, go to VisitBelgium.com, and to Belgian-Beer-Routes.com.

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Sherry and olives: A perfect combination from the hills of Jerez.

Sherry Baby Spain is the source of dry sherries—the brandy-fortified wine of white grapes—and most of it happens in Jerez de la Frontera, a pretty town located 60 miles south of Seville on an old

border between Christian and Moorish Spain.

One of Spain's most important wine regions, Jerez is rich with sherry-producing bodegas, including familiar names like González Byass and Sandeman. Besides the oak casks, called *butts*, in which the sherry is aged, time is the most important factor. Casked for at least 20 years, the older wine is siphoned off and added to newer wine to cast its taste. This sequential blending of new with old achieves a particular house style.

Will you detect the hints of dried fruits, caramel and almonds, old leather, chocolate and tobacco that experienced palates may identify? Maybe. But it doesn't take an educated oenophile to understand why the Spanish love their sherry. Its crisp, saline quality goes so well with food, especially the briny tapas for which Spain is known.

—Beth D'Addono

Irish Coffee Recipe

Leave it to the Irish to create one of the most famous drinks extant, familiarly known as *Caife Gaelach* or Irish coffee.

INGREDIENTS

Cream: Rich as an Irish brogue.

Coffee: Strong as a friendly hand.

Sugar: Sweet as the tongue of a rogue.

Whiskey: Smooth as the wit of the land.



PREPARATION

Warm a whiskey goblet.

Pour 2 oz. of Irish whiskey, be it Tullamore, Jameson or Bushmills.

Add three cubes of sugar.

Fill goblet with strong, hot, black coffee to one inch of the brim.

Stir to dissolve sugar.

Top off to brim with whipped cream, slightly aerated so that the cream floats on top.

Note: Do *not* stir after adding cream, since the true flavor is obtained by drinking the hot coffee and whiskey through the cream. End the whole ceremony with the toast, "*Sláinte!*" Health and long life to you. A child every year and may you die in Ireland."

The original Irish coffee was invented by Joseph Sheridan, a chef at Foynes Airport (now Shannon International), soon after Pan Am flying boats first arrived from the U.S. in 1948.

— J. Herbert Silverman

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BERGEN: Mixing It Up

Not every festival will program **Philip Glass's** mesmeric *Koyaanisqatsi* film score (with the composer playing keyboard) back-to-back with **Marc Minkowski** and his Baroque-happy **Musiciens du Louvre-Grenoble**, performing Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* (May 26, 27).

But audiences have come to expect the unusual at Norway's **Bergen International Festival**, founded in 1953 and now the largest festival of its kind in the Nordic countries with 150 events in 15 days.

Violinist **Nikolaj Znaider**, pianist **Leif Ove Andsnes** and trumpet soloist **Tine Thing Helseth** are on tap, but one of the biggest stars will be **Ole Bull**.

Born 200 years ago in Bergen, he ranked among the greatest violinists of his time and was a mentor to the young Grieg. The free Ole Bull Ball (June 5) will be a festival highlight. May 26–June 10. www.FIB.no/en.

The BIT20 Ensemble, regulars at Bergen, take a break from their usual violins and cellos. Inset, Tine Thing Helseth and horn.



Line Olaisen/Bit20

Summer Sound UNBOUND

Soaring music of unlimited variety will sweep across the open-air festival stages of Europe and fill the music halls. Here are **MICHAEL RODDY's** eclectic picks from a packed calendar.

Le MARCHE: Opera al Fresco

Open-air productions (and who can resist them?) of two Verdi operas, *La Forza del Destino* and the rarely staged *I Lombardi*, are among the highlights of the **Sferisterio Opera Festival**. The site is Macerata, a provincial capital in Italy's Marche region, which runs from the Adriatic to the Apennines.

Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine* opens the festival,

which will also include Gounod's rousing *Faust* and indoor stagings of Vivaldi's *Juditha Triumphans* and Verdi's *Attila*. Stagings are by the festival's artistic director, **Pier Luigi Pizzi**, and singers include **Roberto Scandiuizi**, who has sung at the Met, and **Teodor Ilincai**, a veteran of Covent Garden. Combine that with regional cuisine featuring game, seafood and the local specialty, the rich, lasagna-like *vincisgrassi*, plus a chance to explore the hills, abbeys and rugged Adriatic seashore. July 29–Aug. 10, www.Sferisterio.it.



Macerata's magical Sferisterio arena dates back to 1820 and seats more than 7,000.

**MORE
MUSIC
—MUCH
MORE**

MAY

APRIL 28–MAY 3 Cheltenham International Jazz Festival, England.

12–JUNE 4 Prague Spring International Music Festival, Czech Republic.

14–JUNE 20 Vienna Festival.

20–AUG. 29 Glyndbourne Opera Festival, England.

21–JULY 19 White Nights Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia.

22–JUNE 6 Bath International Music Festival, England.

28–30 Brussels Jazz Marathon Weekend.

28–30 Gothenburg Jazz Festival, Sweden.

JUNE

3–25 Festival de Musique de Strasbourg, France.

4–JULY 21 Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, France.

10–20 Athens Festival.

