



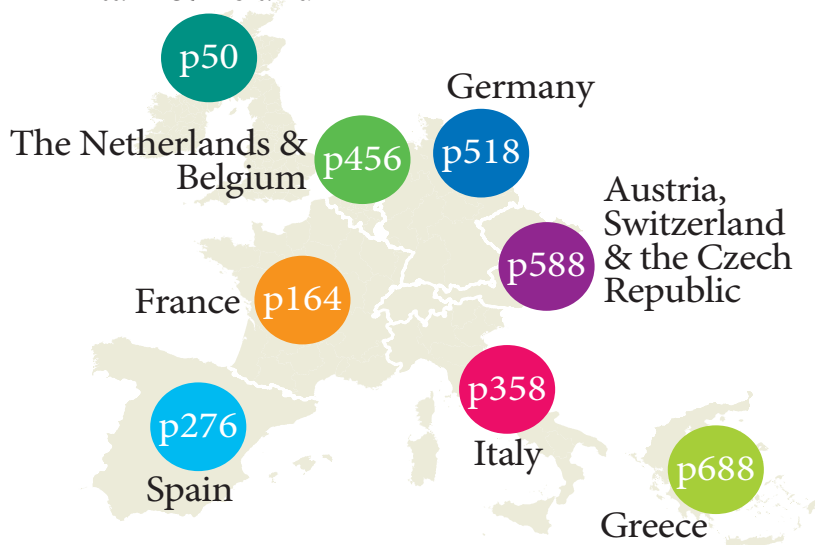
Discover **Europe**

Experience the best
of Europe

This edition written and researched by

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Britain & Ireland



Britain & Ireland

Highlights54

- Tower of London
- Dublin
- Stonehenge
- Bath
- Edinburgh Castle

France

Highlights168

- Eiffel Tower
- Versailles
- Chambord
- Pont du Gard
- Côte d'Azur

Spain

Highlights280

- La Sagrada Família
- Museo del Prado
- Alhambra
- Flamenco
- Cuenca

The Netherlands & Belgium

Highlights460

- Rijksmuseum
- Amsterdam's Canals
- Kinderdijk
- Bruges
- Brussels

Germany

Highlights522

- Cold War Berlin
- Munich Residenz
- Schloss Neuschwanstein
- Dresden's Grünes Gewölbe
- Kölner Dom

Austria, Switzerland & the Czech Republic

Highlights592

- Salzburg
- The Matterhorn, Zermatt
- Vienna's Coffee Houses
- Prague Castle
- Jungfrauoch

Contents

Plan Your Trip

Discover

This is Europe	6
Europe Map	8
Europe's Top 25 Highlights	10
Europe's Top Itineraries	32
Europe Month by Month	42
What's New	46
Get Inspired	47
Need to Know	48



Britain & Ireland	50
Highlights	54
Best...	56
Itineraries	58
London	60
Canterbury	94
Bath	95
Oxford	100
Stratford-upon-Avon	105
Cambridge	106
York	109
Castle Howard	113
Chester	116
Wales	117
Cardiff	117
Snowdonia National Park	119
Scotland	121
Edinburgh	121
Loch Ness & the Highlands	132
Isle of Skye	133
Ireland	134
Dublin	134
Cork	144
Killarney	147
Ring of Kerry	148
Galway	149
Northern Ireland	152
Belfast	152
Survival Guide	155

