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Editor's letter

EUROPEAN CITIES COLLECTION 2025

Bright as a new penny, a new day is dawning in Barcelona. The city sleeps, the sun spilling its citrus rays over empty streets and the blank canvas of a tide-washed beach. This is when Mattia Giannini laces up his trainers, ready to meet his newest cohort of travellers keen to do things differently.

A native Barcelonian, Mattia leads running tours of the Catalonian capital, ticking off, he says proudly, 80% of the city's star attractions — and often before 8am. Quirky, personal and active, experiences like Mattia's reflect a growing trend among travellers for tours as dynamic as the cities they're visiting. That's why, in this issue, we shine a spotlight on some of the best — from Friday-night rollerskating around Copenhagen to kayaking little-known waterways in Venice (p.22).

These examples also hint at another travel trend — getting active while on holiday, which has never been more popular. The good news? Many European cities have risen to the occasion, offering visitors a fresh perspective that's as exhilarating as it is endorphin-fuelled. We showcase cycle paths, running tracks and urban swimming spots, too, alongside even more adventurous pursuits — fancy abseiling down a skyscraper (p.28)?

We also delve into some of Europe's most magical musical traditions (p.6), explore the supersonic rise of food halls (p.18), take a languid stroll through Paris (p.36) and wish Amsterdam a very happy 750th birthday (p.34).

And if you're after even more inspiration, the Directory, brought to you by our partners, offers some of the continent's finest hotels and experiences (p.38).

Charlotte Wigram-Evans, editor

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National Geographic Traveller (UK) – The Collection is published by APL Media Limited, Unit 310, Highgate Studios, 53-79 Highgate Road, London NW5 1TL.
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IMAGE: GETTY

On the cover

Amsterdam's Damrak Canal at dusk, where rows of lit-up houses shimmer in the water's dark, glassy surface
Image: Getty

IMAGE: GETTY

SOUL OF THE CITY

To experience fado, the mournful folk music born of Lisbon's oldest neighbourhoods, is to tap into centuries of history and bohemia. With a new state-of-the-art exhibition celebrating fado's greatest singer, the genre is gaining a fresh appreciation for the window it offers into the city's soul

WORDS: AMELIA DUGGAN

It's nearing midnight in Alfama, Lisbon's oldest neighbourhood, when a lady in black steps into a taverna.

The bar staff scurry to turn off the lights, leaving only the flickering tapers of candles to illuminate her angular features and fringed shawl, which she's pulled tight around her shoulders. Elvira Giblott scans the room, as if reaching for a muse, then greets the two guitarists by the bar with the title of a song. In the restaurant, every fork is stilled, every wine glass untouched. She sings of Lisbon, of the beauty and struggle of life here, her voice filling the room before dropping to a velvety whisper. It's as if her heart is breaking before our eyes.

When, several songs later, the seasoned singer sweeps out of Tasca do Chico into the lamplit lane, it feels as if a spell has been broken — and something profound has been shared. In Alfama, the spiritual home of Lisbon's folk fado music, such encounters can be sought out in tascas — unfussy taverns like the one I'm sat in, where rich stews and meat dishes are served — or more upmarket fado houses, where etiquette is more strictly upheld. "You should understand the difference between the establishments," another performer, Joana Carvalhas, tells me when we get chatting at the end of her set. "There are places where you may be asked to leave for talking during a performance, where the music is just as serious as the food." At the start of her career, but with the resonant vocals of someone twice her age, Joana represents the next generation of *fadistas* (fado singers). "Of course, we now perform mainly for tourists, because we want to share fado and preserve it," she explains, referring to the uptick in interest since UNESCO recognised the genre as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2011. "But at the end of the working night, us musicians still gather, at traditional places like Tasca do Chico or Mesa de Frades to play simply for the love of it."

If the nights in Alfama are for fado, the days are for sightseeing. This is the Lisbon of postcards and daydreams, where cobblestone lanes are strung with colourful washing lines, vintage trams rattle around tight corners, and terraced *miradouro* (viewpoints) gaze out over a jumble of terracotta roofs and church towers towards the River Tagus. "It wasn't always this popular," walking tour guide Claudia Flores explains the next day in the shadow of the cathedral. "For centuries, before the gentrification of the last decade, Alfama was a working-class neighbourhood. It was here and in nearby Mouraria, the old Moorish Quarter, that fado — meaning fate — was born 200 years ago, although many trace its roots back much further."

Central to fado music, and to the Portuguese psyche, are the ideas of *saudade* (melancholic longing) and the humbling hand of destiny. It was in 1755, as Lisbon rode high on the colonial riches ushered in during the Age of Discovery, that disaster struck. The most destructive earthquake in European history hit the capital, compounded by fires and a tsunami, levelling all but hilly Alfama with its firm volcanic bedrock. Reconstruction of the city centre was elegant, as anyone who tours the Pombaline monuments of Baixa-Chiado can attest, but emptied the national coffers, paving the way for the repressive Estado Novo regime of the 20th century.

"'Fado, football and Fatima' were dictator António de Oliveira Salazar's three Fs — a cynical credo designed to pacify and control the masses," Claudia explains, as we arrive at an eye-catching

Clockwise from top: Fado is often performed in intimate settings; Ah, Amália is an immersive exhibit dedicated to fado's greatest singer, Amália Rodrigues; pastel de natas are a traditional Portuguese sweet treat
Previous pages: Lisbon's cityscape is a jumble of terracotta roofs and church towers

IMAGES: JENNIFFER LIMA PAIS; AH AMÁLIA LIVING EXPERIENCE; GETTY

PASTEL
DE
NATA

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Clockwise from top: Lisbon's iconic yellow trams aren't just transport — they're a timeless part of the city; fado music has been recognised by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity; Lisbon's iconic tiles, known as azulejos, are a defining feature of the city

mosaic, a portrait rising out of the *calçada* (patterned pavement), completed by artist Vhils in 2015. The figure is Amália Rodrigues, Portugal's greatest *fadista*, who died in 1999 at age 79. She was the first woman to be interred in the National Pantheon. "I know her from the glamorous photos decorating the local tascas, framed large as if revering royalty or petitioning a saint," she adds.

"Fado could be subversive, voicing the everyday complaints of ordinary people, so the state moved to regulate singers and their new lyrics," she explains. "Some bohemians took the genre underground." But it was Amália Rodrigues who took it to stratospheric heights.

The queen of fado

To better understand the evolution of fado, I've come to the arty warehouse regeneration complex of 8 Marvila, three miles up the coast from the city centre. Amid the area's restaurants and pop-up boutiques, a state-of-the-art, permanent exhibition dedicated to Amália Rodrigues opened in 2024.

"From a humble start in life, she elevated fado to a new dimension — she released 170 records and performed in more than 70 countries," Louis Brézet from the Ah, Amália: Living Experience show tells me by way of introduction. "The 20th century was a time when the Portuguese had few freedoms, especially women; when the country was seen as a backwater. Her life, and what she achieved, deserves this level of recognition."

The eight galleries flow through large-scale projections, a virtual reality experience and an eye-catching mirrored room. Her poetry — which expanded fado's established themes and elevated its use of metaphor — pepper the biographical exhibits along with previously unreleased recordings, all weaving together a portrait of a woman, a city and a sound. Even the traditional look of *fadistas* — the costume jewellery, the fringed shawl, the black dress that's typically twisted and wrenched during emotional songs — is drawn from Amália's own style. But while so much of her legacy lives on in today's performers, it's still astonishing to reach Ah, Amália's theatrical finale: a full-size holographic performance by the singer at L'Olympia in Paris at the height of her vocal powers. No expense has been spared on the sound quality in the little theatre; my skin prickles with the raw ecstasy and palpable grief in her expression, as she soars through riffs and pulls phrases from her soul.

"People think of Amália as a sad woman, always in black — but she was a wit with a flamboyant fashion sense," tour guide Mariana Gonçalves says across town at the House Museum Amália Rodrigues, in the chichi São Bento neighbourhood, where the singer lived for the last 44 years of her life. Behind us, wardrobes burst with colourful, diaphanous gowns; around her bedroom, costume jewellery and handbags jostle for prominence with Catholic tchotchkes. "Faith, fate. Colour, darkness. The drama and contradictions of Amália's life are a mirror to her time."

This museum, run by the Amália Rodrigues Foundation, is a cosy counterpoint to the modernity of Ah, Amália, taking visitors behind the public image, into the time-warp salons where she threw extravagant bohemian parties, or to the sun-dappled back garden where, under the watchful gaze of Chico, Amália's aged parrot, afternoon fado concerts are staged up to three times a week. My guide also is keen to stress that while Amália's work was supported by the regime, the feeling was not mutual; quietly, she helped the poor and those in political exile.

Motioning to a grand piano and a bulbous, 12-string fado guitar on display, Mariana says: "Amália never learned to play an instrument herself, but she had an incredible ear, singing in more than five languages. But it didn't matter if foreign audiences could understand her. She always said: 'Fado is meant to be felt, not explained.'"

I return to Alfama over subsequent evenings, its fairytale quality only deepening as I roam its knotted lanes and discover — through chance

THREE MORE **AUTHENTIC FADO BARS**

1 O Faia, Bairro Alto
Founded in 1947 by fado singer Lucília do Carmo, O Faia is a cornerstone of Lisbon's fado scene. Housed in a traditional 18th-century building, it has hosted legendary performers including Lucília's son, Carlos do Carmo. The venue serves modern Portuguese cuisine. ofaia.com

2 Tasca de Bela, Alfama
This small, unassuming venue in Alfama stays true to fado's roots, attracting both established and emerging musicians. The walls are decked with vintage photographs detailing fado's long history in Lisbon. Expect small, simple dishes along with an intimate musical experience. tascadabela.eatbu.com

3 Maria da Mouraria, Mouraria
This homely venue, which is a tribute to Portugal's first fado icon, Maria da Mouraria, serves Portuguese home cooking and preserves the essence of the historic Moorish Quarter with quaint decor and curated performances highlighting both classic and contemporary fado. mariadamouraria.eatbu.com

IMAGES: GETTY

findings and recommendations — much variety across its two dozen fado venues. Some restaurants, I learn, are too cavernous or touristy for my taste, their compulsory set menus a high price for entry. But others offer some of the most intimate and spellbinding evenings I've ever had in Lisbon — tiny A Baiuca, barely the size of a living room, where gutsy amateurs boldly debut; elegant Sala de Fado, newly opened in 2024, attracting legacy fadistas like Célia Leiria; and note-perfect Mesa de Frades, set in an 18th-century chapel adorned with historic azueljo tiles.

At the latter, I try for a seat late at night, after the last dinner service has been cleared and the audience is thinning out. Behind the tall, gnarled chapel doors, there's an alchemy after midnight, as scheduled singers — like charismatic Flávia Pereira and velvet-voiced Matilde Sid, both eschewing the traditional black garb — start to share the floor with touring musicians.

From the altar mezzanine, the acoustics are breathtaking, and there's an untrammelled joy and spontaneity to proceedings that I would never have previously associated with the genre. I tap my feet along to upbeat songs — in particular the barnstorming Maria Lisboa, Uma Casa Portuguesa and Canto o Fado — chiming in for the refrains where invited by the performers. At others, like heart-rending Fado Português and Estranha Forma de Vida, I feel a slight prickling in my eyes, despite the language barrier.

"It means a lot to me when I see someone feel the emotion of the song," Flávia tells me at the end of the night. She's one of Portugal's newer artists, subtly adapting this musical genre to her own style. She says her influences are globally selling, modern fadistas such as Mariza, Carminho and Ana Moura — women marching in the footsteps of Amália Rodrigues. "It doesn't matter where the audience is from," she concludes. "Fado is in all our souls."

HOW TO DO IT: During June, Alfama celebrates Santos Populares with a month of street parties, which make the neighbourhood lively but crowed. Visit in September for Caixa Alfama, an annual fado festival. caixaalfama.com Direct flights to Lisbon Humberto Delgado Airport depart from a variety of UK airports, including London, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Bristol with airlines including British Airways, EasyJet and Ryanair. ba.com easyjet.com ryanair.com flytap.com Accommodation options across the city are vast and varied: stay at the four-star AlmaLusa Alfama, a renovated 12th-century building with Roman foundations that opened in 2024. Prices start from €369 (£313), B&B. almalusahotels.com/alfama. For more information, visit ah-amalia.pt visitlisboa.com amaliarodrigues.pt

Clockwise from left: Lisbon's sunsets bathe the city in golden, cinematic light; Lisbon is known for its unique and delicious desserts; melancholic longing is a central theme to traditional fado music

IMAGES: GETTY; ANDRÉ MOURA PIRES; MESA DE FRADES

Q&A

Local singer Célia Leiria

WHAT DOES FADO MUSIC MEAN TO YOU?

My grandfather was a fado singer, as was my father, I was born into it. It's a way of expressing our feelings, the words of poets and singing about life itself – a reflection of our soul, our heart. In recent years, many travellers have sought out the genre, and I find it beautiful when they tell me, 'I don't understand the words, but I can feel it.' That's the true magic of fado.

IS FADO STILL AS RELEVANT TODAY AS IT WAS DURING THE TIME OF AMÁLIA RODRIGUES?

There's a new generation of fado performers. The older singers left us a strong legacy and we have to maintain that and give it a future. We're standing on their shoulders, so to speak. Fado does change, a little, with every generation. Traditionally, fado melodies can support new poems, too.

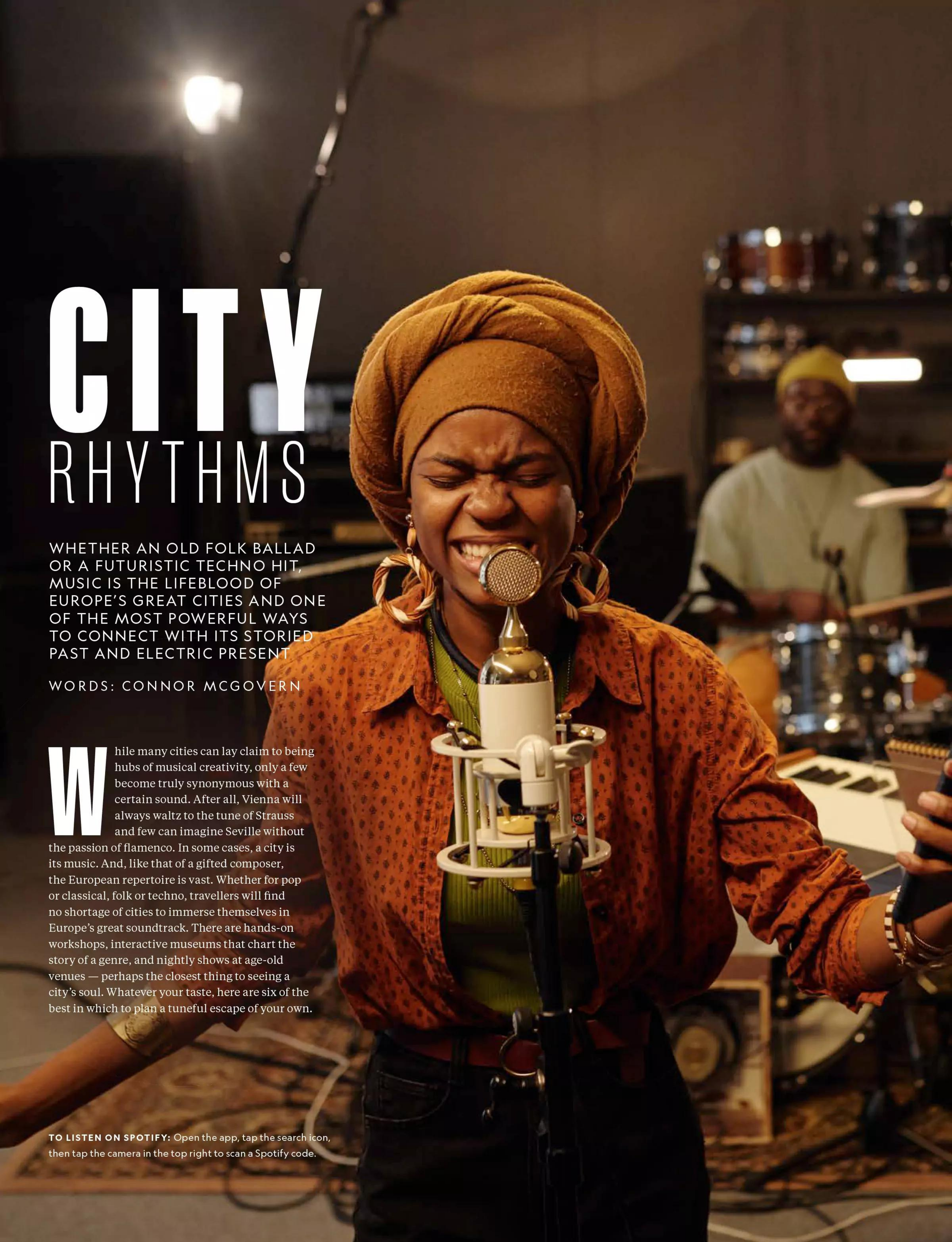
WHERE ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PLACES TO PERFORM?

For me, it's any place where the audience and I become one. Fado isn't just about us singing and playing; it's about the connection with the public. In my opinion, it's not the venue that matters, but what happens during the performance. I sing in both Alfama and Bairro Alto, and it's hard for me to choose between the two. I have a special love for Canto da Atalaia in Bairro Alto – it's very traditional, not overly formal. And the food is quintessentially Portuguese.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT FADO PERFORMANCE?

Sometimes travellers have seen fado in their own countries, but when they see it here, in Lisbon, they realise it's quite different. It's more cosy – we don't do stages, so we can really reach and connect with the public.

Célia Leiria's new album, Mulher Amor, is out now. Instagram: @celialeiria_fado



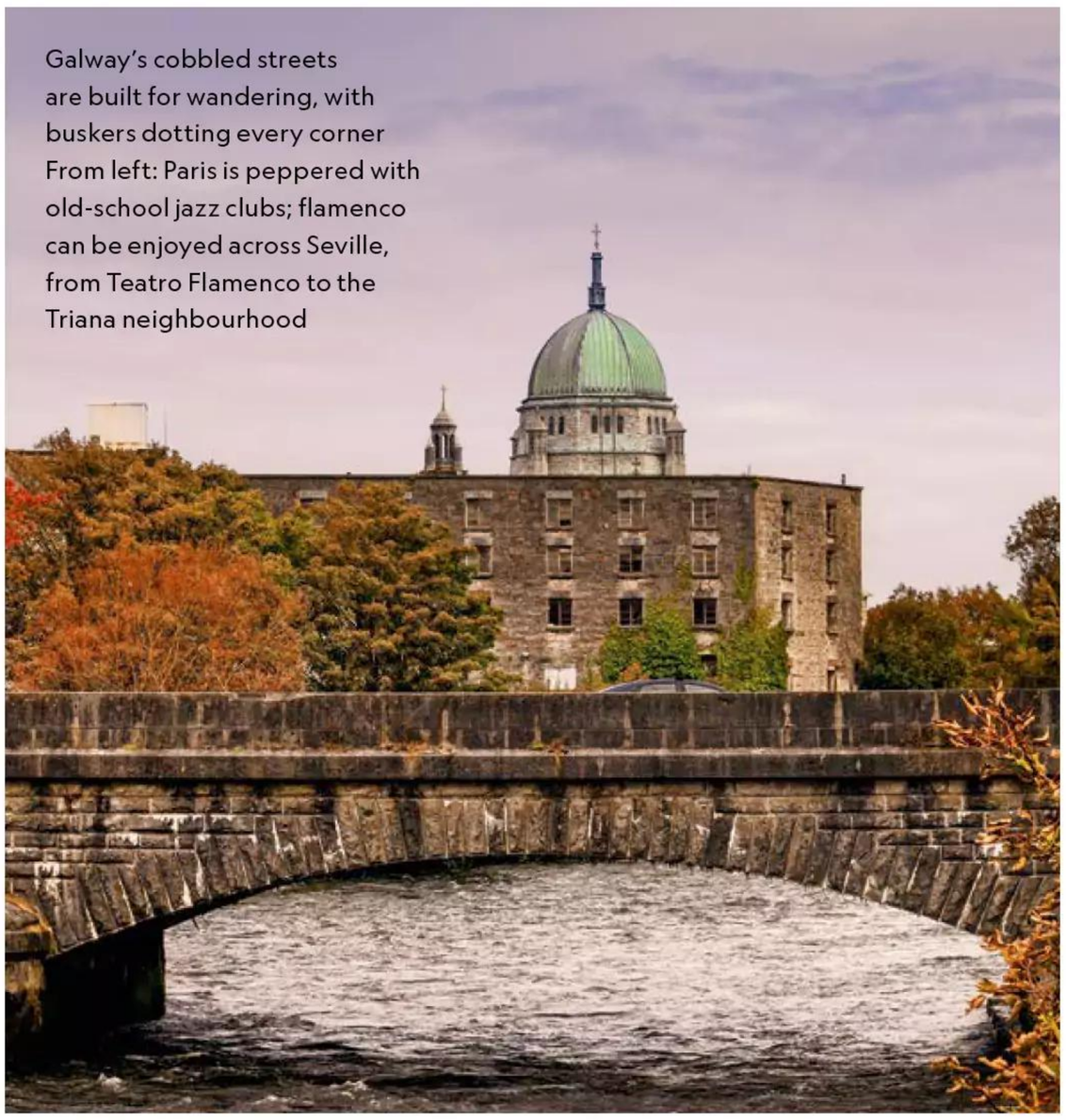
CITY RHYTHMS

WHETHER AN OLD FOLK BALLAD OR A FUTURISTIC TECHNO HIT, MUSIC IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF EUROPE'S GREAT CITIES AND ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WAYS TO CONNECT WITH ITS STORIED PAST AND ELECTRIC PRESENT

WORDS: CONNOR MCGOVERN

While many cities can lay claim to being hubs of musical creativity, only a few become truly synonymous with a certain sound. After all, Vienna will always waltz to the tune of Strauss and few can imagine Seville without the passion of flamenco. In some cases, a city is its music. And, like that of a gifted composer, the European repertoire is vast. Whether for pop or classical, folk or techno, travellers will find no shortage of cities to immerse themselves in Europe's great soundtrack. There are hands-on workshops, interactive museums that chart the story of a genre, and nightly shows at age-old venues — perhaps the closest thing to seeing a city's soul. Whatever your taste, here are six of the best in which to plan a tuneful escape of your own.

TO LISTEN ON SPOTIFY: Open the app, tap the search icon, then tap the camera in the top right to scan a Spotify code.