18–AUG. 29 Verona Opera Festival, Italy.

CÓRDOBA: Guitars Every Which Way

Paco Peña and his company will open the 30th anniversary edition of the **Córdoba Guitar Festival** with his *Misa Flamenco* (Flamenco Mass) on July 6. The setting will be spectacular: La Mezquita, the vast mosque of 840 columns built during the 700-year rule of the Moors in Spain

This greatest of guitar festivals will also present **Deep Purple**, **Johnny Winter**, **Joe Bonamassa** and **Paco de Lucía** among many others. In a classical mode, **Manuel Barrueco** and **Wulfen Lieske** team up with the **Orchestra de Córdoba** for a program including Rodrigo's *Concerto de Aranjuez*. **Mark Knopfler**, of Dire Straits and solo fame, will close the festival July 25.

Andalucía is where the modern acoustical guitar developed, and Córdoba is a center of classic and flamenco guitar (Peña is based here). Thus the festival also offers master classes in Spanish, flamenco, electric and even Arab guitar. GuitarraCordoba.com.

FestivalGuitarra



Cordoba's '09 stars included John Fogerty, Fernando Espi, Marina Abad of Ojos de Brujo, Marcos Socías and Tomatito, most performing at the Teatro de la Axerquía.



Werner Knettsch/ Styriarte

Alfredo Tabacchini



Zemlinsky Quartet



Ensemble Sarbande

Far left, the happy maestro of Styriarte will focus on Haydn. Above, the Zemlinsky Quartet is coming from Prague. Left, Susanne Ansorg will play the Golden Hits of the 14th century.

GRAZ: Harnoncourt Channels Haydn

The irrepressible **Nikolaus Harnoncourt** leads three performances of Haydn's glorious *Creation* oratorio for this year's edition of **Styriarte**, founded in 1985 by the conductor in his native Graz (capital of Austria's Styria region). The theme is "Homeland, thou art" through 44 major performances covering the many lands of the old empire and its neighbors.

Renowned French pianist **Pierre**

Laurent-Aimard soars over the Swiss Alps, courtesy of Franz Liszt's *Années de Pelerinage* on July 4 and, accompanied the next night by **Tamara Stefanovich**, voyages down the Danube with composers Bartók, Ligeti, Kurtág and Eötvös.

Styriarte is not strictly classical; Hungarian folk group **Muzsikás**, medieval-specialist fiddler **Susanne Ansorg** and the **Berndt Luef** jazz quintet will mix up the

melodies in Graz, whose mild climate, lush countryside, new architecture and old town are attractions in their own right. June 25-July 25, Styriarte.com.

Just as Styriarte ends, the venerable **Salzburg Festival** gets underway with its usual outstanding lineup, this year including Berg's *Lulu*, with French soprano **Patricia Petibon** tackling the role of the doomed ingénue (it's set in Jack the Ripper's London).

continued on next page

19-JULY 12 Zurich Festival.
21 Paris Fête de la Musique.
25-JULY 11 Granada International Festival of Dance and Music, Spain.

Carl Thorborg
Marianne Eklöf will lead Elektra cast at Savonlinna, July 2.



JULY

1-AUG. 8 Opera at Baths of Caracalla, Rome.
2-11 Copenhagen Jazz Festival.
2-16 Festival d'Opera Avenches, Switzerland.

2-17 Montreux Jazz Festival, Switzerland.
2-31 Savonlinna Opera Festival, Finland.
7-11 Seinajoki Tango Festival, Finland.

9-11 Rotterdam North Sea Jazz Festival, Holland.
12-25 Galway Arts Festival, Ireland.
14-25 50th Jazz à Juan, Antibes, France.



The Athens Festival, June 10.

MORE MUSIC —MUCH MORE

JULY (cont.)

- 14-AUG. 29** Operafestival
St. Margarethen,
Austria.
- 15-AUG. 15** ImPulsTanz
dance festival, Vienna.
- 16-SEPT. 5** Menuhin
Festival Gstaad,
Switzerland.
- 17-25** Pori Jazz
Festival, Finland.
- 21-AUG. 20** Bregenzer
Festspiele, Austria.
- 23-25** WOMAD Charlton
Park (World of Music
Arts & Dance), England.
- 25-AUG. 28** Wagner
Festival at Bayreuth,
Germany.
- 25-AUG. 30** Salzburg
Festival, Austria.
- 26-AUG. 16** Toccata &
Fuga, piazzas of Rome.

Ireland's grand Fleadh Cheoil
(Music Festival), Aug. 16.



AUGUST

- 6-15** Kilkenny Arts Festival,
Ireland.
- 6-30** Edinburgh Inter-
national Festival and
Festival Fringe.
- 8-29** Innsbruck Summer
Festival, Austria.
- 12-SEPT. 18** Lucerne
Festival, Switzerland.
- 15** Hora Ia Prislop Festival
(traditional Maramures
music), Romania.
- 16-22** Fleadh Cheoil,
Cavan, Ireland.
- 20-SEPT. 5** Helsinki
Festival.
- SEPT. 3-5** Pafos Aphrodite
Festival, Cyprus.

from previous page

BUDAPEST: Pop of Nations

The **Sziget Festival**, named for its Danube-island venue in Hungary's capital, has grown from a counter-culture student happening in 1993 into one of Europe's biggest pop-and-rock events, offering a staggering lineup that defies description.