Italy

Highlights362

- Colosseum
- Florence
- Venice's Canals
- Pompeii
- Amalfi Coast

Greece

Highlights692

- Acropolis
- Acropolis Museum
- Meteora
- Knossos
- Santorini

Contents

Discover Europe



France 164

Highlights 168

Best... 170

Itineraries 172

Paris 174

Normandy 208

Brittany 214

Champagne 217

Alsace 221

The Loire Valley 224

Burgundy & the
Rhône Valley 227

The French Alps
& Jura 234

The Dordogne 238

The Atlantic Coast 240

Languedoc-
Roussillon 245

Provence 249

The French Riviera
& Monaco 258

Survival Guide 270



Spain 276

Highlights 280

Best... 282

Itineraries 284

Madrid 286

Castilla-La Mancha 304

Catalonia 307

Barcelona 307

Basque Country 329

Valencia 332

Andalucía 335

Survival Guide 351



Italy 358

Highlights 362

Best... 364

Itineraries 366

Rome 368

Northern Italy 394

Cinque Terre 394

Milan 395

Venice 401

Tuscany 418

Florence 418

Pisa 432

Southern Italy 440

Pompeii 441

Amalfi Coast 448

Survival Guide 450



The Netherlands & Belgium 456

Highlights 460

Best... 462

Itineraries 464

The Netherlands 466

Amsterdam 466

The Randstad 478

Belgium 490

Brussels 490

Flanders 498

Bruges 506

Survival Guide 512



Germany 518

Highlights 522

Best... 524

Itineraries 526

Berlin 528

Dresden 546

Weimar 549

Munich 551

Berchtesgadener 558

Romantic Road 560

Nuremberg 565

Black Forest 568

Rhine Valley 569

Moselle Valley 571

Cologne 575

Hamburg 579

Survival Guide 584



Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic 588

Highlights 592

Best... 594

Itineraries 596

Austria 598

Vienna 598

Salzburg 616

Switzerland 631

Geneva 631

Czech Republic 652

Prague 654

Survival Guide 676



Greece 688

Highlights 692

Best... 694

Itineraries 696

Athens 698

Peloponnese 714

Cyclades 715

Santorini (Thira) 719

Crete 722

Dodecanese 728

Ionian Islands 732

Corfu 732

Survival Guide 734

Europe Today 740

History 742

Family Travel 749

Visual Arts 751

Architecture 754

Food & Drink 757

Directory 766

Accommodation 766

Customs

Regulations 767

Climate 766

Discount Cards 767

Electricity 767

Gay & Lesbian

Travellers 768

Health 768

Insurance 768

Internet Access 768

Legal Matters 768

Money 769

Safe Travel 770

Telephone 771

Time 771

Travellers with

Disabilities 772

Visas 773

Women Travellers 773

Transport 773

Getting There &

Away 773

Getting Around 773

Language 779

Behind the Scenes 781

Index 782

How to Use This

Book 798

Our Writers 800



This is Europe

Famed for its iconic landmarks and landscapes, Europe's intricate tapestry of countries and cultures is woven together by rich history, artistic and culinary treasures, enduring traditions and cutting-edge trends.

History is undoubtedly one of Europe's major draws. From Neolithic sites and Grecian ruins to Gothic cathedrals and crumbling castles, taking a trip across Europe can feel like stumbling into the pages of a history textbook. While in many ways one of the world's most forward-looking regions, Europe's past inevitably informs its present and its future. Understanding this continent's turbulent history is essential if you want to get to grips with what makes it tick. Thankfully, there's no shortage of amazing museums to put it all into context, from Paris' palatial Louvre and London's British Museum to Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum.