Galway's cobbled streets are built for wandering, with buskers dotting every corner
From left: Paris is peppered with old-school jazz clubs; flamenco can be enjoyed across Seville, from Teatro Flamenco to the Triana neighbourhood

IMAGES: GETTY

IRISH FOLK IN **GALWAY**

The rousing sound of a fiddle is never far away on Ireland's west coast. Huddled against the Atlantic, Galway is a bastion of traditional culture, where poets, artists and musicians have long found a place to hone their craft in the city's bustling bars and salty-aired granite streets. More than just watering holes, Galway's atmospheric pubs have a proud tradition of hosting and championing Irish folk (or Irish trad) musicians. The Crane Bar heads up any list of must-visit venues: both floors of this lively Victorian haunt host packed-out sessions each night of the week, while Monroe's Tavern focuses on Irish-language music, and often throws dancing and poetry nights, too. With its charming web of streets festooned with flags and hanging baskets, the Latin Quarter is not to be missed. It's the beating heart of the folk music scene: buskers can be heard on street corners, covering classic ballads or trying out their own original tunes, while the pubs here make a fine place to while away an evening with a whiskey or two. Tigh Neachtain has been trading since 1894 and has platformed several well-known Irish folk artists, including acclaimed accordionist Sharon Shannon. Over at the charming Tig Choili, twice-daily live music sessions come courtesy of local and visiting musicians alike.

DATE FOR THE DIARY: Now in its fourth year, the Galway Folk Festival promises a spirited programme of live music sessions across the city. 4-8 June.

SCAN ON SPOTIFY: My Irish Molly O by De Danann.

FLAMENCO IN **SEVILLE**

Seville's heart beats with flamenco. The stirring trinity of song, dance and music has its roots in the city's Gitano communities and has become an emblem of both Seville and Spain; such is its cultural value that it was added to the UNESCO Intangible World Cultural Heritage list in 2010. *Tablaos* are the place to experience the dance. Packed each night of the week, these venues can range from the casual La Carbonería, where locals come for tapas and a show, to more venerable institutions such as Peña Flamenca Torres Macarena, a stage and cultural hub for new and established performers, or El Arenal, where punters can enjoy a full-course dinner with a show. But the street is perhaps the most authentic stage of all. An outdoor performance might stir into life on the grand Plaza de España; on a tree-shaded patio in the Barrio de Santa Cruz, or in Triana, the buzzy, working class district said to be the birthplace of flamenco. The area is home to the Teatro Flamenco, a bijou theatre that holds nightly performances, as well as the workshop of teacher and guide Eva Izquierdo, who runs hour-long flamenco classes for budding *bailadores* (dancers). For an edifying experience, the Museo del Baile Flamenco houses costumes, art and interactive exhibits, which chart the history of the genre, with shows in the courtyard or cellar events space.

DATE FOR THE DIARY: The annual Feria de Sevilla is a lavish celebration of Andalucian culture with parades, traditional dress, sherry and plenty of flamenco. 20-26 April 2026.

SCAN ON SPOTIFY: A Tu Vera by Lola Flores.

POP IN **STOCKHOLM**

Ace of Base, Roxette, The Cardigans, Robyn and, of course, ABBA... Sweden's musical exports reads like a festival headline bill. For decades, Stockholm has been a powerhouse of European pop and now, fans can dig into the city's hit-making heritage at the Swedish Museum of Performing Arts, which explores the history and future of music, theatre and dance. The Avicii Experience tells the story of the late, chart-topping DJ with a collection of unreleased music and virtual-reality karaoke, while the club Trädgården sees revellers dance beneath Skanstullsbron bridge. And, in the city that gave the world Spotify, vinyl still has its place; Bengans, Snickars and Mickes record stores are a music-lover's dream, while Pet Sounds sells used records beside a cocktail bar. But no trip to the city would be complete without a whirl around ABBA The Museum, where the career of Sweden's most successful act is celebrated through interactive exhibits and memorabilia.
DATE FOR THE DIARY: Drömmen Festival will bring together pop legends from Sweden and around the world, including Ronan Keating, Gipsy Kings and Shirley Clamp. 7 June.
SCAN ON SPOTIFY: It Must Have Been Love by Roxette.

CLASSICAL IN **VIENNA**

Just like the Danube, music flows through the heart of the Austrian capital. Some of history's greatest virtuosos — from Mozart to Haydn, Beethoven to Strauss — lived and worked in Vienna, leaving a musical legacy that's as rich as a Habsburg palace. When it comes to live music, the Vienna State Opera shines as one of the world's most opulent music venues, while the Golden Hall at the Musikverein is home to the Vienna Mozart Orchestra. Mozart's legacy lives on in performances at the Orangery at Schönbrunn Palace, the space where he premiered The Impresario in 1786. The House of Strauss, meanwhile, is the world's only remaining concert hall where all four Strausses performed. Not everything takes place in palatial surrounds though. Intimate piano recitals are held at the Mozarthaus, where the composer lived, while the Annakirche is a baroque jewel of a church that hosts affordable concerts.
DATE FOR THE DIARY: 2025 is the bicentenary of Johann Strauss's birth. A special concert by the Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony Orchestra and violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter will mark the big day on 25 October.
SCAN ON SPOTIFY: The Blue Danube by Johann Strauss II.

JAZZ IN **PARIS**

When American troops were stationed in Paris during the First World War, they brought with them the improvised rhythms of jazz. In the years that followed, this sound took Paris's music halls by storm and has become entwined with the city's soundscape. The French capital is peppered with old-school jazz clubs, and few are as hallowed as Le Caveau de la Huchette, on the Left Bank. The building dates to the 16th century and has staged countless stars of swing in its time, including Sidney Bechet and Lionel Hampton. On the Right Bank, life on the Rue des Lombards saunters to the sound of jazz, for it's home to three of the city's finest bars: crowds squeeze into the Duc des Lombards, Sunset/Sunside and Le Basier Salé for late-night jam sessions. But, if one figure epitomises the French jazz era, it's Josephine Baker who turned heads in 1926 when she performed at the Folies Bergère wearing a banana skirt. The legendary music hall remains an art deco icon of Paris's musical heritage.
DATE FOR THE DAIRY: Jazz festivals include Jazz à La Villette, held in the Parc de la Villette. August/September 2025, dates TBC.
SCAN ON SPOTIFY: Black Trombone by Serge Gainsbourg.

IMAGES: GETTY; AWL IMAGES

ELECTRONIC IN **BERLIN**

If German reunification had a sound, it would be one of wavy synths and drum machines. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the underground electronic music scene offered West and East Berliners a way to come together. Since then, the city has become the pounding heart of European electronica. Venues have popped up in disused landmarks across the city, harking to the 1990s when students began squatting in abandoned buildings. A fine example is Tresor, which began in the cellar of a former department store in 1991. Now housed in a decommissioned power plant, its killer sound system draws fans from across the world. Kater Blau — a former soap factory — is a popular, open-air summer spot beside the River Spree, while ://about blank takes a political approach to techno, offering 'hedonistic, insurrectionalist dialectic'. Top of any list, however, is Berghain, the cathedral-like club where (almost) anything goes. Top-quality sound and performances aside, the mysterious entry policy is all part of the appeal and has revellers queuing for hours.

DATE FOR THE DIARY: Rave the Planet Parade mixes rave culture with political demonstration. 12 July.

SCAN ON SPOTIFY: Autobahn by Kraftwerk.

Berlin is the pounding heart of European electronica
From top: ABBA The Museum in Stockholm, lets visitors join the band on stage in a hologram performance; this gold-plated statue of Johann Strauss II, who was born in Vienna in 1825, can be found in Stadtpark; the sounds of jazz saunter through the French capital

THE FOOD HALL REVOLUTION

DINING DESTINATIONS, SOCIAL HUBS AND CREATIVE SPACES COMBINED, FOOD HALLS ARE TAKING EUROPE BY STORM. FROM A TRAIN STATION REVAMP IN ROME TO A REIMAGINED INDUSTRIAL HALL IN HELSINKI, HERE ARE SIX OF THE BEST

WORDS: HATTIE TENNANT-BELL

A culinary revolution is simmering in Europe. Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, the past eight years have seen the number of food halls across the continent double, completely reshaping the dining scene. Traditionally associated with the hawker centres of Southeast Asia, the trend of multiple vendors and a variety of cuisines under one roof has now reached more than 135 locations with more sites being sought every week.

For the vendor, food halls provide a platform to showcase their talent without the risks associated with opening a restaurant; for the consumer, a plethora of options at a more affordable price point. Authenticity, locality and sustainability are key factors for many potential visitors, and by offering a limited but high-quality menu with thoughtfully sourced ingredients, the triumvirate is achievable.

What's more, food halls have a multi-generational appeal. Communal dining offers flexibility for family outings, school friends get-togethers and budding romances. The mix of vendors allows diners to enjoy everything from fine dining dishes to street food, all shared around the same table. Never has eating out been so exciting, diverse and available.

But, while excellent food remains the key attraction — with high standards being set by pioneering food halls such as Eataly in Turin — the venue itself is a close second. The neo-gothic Central Market Hall in Budapest lures thousands of visitors a year, while recesses under viaducts and railway arches like Maltby Street Market in London are equally beguiling. A historical venue located in a popular neighbourhood? It's a winning combination.

And then there's everything else on offer. "Our markets are more than just spaces; they're hubs for entrepreneurs, local brands and businesses," explains Sandy Hayek, CEO of Time Out Market, which currently has seven venues worldwide and another eight in the pipeline, from Manama in Bahrain to Osaka in Japan. And, despite the name, food halls can be more than dining destinations — why not learn how to salsa dance after your lunch, or go to the gig downstairs to extend that great first date? Whether you're hoping for a midweek coffee and cake, or gearing up for a big night out, a food hall might just offer it all.

WARSAW

Elektrownia Powiśle Food Hall

Having got the trendy industrial-aesthetic memo loud and clear, Elektrownia Powiśle Food Hall was built on the banks of the Vistula in 2020 during a refurb of a 1900s power station. The area was listed in the top 10 coolest districts in the world by *The Guardian* that year. Although it opened at the outset of a global pandemic — and consequently had to pause — the venue has become a firm favourite for Varsovians and travellers alike. Within the neon-lit interior, 17 food outlets offer everything from sushi to pizza, Philly sandwiches and waffles. The Fry prides itself on being Poland's first and best Belgian chip shop, while Dim Sum Para Para's teriyaki chicken bao buns have become legend. With three bars and weekend music events, the food hall brings top DJs from across Poland to perform. There are also weekly quiz nights, while the adjacent shopping centre is known for its independent boutiques. With its stellar location, there's also the option to work off your meal with a walking tour to learn about Warsaw's wartime history. elektrowniapowisle.com

ZURICH

Im Viadukt Market Hall

Tucked beneath the Industrial Quarter's railway arches, Im Viadukt is representative of the city: chic yet cosy, chilled during the week, yet busy on Saturdays. For a light bite, Gyoza Yokocho has authentic Japanese gyoza and healthy bowls, while more substantial options include sandwiches at St Jakob Beck & Kafi. Choose between the filled focaccia or smoked salmon pretzels, washed down with a coffee and a doughnut. Broadening its appeal, Im Viadukt has a variety of independent shops like Sibler, a stylish Bern-based apparel brand. Additionally, the arches house several gyms, with out-of-hours fitness class pop-ups. Need to entertain your children? The Josefwiese Spielplatz is just outside, complete with a cafe, fountain for paddling in summer and delightful outdoor children's library corner. While in the area, it's also worth nipping to the Kunsthalle Zurich, a contemporary art space in a converted brewery, as well as Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, a free-to-enter gallery aiming to make art more accessible. im-viadukt.ch

IMAGE: MIKOŁAJ ŻURKOWSK

Pozwól nam
o Ciebie zadbać

ROME

Mercato Centrale Roma

Whether you're catching a train or not, the selection of food and drink options at Mercato Centrale Roma — housed within the Roma Termini train station — make it a place to visit in its own right. Boisterous and dog-friendly, the venue channels the energy of its home city, with a focus on Roman delicacies. Arcangelo Dandini's Supplizio specialises solely on *supplì*, the lesser-known cousin of Sicily's famous arancini. *Trappizino* meanwhile, now famous across Rome, is a triangular pizza pocket stuffed with locally sourced Italian delights. The recipe for these cheesy slices of heaven was passed down by chef Stefano Callegari's Roman grandmother. Culture, health and inclusivity also feature high on the agenda. Interactive fashion shows celebrating people rather than models, art exhibits and health- and wellbeing-focused cookery courses are just some of the events hosted in this enormous venue. Located close to the museum of ancient Roman art at Palazzo Massimo, it's also a scenic walk down to the open-air Roman Forum or the famous Trevi Fountain. Alternatively, grab a snack here before hopping on a train — Florence is less than a 90-minute ride away, and Naples just 70.
mercatocentrale.it/roma

HELSINKI

Hietalahden Kauppahalli

Dating back to Finland's time under the Russian tsars — though not built as a cavalry barracks as commonly believed — Hietalahden Kauppahalli has seen several transformations. Starting as a traditional market hall in 1903, it made an attempt in 2001 to sell solely organic produce before undergoing a full rebrand in 2003 as an antiques centre. In 2012, it emerged as the food hall it is today. But this is not a place to rest on its laurels — there's always something new going on. In this showcase of Finnish culture, there's no shortage of smoked fish, reindeer meat and rye bread. Yet Hietalahden Kauppahalli has a variety of international flavours, too. Filipino stall Kamalig serves a perfectly balanced pork *adobo* and a nutty *kare kare* curry. Pilo is a popular weekend brunch spot, doubling as a pizzeria and serving exceptional Italian ice cream, while Petiscaria's grilled octopus is not to be missed. The hall also hosts frequent jazz nights, where food is paired with music well into the evening. It's impossible to visit Helsinki without a serving of Moomin culture, and a 15-minute stroll will get you to the Moomin shop, or, for something a little more highbrow, the Helsinki Art Museum is also just down the road. hietalahdenkauppahalli.fi

SHEFFIELD

Cambridge Street Collective

Last year, *Time Out* named Sheffield as the second-best city break destination in Europe and the UK's foodie capital. Packed with indie shops, art galleries and taprooms, Cambridge Street Collective (CSC) opened last year as a great addition to the landmark Heart of the City development project. Europe's largest purpose-built food hall, CSC is set in a 20,000sq ft industrial venue designed to celebrate the diversity of global cuisine, while the huge selection of stalls are complimented by four buzzy bars. Send Noods showcases Hong Kong staples made from scratch, while House of Habesha is a cult Eritrean and Ethiopian spot. Far more than just a food hall, however, CSC has a real community atmosphere. It has partnered with the Blend Culinary Foundation, offering free meals for children during school holidays, after-school cooking classes and even language courses. Elsewhere, events range from cookbook clubs to cooking and cocktails experiences, as well as augmented reality darts games. cambridgestreetcollective.com

BERLIN

Markthalle Neun

In Kreuzberg, across the River Spree from the East Side Gallery, 'Market Hall Nine' was rescued from a private sale by the local community a decade ago. It's perhaps unsurprising, then, that community spirit is intrinsic to the hall's culture. On Monday evenings, 'playdates' for all ages are organised to tackle stress and regular games nights see locals and travellers partake in monopoly, table tennis and more. The wine and beer shops offer rent-a-glass options for visitors to loosen up, while late-night markets sell everything from cured meat to clothing. Food-wise, there really is something for everyone: Wilde Wurst offers a luxury take on classic street-side *currywurst*, Manti Berlin serves mini Turkish dumplings with yoghurt and sumac, and Chao She cooks Beijing-style beef crepes bursting with flavour and drizzled with chilli lemon dip. Eaten your fill? Wander over to the sprawling Park an der Spree, or, if you happen to be visiting on a Sunday, the antiques Flohmarket outside Ostbahnhof station has some excellent bargains. markthalleneun.de

Clockwise from top left: Elektrownia Powiśle has 17 different food concepts, including Japanese; the exterior of Markthalle Neun in Berlin; Manti Berlin's mini Turkish dumplings are a favourite with visitors; Mercato Centrale Roma is housed within the Roma Termini train station
Previous pages: Elektrownia Powiśle has helped its Warsaw neighbourhood be listed among the top 10 coolest districts in the world

IMAGES: DAWID JASIURKOWSKI; MARKTHALLE NEUN; ALAMY

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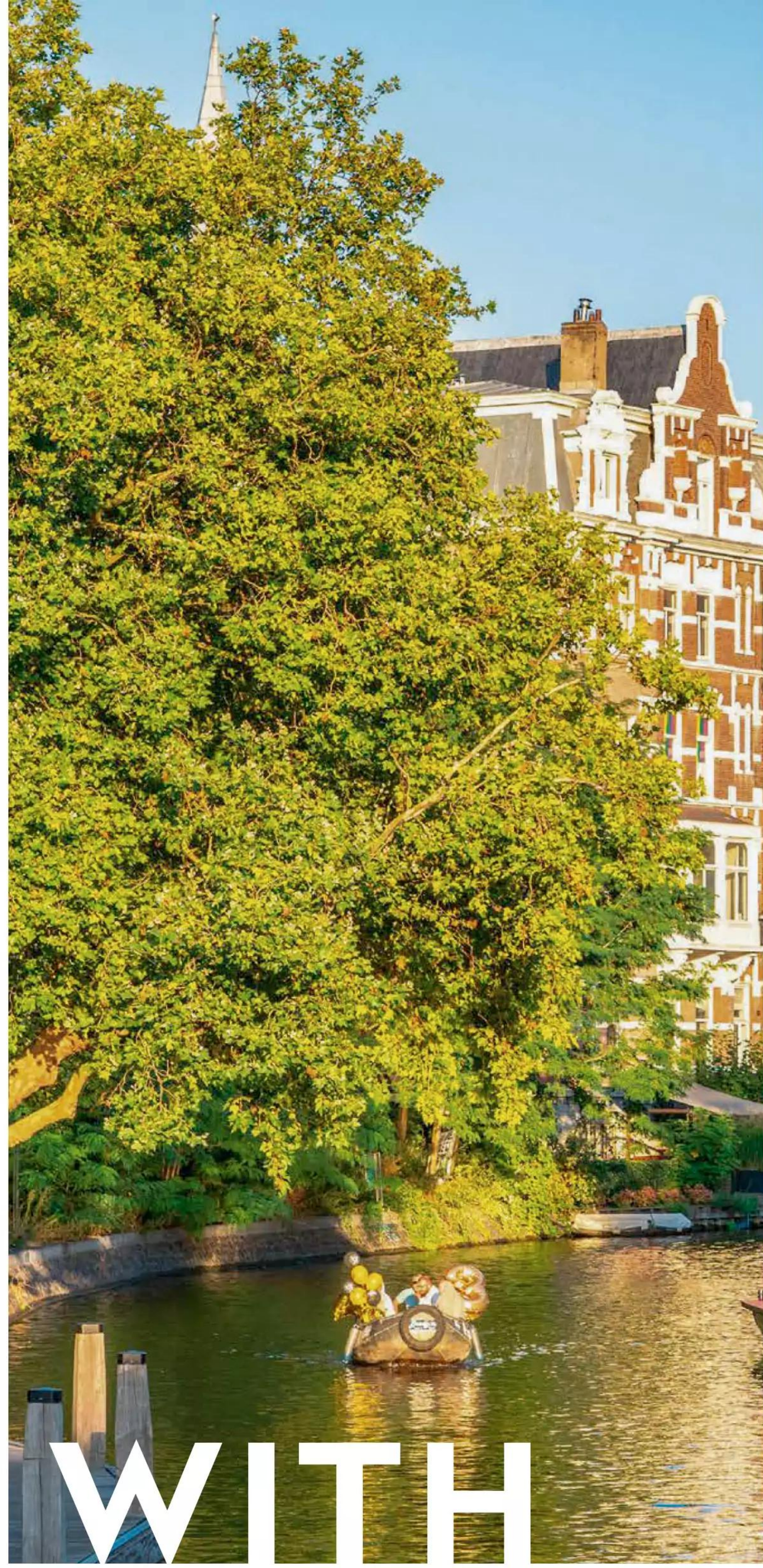
CENTRALE
la pasta fresca

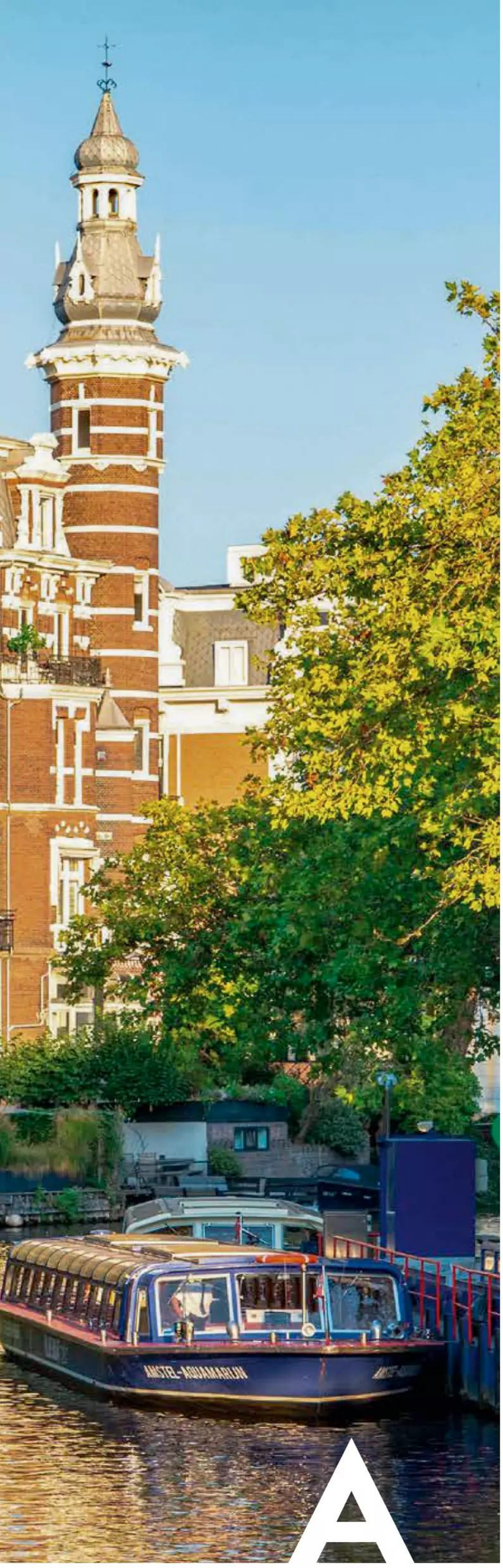


TOURS WITH

City tours are stepping up their game. Beer nerds, policemen, marathon runners — meet the passionate, quirky individuals who are redefining the way we see Europe's most famous urban areas

WORDS: DUNCAN CRAIG

IMAGES: GETTY; ALAMY



A TWIST

There was a time when a perfunctory potter round the key sites with a dusty guide serviced by an even dustier script was the summit of our city-tour ambitions. Now, driven by a new breed of innovative and passionate advocates eager to exalt their home towns, the choice is boundless. Whether you're looking to scratch the surface of a destination or really get under its skin, you won't struggle to find a tour as unique, compelling and fun as the guides who lead them. Here, we celebrate a selection of the latter — from a retired policeman on a very different beat in London to a Barcelona 'sightjogger' and a kayaker offering an unusual take on the City of Bridges.

KAYAK TOUR OF VENICE

WITH GINEVRA TESTA

Visitors to Venice have been getting out on the water for centuries. But while the cliche features a strapping gondolier, a glass or two of something chilled and some weighty expectations of romance, the waterborne craft in which Ginevra Testa plies her trade are somewhat different. The 26-year-old guides her guests around the labyrinthine waterways of the city of her birth in one- or two-person kayaks. Romance is in short supply (no one looks good in a spray skirt and watershoes). But other than that, the tours couldn't be more in tune with Venice's character.