Sure, big acts come, but Sziget fanatics will really get into klezmeristic **Oy Division**, Beijing's **Hanggai** and Malian guitarist and singer **Vieux Farka Touré**. Always welcome are the Algerian guitar-playing "freedom fighters," the Mongolian throat singers and the Roma gypsy tent that pulses and throbs 'til the sun comes up.

With life support in the form of reasonably priced steaming bowls of *gulyas levest* or a sour-cream and garlic-topped *langos* pancake, washed down with Hungarian champagne at less than €10 a bottle, it's week-long partytime—and there's a big municipal pool nearby in which to recover. Aug 11-16, www.Sziget.hu.

Sziget Festival



The high-flying Catalans of La Fura dels Baus were a hit last year as they performed suspended in their giant treadmill. Sziget fans believe the more bizarre the better.

BLOW THE AMPS!

Europe's rockfests go all out.

She's not a festival (yet), but **Lady GaGa** kicks off May with a tour of 12 cities, beginning with Stockholm **May 7** and ending in Sheffield **June 4**.

Irish rock superstars **U2** make their debut appearances at Britain's superglam **Glastonbury Festival** (all 175,000 tickets sold out) in Somerset, England. **June 23-27**.

Metallica, **Joe Satriani** and **Stone Sour** get down for some hard rocking at Portugal's **Super Bock Super Rock** in Lisbon. **June 28** and **July 3-5**.

July will be wall-to-wall, beginning with grunge rockers **Alice in Chains** and Brazil's **Ceu** samba band at Denmark's **Roskilde Festival**, home to the annual Naked Run; the first nude person across the finish line receives a free ticket to next year's festival. **July 1-4**, warmups from **June 27**.

Metallica/ Lisbon/ June 28.



Kreepin Deith

Space rockers **Muse**, the evergreen **Green Day** and surfer dude **Jack Johnson** make the running for **Rock Werchter** not far from Brussels **July 2-4**. Germany's **Rock am Ring** at the Nürburg race track has **Kiss**, **Muse** and **Rage Against the Machine**. **July 4-6**.

Head for Brittany for the mega **Vielle Charrues Rock Festival**. **July 5-18**.

And for a little Balkans spice, the **Exit Festival** in the Serbian city of Novi Sad offers **Mika**, the **Chemical Brothers** and a whole lot more. **July 8-11**.

Ireland's perennial **Oxegen** romp at the Punchestown Race Course in County Kildare is headlining **Eminem**, **Black Eyed Peas**, **Muse**, **Florence+the Machine** and **Jay-Z**. **July 9-11**. On the same weekend, Finland's **Ruisrock**, on the isle of Ruissalo,

Rock Werchter/ July 2



Rob Walters

Turku, has **The Sonics** and Britain's **Belle & Sebastian**, but Scandinavian bands will predominate.

The ideally sited **Benicassim** festival, near Valencia in Spain, has **Prodigy** and **Kasabian**—plus a glorious beach to work on the tan. **July 15-18**.

It will be dance-party time on the Black Sea with DJs pumping out everything from techno to house at Bulgaria's **Burgas** festival (Aug 14-16). **Hip Hop Kemp** in the Czech university town of Hradec Kralove will deliver with **P-Money**, **Ghetts**, **Dot Rotten**, **Black the Ripper** and **Roots Manuva**. **Aug. 19-21**.

Neither least nor last, **High Field**, which bills itself as the biggest independent rock festival in the former East Germany, offers **Placebo**, **Blink-182** and **Billy Talent** at a laid-back venue beside a reservoir. **Aug 20-22**. ■



Hot-air balloons float beyond Bristol's Clifton Suspension Bridge, opened in 1864 to span the Avon Gorge.

Explore England's Heritage

Discover the South West, steeped in history.

Gary Newman

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND's architectural treasures, eons-old coastline and country lanes that meander through thatched villages and market towns have delighted visitors for centuries. Here **King Arthur** and his knights guarded **Cornwall's** cliffs, **Agatha Christie** wrote from her cottage on **Devon's** "English Riviera" and **Harry Potter** made cinematic magic in **Gloucester Cathedral**.

Now, as then, **Stonehenge** and **Bath** (two of the region's four UNESCO World Heritage sites) are on most must-see lists, along with the castles and manor estates that pepper the landscape (many of which offer lodgings to boot).

The South West is best explored over several days, with **Bristol**—the lively gateway—a great place to begin. (And with **Continental Airlines** flying non-stop from the New York area to Bristol International, travel to South West England has never been easier).

DYNAMIC BRISTOL. This stylish and ancient port city is the South West center of culture and the arts—and not just because **Cary Grant** was born here. The renowned **Bristol Old Vic** and its drama school trained generations of actors, and the pop music scene—including the city's own "trip-hop" sound—is flourishing.