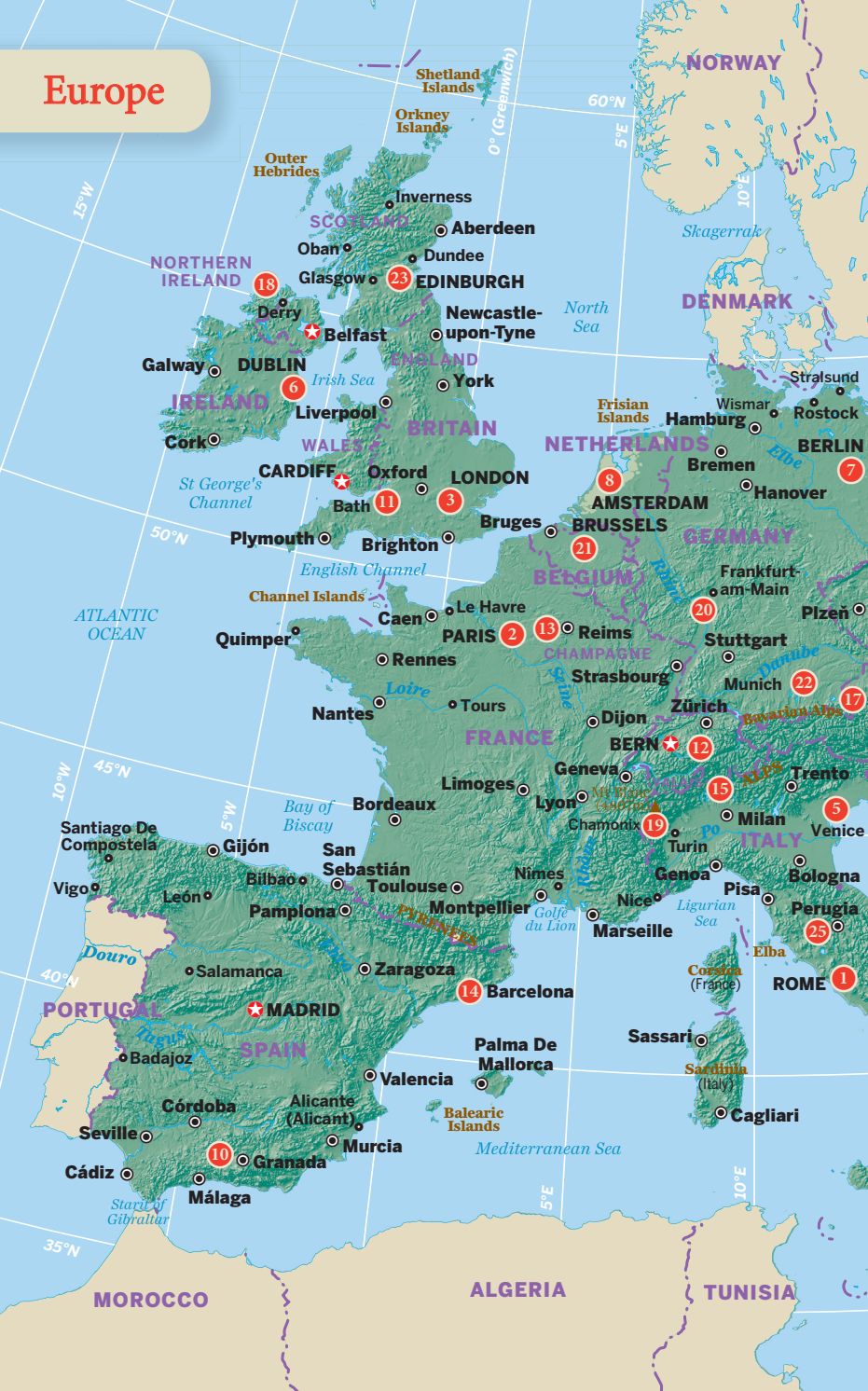
Europe also understands the finer things in life. And it's never shy about letting you join in the party. It's a place where you can indulge your taste buds, stretch your muscles, shop till you drop and dance into the small hours – all in the same day, should you so desire. Best of all, the next country is never more than a quick trip away. In a few hours you could swap the glittering Mediterranean for Berlin's bars, Rome's ancient ruins or the Madrid's Golden Mile of Art. Few places on earth can offer such a wealth of experiences and adventures. But don't be in too much of a hurry; the journey is a vital part of what makes exploring Europe so fascinating and fun.

Wherever you end up, you're in for an unforgettable trip. So *bon voyage*, *sichere Fahrt*, *buen viaje*, happy travels.

“
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”