"What I love is the different perspective the tours offer," says Ginevra, who's one of seven guides working for Venice Kayak. Groups are limited to six people, so there's plenty of contact with each individual, and tours run in the late afternoon and early evening. "During the day, it's all about seeing the architecture of Venice and the extraordinary buildings. Meanwhile, the evening tour is much more about the colours in the sky and the reflections off the water," says Ginevra. "It can be so beautiful — it's not uncommon to have people in tears."

Venice wasn't always the 'City of Bridges' — early settlers in the lagoon had no choice but to travel by boat between its 100-plus islands. In that respect, the 2.5-hour kayak tours offer a return to its original spirit. Working with the gondolas — and the gondoliers who expertly and theatrically propel them — is all in a day's work. Over recent years, a mutual understanding has developed, with the gondoliers recognising that the kayak tours might include inexperienced paddlers, and thus giving them a wide berth; and the kayak guides sensitive to the fact that flailing paddles aren't the most welcome addition to a gondola selfie. Both groups are united against what many feel is the principal scourge of Venice's waterways — the wash-generating, sediment-displacing motorboats.

While this most fragile of urban environments benefits from the low-impact tourism that kayaking tours offer, participants can enjoy something that Venice certainly isn't awash with: freedom of movement. The tiny walkways, elegant bridges and cobbled streets around in-demand sites such as the Grand Canal, St Mark's Basilica and the Teatro La Fenice place a premium on sharp elbows; afloat, the pace is less hurried and more serene.

"It's much closer to the experience you would have as someone who lives here year-round," says Ginevra. "The biggest change during my lifetime is that Venice has become... faster. People dashing around, ticking off the main sites and landmarks. With our tours, you're exploring hidden waterways and getting the chance to hear, see and admire more of the real Venice at the right pace."

It's a symbiotic process. As Ginevra is showing off her city to visitors, unseen corners are revealing themselves to her. "I thought I knew everything about Venice," she says. "But doing this job, it makes me fall in love with it all over again."

From €110 (£94) per person, venicekayak.com

Clockwise from top left: Swap a gondola for a kayak for a fresh way to see Venice; Go Running Tours in Barcelona start early, when soft light illuminates the city's landmarks; the Costa Dorada, close to Barcelona, has a beautiful promenade that's perfect for runs Previous pages from left: One of the many police boxes you'll see on a tour exploring London's policing heritage; Amsterdam's canals are the lifeblood of the city; Fiat 500s are ideal for navigating Rome's twisting backstreets

IMAGES: GETTY; LUCAS SALTER

RUNNING TOUR OF BARCELONA

WITH MATTIA GIANNINI

Escaping a nine-to-five, desk-bound existence was Mattia Giannini's motivation for lacing up his trainers and becoming a running-tour guide. Now he finds himself working for just a few hours each morning — and his office is one of the world's most breathlessly invigorating cities: Barcelona.

Tours start early; all the better for avoiding the rising temperatures and touristic tide that can engulf the Catalan capital later in the day, particularly in high summer. But the early starts are no penance. "It's such a beautiful time of day in Barcelona," says the 31-year-old. There's a soft light illuminating the Gaudí masterpieces, such as La Pedrera and Casa Batlló. The skeletal frames of the retro-funfair rides high on Mount Tibidabo lie dormant. And the arc of golden sand of La Barceloneta beach is specked with just a handful of early risers.

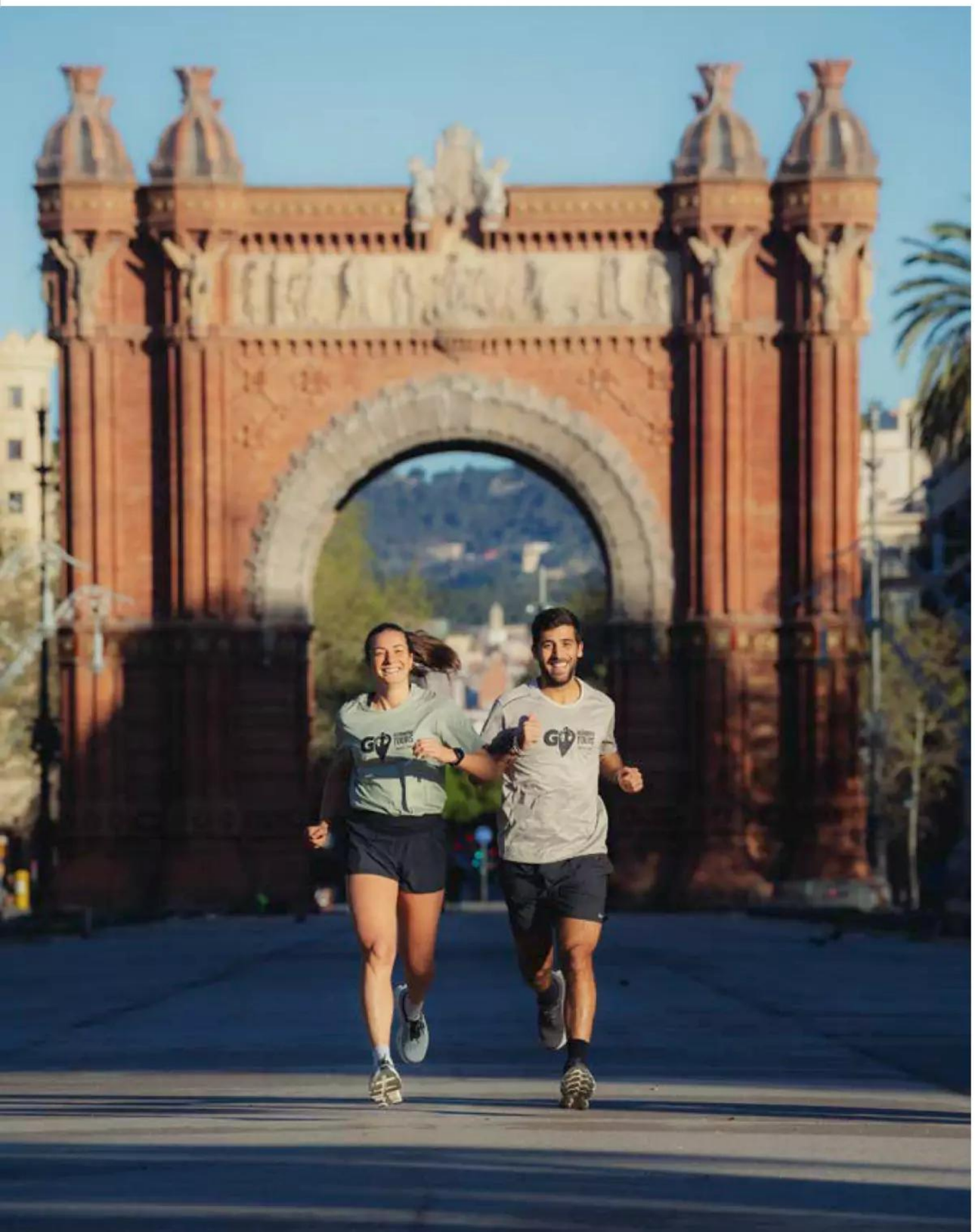
"The weather in Barcelona is great all year round, so there's really no reason not to be active," says Mattia. He offers a range of distances on his sight-jogging tours, from 5km to 21km — the latter popular with visitors prepping for marathons or half marathons. The 10km is the most popular; Mattia is proud of the route he's mapped out for this, claiming it shows clients "80% of the highlights of the city" in double-quick time, providing a great foundation for later exploration. With keen runners, the 10km might only last an hour. Others will take considerably longer. But the golden rule is: no one gets left behind.

"I sometimes get clients who say 'yeah, I can run 10km or 21km' and then it transpires that they're not really in the shape for it. If that happens, then I make a plan; we either walk for sections, cut short the distance or I've sometimes grabbed one of the city bikes that you can rent and got them on one of those so they don't miss out. As I always say, 'you're here to have fun — there's no point in dying to see Barcelona!"

Trail-running isn't really Mattia's thing, so for clients keen to explore the paths and trails around Montjuïc, a focal point for the transformative 1992 Olympic Games, and further afield, he deploys his secret weapon: his partner Mari. "She's a very strong runner — stronger than me. She recently did the Barcelona Marathon and she loves all the trails, so she takes care of that side of things."

Like this super-active couple, Barcelona finds itself in rude health, with the cultural, architectural and sporting regeneration that began with the 1992 Games continuing apace. But how do Mattia's tours coexist with two pursuits for which the Catalan capital has become renowned in recent years: tapas-based gastronomic overindulgence, and partying into the early hours? He laughs. "It's not uncommon to have, say, a group of four booked for an early 10km run and only two turn up. It's often because they're still in bed, sleeping it off. But that's absolutely fair enough. When it comes to my city, that's all part of the game."

From £80; groups from £45 per person, gorunningtours.com



CRAFT BEER TOUR OF BERLIN
WITH ALEX SCHMIDT

"I'm what you might call a beer nerd," says Alex Schmidt, as he relaxes in his home city of Berlin after waving off his most recent group. Alex started the business nearly eight years ago with his wife, Margot. He was finishing his Master's and had a background in cultural anthropology; she was in business marketing. "Basically we decided to fuse together our skill sets to offer tours of a city we love — the Berlin that Berliners know," says Alex. This meant less-visited neighbourhoods with independent businesses, quirky shops and... microbreweries.

His experiences couldn't be further from the overpromoted pub crawls that pass for tours in certain European capitals; in Germany, the evolution of brewing and beer is deeply interlaced with the country's culture, and it's this that Alex prioritises. Eight tastings are included on the 3.5-hour tour, which heads to the atmospheric, art-adorned streets of Friedrichshain, a former East Berlin district that's emerged as a beer-lover's paradise.

He's always surprised at the diversity of clients: all ages and genders, and an increasing number of alcohol-free converts who are visibly surprised at the quality and range of the alcohol-free craft beers on offer at the breweries and 'brewpubs' he incorporates in his tour.

Whatever you come for, it's a great time to be exploring the German capital, says Alex. "The last 15 to 20 years have seen a real boost. Start-ups, big investment, the development of a thriving food and drink scene. But within that you still have certain ruins in the middle of the city that haven't been developed — these weird, lost, remarkable places that offer space for subcultures to develop."
From €99 (£85) per person, walkwithustours.com

POLICE TOUR OF LONDON
WITH FRANCIS MULLAN

Frustration at the hackneyed limitations of London's police and crime tours led Francis Mullan to take matters into his own hands. "It was always the same: the Krays and Jack the bloody Ripper!" he says, with exasperation. "So we decided to offer something a bit more sophisticated and authentic."

Francis certainly had the credentials. Prior to setting up his London Police and Crime Walking Tour with former colleague David Norton, the Londoner was a copper himself for 30 years, working as both a bobby on the beat and a detective.

Starting in Covent Garden, the tour features an eclectic mix of historical, fictional and contemporary sites and stories, including Great Scotland Yard, with its famous revolving sign, a Sherlock Holmes-inspired pub and Bow Street Magistrates Court. The Great Scotland Yard Hotel, which opened in 2019, is a quirky inclusion. It's set in the building that was the 19th-century headquarters of the Metropolitan Police and boasts a collection of policing artefacts — "truncheons, uniforms, that sort of stuff," says Francis.

You're either a policeman, or a former policeman, he explains — "it's not a job you ever really leave behind." This ensures he enjoys plenty of rapport with serving officers, who he'll often bump into en route. "I'll say what I'm doing and most of the time they're happy to chat to the group," says the 65-year-old.

The pace of the walking tour is relaxed and the distances short. "I can generally wrap it up in two hours, 15 minutes," he says. "It's strange but there's this enduring fascination with law and order. Everyone wants to know what it's like to serve."
From £30 per person, viator.com

IMAGES: ALAMY; GETTY; SIMON WILKINSON

CLASSIC CAR TOUR OF MONACO
WITH PATRICK RIEM

To stand out in the land of conspicuous wealth is no easy task, but Patrick Riem found a way. The super rich who flock to the tiny principality in their superyachts and supercars often find themselves casting covetous glances at Patrick's fleet of diminutive electric cars modelled on the classic racers of the 1930s — then signing up for one of his tours. Sometimes, several.

"One guy who was in town on his superyacht booked a 90-minute tour in the morning, another in the afternoon, then came back for a third in the evening," says Patrick. The head-turning cars are manufactured by a French company called Devinci Automobiles and are zippy, soundless, ecological — and an implausible amount of fun to drive. "It's not going to give you a heart attack when you step on the gas, like the Bugattis and Lamborghinis you see here," says Patrick. "But it's a very cool car."

There's a varied menu, from 20-minute pootles to 90-minute grand tours. Patrick leads the way, with clients following in convoy. Monaco's dazzling beaches, the Hotel de Paris, the Prince's Palace and the balcony-like coastal road immortalised in multiple Bond movies are just some of the spots that feature. The 60-year-old Monegasque businessman has grown fond of the Devinci cars and loves the way they complement the principality and its racing heritage. "Of all the things Monaco is known for, I believe the Grand Prix is the most prized. All the greatest drivers have driven on these narrow streets and through the chicanes, and you can, too — in a car that fits the architecture and feel of Monaco. It's La Belle Époque on wheels."

From €89 (£76) per couple, monacoclassicrides.com

Clockwise from top left: In Berlin, beer is deeply intertwined with the city's culture; known for its glitz and glamour, Monaco is a city of superyahts and sports cars; Barcelona's El Born district is characterised by narrow medieval with designer boutiques

FIVE MORE
TOURS TO TRY

SEE ROME IN A FIAT 500

There are both practical and nostalgic reasons why a ride in a Fiat 500 is a great way of exploring the Eternal City. The classic urban runaround, hailing from 1950s Turin, is ideal for navigating Rome's twisting, narrow backstreets, particularly when driven by a passionate Roman guide with a flair for storytelling.
From €340 (£290) for a three-hour chauffeured tour for two, rome500exp.com

TAKE A GRAFFITI TOUR OF BUDAPEST

Budapest has some of Europe's best street art, a niche that evolved through graffiti. Combine both elements in this double-header, in which you see the murals and learn about the cultural and political forces that shape street art, then join a tag-honing workshop with a bona fide graffiti artist.
Three-hour street-art tour combined with two-hour graffiti workshop from €114 (£97), budapestflow.com

EXPLORE PARIS'S SIDE STREETS IN A SIDECAR

On this kooky tour, one passenger rides pillion while the other sits back in a sidecar. The motorcycles are modelled on vintage Soviet M72s, only with disc brakes and lower emissions. The guide, meanwhile, knows all the most romantic backstreets — and the tales behind them. *Magnifique.*
One-hour tour for two from €149 (£129), retro-tour.com

GET YOUR SKATES ON IN COPENHAGEN

It's not your conventional city tour but the outcomes remain the same: getting your bearings while having a lot of fun. Friday Night Skate is a tradition in the Danish capital, with up to 1,500 roller-skaters coming together to tackle some 12 miles of cordoned-off road.
Free, fns-cph.dk/en

GO PLASTIC FISHING IN AMSTERDAM

Fancy a truly rubbish tour? On this two-hour guided canal trip, you're fed snippets of local history while collecting discarded bottles and other items from Amsterdam's network of waterways with litter pickers. *€25 (£21), plasticwhale.com*

With almost 340 miles of cycle paths – and more being added all the time – Copenhagen is often ranked as the world's most bicycle-friendly capital

REPORT

The rise of urban adventures

ACTIVE CITY BREAKS HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE POPULAR, WITH AN INCREASING ARRAY OF CREATIVE AND EYE-CATCHING OPTIONS. WHAT'S DRIVING THIS TREND – AND COULD IT BE GOOD NEWS FOR DESTINATIONS AS WELL AS TRAVELLERS?

WORDS: DUNCAN CRAIG

Packing for a city break used to involve comfortable shoes, a smart casual outfit or two, a big appetite and a sturdy liver. Indulgence was the focus, with a little light sightseeing to ward off the gout.

The contents of today's carry-ons can look very different: swimsuits, trainers, hiking boots, waterproofs, sports kit and perhaps even a little Lycra. And that's because, in many of our favourite European cities, there's an awful lot more than tasting menus and artisanal wine to get stuck into.

Cycle paths and jogging trails are now standard — an integral part of all but the most overtly sedentary cities. However, in recent years, a whole host of outdoor urban adventures have been added, offering visitors a fresh perspective that's both exhilarating and endorphin-fuelled.

Paddleboard through the ancient heart of Ljubljana. Abseil off a bridge 230ft above the Douro in Porto. Swim in a converted barge in Berlin. Surf in a former canal in Rotterdam. Kayak past 13th-century palaces in Stockholm. Ski down, or clamber up, a power plant in Copenhagen. The options are as varied as they're innovative.

Elsewhere, travellers can blend their sightseeing with stadium climbs and rooftop hikes, freerunning adventures, canoe excursions, e-bike expeditions and — in certain coastal cities — an introduction to e-foiling (surfing without all the strenuous paddling).

So, what's driving this change? A post-pandemic focus on both physical and mental health, certainly. A recent report by Neilson Beach Clubs, who have resorts across Europe, including Greece, Croatia and Sardinia, found that more than three-quarters of those polled now embrace activity on holiday — a pattern which is mirrored in the city-break sector. "With health and fitness now such an integral part of our culture, people are turning to holidays that have an emphasis on wellbeing over traditional sightseeing," says the CEO of Neilson, David Taylor.

Lena Andersson started Go! Running Tours in Copenhagen in 2013. A dozen years on, the sightjogging company, which combines running with sightseeing, operates in nearly 80 cities worldwide — more than half of them in Europe. The running boom only partly explains the proliferation, she thinks; for every habitual jogger she and her network of guides cater for, there are plenty of new runners looking to enliven their city break with something unusual and immersive.

"Visitors want to get beneath the surface of a city," she says. "They want to mix, interact and connect with a local, get tips and recommendations. By the end of a tour, someone will have seen the main sites, sure, but they'll also know all about the guide who accompanied them. They'll uncover their go-to coffee spots and favourite restaurants."

While some city breakers are bringing their active lifestyles with them, others are being nudged this way by the destinations themselves. Facilitated by warmer climes, more hours of sunshine or 'human-centred' urban planning, many of Europe's city-break destinations have activity in their DNA. And it's something visitors increasingly want to experience.

"People don't come to Copenhagen for big tourist attractions, as we don't really have those," says Giuseppe Liverino, of Wonderful Copenhagen, the Danish capital's tourism board. "They come for the lifestyle. Cycling everywhere, renting a kayak, taking a sea swim or an ice dip followed by a sauna. These aren't contrived activities — this is what the locals do. These days, what visitors want is a blend of authentic and 'outside the box' experiences."

Giving back

Lena believes environmental sensitivities feed into the trend. "If you're coming to a city and you're using your own power to get around, that's reducing the impact on that place," she says. Some visitors go further and seek to have a net positive effect. GreenKayak is a scheme that operates in around 20 European cities, allowing visitors to borrow a craft in exchange for collecting litter. To date, nearly 85,000 people have taken part.

"It's a triple win," says founder Tobias Weber-Andersen. "People get to be active, explore the city in a new way and give something back to the destination. You feel you're contributing."

Outdoor adventures have another benefit, particularly in our financially straitened times: affordability. Plan a city-break itinerary around landmark attractions, stage shows and destination restaurants and costs can quickly spiral. Go for a swim, grab a rental bike, a paddleboard or go rollerblading and the costs will be comparatively modest. For those who are time poor, it also showcases more, in less time.

The subtle but inescapable twinning of sport and destination marketing also feeds into the interest in active urban adventures. From Barcelona welcoming the America's Cup to Paris hosting the Olympics last year, cities now woo big sporting events in the same way that brands have always courted big-name sports stars. Why? Because it puts them in the global spotlight, positions them as dynamic and active, and guarantees a generous flow of similarly minded visitors downstream.

Inevitably, social media plays its part. No one posts about a straightforward walking tour they went on; an eye-catching urban adventure is where the kudos lies (literally, in the case of the Strava app), and destinations are responding accordingly, dreaming up offerings that they know will generate traction on Instagram and other platforms.

This isn't necessarily a bad thing, says Tobias. "We encourage people to use social media," he says. "They can feel happy and proud about being active and doing something a little different. And we get the message across that our cities are something that need to be looked after."

IMAGE: GETTY

THREE TO TRY

Action-packed cities

1 Rotterdam

While its northern neighbour, Amsterdam, wrestles with overtourism, the Netherlands' second-most visited city continues to refine what one might call 'optimised tourism'. Its obliteration by German bombing raids in the Second World War left post-war planners with what amounted to a blank canvas; the result is a city as open and efficient as it is young and dynamic, with lots of green spaces and waterways.

Hike through the half-mile-long urban oasis of Dakpark, or Roof Park, so called because it's elevated to optimise views of the port and surrounding city. Alternatively, back on the ground, join the rollerbladers, skaters and runners navigating the paths through the forested Kralingse Bos on the fringe of the city. There are jogging trails and an athletics track that's open to the public at Roel Langerakpark and smooth cycle paths stitching the green spaces together. Urban swimming has been embraced in a big way, too. One of the best spots is Zwembad Rijnhaven, in the middle of the city, with sunbathing platforms and ladders into the water.

WHY GO NOW? In keeping with the city's active and entrepreneurial spirit, the world's first outdoor urban surf pool opened last summer in a former canal overlooked by Rotterdam's neo-Renaissance city hall. A decade in the making, RIF0101 – named for the Dutch word for 'reef' and the postcode in which it's located – generates immaculate waves, provides lessons, board and wetsuit hire, and even has a bar with a sprawling terrace. Canoes and SUPs can also be hired to explore the waterways fanning out from the pool. Still got some energy left? The highest abseil in Europe is on offer at the towering Euromast, on the edge of tranquil Het Park, with a descent of almost 330ft. rotterdam.info

2 Copenhagen

In 2022, the Tour de France began with an eight-mile time trial through the streets of Copenhagen. Rarely has the race's country-hopping prelude been staged in a more apt location. The Danish capital is the most bike-centric of all European cities, the consequence of smart, livability-focused municipal planning. As a visitor, you can't help but get swept along. Hiring a bike is a breeze (most hotels as well as cycle shops rent them, or use apps such as Donkey Republic). With cars marginalised, the myriad of green spaces around the city are less polluted and full of trails for walking and running. Copenhagen hosts the world road-running championships next autumn, while 'plogging' – combining jogging and rubbish collection – is one of the activities that feature in the city's CopenPay initiative. Set to be expanded this summer, it offers visitors perks and free experiences in exchange for 'green' activities.