The film, media, Internet and aerospace industries are thriving amid Bristol's 1,000-year maritime tradition. The rejuvenated harbor has modern cafes, bars and galleries, complemented by world-class museums, theaters and arts venues. The medieval **Old City**, with its cobbled streets, remains much as it was in the day of **Edmund Burke**, when many here defended the American Revolution. It's easy to see why Bristol was named last year as "one of the Top 10 cities in the world to visit" by the authoritative **DK Eyewitness** travel guides.



The Romans took to the thermal waters of Bath soon after their AD 43 arrival.

UNIQUE BATH, with its Georgian architecture and excellently preserved Roman temple and spa, is nourished by Britain's only natural hot springs. The iconic **Royal Crescent** of 30 Georgian-era houses, the 1773 **Pulteney Bridge** across the river Avon and the **Roman Baths** where centuries took their cures, are

just some of the city's architectural jewels. Bathe in the same natural thermal waters today at **Thermae Bath Spa**, and enjoy 360-degree city views from its open-air rooftop pool.

Bath, onetime home of **Jane Austen**, also boasts a year-round program of festivals, theaters, art galleries and museums, and a lively street entertainment scene, bringing the excitement of *now* to this timeless city. Accommodations range from luxury hotels with full spa services to a wide range of moderate- and budget-priced lodgings including bed-and-breakfasts in Georgian buildings.

QUINTESSENTIALLY ENGLISH—that's **The Cotswolds**, renowned for their fine food, rolling countryside ("wolds" = gentle hills) and quaint villages. Once home to American painters **John Singer Sargent** and **Francis Millet**, and author **Henry James**, it's where film stars **Kate Winslet** and **Hugh Grant** have homes today, not to mention **Princess Anne**.

THE ANCIENT COAST of **Dorset** is where to walk the **Jurassic Trail** in search of fossils, and where **Thomas Hardy** set most of his novels. The **Isles of Scilly** off the **Land's End** tip of the Cornish peninsula have more sunny days than anywhere else in Britain and many, many more palm trees.

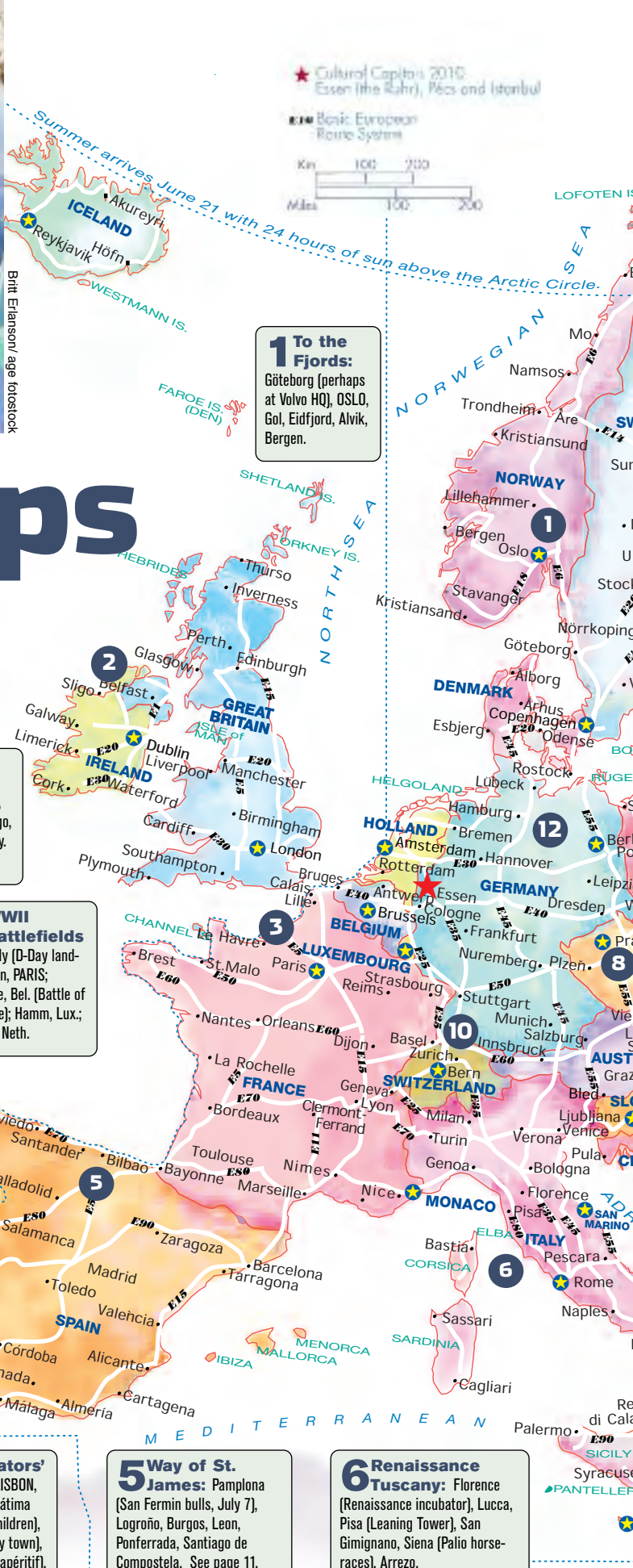
South West England is one of England's nine distinct regions, each with its own unique personality, history and heritage to discover. Whether it's walking in the countryside or enjoying world-class shopping, dining, culture and the arts, every vacation in England promises a memorable stay. **Visit England**, the official tourism body, will help you plan. At **VisitEngland.com** you'll find itineraries, practical information and an online shop to buy train and tube tickets, and discounted attraction passes. ■

—Mary Ann Poust



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Road Trips

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Distances between major cities are not daunting. The limited-access motorway network is very good, especially in the west. And Europe delivers adventure and surprises over every hill and dale. Here are a few thumbnail driving itineraries to get you started.