Europe

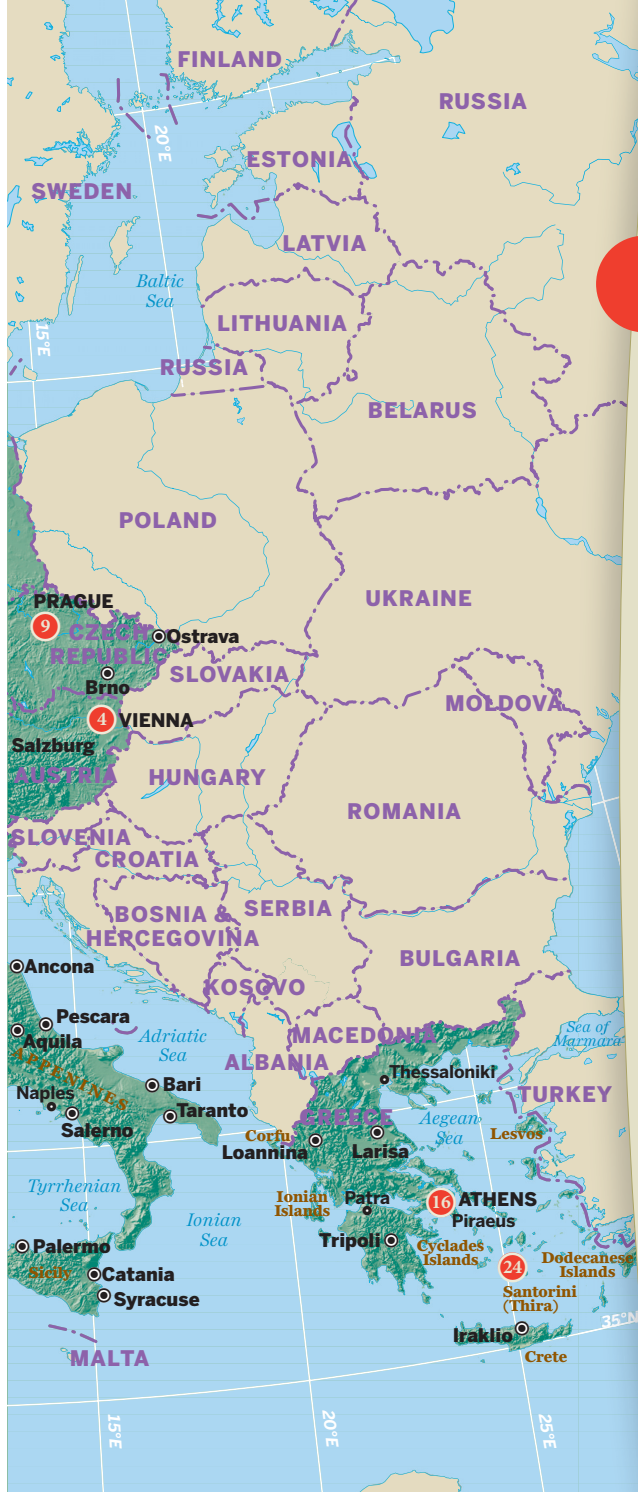


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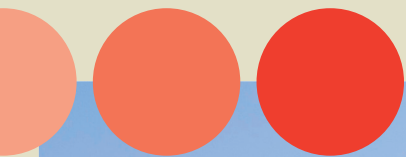
Top Highlights



- 1 Rome
- 2 Eiffel Tower, Paris
- 3 Nightlife, London
- 4 Vienna
- 5 Venice
- 6 Dublin
- 7 Berlin
- 8 Amsterdam
- 9 Prague
- 10 Alhambra, Granada
- 11 Bath
- 12 Jungfrauoch
- 13 Champagne Vineyards
- 14 La Sagrada Família, Barcelona
- 15 Matterhorn
- 16 Athens
- 17 Salzburg
- 18 Giant's Causeway
- 19 Chamonix
- 20 The Rhine
- 21 Beer & Chocolate, Brussels
- 22 Beer Drinking, Munich
- 23 Edinburgh
- 24 Santorini
- 25 Tuscany



25 Europe's Top Highlights



Ancient Rome

From the crumbling Colosseum to the ancient Forum and the Appian Way, few sights are more evocative than the ruins of ancient Rome (p369). Two thousand years ago this city was the centre of the greatest empire of the ancient world, where gladiators battled and emperors lived in unimaginable luxury. Nowadays, it's a haunting spot; as you walk the cobbled paths you can almost sense the ghosts in the air. Below: View of the Colosseum (p375) from the Roman Forum