WHY GO NOW? It's the reinvention of the former military and industrial harbour as a giant waterborne playground that really sets the tone. The water is clean enough to yield mussels and oysters for the city's restaurants and there are more than a dozen *havnebadet* (harbour baths). Outdoor pools such as Islands Brugge and Fisketorvet are popular year-round, despite the cold Scandic winters; and kayaking, waterskiing, canoeing, paddleboarding and other watersports are all on offer, too. CopenHill – a £500m world-first fusion of a green energy plant and an adventure centre – remains a huge draw. As well as a 1,640ft ski run and a climbing wall with dizzying views of the city, there's a landscaped hiking trail planted with 200 trees winding up to Copenhagen's highest viewing platform. As you burn off energy, the plant generates it. wonderfulcopenhagen.com

3 Munich

Perhaps it's the proximity to the Alps; or maybe its legacy of hosting huge sporting events. One thing is certain: this is a city that has activity in its veins. There are 745 miles of cycle paths, with 80% of Münchners estimated to own a bike, and dense pockets of green line the banks of the Isar, tempting both locals and visitors outdoors. Best known, perhaps, is the Englischer Garten – one of the largest urban parks in the world, and year-round, it's a hive of activity. In summer, river surfers tackle the white water of the Eisbach, which flows off the Isar; wooden rafts are paddled downstream; and bathers and picnickers converge on the white-sand beaches. In the winter months, the 3.5-mile cross-country ski trail that weaves through the floodplains of the river is a big draw. Horse-riding excursions are available, and there are nearly 50 miles of trails through the park for joggers and cyclists.

WHY GO NOW? 'Two hours at high altitude' is how Munich's Olympic Stadium bills its roof-climb experience, high above the hallowed turf on which the 1972 Olympics, and the World Cup final two years later, were staged. The tour culminates – if you're daring enough – in a zip-line down to pitch level. For summer, the variety of pools and swimming spots within the city almost rivals Copenhagen. The Dantebad is heated to 30C throughout the year. Prinzregentenbad, across the Isar in the east of the city, has an outdoor pool and an adjacent river beach popular with volleyballers. And, for an alternative take on the palaces of Schloss Schleissheim and Schloss Nymphenburg, do as the Bavarian overlords once did and consider a ride in a Venetian gondola along the adjacent canals. After all that activity, a little sit down will be a welcome relief. munich.travel

IMAGES: GETTY; AMÉLIE LOUYS

CopenHill is a unique waste-to-energy plant in Copenhagen with a ski slope and climbing wall on its roof Clockwise from above: Abseiling off Porto's Luís I Bridge is an adrenaline-filled way to see the city; paddleboarders can often be seen making their way down the Ljubljanica River on a sunny day

KIT LIST

Street smart

FROM RUNNING SHOES TO SMARTWATCHES, THESE SIX PRODUCTS ARE BOTH COOL AND COMFORTABLE – IDEAL FOR YOUR NEXT ACTIVE URBAN ADVENTURE

1 NEW BALANCE 740 SHOES
Blending a nostalgic early 2000s aesthetic with fresh, contemporary elements, these New Balance trainers are both fashion-forward and performance driven. Cushioning ensures long-lasting comfort whatever the adventure, from site-hopping in Rome to cycling beside Amsterdam's canals. A mesh outer layer means they're breathable, too, which is key for summer escapes. £100. newbalance.co.uk

2 FJÄLLRÄVEN VISBY 3 IN 1 JACKET
Summer may be just around the corner, but when the heavens open, soggy sightseeing can put a real dampener on a city break. This waterproof, breathable jacket is perfect for rainy days, falling to around knee-length and featuring an adjustable hood for extra protection. It's also incredibly versatile, with a light, padded inner layer that you can wear separately when the weather changes and the sun starts to shine. £600. fjallraven.com

3 RANCHERO YETI PACK
Renowned for travel packs that protect your gear whatever the activity, YETI has made its first foray into urban adventure wear this year. And the result is impressive. Coming in four core colours, this sleek, understated pack will look great in the coolest of European cities but it's also incredibly practical. Side-zip entry points mean easy access to essentials buried at the bottom of your bag and padded pockets give laptops complete protection. It's also light, wipeable and completely waterproof for when European weather catches you out. £200. uk.yeti.com

4 THE NORTH FACE MEN'S CONVERTIBLE JACKET
Striking an ideal balance between versatility, functionality and style, this North Face jacket transforms into a gilet for when the weather warms up. Velcro pockets — plus a hidden compartment — ensures phones and wallets stay secure, too. The North Face has built up a world-famous reputation for the durability of its products, and this jacket will last years. £180. thenorthface.co.uk

5 LULULEMON WUNDER TRAIN HIGH-RISE TIGHT
Stroll along any street in London and you'll likely see a local sporting black high-rise gym leggings. Stretchy, lightweight and breathable, this pair from renowned global brand Lululemon are designed with the gym in mind, featuring a waistband draw cord to stop them slipping and fabric designed to whisk away sweat. But these days, they're also a fashion statement, worn for any city outing from park walks to Saturday brunch. £88. lululemon.co.uk

6 GARMIN FENIX 8 SMARTWATCH
This is the ultimate smartwatch for athletes and adventurers. Planning an urban swim in Copenhagen? The Fenix 8 is completely waterproof. Or a morning run around Barcelona? Not only can you track your performance, but built-in navigation means taking a wrong turn is a thing of the past. Each morning, you'll receive a full health breakdown, from sleep quality and recovery to training, so you can determine if it's a good day to push yourself. With 10 days of battery life, you won't need to worry about bringing a charger, either. From £949.99. garmin.com

WORDS: CHARLOTTE WIGRAM-EVANS

BENVENUTI IN ITALIA

GRAND HOTEL MAJESTIC
GIÀ BAGLIONI
BOLOGNA
★★★★★L
LEADING HOTELS®

HOTEL BERNINI PALACE
FIRENZE
★★★★★
LVX™
Preferred HOTELS & RESORTS

DUE TORRI HOTEL
VERONA
★★★★★L
LEADING HOTELS®

HOTEL BRISTOL PALACE
GENOVA
★★★★★
LVX™
Preferred HOTELS & RESORTS

WWW.DUETORRIHOTELS.COM

Happy birthday, Amsterdam!

TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD FESTIVALS, A NINE-MILE-LONG STREET PARTY AND A WHOLE YEAR OF REVELRY – AMSTERDAM IS PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS FOR ITS 750TH BIRTHDAY. WORDS: MATT PHILLIPS

This year, Amsterdam marks its extraordinary 750-year journey from medieval fishing village to global cultural capital with a festival programme as dynamic and diverse as the city itself. Everyday spaces will be transformed in unexpected ways – on the longest day of the year, locals will reclaim the traffic-heavy A10 ring road for a nine-mile street party featuring culture, sport and even 20 weddings. Meanwhile, in late August, the waters of the IJ will come alive with a grand parade of tall ships, along with 800 other vessels. The celebrations will also echo through lesser-visited neighbourhoods, each showcasing its own spirit with 24-hour festivals. Locals are throwing open their city to celebrate the rich tapestry of stories and communities that make modern Amsterdam – and everyone's invited.

7 MARCH–1 JULY

The Birth of the City

Housed inside the magnificent De Bazel building, the Stadsarchief is a landmark exhibition bridging the gap between medieval and modern Amsterdam. It explores the city's humble beginnings via curated artefacts, interactive displays and archaeological finds, including a striking facial reconstruction of The First Amsterdammer (circa 1200) and the pivotal 1275 toll privilege, which granted tax exemptions that fuelled the city's growth. Rare manuscripts and maps also chart the evolution of Amsterdam's layout and trade routes, while immersive digital installations conjure the landscapes of the era. Together, they paint a portrait of how politics and perseverance transformed a medieval fishing village into a global capital.

MULTIPLE DATES

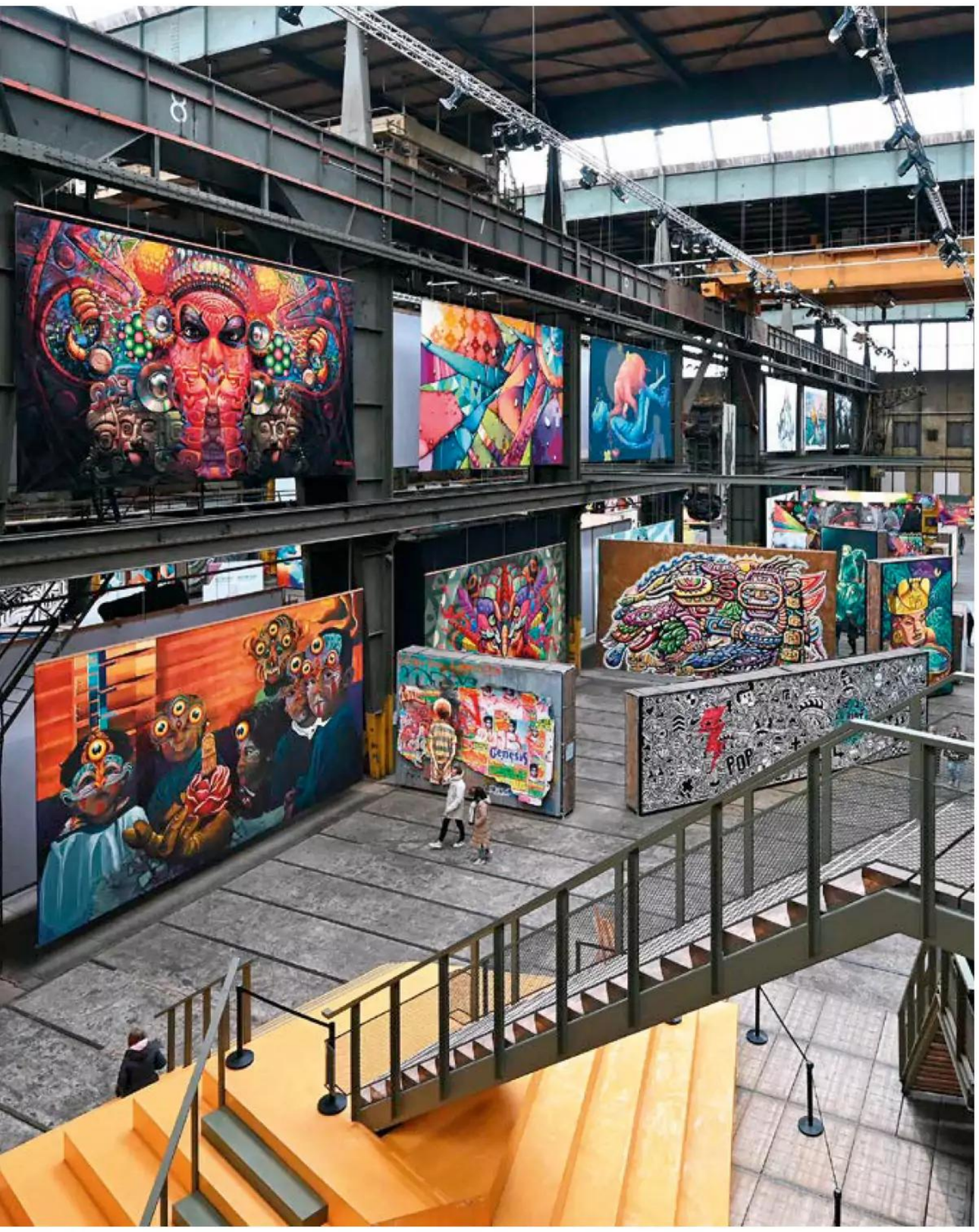
24 Hours Amsterdam

Discover Amsterdam's diverse, lesser-known neighbourhoods through the remaining 24-hour celebrations: Noord (13 Sep) and Zuid (11 Oct). Each district will transform into a round-the-clock cultural playground offering visitors unprecedented access to local treasures, including late-night sessions at museumss, behind-the-scenes tours and workshops with local artisans. There's also brewery tastings and chef-led food experiences that spotlight each area's favourite flavours. Then, when night falls, a whole host of live concerts and DJ sets take place in unexpected venues. From Noord's industrial NDSM Wharf to Zuid's cultural gems and Weesp's historic charm, these free festivals reveal the city's vibrant community spirit.

21 JUNE

The Grand Ring Road Celebration

For one remarkable day, Amsterdam's A10 ring road – which usually divides the city into 'inside' and 'outside' – will become a unifying celebration space. What's usually a busy highway will become a buzzing, nine-mile-long festival, where thousands of locals and visitors can come together to celebrate the city's 750th birthday. There will be zones dedicated to sports and games, art and culture stages, musical performances and even a knowledge and science area. In a particularly special touch, 20 couples will celebrate their love by getting married on the highway. Visitors can also participate in the festival's fun run, enjoy theatrical performances, savour local food and witness colourful parades.



Amsterdam's canals are always a hive of activity From left: Amsterdam's 'dancing houses' get their nickname from the way they seem to sway and dance, creating an optical illusion; STRAAT Museum is the world's largest street art museum

NOW UNTIL 31 AUGUST

Women of Amsterdam – an ode

Honour the women who shaped Amsterdam's social, cultural and economic life at this landmark exhibition at the Amsterdam Museum. Here, immersive displays, personal artefacts and carefully curated collections all tell the tales of more than 100 trailblazing figures, including various artists, entrepreneurs, activists and community leaders. Newly commissioned pieces by contemporary artists Mina Abouzahra, Mounira Al Solh and Tyna Adebowale also offer fresh, modern takes on these powerful narratives. Part of Amsterdam's 750th-anniversary celebrations, the show casts a more inclusive, compelling light on the voices that built the city we know today.

20–24 AUGUST

SAIL Amsterdam 2025

The city's seafaring history comes to life during this spectacular, five-day festival where more than 800 vessels, from majestic tall ships to modern naval crafts, sail through the North Sea Canal in the SAIL-In Parade. For the best panoramic views, visitors should head to A'DAM Tower or NDSM Wharf, while Java-eiland and Piet Heinkade offer thrilling close-ups of the action. Beyond the sailing spectacle, visitors can board historic ships, embark on sailing excursions, enjoy cultural performances and take part in interactive workshops. This edition is set to be particularly special, marking SAIL's 50th and the event's 10th edition. With the last SAIL Amsterdam cancelled in 2020 due to Covid, 2025 promises to be an unforgettable comeback.

THROUGHOUT 2025

Badass Tours

Thoroughly researched via national archives and led by engaging storytellers, Badass Tours ventures beyond traditional tourist narratives. Its small-group guided tours spotlight the 'people who broke the rules and built the future of Amsterdam'. For example, the Hidden Gems tour weaves together BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Jewish and women's history to reveal Amsterdam's lesser-known pioneers. Travellers learn about figures like Bet van Beeren, who opened the city's first gay-friendly bar in 1927 – Bet's Bar, still open today – and turned it into a safe haven during Nazi occupation. Other stops highlight early resistance efforts against slavery and other stories of those who helped shape the city's diverse identity.

27 OCTOBER

Amsterdam 750

While the full line-up's still under wraps, the city promises a showstopping finale to culminate its year-long schedule of events, with festivities popping up all across town. The medieval heart of the Dam makes a likely spot for official ceremonies, while Museumplein's open expanse could set the stage for major performances. Come nightfall, visitors can expect fireworks over the IJ between Central Station and A'DAM Tower – a tried-and-true crowd-pleaser. The Amstel River and historic Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge) have also provided stunning backdrops for floating stages and water shows in the past. This one-of-a-kind event will unite locals and visitors in celebrating Amsterdam's extraordinary story. amsterdam750.nl

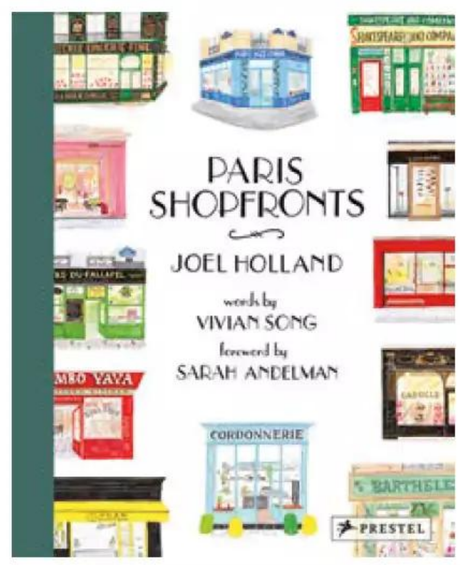
IMAGES: GETTY; ALAMY

BEYOND THE GUIDEBOOK

Windows to Paris

AUTHOR VIVIAN SONG EXPLORES THE CHARM OF PARISIAN SHOPFRONTS AND THE JOYS OF DISCOVERING THEM ON FOOT

It's fair to say, my life in Paris is a quiet and modest one. As a textbook introvert, I find that some of my greatest pleasures in the city are the small, simple ones, often involving long, meandering strolls and, if I'm lucky, the discovery of a hidden alleyway or charming shopfront.



I still remember the thrill of stumbling upon the verses of French poet Arthur Rimbaud carved on a stone wall, after ambling along a quiet street en route to the Luxembourg Gardens. It was late autumn, and I had a dreamy kind of nostalgia as I read *The Drunken Boat*, printed in elegant, oversized calligraphy. I was teleported back to university when my French literature class discussed the power of the 17-year-old's precocious poetry.

Had I turned right instead of left on Rue de Vaugirard that afternoon, I'd have stumbled upon Le Pont Traversé, a quaint butcher-turned-bookshop that anchors the corner of a quiet street in the 6th arrondissement. But it wasn't until four years later that I'd stop in my tracks at its historic, cobalt-blue facade. Now in its third life, the neighbourhood coffee shop left such an impression that, another five years on, when asked to compile a longlist for the book *Paris Shopfronts*, I knew immediately that the address had to be included.

I share this anecdote to remind readers that Paris has many astonishing, underexplored corners. And you'll only happen upon them if you allow time to indulge in languid walks through the city's labyrinthine alleyways or along the shimmering Seine, completely abandoning yourself to the sights, smells and sounds. This pastime is so uniquely Parisian, there's a word for this specific type of walking experience that only the city's streetscapes can inspire: *flâner*.

Since I moved from Toronto to Paris in 2010, these discovery walks have deepened my ability to appreciate the finer details. Some of my favourites include the old-fashioned romanticism of French cursive writing on chalkboard menu boards and flower signs, as well as ornamental knockers and handles on French doors.

After conducting research for this book, I now know the history behind some of the striking landmarks I've walked past hundreds of times and admired casually from afar. Spots like Au Rocher de Cancale, a neo-renaissance cafe that inspired French writer Honoré de Balzac's story and essay collection *La Comédie Humaine*, or the underappreciated Librairie Galignani, the oldest English-language bookshop in Paris.

But I've also been delighted to discover niche shops like Au Plat d'Étain, which has been selling toy soldiers since 1775, or to share personal favourites like Olive Chicken, a discrete and humble restaurant that serves up some of the best Korean fried chicken in Paris.

The city's timeless monuments offer reassurance that Paris will always be Paris, however, in my view, it's this new wave of bold, imaginative shopkeepers and quiet discoveries that truly sustain the city's reputation as a *flâneur's* paradise.

Paris Shopfronts: Illustrations of the City's Best-Loved Boutiques, Brasseries, Bars and More by Joel Holland and Vivian Song is published by Prestel, £25

PLAN YOUR TRIP TO PARIS

THE MUST-READ BOOK
Doorways of Paris
Barcelona native Raquel Puig began capturing some of the city's most beautiful doors when she lived in Paris in 2016, sharing them on her Instagram account @doorwaysofparis. I share this obsession and was glad to spot some of my favourites in her book, which features 300 Parisian facades.

THE INSTAGRAM YOU CANT MISS
The Guide of Paris
The original French version of this account has more than 1.3 million followers and has become a trusted arbiter for the city's best street food. I really appreciate the diversity of cuisines and neighbourhoods featured. @theguideofparis

THE BEST ONLINE GUIDE
Le Bonbon English
Available in both English and French, Le Bonbon is one of the most comprehensive online guides for Parisian locals. It covers everything from the best spas and speakeasies to the top exhibits, festivals, concerts and even weekly family-friendly events. lebonbon.fr

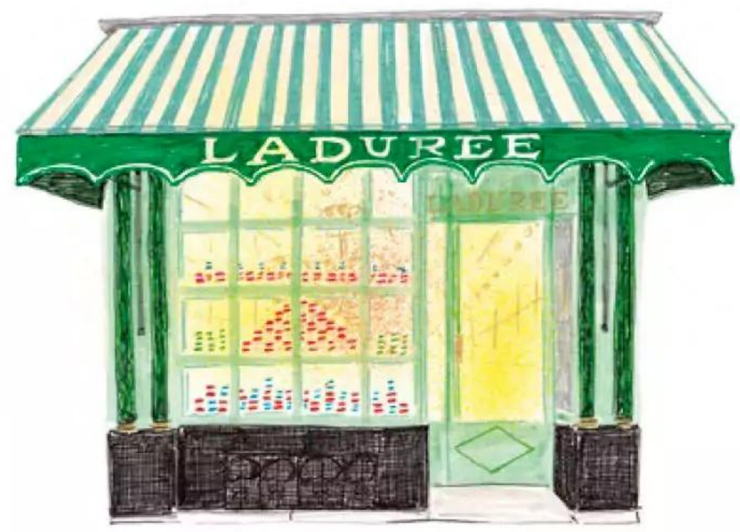
THE BLOGGER TO FOLLOW
Tatty Macleod
This French-British comedian shot to fame in 2021 with hilarious parodies of French versus British culture — think '*la bise*' gone wrong. Now permanently based in Paris, she shares candid snapshots of her everyday life in the French capital. tattymacleod.com

THE NEWSLETTER YOU NEED
What's Up, Paris?
Michelin Guide editor and *Forbes* contributor Rooksana Hossenally curates the best places to eat, drink and sleep in her hyperlocal newsletter. Expect everything from 1980s-themed dance parties to the hottest new pop-up spots. whatsup-paris.com

IMAGES: JOEL HOLLAND

A LA MERE DE FAMILLE
CONFISERIE EPICERIE FINE
A LA MERE DE FAMILLE

THE ABBEY BOOKSHOP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24 LA MAISON DU MIEL 24

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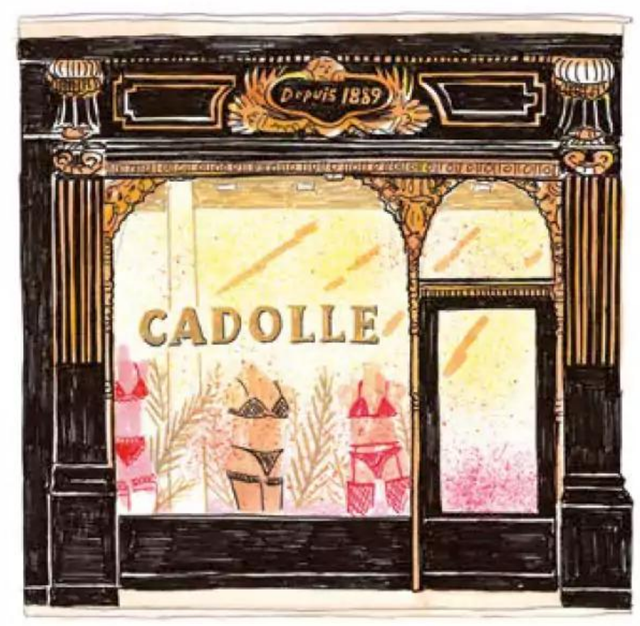
Depuis 1889
CADOLLE