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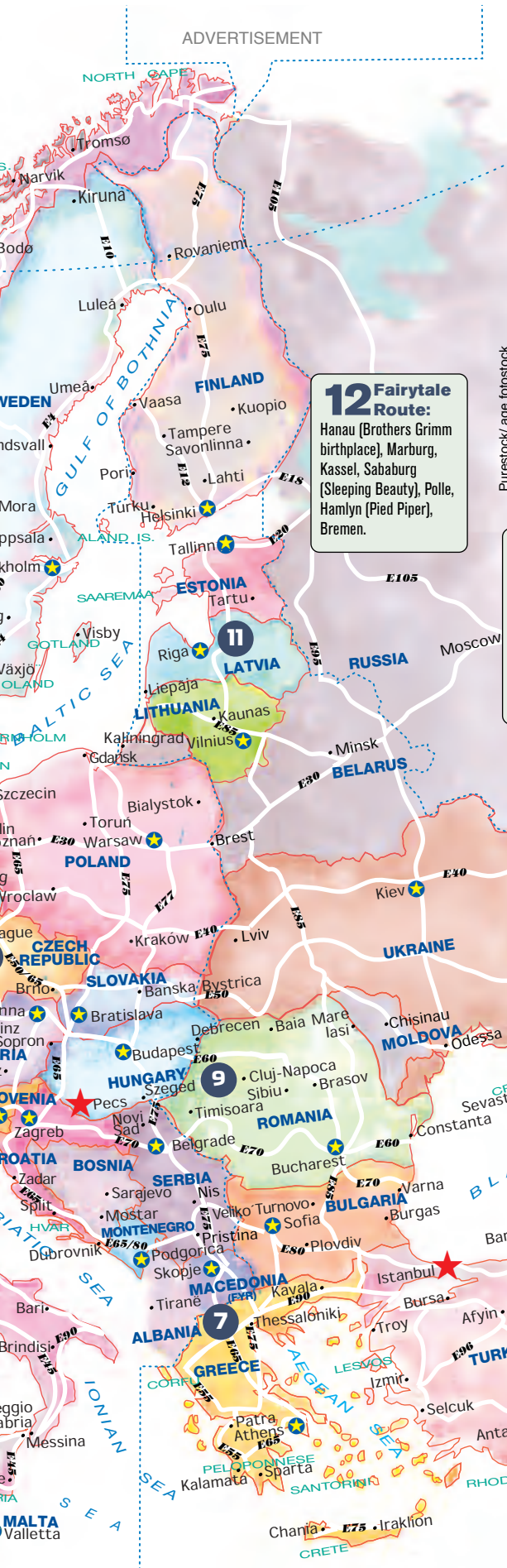
Save up to 20 percent on rentals of three days or more. Access Avis.com/visiteurope and make your reservation on or before June 4 for rentals beginning between April 12 and June 30.

And ask for a free Avis "Personally Yours" itinerary, traced on large-scale Michelin maps. Each itinerary covers specific routes and themes.

Autobahn, Germany.



David Frazier/age fotostock



12 Fairytale Route:

Hanau (Brothers Grimm birthplace), Marburg, Kassel, Sababurg (Sleeping Beauty), Polle, Hamlyn (Pied Piper), Bremen.

11 Baltic Capitals:

Gdansk, Poland (Solidarity's shipyard); Mazurian Lakes; Kaunas, Lithuania; VILNIUS; RIGA, Latvia; Tartu, Estonia; TALLINN; ferry to Helsinki.

10 Over the Alps:

Zurich (it's not just banks), Lucerne, Altdorf, St. Gotthard Pass (or tunnel), Bodio, Bellinzona, Lugano (on the lake).

9 Hungary and Romania:

BUDAPEST; Szeged; Arad, Romania; Sibiu (walled city); Sighisoara; Brasov (castle in the mountains); BUCHAREST.

8 Baroque Empire: VIENNA

(Habsburg capital); up the Danube to Linz; Ceske Budejovice, Czech R. (Bohemian beer mecca); Tábor; PRAGUE.

7 New Greek Motorway:

Bari, Italy (then by ferry to Igoumenitsa, Greece); new Egnatia motorway through Pindus mountains to Thessaloniki, then to Kavala; Tekirdag, Turkey; Istanbul (Cultural Capital).