1





TRAVEL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES ©

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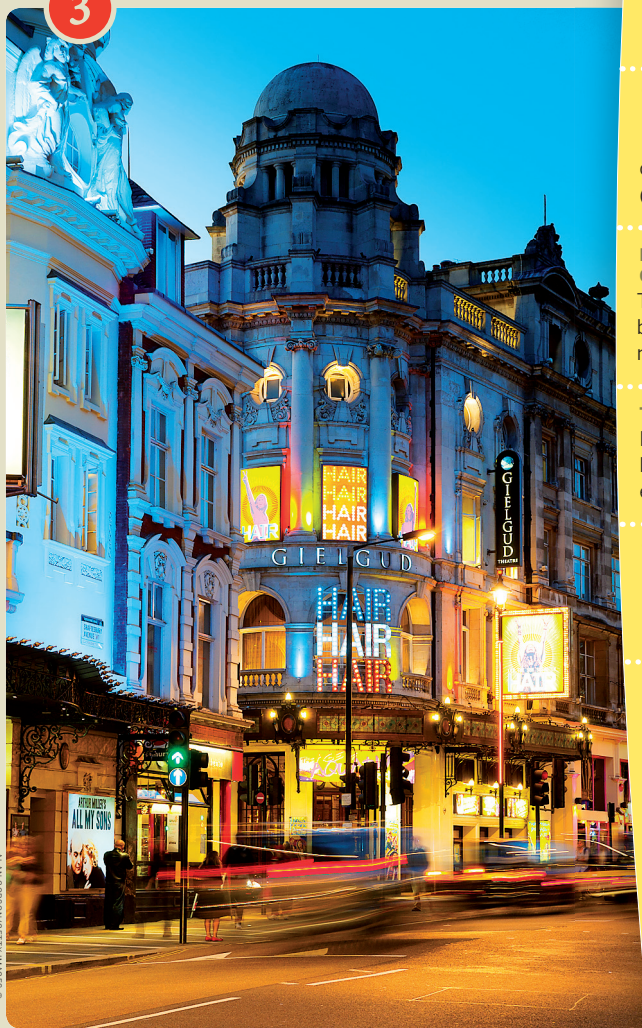
Eiffel Tower, Paris

Initially designed as a temporary exhibit for the 1889 Exposition Universelle (World Fair), the elegant, art nouveau design of Paris' Eiffel Tower (p183) has become the defining fixture of the skyline. Its recent 1st-floor refit adds two glitzy glass pavilions housing interactive exhibits; outside them, peer d-o-w-n through glass floor to the ground below. Visit at dusk for best day and night views of the glittering City of Light and make a toast at the sparkling champagne bar.

London's Nightlife

World-famous theatres, landmark cinemas, iconic venues, underground clubs – London's at its liveliest after dark, when there's no better time to take the cultural pulse of the UK capital (p88). Catching a musical or a play in the West End is on most people's itinerary, but that's just the beginning of London's nightlife: you could join the groundlings at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, watch a blockbuster on Leicester Sq. or experience high culture at the Royal Opera House. The only trick will be finding enough time to sleep. Below: London's West End theatres

3



The Best... City Views

THE PALATINO (PALATINE HILL), ROME

Gaze across the Italian capital from this iconic hill. (p369)

BASILIQUE DU SACRÉ-CŒUR, PARIS

The whole of Paris unfolds below you from this Montmartre landmark. (p182)

THE SHARD, LONDON

London's soaring, splinter-like skyscraper has a bird's-eye view. (p72)

THE CAMPANILE, VENICE

Climb Venice's tallest building for a panoramic perspective. (p404)

THE BELFORT, BRUGES

This medieval bell tower looks over Bruges' most beautiful square. (p503)



PIRELLA GÖTTSCHE LOWE

Tuscany

The gently rolling hills of Tuscany (p418), bathed in golden light and dotted with vineyards, sum up Italy's attractions in a nutshell. Battalions of books, postcards and lifestyle TV shows try to do this region justice, but nothing beats a visit. Here, picture-perfect hilltop towns vie with magnificent scenery and some of Italy's best food and wine – so it's hardly surprising that this is a tourist hotspot. Visit in spring or autumn to see it at its calmest.