AU PIED DE COCHON
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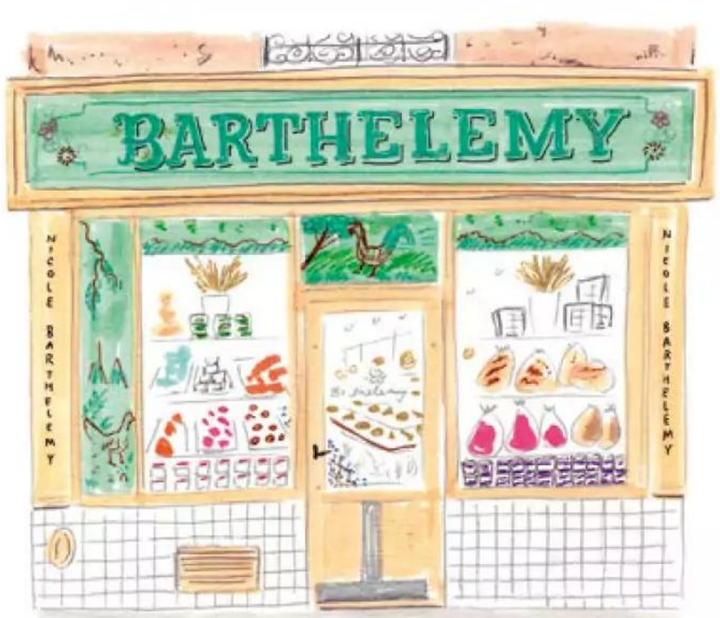
LA BELLE HORTENSE
CAVE LIBRAIRIE BAR LITTERAIRE

MARTIN
BRASSERIE MARTIN


BARTHELEMY
NICOLE BARTHELEMY
NICOLE BARTHELEMY

CAFE des 2 MOULINS
BRASSERIE
BUFFETS CHAUDS & FROIDS
BAR
BRASSERIE

115
PHARMACIE
115

BAR

IMAGE: GETTY

Rome's timeless charm draws crowds to its ancient, storied streets

EUROPEAN CITIES COLLECTION

DIRECTORY

40 | EPIDAMN HOTEL
41 | HOTEL ALTSTADT VIENNA
42 | HOTEL SANS SOUCI WIEN
43 | THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM VIENNA
44 | REBEL TOURS VIENNA
45 | 1898 THE POST HOTEL
46 | EMPORIA WINE AND DINE HOTEL
47 | THE EMPORIA WINERY EXPERIENCE
48 | GALLERY 11/07/95
49 | HOTEL BAŠKUĆA SARAJEVO
51 | ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN SPLIT
52 | AUGUSTINE, A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL, PRAGUE
53 | HILTON PRAGUE OLD TOWN
54 | HOTEL SKT. ANNÆ
55 | MY CITY HOTEL
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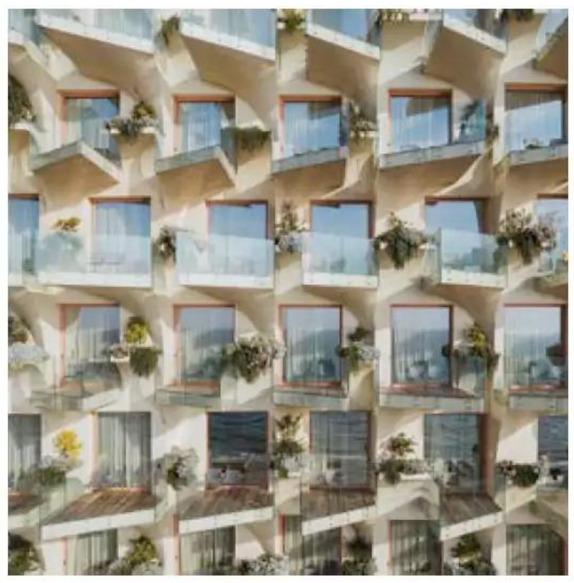
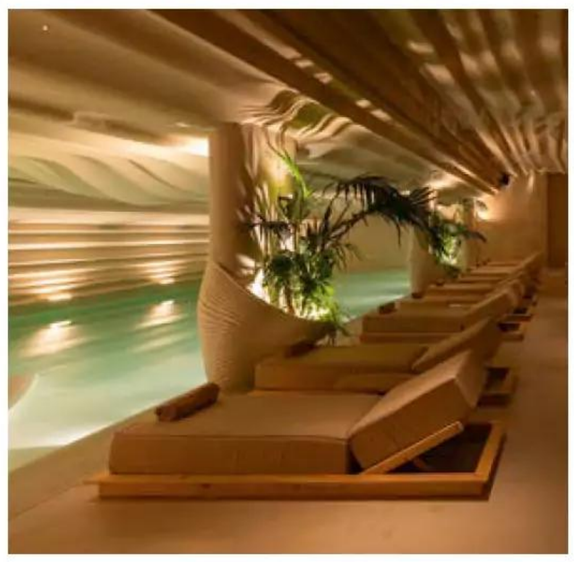
57 | RENAISSANCE BORDEAUX HOTEL
58 | KEYSTONE HÔTEL & SPA
59 | MOONTOWN WALKING TRAVEL
60 | NOVOTEL PARIS PORTE DE VERSAILLES
61 | CLOCKS HOTEL TBILISI
63 | VISIT ESSEN
64 | REVO MUNICH
65 | ARIA HOTELS – LA DIVINA
66 | ATHENIAN TOURS
67 | OLIVE SEA TRAVEL
68 | THESSALONIKI TOURISM ORGANISATION
69 | BALTAZÁR BOUTIQUE HOTEL BUDAPEST
70 | DOROTHEA HOTEL, BUDAPEST
71 | KIMPTON BEM BUDAPEST
72 | MUSEUM OF ETHNOGRAPHY
73 | HOTEL TORRE DI BELLOSGUARDO
74 | CHIAJA AND DECUMANI HOTELS DE CHARME
75 | 47 BOUTIQUE HOTEL
76 | PALAZZO BAJ IN TRASTEVERE
77 | PALAZZO RIPETTA
78 | SOTTERRANEI DI ROMA
79 | TURTLE TOURS
80 | HOTEL AL PONTE MOCENIGO
81 | HOTEL NANI MOCENIGO PALACE
82 | RIGA MOTOR MUSEUM
83 | THE MUSEUM OF THE OCCUPATION OF LATVIA
84 | THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
85 | HÔTEL LE PLACE D'ARMES, RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX
87 | ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL
88 | INCREDIBLE AMSTERDAM
89 | LEONARDO BOUTIQUE MUSEUMHOTEL, AMSTERDAM
90 | ANNE&MAX BOUTIQUE HOTEL
91 | HOTEL SASKI KRAKÓW CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON
92 | NOBU HOTEL
93 | PURO WARSZAWA STARE MIASTO
94 | THE BRIDGE MGALLERY WROCŁAW
95 | HYATT REGENCY LISBON
96 | LUMEN HOTEL & THE LISBON LIGHT SHOW
97 | THE YEATMAN
98 | GRAND HOTEL BELVEDERE
99 | BUCHAREST UNIRII SQUARE HANDWRITTEN COLLECTION
100 | CARO HOTEL
101 | RADISSON BLU HOTEL, BUCHAREST
102 | ASTRA MUSEUM
103 | EXPERIENCE TRNAVA REGION
104 | NEU RESIDENCES
105 | PLAYTOUR
106 | TOURS FOR TODAY
107 | CANOPY BY HILTON MADRID CASTELLANA
109 | ABBA THE MUSEUM
110 | HOTEL ALPENBLICK BERN – KIND OF A HOTEL
111 | LEGENDS OF LAKE LUCERNE – A LEGENDARY VOYAGE
112 | THE BANK HOTEL ISTANBUL
113 | SWISSÔTEL BÜYÜK EFES
114 | JOHNNIE WALKER PRINCES STREET





Epidamn Hotel

GOLEM, ALBANIA

Tucked along the sun-drenched Adriatic coast in Golem, Albania, Epidamn is more than a resort — it's a sensory experience woven into the spirit of the sea. Perfectly positioned just an hour or so from some of Albania's most iconic destinations — Berat, Gjirokastra, Tirana and Durrës — it invites travellers to explore the country's heart.

The property itself is a tribute to Albania's rich coastal identity. Balconies curve outward like sails catching the wind, while at the heart of the building, a striking spiral staircase mirrors the form of a seashell. Earthy tones of terracotta and sand reflect the shoreline just steps away. At the centre of it all, stands a monumental wall etched with the face of the goddess Artemis — a silent guardian of the resort's soulful calm.

Each of the 125 meticulously designed rooms offers a private balcony, where the view isn't just a backdrop but a transformative experience. As the sun melts into the sea, guests often describe the sunsets here as spiritual — moments that make the world feel both vast and intimately close.

Led by executive chef Ardit Qato, Epidamn's culinary philosophy is rooted in authenticity. The focus is on modern Mediterranean cuisine with an Albanian twist. Local farmer communities supply fresh produce, while the daily catch from the coast defines the rhythm of the kitchen. Signature reinterpretations of traditional dishes, like the beloved meat pie and traditional *jufka* (handmade) pasta with chicken, offer a taste of heritage with a contemporary twist.

Beyond the restaurant and panoramic suites, guests can relax in the spa, unwind beneath shaded palms by the pool with a crisp glass of local wine or take part in curated experiences that connect them with the region — sunset dinners, wellness rituals and seasonal food-tastings.

While Golem is often overlooked by those seeking Albania's better-known locales, insiders know it offers the perfect blend of accessibility and peace. Whether on a slow morning with the sea breeze curling in through a sail-shaped balcony or an evening filled with music and mezze, Epidamn is a place where Albania reveals its quiet, beautiful soul.

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Signature restaurant with modern Mediterranean cuisine
- Full-service spa & wellness centre
- Private beach & 3 outdoor pools
- 120 rooms & 5 luxury suites

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Sunset dining experiences
- Spa rituals
- Coastal bike rides along the Durrës Riviera
- Day trips to historic cities, including Berat, Gjirokastra and Tirana

GET IN TOUCH

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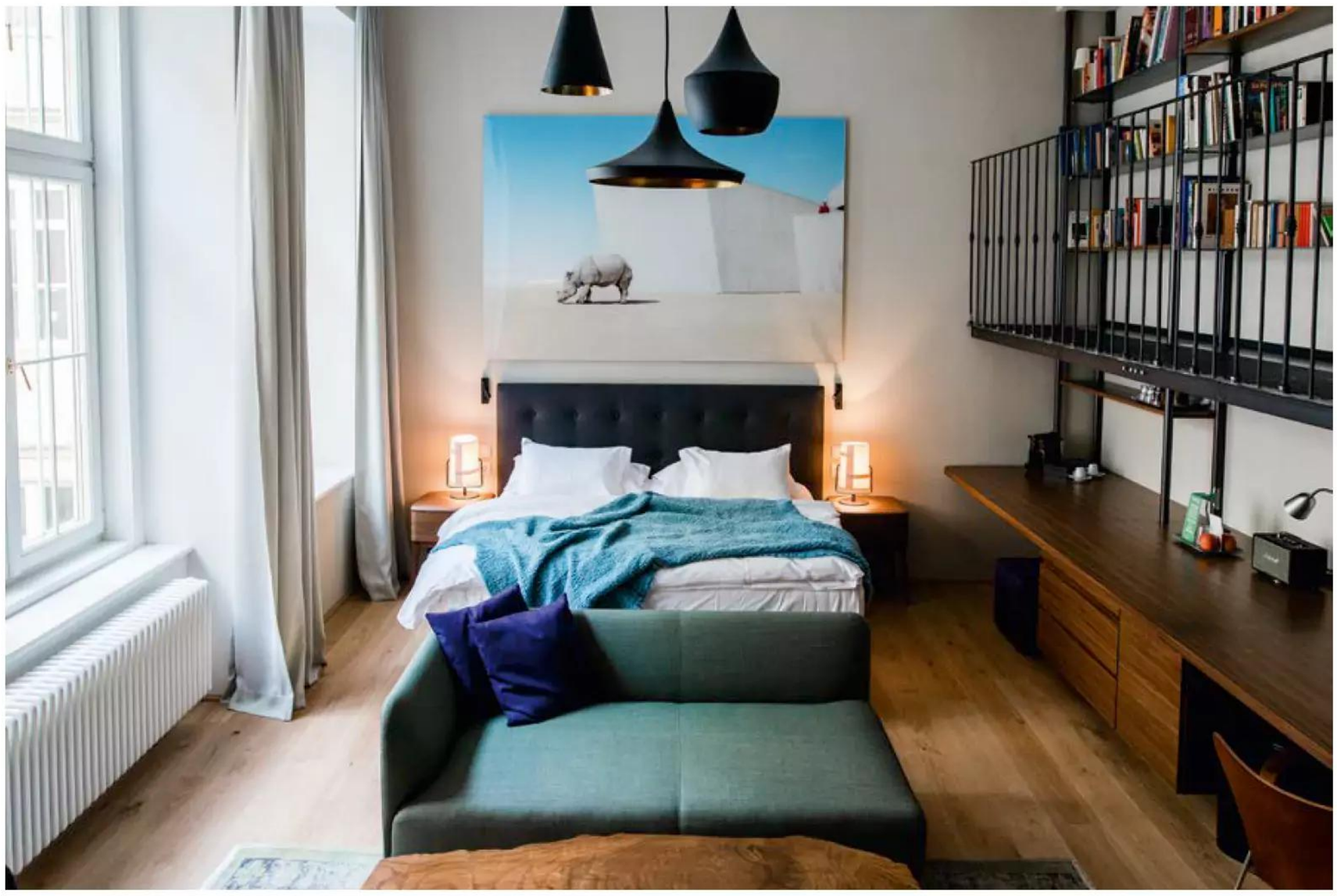
E: info-ws@epidamn.com

DON'T MISS Unwind beneath sail-shaped balconies and savour elevated Albanian cuisine crafted by expert chefs



Hotel Altstadt Vienna

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Located in the artistic Spittelberg district, Hotel Altstadt Vienna's recipe for success combines creativity with the Viennese approach to life. Personal service paired with bold innovation makes the hotel what it is today. Owner Otto Wiesenthal, a passionate art collector, opened the hotel in the early 1990s to combine his personal taste in art with all the comforts of a hotel.

Hotel Altstadt Vienna is perfect for travellers seeking a place to stay with a unique atmosphere. Its 62 rooms and suites — including the Library Suite, Opera Suite and Josef Hoffmann Suite — have been individually designed, many by renowned designers and architects such as Matteo Thun and Lilli Hollein. A highlight is the new Freud Suite, designed by architect Elfrid Wimmer-Repp. Inspired by the life and legacy of Sigmund Freud, the suite invites guests to delve into the fascinating world of the iconic Viennese psychoanalyst.

The lavish breakfast buffet, offering mostly regional and organic products, is served in four salons, with large windows looking onto the beautiful St Ulrich's Church. In the largest lounge, guests will find an open fireplace, games and books, plus the chance to indulge in afternoon tea, cakes and a sweet buffet.

Within walking distance of the hotel are some of the city's major historic buildings and museums, including the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Hofburg, Vienna State Opera and Museum of Modern Art (MUMOK). Foodies will be pleased to discover that the hotel's neighbourhood is home to numerous great restaurants, ranging from comfortable, no-frills Viennese beisl (bistro) to award-winning eateries serving modern international cuisine. Vienna's longest shopping street, Mariahilferstrasse, is just five minutes away, with side streets home to smaller boutiques offering handicrafts and locally produced goods. Hotel Altstadt Vienna also regularly collaborates with local entrepreneurs, such as chocolatiers or ceramicists, to offer guests an immersive experience in the city's creative heritage.

Staff are also on hand to offer reccomendations on what to do and see in Vienna, as well as arrange tours, opera tickets and table bookings..

DON'T MISS Set off on a guided tour of the hotel to learn more about the building's history – and the chance for a sneak peek of other room styles

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 62 individually designed rooms & suites
- Curated art collection of more than 350 works
- Breakfast buffet with vegan options
- Cosy bar
- Rooftop terrace in summer
- Austrian Ecolabel awarded hotel

GET IN TOUCH

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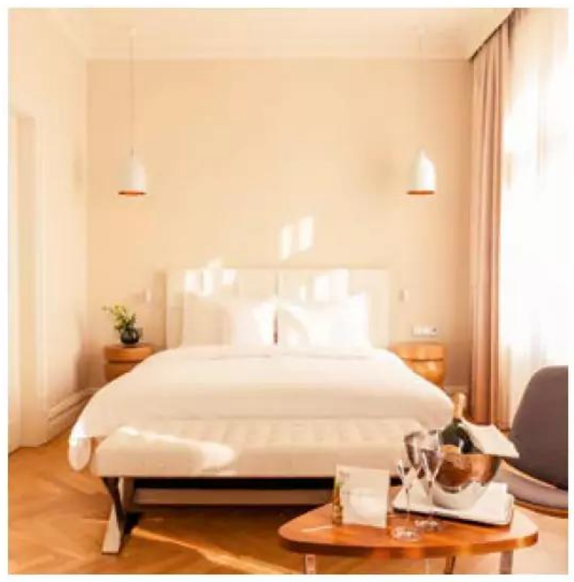

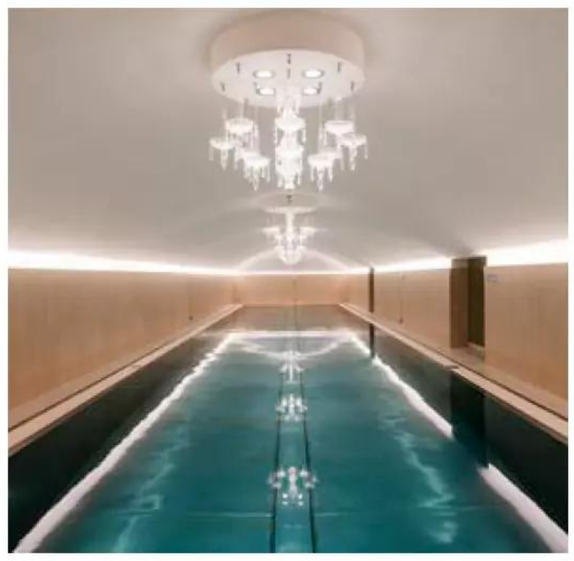

Hotel Sans Souci Wien

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Tucked away in Vienna's sophisticated 7th district, and only minutes away from the imperialistic 1st district, Hotel Sans Souci Wien is an elegant boutique hotel that captures the artistic spirit and timeless grandeur of the Austrian capital. Positioned at the gateway to the MuseumsQuartier, one of the world's largest cultural districts, this luxury retreat seamlessly merges contemporary design with historic charm, offering an unparalleled experience for culture aficionados and refined travellers alike.

Step outside, and the city's creative pulse is tangible. The surrounding Neubau district is a canvas for Vienna's modern art scene, home to independent galleries, concept stores and stylish cafes that reinterpret Austria's celebrated coffeehouse culture. Just across the street, the MuseumsQuartier houses landmark institutions such as the Leopold Museum, with its world-class collection of Egon Schiele masterpieces, and the Kunsthalle Wien, a hub for contemporary exhibitions. For those looking to explore beyond the mainstream, the narrow streets of Spittelberg — once an 18th-century artisan quarter — reveal charming boutiques and seasonal markets that showcase Vienna's vibrant local craftsmanship.

Inside, Sans Souci Wien embraces art. An in-house collection of works, curated in collaboration with renowned galleries, adorns the public spaces, while the 71 rooms and suites feature stylish interiors designed by Philippe Starck's esteemed team at YOO.

The hotel's Veranda Brasserie & Bar is a destination in itself, celebrating high-end Austrian cuisine with a contemporary twist. Dishes showcase the finest local ingredients, from Alpine char to seasonal produce sourced from regional farmers. Paired with an expertly curated selection of Austrian wines, the menu highlights the country's deep-rooted gastronomic traditions with a modern flair.

For moments of relaxation, the Sans Souci Spa offers a tranquil escape. Spanning 4,843sq feet, the wellness area boasts Vienna's longest hotel pool — an elegant 20-metre stretch illuminated by a stunning crystal chandelier. A selection of tailored treatments, from deep tissue massages to rejuvenating facials, ensures an indulgent retreat from the city's bustling streets.

DON'T MISS Stroll through the in-house art gallery and swim in Vienna's longest hotel pool under a crystal chandelier

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 71 rooms & suites
- Boutique art-hotel with in-house art exhibition
- Veranda Brasserie & Bar
- 4,843sq-feet spa area
- Longest hotel pool in Vienna
- Massages & personalised treatments
- Green Globe certified

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Spa & Wellness at the Sans Souci Spa
- Museums quarter with multiple renowned museums
- Experience Austrian coffee culture
- Hip art district with numerous galleries

GET IN TOUCH

sanssouci-wien.com
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The Natural History Museum Vienna

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The Natural History Museum Vienna is one of the grandest buildings on the Ringstrasse and home to more than 30 million objects, making it one of the world's largest natural history museums. Each year, more than a million visitors explore its vast collections, spanning natural science, prehistory and anthropology, all displayed in a spectacular historic setting.

Conceived by architects Gottfried Semper and Carl von Hasenauer as a palace of natural science and evolution', the museum was officially opened by Emperor Franz Joseph I on 10 August 1889. Across 39 exhibition halls on two floors, it offers an unforgettable journey through Earth's history and the diversity of life.

The lower floor features glittering gemstones, rare fossils, dinosaurs, the world's largest and oldest meteorite collection and exhibitions on human origins. Highlights include Maria Theresa's gemstone bouquet, the iconic 29,500-year-old Venus of Willendorf, the even older Venus of Galgenberg and the Gold Cabinet's prehistoric treasures. A full room is dedicated to remarkable finds from Hallstatt's 7,000-year-old salt mine and burial site.

The upper floor presents the astonishing diversity of the animal kingdom, from simple marine organisms to highly developed mammals. Numerous mounted specimens of extremely rare — and in some cases extinct — amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds can be admired here, many of them historical treasures.

Behind the scenes, 60 scientists are engaged in cutting-edge research across various fields of human, Earth and life sciences, working to address pressing environmental and climate-related questions. This also makes NHM Vienna one of the largest non-university research institutions in Austria. While much of this scientific work remains hidden from public view, the knowledge gained is continuously incorporated into the ever-evolving public exhibitions.

One of the absolute highlights for visitors is the opportunity to take a guided rooftop tour and enjoy the breathtaking view of Vienna's city centre and the magnificent buildings along the Ringstrasse.

DON'T MISS Enjoy spectacular views over Vienna's historic city centre from the roof of the museum

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Permanent and temporary collections
- Shop
- Cafe

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Guided tours
- Dinners
- Admire the view from the roof
- Night at the Museum

GET IN TOUCH

nhm.at
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Rebel Tours Vienna

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Rebel Tours Vienna offers an unconventional approach to exploring Austria's capital, blending Brazilian energy with Austrian humour. Founded by the Austro-Brazilian siblings Gabi and Basti, both state-certified guides, the company provides immersive walking tours that dive into Vienna's rich tapestry of history, art, cuisine and sports.