Purestock/age fotostock



Heavy traffic, the Alps.



iStockphoto

DRIVING IN EUROPE is easier than ever. Decades-old bottlenecks are being uncorked from, yes, Cork (harbor tunnel) to Kraków (four-lane motorway), and often with design élan: France's seven-mile Millau Viaduct won architectural awards in vaulting over the Tarn valley.

The roadwork gets even busier as you drive east. Croatia continues to extend motorway access to its entire Dalmatian Coast, while Poland is connecting more of its cities to a burgeoning network of limited-access highways, and Bulgaria and Romania are working on what will be only the second bridge between them over the Danube.

Borderless Europe

The elimination of border passport stops throughout most of western and central Europe over the past 15 years has been another major factor in easing auto travel. You can drive from Lisbon to Tallinn, capital of Estonia, without being stopped to show your passport.

Of course, most Americans who drive in Europe are not primarily

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from previous page

seeking the shortest route from here to there (although they accelerate like everyone else on the no-speed-limit German autobahns). They want to explore less traveled and more scenic routes that take them closer to the land and to the people.

Reserve Before Departure

Each year, more than 2.25 million Americans rent cars in Europe, and some of them spend more than they have to. The "secret" is to book cars before leaving the U.S. The rates are considerably lower—as much as 50 percent lower—than those charged at rental-car desks at European airports.

Booking in advance also helps to insure that you can get a car that's large enough and that has automatic transmission (most Europeans drive manuals). It's also best to order extras in advance, like infant seats, cell phones and GPS navigation.

How to save more? Figure out your insurance coverage before departure. Your current policy may cover most of what you need (although that differs from country to country). You won't want to guess about insurance over there.

Saving on rental is important, because fuel is more expensive in Europe, thanks to taxes that are often double what they are in the U.S. (hence the attraction of smaller, manual-transmission cars getting better mileage).

Driver's License

It's also recommended that drivers apply to the AAA for an International Driver's Permit (\$15), which translates the basic categories on your state license into nine languages. Some countries don't require this, but the list of those that do is growing. The reason: If you are stopped by the police, the officer will be able to read the license; they don't all know English.

Aurelie & Mogan David/ age fotostock



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Ready to go in Göteborg.

European highway signage is generally excellent for both for directions and highway conditions. Take a few minutes to check the basic symbols in your rental documents.

Cars plus Trains

Rail travel is often cast as the antithesis of auto travel. But think like the Europeans do; use each for what works best for you. Indeed, thousands of U.S. visitors combine car and rail travel, which is why rental companies and Eurail cooperate in joint passes.

High-speed rail continues to expand, with new fast trains now serving Amsterdam, and a last link opened north of Florence on the high-speed line between Rome and Milan. Starting up later this year will be high-speed trains between Helsinki and St. Petersburg. ■

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VISIT EUROPE



The What's Up, What's On magazine for Americans planning a trip to Europe.

NEXT ISSUE

When: Sunday, Oct. 10

Where: in major U.S. newspapers

Presented by the 39-nation European Travel Commission.



PUBLISHED BY
DONALD N. MARTIN & COMPANY
NEW YORK



Ross Castle guards the Lakes of Killarney.

Peter Zoeller/ age fotostock

Let Ireland Take You

Wherever people point turns out to be the right direction.

WHERE'S THE BEST place to go in Ireland? Wherever Ireland takes you.

Compact, friendly and full of things to do and see, Ireland is the place to let strict schedules aside and to take your cues from the people you meet along the way.

For example, take a drive from the beautiful town of **Kenmare** on the **Ring of Kerry**, and head north to the spectacular **Giant's Causeway** in far County Antrim.

An interesting trip no matter what. A chat with your host at your bed-and-breakfast will give you the best introduction into the local highlights. Then drive by **Molls Gap**, and stop off at **Ladies View** for the best sightings of the **Lakes of Killarney**.

When you stop at the Killarney Plaza for lunch or perhaps a spa treatment, your waiter could be the best person to tell you about the medieval banquet at **Bunratty Castle** in County Clare, and he'll point you in that direction.

Next stop, a night (or two or three) of pampered luxury at the **Dromoland Castle** near **Shannon**, where a friendly porter says you just *must* see the **Burren**, a magical landscape of treeless rock and



The columns of the Giants' Causeway are the result of an ancient volcanic eruption.

native fauna on the mid-Western coast.

A farmer you meet on the Burren tells you that the **Galway Hooker**, the traditional sailing boat built to withstand the rough waters of **Galway Bay**, is a sight to see. He doesn't mention Galway Hooker beer, made in a microbrewery and available only in pubs in and around Galway. But you find it on your own. At the **Quays Bar**, where an artist you chat with is big on your visiting the isle of **Innisfree**, inspiration for one of Yeats' most famous poems.

Off you go, then, to County Sligo to see what Yeats saw, before heading to your final stop at Northern Ireland's **Giant's Causeway**, with its 40,000 basalt columns, memorializing an ancient volcanic eruption. But that is after you discover the spectacular wall of the Walled City of **Derry**!

Whatever your personal itinerary, Ireland is a great vacation value. It's truly an island of 100,000 welcomes, and even better are the great-value vacation packages available. For independent travel (with or without car), escorted tours, golfing trips, airfares and accommodation, go to **discoverireland.com** for great value deals and plan a trip you'll never forget. ■



Stopping for lunch in Galway City.