Since the beginning, their tours have been designed to create connections among both travellers and locals. Participants are encouraged to 'follow the curls' — a nod to the founders' distinctive curly hairstyles — as they navigate the city's hidden gems and iconic landmarks.

Vienna's diverse neighbourhoods serve as the backdrop for these explorations. With a variety of different tours, Basti and Gabi show their guests the breathtaking imperial classics like the Hofburg Palace and St Stephen's Cathedral, but also take in the lesser-known corners of the city. For those who want to dig a little deeper, the Hidden Vienna tour is a must: travellers get to know quaint, cobbled alleys, breathtaking courtyards and many more places that even the Viennese locals never visit. All of them are beautiful, peaceful and full of interesting stories to tell.

For those interested in a completely different experience, Rebel Tours also offers its Vienna meets Brazil Food Tour, where two culinary worlds collide, with opportunities to sample traditional Viennese dishes like *Käsekrainer* (smoked sausage with cheese) and *Sachertorte* (chocolate cake), as well as Brazilian classics like *moqueca* (fish stew) and *açaí* (a fruit bowl). There's also the History Run, which takes participants on a run around the Ring Road, through parks, gardens and baroque palaces while learning about the area's history.

Rebel Tours is capable of working with a multilingual audience, offering tours in German, English, Portuguese and Spanish. For those seeking a tailored experience, private tours are also available, allowing guests to customise their itinerary according to their specific interests. Inviting participants to become part of the Rebel Family, the siblings from Rebel Tours Vienna are famous for their great sense of humour, authentic perspectives and incredible hospitality.

DON'T MISS Dine at a traditional Heuriger — a charming outdoor wine tavern tucked among Vienna's scenic, vine-covered hills

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Family-run experience
- Custom private options
- Multilingual storytelling
- Off-the-beaten-path routes

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Hidden Vienna
- Vienna Meets Brazil Food Tour
- History Run
- Alternative Street Art

GET IN TOUCH

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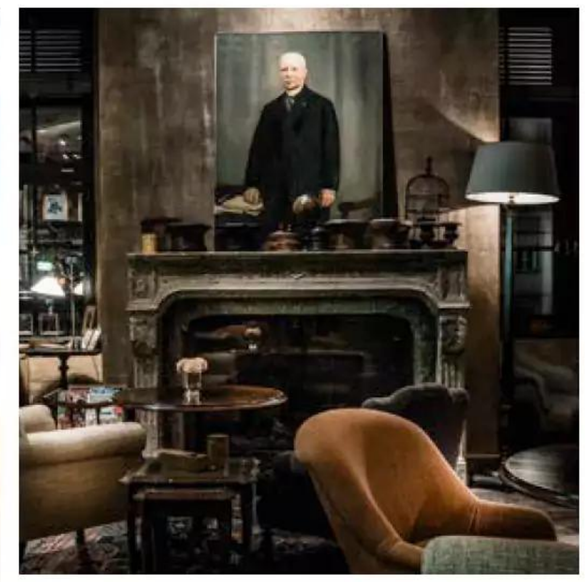

1898 The Post Hotel

GHENT, BELGIUM

In the heart of Ghent, Belgium, 1898 The Post is a boutique hotel that exudes historical charm and modern luxury. Housed in the city's former post office, this iconic building boasts neo-gothic architecture, which transports guests back in time while offering all the contemporary comforts.

The hotel features 38 elegantly decorated rooms and suites, each with their own unique character. High ceilings, antique furniture and sloped roofs create an atmosphere of timeless elegance. Guests can enjoy stunning views of Ghent from their rooms, which are equipped with king-size beds, free wi-fi and luxury amenities.

One of the highlights of 1898 The Post is The Kitchen, a shared space where guests can relax, work or enjoy a cup of coffee by the open fireplace. The Kitchen offers an American buffet breakfast, fresh and seasonal light dishes for lunch and homemade pastries for afternoon tea. This cosy area provides a perfect setting for meeting fellow travellers or simply unwinding after a day exploring Ghent.

For those who appreciate a well-crafted cocktail, The Cobbler is the hotel's in-house bar, named after a special type of cocktail shaker. The world-class bartenders at The Cobbler serve a creative range of cocktails, along with fine tapas and delicacies.

Ghent itself is a city rich in history and culture, offering an abundance of attractions for visitors. The hotel is located between the Graslei and the Korenmarkt, two of the city's most picturesque areas. The Graslei, with its stunning medieval architecture, is perfect for a leisurely stroll along the river. While the Korenmarkt is a bustling square filled with shops, cafes and historic buildings.

One of the must-visit sites in Ghent is the Gravensteen Castle, a medieval fortress that offers a glimpse into the city's past. The castle's well-preserved interiors and informative exhibits make it a fascinating destination for history enthusiasts.

Food-lovers will find plenty to delight their taste buds in Ghent. The city is known for its culinary scene, which ranges from traditional Belgian fare to innovative contemporary cuisine. Try local specialities such as *waterzooi* (a creamy stew made with chicken or fish) and *cuberdons* (cone-shaped raspberry candies).

DON'T MISS Enjoy a whisky in the hotel's honesty bar on the second floor, which overlooks Ghent's famous Grain Marke

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Historical hotel brimming with character
- Prime location close to Antwerp, Bruges and Brussels
- Personalised service
- Award-winning cocktail bar, The Cobbler
- Choice of 15 different room types
- Exclusivity for all guests, as there are only 38 rooms
- Meeting room for up to 10 people

GET IN TOUCH

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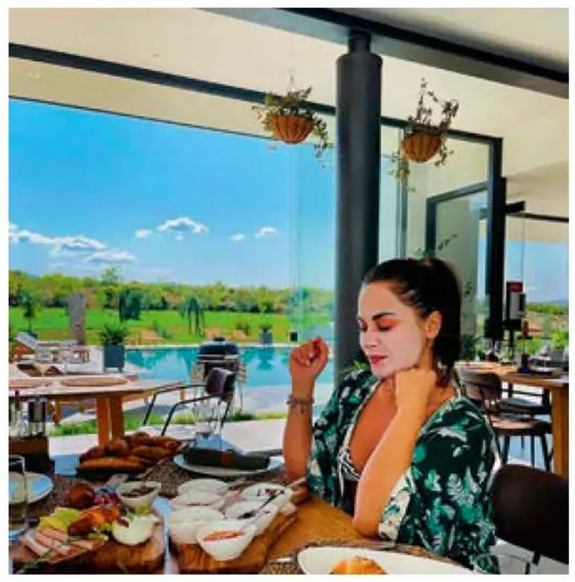

Emporia Wine and Dine Hotel

MOSTAR, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Emporia Wine and Dine Hotel blends luxury, natural beauty and exceptional gastronomy, making it a top destination for wine-lovers, food enthusiasts and cultural travellers in the Herzegovina region. Set in the tranquil Valley of Mostar, the hotel offers sweeping views of mountains, pristine rivers and fertile vineyards. Its 12 uniquely designed rooms provide guests with stunning vistas of the Dinaric Alps and Herzegovina's golden vineyards, immersing them in the region's rich culture and history.

Each room's thoughtful design strikes a perfect balance between modern luxury and the region's rich traditions. High-end furnishings, artistic details and soothing tones create an immediate sense of comfort and the friendly, professional staff ensure that every request is catered for.

Emporia's Wine and Dine experience is nothing short of world-class. The fine dining restaurant, housed within the hotel, goes beyond offering a meal; it promises a culinary journey. The kitchen blends modern culinary techniques with the ancient traditions of the region, creating dishes that are a feast for both the eyes and the palate. Each dish is carefully crafted to reflect the abundance of fresh, local ingredients that Herzegovina is known for. Whether it's sun-kissed courgettes, fresh Adriatic tuna tartare or slow-roasted veal with a modern twist, the dishes feel like art, reflecting the skill and creativity of Emporia's chefs.

The hotel also offers a variety of outdoor activities. Whether it's a wine-tasting tour through the estate's vineyards, a relaxing day by the pool overlooking the valley or an adventure-filled outing to nearby cultural and historical sites, the options for exploration are endless.

Visitors can also step back in time with a trip to the UNESCO-listed Stari Most, the historic bridge in the heart of Mostar, or explore the nearby Marian shrine of Medjugorje, which draws millions of pilgrims annually. Travellers can explore the charming cobblestone streets, traditional bazaars and historic mosques of the city, all while experiencing the unique blend of Ottoman and Mediterranean influences that define the valley.

DON'T MISS: Hike or bike through the surrounding countryside, with trails that lead through rolling vineyards and karst hills

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 12-room hotel set on a working wine estate above Mostar
- Seasonal menus with locally sourced ingredients & house-made liqueurs
- Design-led rooms with natural materials & vineyard or valley views
- Horizon pool with views
- On-site wine-tastings and cellar tours available
- Easily accessed from Mostar Airport or via a hire car from Dubrovnik/Split

GET IN TOUCH

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The Emporia Winery Experience

MOSTAR, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Set within the Emporia Wine and Dine Hotel in the heart of the Mostar Valley, the Emporia Winery has gained international recognition for its award-winning wines, with an impressive tally of accolades including eight Decanter World Wine Awards and a double gold from the American Wine Society for its white varieties.

The estate's winemaking legacy stretches back centuries. The first wine station and wine school in the region were founded here in 1866 during the reign of Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria. Today, Emporia's vineyards — known as the Imperial Vineyards — continue this noble tradition. By blending time-honoured techniques with state-of-the-art vinification methods, the winery produces limited batches of exceptional wines that reflect the terroir and soul of Herzegovina. For example, Emporia's signature wine, the Deep Red Cuvée, is a bold, expressive blend of cabernet sauvignon, syrah, merlot and the indigenous trnjak grape.

Guests can enjoy guided wine tastings that take place on the very estate where the grapes are grown and the wines are produced. With sweeping views of the surrounding vineyards and Dinaric Alps, these tours offer a sensory experience that connects visitors to the land, its people and its traditions. The experience begins beneath the surface, in a cool, stone-carved tunnel nestled into the hillside — an evocative space where the story of the winery vividly comes to life. From there, the visit unfolds into a leisurely open-air dining experience, where guests are invited to savour seasonal, locally sourced dishes on one of two west-facing stone terraces, perfectly positioned to catch the golden evening light. Each course is expertly paired with Emporia's wines, curated to highlight the harmony between food and drink. For those wishing to linger, slow food menus are available on request, encouraging guests to take their time and enjoy every nuance of flavour in an elegant setting.

Whether you're a seasoned oenophile or a curious traveller seeking an authentic cultural experience, a wine tour at Emporia offers more than just a tasting — it offers a journey into the heart of Herzegovina's winemaking traditions and the flavours, aromas and landscapes that define it.

DON'T MISS Pair Emporia's signature wines with a seasonal tasting menu as the sun sinks below the horizon

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Unique winemaking techniques
- Award-winning wines
- Historic roots dating back to the 19th-century Imperial Vineyards
- Atmospheric archive tunnel
- Seasonal fine dining & slow food menus available upon request
- Proximity to the UNESCO-listed city of Mostar

GET IN TOUCH

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Gallery 11/07/95

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Located in the heart of Sarajevo, Gallery 11/07/95 is a hybrid space that merges the concepts of a museum and a gallery. While centred on the memory of the Srebrenica genocide, it also engages with broader global narratives of trauma, remembrance and justice. Through both permanent and temporary exhibitions, the gallery places individual experiences and memories at the forefront, refusing to reduce such tragedies to mere commemorative gestures. The central mission of the gallery is to present the past as an enduring memory, one that must be interpreted and actively engaged with to ensure lasting dialogue about the consequences of war and violence.

The heart of the gallery's permanent exhibition is based on the powerful black-and-white photographs of Bosnian photographer Tarik Samarah, which document the aftermath of the Srebrenica genocide. Originally part of Samarah's monograph Srebrenica, these photographs have been transformed from a book into an evocative visual experience within the gallery space. The exhibition doesn't simply recount the genocide's events; it highlights the profound, lasting impact on the victims and their communities, and the long-reaching consequences of such atrocities.

The theme of testimony is integral to the gallery's message, encapsulated by the phrase 'you are my witness'. This central phrase is more than just a slogan — it serves as a call to action, inviting visitors to reflect on their own role in bearing witness to the atrocities of the past. The responsibility to witness is vital, as it compels individuals to not only acknowledge historical horrors but also to ensure they're never repeated.

Gallery 11/07/95 believes in art and culture as forces of rehumanisation, aligning ethical and aesthetic principles to present the Srebrenica genocide as a historical and civilisational punctum to which we must constantly return. The gallery actively challenges visitors to confront this difficult history, ensuring that the memory of Srebrenica remains vital in collective consciousness. Its engagement with the past encourages a deeper understanding of violence's consequences and the importance of preserving human dignity.

DON'T MISS Discover the powerful exhibition of Tarik Samarah's photographs documenting the aftermath of the Srebrenica genocide

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Permanent exhibition of photographs
- Temporary thematic exhibitions
- Multimedia installations
- Museum shop

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Viewing of the permanent exhibition
- Attending temporary exhibitions
- Using audio guides for enhanced visitor experience

GET IN TOUCH

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IMAGES: DŽENAT DREKOVIĆ & MIDHAT MUJKIĆ

Hotel Baškuća Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Tucked in the heart of Sarajevo's historic Baščaršija, Hotel Baškuća offers a serene escape amid one of Europe's most captivating old towns. Surrounded by centuries of culture and charm, this boutique retreat blends heritage with comfort and was named one of *TIME* magazine's World's Greatest Places for 2025, for its authentic character, breathtaking setting and warm hospitality.

With a variety of accommodations, including 21 rooms and three suites, the hotel offers options ranging from rooms with balconies, perfect for enjoying the surrounding views, to rooms with panoramic sky windows. Each has been designed to ensure every guest feels right at home, with comfort at the forefront of the experience.

The architecture of Hotel Baškuća, inspired by traditional Bosnian *kuća* (houses), serves as a loving tribute to the region's rich heritage. Beautifully restored, it maintains its historical integrity while providing modern luxuries. The hotel also houses a carefully curated collection of paintings by Bosnian artists, complemented by handcrafted wooden furniture from Konjic — a town known for its traditional woodcarving, recognised by UNESCO. These elements come together to create a space that feels both timeless and rooted in the cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, inviting art-lovers and other travellers to connect more deeply with the region's creative spirit and cultural depth.

Just a short stroll from the iconic Sebilj Fountain, the hotel is also near Kazandžiluk (Copper Street), one of the oldest quarters in the city, famous for its centuries-old metalworking tradition. Guests can easily visit the grand Sarajevo City Hall and the historically significant Latin Bridge. For sweeping, panoramic views, the Yellow Fortress is just a short walk uphill and offers a perfect sunset view over the city's minarets and red-tiled rooftops.

The hotel's restaurant, Kiren, blends Bosnian, Turkish and European influences in an elegant setting. Local, seasonal ingredients shape flavour-rich appetisers and Anatolian-inspired dishes — each with a Bosnian twist — inviting guests to relax and savour the region's rich culinary heritage.

DON'T MISS Savour an unforgettable dining experience at the hotel's in-house restaurant, Kiren, where every dish is a celebration of flavours

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 24-hour reception
- 21 rooms
- 3 suites
- Restaurant with courtyard
- Meeting room
- Private parking
- EV charging
- Laundry service

GET IN TOUCH

baskuca.com
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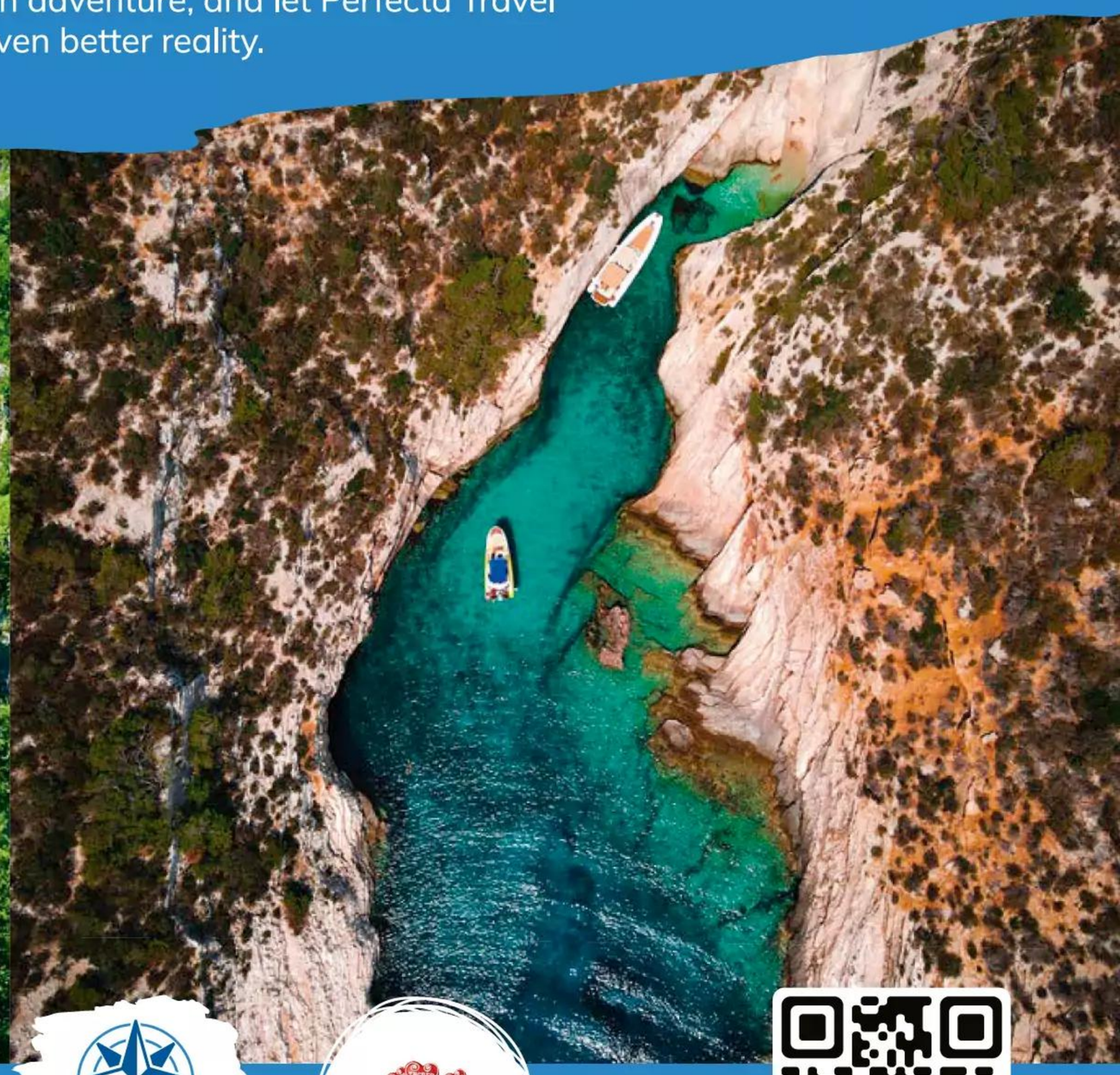

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Archaeological Museum in Split

SPLIT AND SOLIN, CROATIA

The Archaeological Museum in Split, Croatia's oldest museum, has served as a beacon of cultural preservation for over 200 years. It radiates a unique energy, acting as a time capsule containing over 150,000 artefacts spanning millennia — from the prehistoric era to modern times.

Located a short walk from the city centre, the museum offers a peaceful retreat from the bustling streets. Visitors can explore priceless monuments and artefacts, each telling a story that deepens our understanding of the lives and beliefs that shaped the region. The museum's garden and lapidarium enhance the experience, allowing visitors to fully immerse themselves in this rich cultural heritage.

Select exhibits are specially adapted for visually impaired visitors, featuring Braille text, audio guides and tactile models to provide a more accessible and engaging experience.

In addition to the museum in Split, visitors can explore the nearby ancient ruins of Salona. These two locations offer complementary experiences: the museum safeguards Salona's history and highlights its connection to Split. The relationship between these two sites can be explored at the museum, where the deep historical connection between Salona and Diocletian's Palace, later Split, is brought to life.

Salona is one of Croatia's most important archaeological sites. Once the capital of Roman Dalmatia, its ruins, including the Amphitheatre, Theatre, Episcopal Complex and Manastirine, offer a vivid window into Roman life and architecture. As the burial site of St Domnius, the patron saint of Split, Salona also holds profound spiritual significance for the region.

Visitors can explore its rich history through expert-guided tours, capture stunning photos, or even host a wedding or special event in this unique setting. Thanks to the addition of augmented reality, the site's ancient grandeur now comes to life, offering an interactive way to experience its captivating heritage.

Together, the Archaeological Museum in Split and the ancient ruins of Salona provide an immersive journey through history, revealing the roots of modern Croatian culture.

DON'T MISS Book a guided tour of the museum and Salona, where experts reveal stories and secrets that bring history to life

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Archaeological Museum in Split
- Lapidarium and museum garden
- Ancient ruins of Salona
- Tusculum House at Salona

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Explore ancient artefacts at the museum
- Visit the archaeological ruins of Salona
- Book expert-guided tours (available on request)
- Experience Salona through augmented reality

GET IN TOUCH

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Augustine, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Prague

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Tucked into the heart of Prague, just steps from Charles Bridge, and with sweeping views of Prague Castle, Augustine, a Luxury Collection Hotel offers an exceptional experience, which combines the luxury of a five-star stay with the rich heritage of a living 13th-century Augustinian monastery.

Still home to a community of monks, the property offers more than just a hotel — it's a serene retreat where history, architecture and a convivial atmosphere converge. Cloistered gardens, stone archways and a centuries-old library create a rare sense of peace, providing an oasis of calm amid the centre of the historic city.

Spanning seven carefully restored buildings, the hotel features 101 rooms, including 20 distinctive suites. Each room is unique, with many preserving the original layout of the monks' quarters. Notable highlights include the Tower Suite, perched in the former astronomical tower with panoramic views of the city, the Fresco Suite, featuring beautifully restored 18th-century wall paintings, and the Moser Suite, showcasing bespoke crystal accents from the renowned Czech glassmaker.

Guests enjoy exclusive access to the monastery through the peaceful Sundial Garden — perfect for quiet reflection. The Refectory Bar, once the monks' dining hall, now serves inventive 'Angel' cocktails beneath vaulted ceilings and baroque frescoes, alongside St Thomas Beer — a rare, monastic brew made exclusively for the hotel using a centuries-old recipe passed down by the Augustinians.

At Augustine Restaurant, the cuisine is rooted in French culinary principles, while celebrating locally sourced, organic ingredients. The focus is on sustainability and enhancing the natural flavours of the region, with each dish thoughtfully crafted to reflect both tradition and modern technique. In the warmer months, the monastery garden transforms into a tranquil dining spot, ideal for an afternoon glass of wine or a leisurely meal under the sun.

Whether visiting Prague for the first time or returning for a more reflective stay, Augustine offers a distinct experience, rooted in centuries of tradition, surrounded by the peaceful rhythms of monastic life and designed for true rest.

DON'T MISS Join a guided tour led by the hotel concierge to uncover the secrets of the Augustinian order, the monastery and the hotel's past

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 101 unique rooms
- Exceptional breakfast
- Restaurant with seasonal menus
- Bar
- Fitness centre
- Spa
- Meeting rooms
- Sundial garden & terrace
- Monastery & Library tours

GET IN TOUCH

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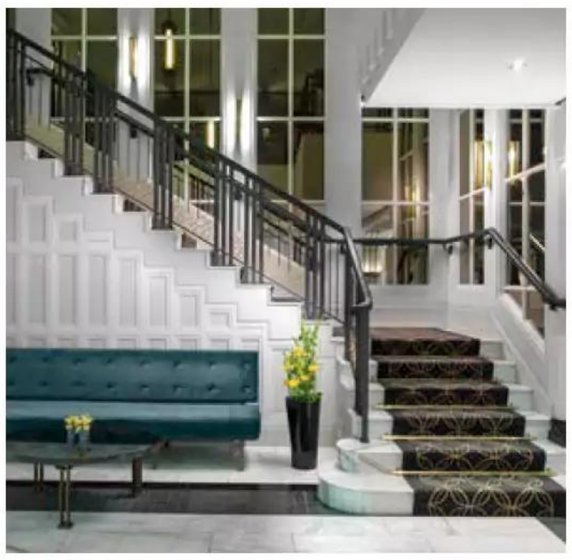

Hilton Prague Old Town

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Inspired by Prague's heritage and modern comfort, Hilton Prague Old Town is designed to create lasting memories. From the moment travellers step inside, the hotel welcomes with Art Deco designs. The lobby sets a calm, inviting tone with patterns and textures — geometric shapes, rich materials and soft lighting. As guests continue through the hotel, the mood evolves: rooms focus on modern comfort with clean lines, inviting illumination and relaxation. With 303 guest rooms, the property retains a boutique feel, marked by attentive service and intimate atmospheres.

Every morning, Zinc Restaurant welcomes guests with a vibrant breakfast selection, featuring international favourites and Czech-inspired dishes. Throughout the day, Zinc Bar & Lounge offers a stylish spot for a relaxed lunch, refined dinner or perfectly crafted cocktail. Guided by the seasons, the culinary team prepare dishes that are both creative and full of character, all complemented with timeless décor and a warm atmosphere.

For a moment of calm, guests can unwind at the LivingWell Health Club & Spa, which features an indoor pool. Executive room guests enjoy additional exclusivity with access to the Executive Lounge, featuring panoramic views, all-day refreshments and a leisurely breakfast experience.

The dedicated event floor at Hilton Prague Old Town merges flexible meeting spaces with natural daylight and modern facilities. A charming highlight is the elegant Vivaldi meeting room, where guests can admire an authentic vitrage from 1992–1993, masterfully crafted by Czech artisans. Blending historic charm with modern touches, the hotel offers a memorable setting that makes every event truly special.

Set in the heart of Prague's historic quarter, Hilton Prague Old Town is also the perfect base for exploring the city's blend of heritage and modern living. Just steps away is the Powder Tower, one of the original city gates dating back to the 15th century, once used by kings as the starting point of their coronation route. From grand monuments to modern galleries, romantic walks to unforgettable dining, Prague invites visitors to explore and promises to exceed every expectation.

DON'T MISS Indulge in the 'Czech It' menu experience at Zinc, which features two elegant courses that highlight classic Czech cuisine

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 303 rooms & suites
- Zinc Restaurant
- Zinc Bar & Lounge
- Executive Lounge
- LivingWell Health Club & Spa
- Swimming pool
- Meeting floor

GET IN TOUCH

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Hotel Skt. Annæ

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Hotel SKT. Annæ is an authentic Copenhagen hideaway, which has retained the essence of its storied past without compromising on modern luxuries and contemporary Danish design. Each of the deluxe rooms has been individually designed and decorated by the renowned local design duo Space Copenhagen.

Hotel SKT. Annæ is a natural extension of Copenhagen, embodying the soul of the city and weaving it through every room. It offers a luxurious stay in a modern setting in Sankt Annæ Plads, a public square right in the heart of Copenhagen. Walk through the hotel's halls and the connection with its location will soon become apparent — there's an abundance of plants to be found at every turn. You're also only a few steps away from all the best sights and streets in the Danish capital.

The rooftop garden offers a sweeping view of the city below. Explore the garden to find various cosy nooks where you can curl up — the rooftop is an ideal spot for people-watching, reading a book or simply taking in the sunset.

During the day, guests can enjoy popping into the sandwich and salad bar, Chill-ee, in the heart of the hotel. It's a popular local spot with friendly service that offers everything from homemade bread as well as Danish favourites like open sandwiches and fresh salads.

At night, the bar turns into a quality cocktail bar with dining. The Club serves classic cocktails and excellent dishes, and there's room for quiet conversation, formal meetings and festive gatherings in the luxurious urban surroundings. There's also The Shrimp, the hotel restaurant that's located in a delightful atrium courtyard. The small menu consists of classic dishes — well-known favourites that showcase the best of the world's food.

The major source of inspiration for Hotel SKT. Annæ was the city itself and the history of the area, Frederiksstaden, which surrounds the hotel.

The interior's colour palette was inspired by the famous Danish painter Vilhelm Hammershøi, who himself found Copenhagen to be a great source of inspiration in his work.

DON'T MISS Cosy up in one of the comfortable nooks on the rooftop garden to watch the sun set across the city skyline

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Bar & restaurant
- Breakfast buffet
- Parking
- Bicycle hire
- Private fitness
- Meeting facilities
- Dog friendly
- Lounge & fireplace
- Rooftop garden

GET IN TOUCH

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My City Hotel

TALLINN, ESTONIA

Set in Tallinn's UNESCO-listed Old Town, My City Hotel offers an elegant blend of historic charm and modern comfort. Housed in a carefully restored 1950s building, the hotel has a fascinating past as the former residence of Soviet Navy Officers. Today, it features 67 stylish and comfortable rooms, each designed for relaxation. Art-lovers will enjoy the unique decor, as the hotel's Italian owner, a passionate collector, has filled the interiors with beautiful artworks; each floor showcasing a different artist.

My City Hotel provides a range of amenities designed for relaxation and convenience. Guests can unwind in the private sauna and whirlpool bath, perfect after a day of exploring. For business travellers, a cosy conference area hosts up to 30 guests, providing an elegant space for meetings and events.

The hotel has exceptional culinary offerings that highlight both local and international flavours. Tallinn itself is a rising gastronomic hub, with a mix of Michelin-recommended restaurants, charming cafes and traditional Estonian eateries. From hearty rye bread and blood sausage to savoury smoked fish and traditional Estonian stews, the city's dining scene is a journey through flavours and traditions.

Tallinn's Old Town, located just steps from My City Hotel, is one of Europe's best-preserved medieval centres, with enchanting alleyways, centuries-old merchant houses and stunning gothic churches. The city's famous Christmas Market is regularly ranked among the best in Europe and is only a short walk from the hotel. This event sees the Town Hall Square transform into a winter wonderland with traditional Estonian crafts and seasonal delicacies.

Other notable landmarks are also just a short stroll from My City Hotel, including Toompea Castle, the majestic Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and St Catherine's Passage — a picturesque lane lined with artisan workshops. The hotel is also conveniently located near the railway station and within easy reach of the ferry terminal or bus station, making day trips to other nearby cities effortless.

DON'T MISS Stroll through medieval streets, visit world-class museums and indulge in local delicacies

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Central location
- Comfortable rooms
- Private sauna & whirlpool bath
- Exceptional dining

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Tour the UNESCO-listed Old Town
- Explore Tallinn's vibrant food scene
- Day trips to nearby cities such as Pärnu, Tartu & Helsinki
- Discover traditional Estonian craftsmanship at artisan shops & markets

GET IN TOUCH

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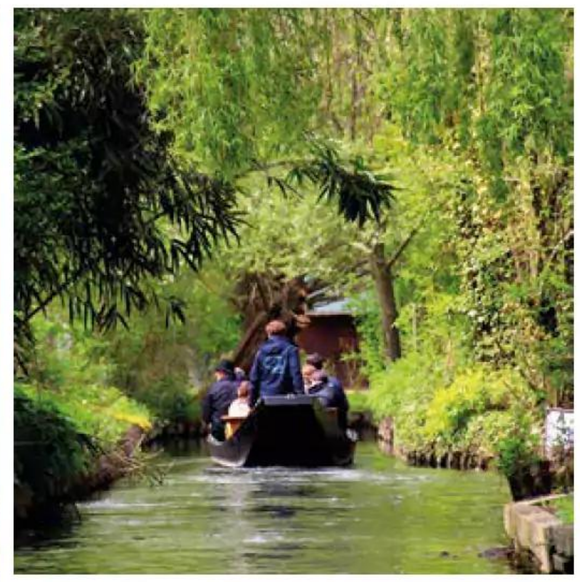

Amiens Métropole Tourist and Convention Office

AMIENS, FRANCE

A weekend in Amiens offers the perfect opportunity for couples to escape, a place where romance and history combine. Whether travellers choose a cosy cottage by the Hortillonnages, a room in the town or a chic hotel, the city provides an unforgettable setting for a charming getaway.

Travellers can begin their day with a leisurely stroll through the picturesque district of Henriville. Start at the Church of Saint-Martin, a striking 19th-century monument that evokes the charm of classic romance. From there, they can continue towards Jules Verne House and Boulevard Jules Verne, a tribute to the writer who was deeply fond of both Amiens and his muse, Honorine. For fans of Verne, a visit to the nearby Jules-Verne Circus adds to the allure.

No romantic day in Amiens is complete without a stop at the Musée de Picardie. The museum's romantic collection, including works like Billet doux (Love Letter) and L'amour tourmentant l'âme (Love Tormenting the Soul), immerses visitors in a world of passion and emotion. In the evening, travellers can return for the Night Tour, a candlelit exploration that offers an intimate experience of the museum and its treasures.

For a moment of serenity, couples can head to the Notre-Dame Cathedral. As Saint-Exupéry once said, they can look in the same direction together — taking in the cathedral's grandeur from the Bishop's Park. This peaceful space has been the setting for many romantic moments, from the Duke of Buckingham's impassioned plea to Anne of Austria, to quieter, more personal reflections. For those looking for a challenge, the 307 steps of the cathedral's towers offer panoramic views of the city — a great selfie spot with a breathtaking backdrop.

Next, travellers can explore the charming district of Saint-Leu, where cobbled streets, waterside cafes and the Dodane Bridge provide a romantic atmosphere for a drink. For dinner, Le Quai restaurant offers exceptional cuisine with views that complement the setting. Afterwards, a boat ride through the Hortillonnages, also known as the Little Venice of the North, is an idyllic way to discover the lush, hidden islands and gardens that define this natural maze.

DON'T MISS Witness Chroma, a colourful show that lights up Amiens' Notre-Dame Cathedral from July to August, as well as in December

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Guest rooms in the Hortillonnages: Au-delà des Saules, Au jardin sur l'eau
- Guest rooms in Henriville : Une maison en ville (with a spa), Maison Longuevie
- Hotel with a view of the Cathedrale: Le Mercure
- Hotel with a spa: Hotel Marotte
- Restaurants: Les Orfèvres, Instinct, Ail des Ours, Hyacinthe

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Notre-Dame of Amiens Cathedral
- Hortillonnages
- Musée de Picardie
- Jules Verne House

GET IN TOUCH

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IMAGES: © LAURENT ROUSSELIN (ST LEU AND THE CATHEDRAL); © AMIENS MÉTROPOLE (BOAT IN THE HORTILLONNAGES)

Renaissance Bordeaux Hotel

BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Discover Bordeaux's trendiest neighbourhood, Les Bassins à Flot, a vibrant industrial and maritime district in the heart of the city, and immerse yourself in a creative escape at the Renaissance Bordeaux Hotel.

Set at the foot of the iconic Cité du Vin and along the majestic Garonne River, the Renaissance Bordeaux Hotel is where bold architecture meets rich local heritage. A striking entrance through historic silos — now France's tallest urban climbing site — sets the tone for an unforgettable stay.

Inside, raw industrial materials blend seamlessly with refined details. Designed by Michael Malapert, the rooms exude contemporary elegance, with concrete walls softened by gold leaf accents, creating a warm yet modern ambience. Expansive panoramic windows invite guests to take in sweeping city views, offering a front-row seat to Bordeaux's charm, day and night.

At 110ft high, Gina, is Bordeaux's most coveted rooftop destination, offering a 360-degree view over the Cité du Vin, the Chaban-Delmas Bridge, the river and the historic old town.

Gina embodies a spirit of generosity and dolce vita. Whether sipping cocktails on the suspended terraces at sunset or enjoying an intimate dinner, this is where Bordeaux truly sparkles. Enhance your stay with exclusive features: a heated rooftop pool, a fitness room with skyline views, a unique climbing wall and a programme of cultural events.

From April to November, the hotel's historic silos transform into VertiGina — the highest urban climbing site in France. This exhilarating outdoor climbing experience honours Bordeaux's industrial past while offering a thrilling new perspective on the city.

The Renaissance Bordeaux Hotel and Gina rooftop buzz with energy year-round. From intimate rooftop concerts featuring renowned DJs and singers to exclusive comedy nights showcasing some of France's top performers, every moment is designed to surprise and delight. Cooking classes, lively brunches and seasonal festivities — including magical winter celebrations in collaboration with iconic brands such as Galeries Lafayette — bring guests and locals together in style.

DON'T MISS Scale France's tallest urban climbing wall before toasting the view with sunset cocktails on Bordeaux's highest rooftop

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 360-degree rooftop with restaurant, bar & panoramic terraces
- Heated panoramic pool in the sky & fitness room with city views
- Caffè Shop overlooking a peaceful oasis by the silos
- Striking industrial architecture with historic silos

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Climb France's tallest urban wall
- Sunset rooftop DJ sets & concerts
- Exclusive comedy nights, seasonal & culinary events
- Explore the Cité du Vin & Bassins de Lumières

GET IN TOUCH

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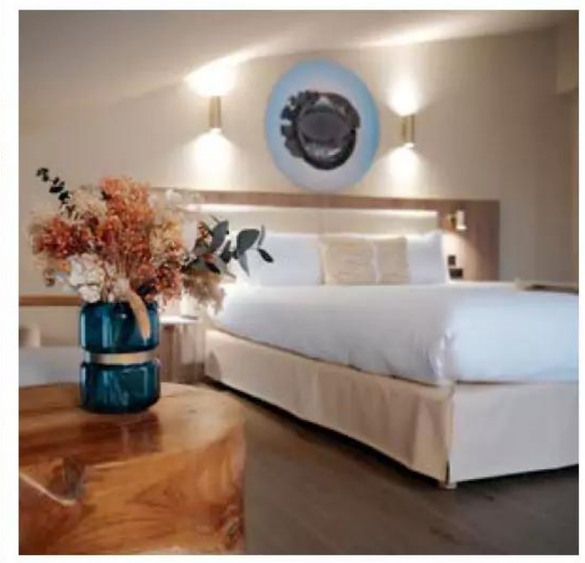

Keystone Hôtel & Spa

LYON, FRANCE

It's through elegance, simplicity and genuine hospitality that the most memorable hotel experiences are created. At Keystone Hotel & Spa, travellers can discover an urban boutique retreat where refined comfort meets relaxed charm. Designed for both creative minds and business guests, the hotel offers a welcoming haven from the fast pace of city life. With distinctive stays, local discoveries and effortless comfort, Keystone promises a blissful escape.

Perfectly positioned in the heart of Lyon's Confluence district — where the Saône and Rhône rivers meet — Keystone is an ideal base for exploring both the city's rich heritage and its contemporary edge. Once an industrial hub, Confluence has evolved into one of Lyon's most dynamic neighbourhoods, known for its bold architecture, riverside paths, cultural venues and vibrant energy. Travellers can wander the cobbled lanes of Vieux Lyon, lose themselves in the secret *traboules* (passageways) or enjoy a family outing to the Tête d'Or Park and its botanical gardens. The Musée des Confluences and La Sucrière lie just moments away, while the Place Bellecour, traditional *bouchons* (Lyonnaise restaurants) and the city's stylish shopping districts are all within easy reach. Whether on foot, by bike, tram or boat, the possibilities begin right outside the hotel door.

Hospitality is central to Keystone's philosophy, prioritising every guests' wellbeing, comfort and peace of mind. Each room is thoughtfully designed, with a blend of modern comforts and classic elegance to ensure every guest feels at home. Whether enjoying a morning coffee on the private balcony or unwinding in the luxurious spa, the hotel offers a space to relax and recharge. The dining options, from gourmet breakfast spreads to intimate evening meals, promise to satisfy every palate. A team of dedicated professionals ensures that each guest's needs are met with care and attention, ensuring personalised services make every stay unique and unforgettable.

The Keystone Hotel is the cornerstone of a new era in Lyon's hospitality — a seamless hub for both business travellers and urban explorers, offering an unforgettable experience.

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Complimentary spa access & additional treatments
- 24-hour gym access
- Restaurant brasserie
- 2 tram stops & 1 Metro within a five-minute walk
- Complimentary parking

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Rent a boat (without a license) to travel on the Saone
- Pick up the Lyon City Card at the hotel
- Musée des Confluences – La Sucrière

GET IN TOUCH

hotel-keystone.com
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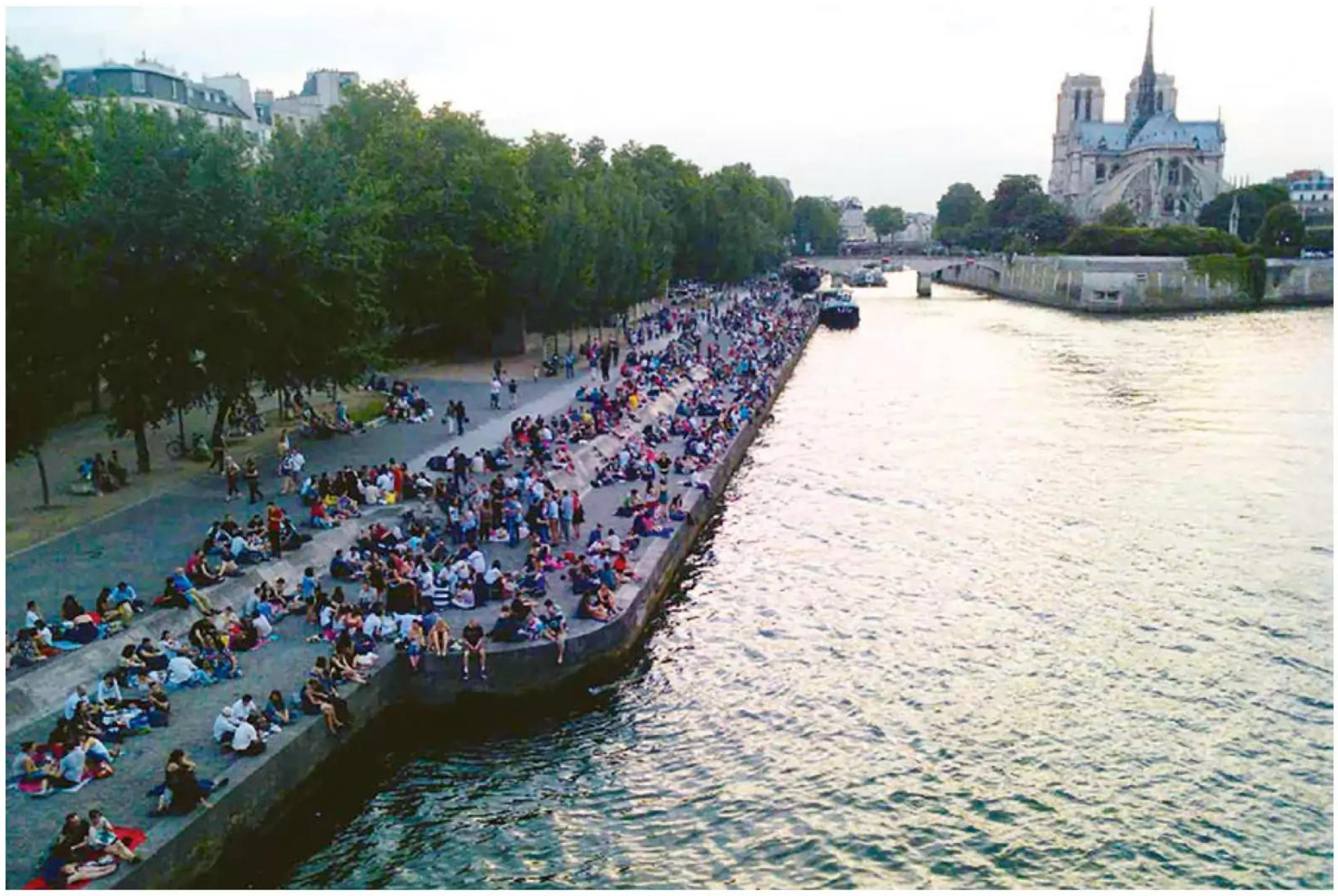
DON'T MISS Discover a neighbourhood brimming with hidden gems, just a stone's throw from Lyon's historic centre



Moontown Walking Travel

PARIS, FRANCE

Created to reinvigorate urban exploration for those who don't typically take tours, Moontown Walking Travel reimagines the experience of being guided through a city. Suitable for both curious first-timers and seasoned travellers seeking deeper insight into Paris and its surroundings, these alternative tours are tightly curated yet spontaneously delivered, ensuring authentic experiences.

With 15 years of expertise and insider knowledge, working creatives — who understand both the city of Paris and the evolution of the French mindset — design each walk as a dialogue and a discovery. Every walk is structured to engage with the city and to capture the experience of being alive in its streets —moving between traces of the past and its contemporary attractions and local colour.

Paris is a feast of adventures. Centuries of conflict, glory and misadventure have shaped its architecture and monuments, giving the impression of a completed masterpiece. To see it with fresh eyes, one must avoid treating it solely as a corridor to history and make it come alive. Beyond the essential sights lies incidental interaction with a proud population — one that has grown more open to globalism but still offers no shortcuts to its full flavour. Moontown Walking Travel is the shortcut. A walking discipline with academic roots, it's designed to find the best spots and the most meaningful paths to feeling the city. Weaving through neighbourhoods and exploring the distinctive aesthetic flair of the French, guests find themselves in offbeat and trendy areas, among culinary hotspots and animated pavements.

Moontown offers guided walks across all 20 arrondissements and its suburbs. Just as often, it embarks on atypical explorations that engage with the rich cultural landscape, through small side streets and grand boulevards alike, reflecting the weave of histories and daily discoveries. With thousands of winding streets, Moontown identifies the connective tissue in the city's ever-evolving corridors of street life. From Montmartre to Montparnasse, from the Bois de Vincennes to the Bois de Boulogne, the stories are vast and the engines still turning. Paris is always in motion. A Walking Travel guide is essential to move with it.