Laurent Bauer/ age fotostock

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VISITORS HAVE LONG been attracted to Iceland for its spectacularly surreal landscape. And when they arrive, they also discover a distinctive and delicious cuisine.

The special ingredient is Iceland's location, surrounded by icy-cold, pollution-free waters that yield a great bounty of fresh seafood. Sheep roam the countryside, grazing on wild berries and moss; the free-range flavor comes through in succulent lamb. Organic vegetables and herbs grow in geothermal-heated greenhouses. Icelanders are also proud of their organic and hormone-free butter, cheeses and yogurt-like *skyr*.

Iceland Total has developed this seven-day tour to introduce visitors to scenic highlights and to the way fresh food really should taste.

DAY 1 Arrival at Keflavik Airport and check in at the Radisson Saga Blu in Reykjavik. Dinner in The Grill, where the catch of the day is served against a panoramic view. Overnight in Reykjavik.

DAY 2 Golden Circle Sightseeing in Reykjavik, then drive out to the "Golden Circle," stopping at Thingvellir National Park, the Gullfoss waterfall and the famous spouting Geysir. Sample rye bread baked underground by the hot springs, greenhouse-grown vegetables and cucumber schnapps. Dinner at the Riverside restaurant with local cheeses and grilled mountain lamb. Overnight in Selfoss.

DAY 3 South Shore Drive through farmlands to the waterfalls of Seljalandsfoss and Skógarfoss. Lunch at Skógar, where traditional meat soup is a specialty. At Vík, view striking rock formations, picnic on black-sand beaches, sample donut-like homebaked *kleinur*. Dinner is at Vid Fjörubordid restaur-



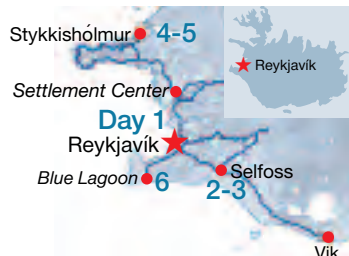
Iceland is unmatched for the bounty, variety and freshness of its seafood.

rant, where lobster is caught at the doorstep, literally. Overnight in Selfoss.

DAY 4 Viking Trails On to the lush Borgarfjörður area and the Deildartunguhver hot spring. See the Settlement Center's Icelandic history exhibits. Viking heritage sites include the home of Erik the Red (and birthplace of his son, Leif Eiríksson) and the Leifssafn Museum. Sample freshly made cheeses and ice cream. Overnight in Stykkishólmur.

DAY 5 Treasures of the Sea Start at Bjarnarhöfn for a taste of shark meat and Brennivín, the "Black Death" schnapps. Cruise Breidafjörður Bay, as a net-plough brings up shellfish for lunch; then learn how *hardfisk* is dried and cured. Overnight in Stykkishólmur.

DAY 6 Glaciers & the Blue Lagoon Circle the legendary *Snæfellsjökull* glacier. Lunch at the Fjoruhusid cafe, where the signature dish is fresh seafood soup. Walk the basalt formations and stop at Búdir's sandy beach before heading to the Blue Lagoon for a dip in its 100-degree, mineral-rich waters. The final feast is at the charming Northern Lights Inn. **Day 7 Return** to Reykjavik or depart from Keflavik. ■



The **Taste-sational** Iceland tour is priced from \$1,580 per person, land only. For more information or to book, go to icelandtotal.com.

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EUROPE/ NORTH

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5. Iceland. Pure. Natural. Unspoiled. Iceland is America's closest neighbor with all of its awesome nature, exciting adventure and gourmet cuisine awaiting you! Come taste for yourself. iceland-touristboard.com.

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EUROPE/ CENTRAL

10. Poland. Come to Poland and celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Frederic Chopin. Year 2010 belongs to this great Polish composer. poland.travel.

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11. LOT Polish Airlines. LOT Polish Airlines offers the only direct service between the USA and Poland. Convenient connections to Europe via Warsaw. Reservations: 212-789-0970. LOT.com.

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Poland's capital will host the first EuroPride gathering to convene in Central or Eastern Europe, beginning July 9. Cultural, sports and music events will culminate with the big parade June 17. EuroPride2010.com.

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Icelandic Tourist Board

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regionstavanger.com visitnorway.com/us

Pulpit Rock overlooks the Lysefjord, which begins at Stavanger.



Innovation Norway

TO ENTER THE DRAWING for two free trips, go to visiteurope.com/freetrips. The contest ends May 6, 2010. Order free Brochures at the same online address. Or mail in the Visit Europe coupon below for both the Drawing and Brochures.

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This drawing is open only to legal residents of the United States, aged 18 or older as of the date of entry. Only one entry per person will be considered. Contest ends **May 6, 2010** 12 midnight ET. Mailed entries must be postmarked by **May 7, 2010** and received by **May 12, 2010**.

No responsibility is assumed for late, lost or misdirected mail entries, or for telecommunications system or computer software or hardware errors or data loss. Winners will be chosen at random from among all eligible entries received by the publisher of **Visit Europe** magazine, whose decisions on all matters relating to this drawing shall be final. If a winner does not respond within three days of a telephone or email attempt to contact him or her, another winner will be selected.

Odds of winning are estimated at 1 in 4,000, based on previous Visit Europe contests. Total value of each prize is less than \$5,000.

Winners will be notified by email or regular mail, which will detail prizes and any restrictions. Winners will be posted by **May 25, 2010** on the visiteurope.com website. The list of winners can also be obtained by writing to Donald N. Martin & Company, Inc., 369 Lexington Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10017.

Entrants may receive informational material from prize sponsors. Winners will be required to sign and return an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release within two days of notification attempt **or alternate winners may be selected**. Travel companions of winners may also be asked to sign and return a liability/publicity release prior to ticketing. By accepting the prize, each winner grants to Sponsor the right to use his/her name, hometown and biographical information for any lawful purpose, including on Sponsor's website, without further permission or compensation, except where prohibited by law.

Prizes are non-transferable and no cash alternative will be offered. Taxes on prize are the responsibility solely of the winner. **Hotel accommodation** is based on two people sharing a double or twin. **All travel is subject to availability of air seats and hotel rooms.** Also, **blackout dates may apply**. All expenses not specified are the sole responsibility of the participants. Further conditions may apply.

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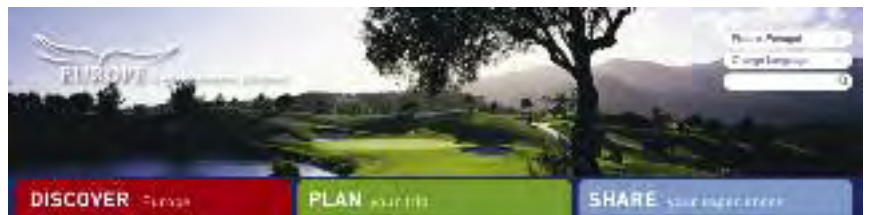


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Bulgarian Tourism Authority

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Cyprus Tourism Organization

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Department of Tourism and Resorts of Georgia

Georgia.travel

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ItalianTourism.com
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Latvian Tourism Development Agency

LatviaTourism.lv

Lithuanian State Department of Tourism

Travel.lt

Luxembourg National Tourist Office

VisitLuxembourg.com
212-935-8888

Ministry of Economy, Republic of Macedonia

ExploringMacedonia.com

Malta Tourism Authority

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National Tourism Organization of Montenegro

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Romanian National Tourist Office

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San Marino Ministry of Tourism

VisitSanMarino.com

National Tourism Organization of Serbia

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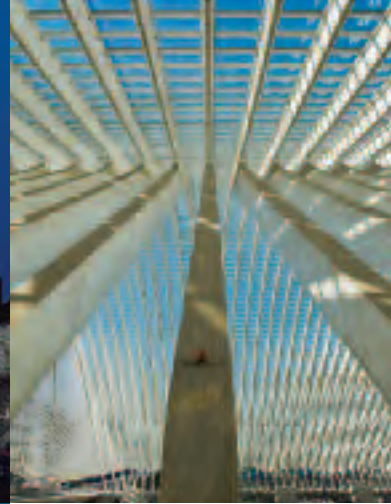
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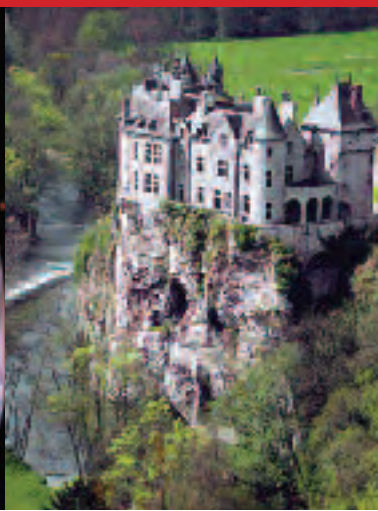
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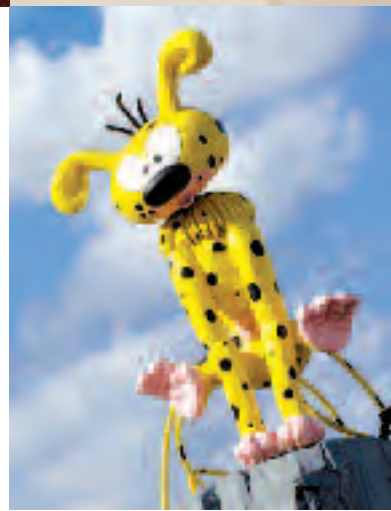
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Pulpit Rock. Photo © Casper Tyberg/Innovation Norway

Stavanger, located on Norway's beautiful West Coast, is a natural gateway to the Fjords. From its thriving cosmopolitan cultural scene, shopping, great cuisine, night life, to mountains, fjords, and beaches—the Stavanger region is the perfect destination. The spectacular 1,982 foot-high Pulpit Rock is a must-see. Fly Icelandair from New York, Boston, or Seattle.

Win a trip to Stavanger! See page 21 for details.



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