DON'T MISS Experience Paris differently, moving between traces of the past, contemporary attractions, local colour and overwhelming beauty

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Tour the heart of Paris
- Offbeat explorations
- Multigenerational family & child-specific walks
- Customisable food & drink adventures

GET IN TOUCH

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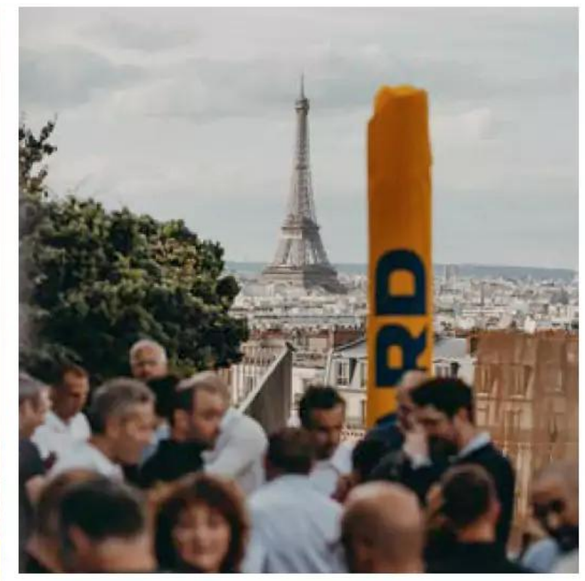

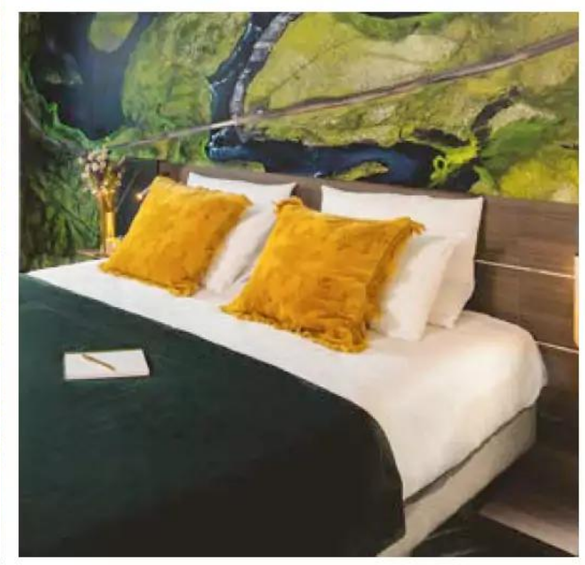

Novotel Paris Porte de Versailles

PARIS, FRANCE

Located at the foot of Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, Novotel Paris Porte de Versailles is an easily accessible four-star hotel that caters to both holidaymakers and business travellers alike. The hotel has state-of-the-art facilities — including three meeting rooms, commission suites and private spaces — that are perfect for hosting trade shows, conferences, team-building sessions and business meetings. The hotel's dedicated teams make sure every detail is taken care of to ensure your event's success.

Guests can also indulge in a culinary journey at the Rosé restaurant, which offers homemade Mediterranean cuisine crafted from fresh ingredients. It also has an inviting terrace, perfect for after-work drinks or cocktail receptions. The menu features a selection of refined dishes and expertly curated wines, making it an excellent spot for both casual and business dining.

Looking for a festive moment? Head to Pedzouille La Grange, the hotel's mountaintop-inspired inn on the rooftop. The delicious menu features generous farm-to-table dishes, served at large communal tables. Here, the rustic charm meets the vibrant energy of Paris, offering a unique atmosphere where guests can socialise and savour traditional flavours in an unique setting.

For an even more surprising experience, step into the hidden speakeasy, an eccentric space that features pink carpeting, disco balls and pigs hanging from the ceiling. Enjoy French-style tapas and 100% locally inspired cocktails. This unique venue is also available for private events, after-work gatherings and soirées.

The hotel's rooms and suites are designed as true sanctuaries of peace, with premium bedding, nature-inspired decor and stunning city views. For fitness enthusiasts, the fully equipped gym offers panoramic views of Paris, providing the perfect backdrop for an energising workout. The hotel has also been awarded the Clef Verte (Green Key) label, recognising its dedication to sustainable tourism and eco-friendly dining. From energy-efficient practices to locally sourced ingredients, the hotel is committed to reducing its footprint while ensuring a luxurious stay for guests.

DON'T MISS Feast on farm-to-table fare at Pedzouille La Grange, the hotel's lively rooftop inn where rustic French dining meets Parisian flair

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Bright meeting rooms
- Exclusive rooftop with a breathtaking view of the Eiffel Tower
- Spacious rooms
- 2 restaurants serving Mediterranean cuisine & French classics
- 1 cafe & 1 speakeasy
- Homemade cuisine
- Steps away from the Parc des Expositions
- Eco-friendly commitment (Green Key-certified hotel)
- Weekly jazz nights

GET IN TOUCH

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Clocks Hotel Tbilisi

TBILISI, GEORGIA

Set in the vibrant heart of Tbilisi, Clocks Hotel offers travellers an experience steeped in Georgian culture and history. From its inviting interiors to its attentive service, this Georgian-owned hotel is dedicated to showcasing the essence of local traditions while providing modern comfort and elegance, delivering an experience that feels both personal and authentic.

Overlooking the striking Holy Trinity Cathedral — commonly known as *Sameba* — one of the largest religious buildings in the world, Clocks Hotel is perfectly located for those wishing to explore the city. Less than a 10-minute walk away, the cathedral is a must-visit, especially when illuminated at night. Guests can also enjoy sweeping views of Tbilisi's skyline from the hotel's terrace or select rooms.

A 15-minute stroll from the property brings guests to Meidani Square, the bustling heart of Tbilisi's Old Town. Here, travellers can wander through winding cobbled streets, discover traditional wine cellars and explore colourful artisan boutiques tucked between centuries-old buildings. Whether soaking in the sulphur baths, enjoying street performances or savouring *khinkali* (Georgian soup dumplings) at a nearby eatery, guests are never far from the city's rich traditions.

On site, Clocks Hotel offers spaces for both connection and relaxation — elegant meeting rooms and a peaceful garden provide perfect settings for business and leisure travellers alike. The hotel's restaurant showcases authentic Georgian cuisine, where guests can enjoy traditional dishes paired with *Qvevri* wine, crafted through an ancient winemaking method unique to Georgia and recognised by UNESCO.

What sets Clocks Hotel apart is not only its location or amenities, but the way it embodies Georgian hospitality. Renowned globally for its warmth and generosity, the local culture of hosting is reflected in every interaction. Many return year after year, drawn by the heartfelt service, the attention to detail and the inviting atmosphere. Guests leave with more than memories of a beautiful city — they leave with the feeling of having been truly welcomed.

DON'T MISS Relax in the cosy garden, try Georgian dishes and savour authentic *Qvevri* wine

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Contemporary design rooms
- In-house restaurant
- Green garden
- Meeting & event spaces

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Explore Tbilisi's Old Town
- Visit Dry Bridge Market
- Take a cable-car to Narikala Fortress
- Wine-tasting experiences

GET IN TOUCH

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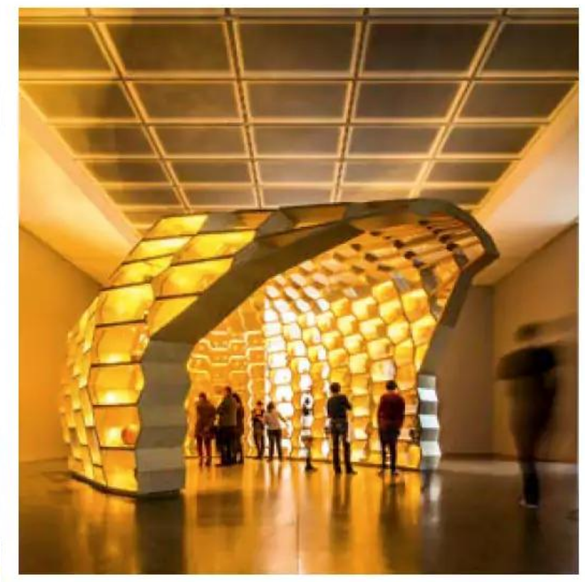

Visit Essen

ESSEN, GERMANY

Welcome to the city of contrasts. A weekend in Essen will amaze travellers. At nearly 1,200 years old, Essen is older than Munich, Berlin or Dresden. It's also the third greenest city in Germany, was named European Capital of Culture in 2010, and has been the European Green Capital since 2017.

Visitors can experience this first-hand, especially when hiking along the city's four designated hiking trails. Essen has the most extensive professional urban hiking network of any German city with over 250,000 inhabitants. Around 60 miles of trails lead through the lush southern part of Essen — through forests, meadows and fields, along the shores of Lake Baldeney and the River Ruhr. Along the way, hikers pass the picturesque districts of Werden and Kettwig, as well as the impressive, castle-like Villa Hügel.

After an active day in the fresh air, travellers are encouraged to explore the cool district of Rüttenscheid, not far from the city centre and conveniently close to well-located hotels such as the Sheraton Hotel Essen and Motel One Essen. Here, the renowned Museum Folkwang presents a world-class exhibition of modern art in a striking building, featuring a facade made of recycled glass. Inside, visitors can view four Van Goghs and other masterpieces — all with free entry.

Just around the corner lies the vibrant Rüttenscheider Straße, a lively boulevard bustling with energy. Here, visitors will discover boutique shops, bars, cafes, restaurants and clubs. Here, currywurst meets fine dining and latte macchiato is served alongside freshly poured German beer.

The following morning could begin with a visit to the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site — the only one in the Ruhr region. On the imposing grounds of what was once the world's largest coal mine, visitors can enjoy a wide range of cultural and leisure activities amid untamed nature. It's a chance to witness the successful transformation of the region through structural change.

And for those who want to be absolutely certain they've explored Germany's third greenest city, there's a final unforgettable experience: board a Zeppelin at the nearby Essen/Mülheim Airport and take in the city from a bird's-eye view — something possible in only a few places around the world.

DON'T MISS Visit two traditional breweries producing German Pils and Steam Beer before heading to Germany's largest cinema, built in 1929

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Düsseldorf International Airport, only 20 minutes by car or train
- Essen Central Station, connected to all major European cities
- Sheraton Hotel Restaurant and Bar located next to City Park with Essen Philharmonic and Aalto Theatre Opera House
- Perfectly located Motel One Essen in the city centre serves tasty breakfast and has a stylish gin bar

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Sightseeing
- Hiking
- Shopping
- Bars, restaurants & beer gardens

GET IN TOUCH

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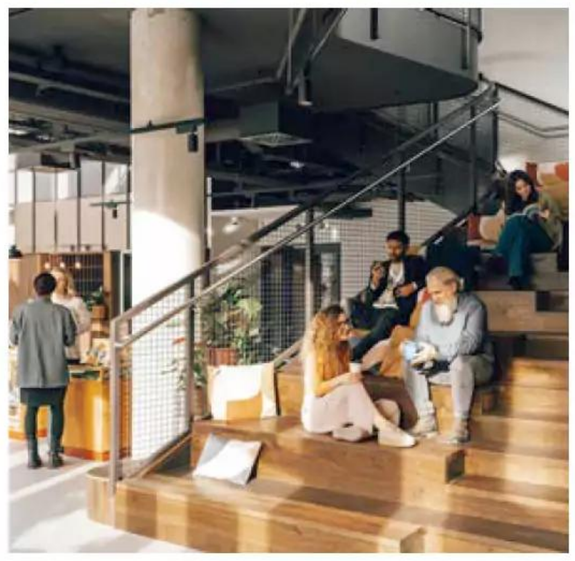

Revo Munich

MUNICH, GERMANY

Revo Munich offers a unique blend of comfort, convenience and flexibility, making it an ideal choice for both short and extended stays in Munich. Located in the Neuperlach district, this modern property, which opened in 2022, offers 113 hotel rooms and 494 serviced apartments for long stays, providing guests with everything they need whether visiting for a weekend getaway, a business trip or a workation.

One of the standout features of Revo Munich is its comprehensive range of amenities, tailored to meet the needs of today's travellers. For those not wanting to forgo their workout, the property offers a 24/7 gym complete with a terrace, perfect for a yoga session. There's also a dedicated bike workshop, perfect for cycling enthusiasts exploring Munich on two wheels. For those who prefer a more laid-back stay, the on-site cinema provides a cosy escape, while the library offers a peaceful setting for reading.

The property also caters to digital nomads and professionals with a spacious co-working space equipped with high-speed wi-fi. Additionally, the 24/7 front desk and self-check-in options provide maximum convenience, making the experience seamless and flexible for guests. For a taste of Italian cuisine, the on-site restaurant, The Italian Canteen, serves up Neapolitan pizza and other Italian dishes.

Revo Munich's location enhances its appeal. Being just a two-minute walk from the Neuperlach Süd suburban and underground station means guests can reach Munich's city centre in as little as 20 minutes by public transport. The nearby highway, A8, is only a 10-minute drive away, connecting visitors to key destinations in Bavaria and beyond. Munich is ideally situated for travellers looking to explore not only the city but also neighbouring countries. Offering quick access to Austria, Italy, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and other parts of Germany, Revo Munich is an ideal base for those keen to explore the region.

Munich itself is a city rich in culture and history, with a wealth of attractions to explore. Guests can visit the world-renowned Deutsches Museum, home to science and technology exhibits, or relax in the English Garden, one of the largest urban parks in Europe.

DON'T MISS Check out the Revo Munich's events calendar for spectacular opportunities to explore the local area

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 494 serviced apartments
- 113 stylish hotel rooms
- 24/7 reception desk & self check-in
- Italian restaurant
- 24/7 gym
- Feng shui garden
- Cinema
- Gaming area
- Library
- Co-working area

GET IN TOUCH

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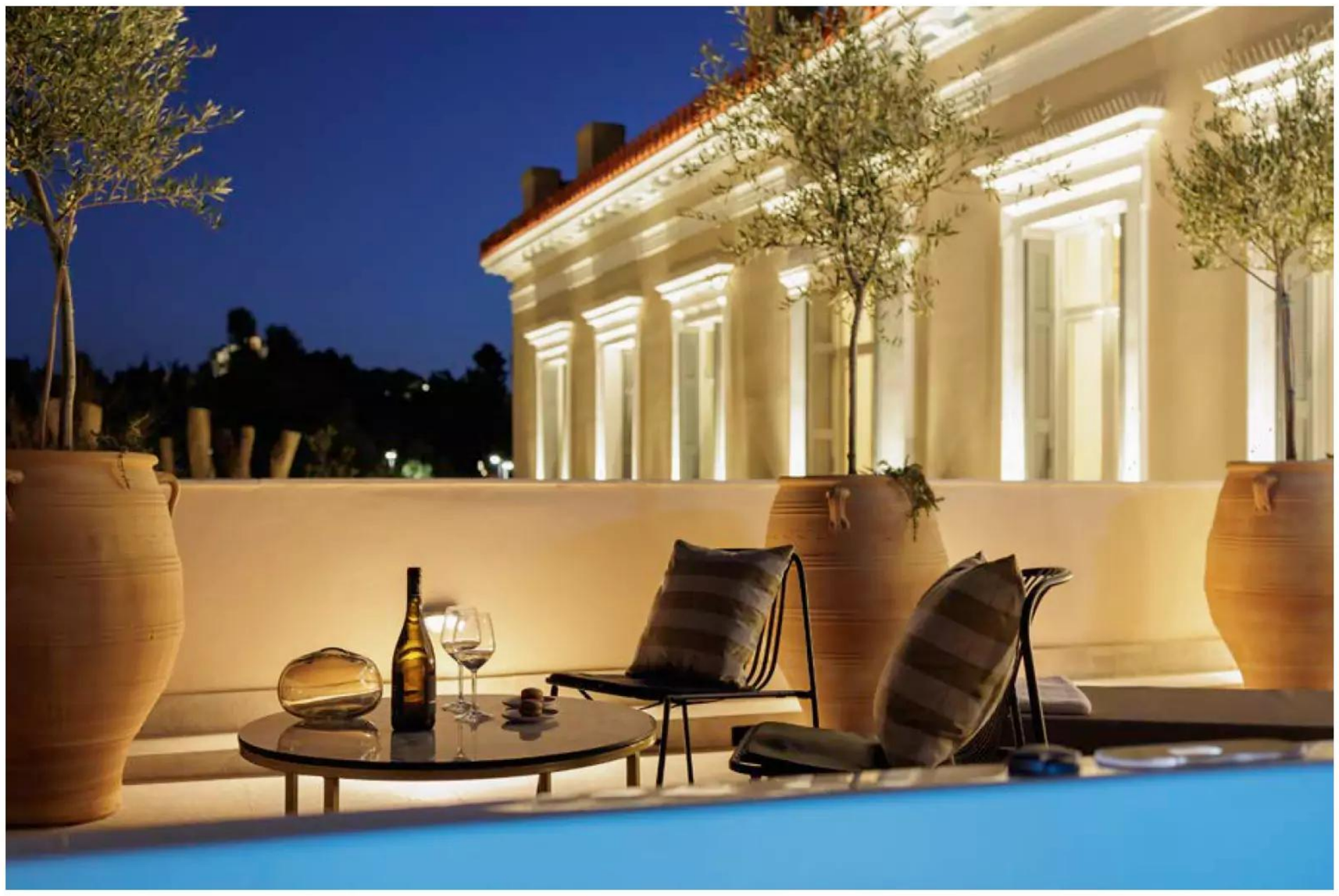

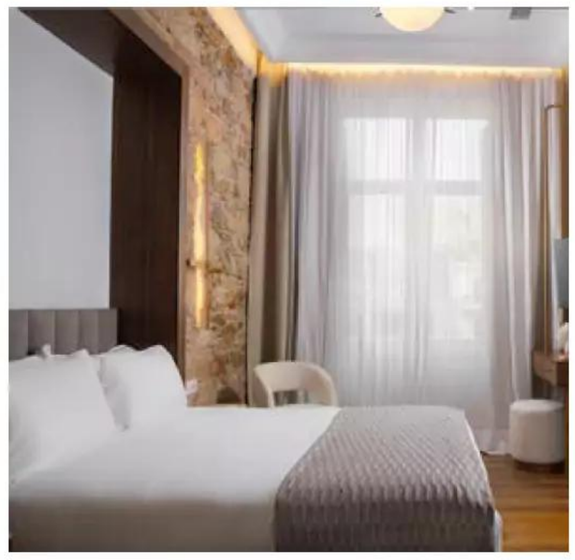

Aria Hotels – La Divina

ATHENS, GREECE

In the heart of Athens' historic centre, on Adrianou Street in Thissio, La Divina is a boutique hotel with 12 elegant suites. Housed in a neoclassical building that once served as the Odeon Athenaeum — a music academy dedicated to the legendary Maria Callas — La Divina offers a contemporary oasis that pays respectful homage to its cultural past.

The hotel's prime location provides guests with sweeping views of the Acropolis, the ancient Agora in Thissio (named after the mythical king Theseus), and the Athens Space Observatory. It's an ideal base for exploring the city's historic landmarks, museums and vibrant nightlife.

More than just a comfortable place to stay, La Divina immerses guests in the essence of Athens, offering a gateway to its cultural richness, traditional Greek cuisine, and the timeless historic charm of Thissio.

Accommodation options include standard and signature double rooms, spacious junior suites and a premium suite with a private outdoor whirlpool, each designed for a luxurious and memorable stay. All rooms feature modern amenities, including air conditioning, free high-speed wi-fi, a flat-screen smart TV, minibar and stylish en suite bathroom with complimentary toiletries.

From the moment guests arrive, the attentive staff ensure every detail of their stay is seamless. For a memorable culinary experience, travellers are encouraged to explore the hotel's nearby partner restaurants, where they can enjoy authentic Greek dishes and excellent local wines.

Before Aria Hotels transformed the property into La Divina, the building was home to the Athenaeum Conservatory — an international arts centre established in 1974 under the Ministry of Culture. Dedicated to the memory of Maria Callas, whose centenary was marked in 2023, the conservatory aimed to promote Greek music education and honour Callas' extraordinary legacy.

This culturally rich neoclassical building stood as a hub of artistic excellence and musical training, nurturing new generations of Greek musicians while preserving the operatic brilliance of one of the world's greatest sopranos. La Divina still carries that legacy forward today.

DON'T MISS Wake up to timeless vistas of the Acropolis, Ancient Agora and Athens Observatory right outside your window

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Historic hotel
- Perfect location for exploring Athens
- Luxurious rooms
- Impeccable service

GET IN TOUCH

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Athenian Tours

ATHENS, GREECE

Athens is a city where ancient history and modern life intertwine. Here, timeless ruins sit alongside trendy cafes, and the hum of traffic is serenaded by church bells and street musicians. It's a place where travellers' feet can walk the paths of history, and their eyes can witness the past come to life.

The Acropolis is, of course, Athens' most iconic landmark. The Parthenon, standing proudly for more than 2,400 years, is a symbol of Greece's enduring heritage. Strolling through the ancient paths of this hilltop fortress transports visitors to a time when democracy, philosophy and art flourished. Just a short walk away, the Acropolis Museum is another must-see. With its light-filled galleries, transparent floors and stunning sculptures, it brings the ancient world to life.

Yet, Athens isn't just about its monuments. The heart of the city is bursting with vibrant colours and rich flavours. In bustling neighbourhoods like Monastiraki and Psiri, visitors can find street markets brimming with fresh produce, local spirits, handmade sandals and vintage vinyl. It's a sensory feast where every corner invites exploration.

Food-lovers will be in their element. Tuck into freshly baked *spanakopita* (spinach and feta filo pie) from a local bakery, enjoy sizzling *souvlaki* at a charming taverna or sample a traditional Greek sweet treat paired with a strong cup of coffee.

For those seeking a quieter escape, Anafiotika is a hidden gem. This small district, built in the 19th century by immigrants from the island of Anafi, exudes the charm of a Cycladic village. Its narrow, flower-filled streets and whitewashed buildings offer a peaceful retreat beneath the Acropolis.

Athens also has stunning views. For the perfect sunset, head to Areopagus Hill, where the golden light bathes the Acropolis and stretches over the city below. For panoramic vistas, visitors can make their way to Lycabettus Hill, the highest point in central Athens, offering breathtaking views of the Aegean Sea on clear days.

Explore the city early in the morning or just before dusk, when the air is cooler and the streets are quieter. At these times, visitors can catch the distant laughter from cafes, while the scent of the blooming orange trees wafts through the streets.

DON'T MISS Climb Areopagus Hill at sunset to watch the Acropolis glow as the sky melts into pink, gold and deep Athenian blue

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Expert-guided walking tours
- Small group experiences
- Culinary-focused routes
- Tours in multiple languages

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Acropolis & ancient sites tours
- Museum visits
- Athen's food & market walks
- Local neighbourhood discovery

GET IN TOUCH

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Olive Sea Travel

ATHENS, GREECE

Athens is a city where history isn't just preserved — it's part of daily life. From ancient landmarks to modern neighbourhoods, the Greek capital offers a rich blend of culture, tradition and contemporary charm. Olive Sea Travel, based in the heart of the city, offers tailor-made private tours that go beyond the ordinary, giving guests the chance to explore both famous sights and hidden local gems — with the option to venture even further to the Greek islands and the Aegean Sea.

Many visitors begin their journey with the Acropolis and the Parthenon — iconic landmarks that continue to define classical architecture and Western heritage. But Athens has far more stories to tell. From elegant neoclassical streets to lively, art-filled alleys, the city is a living blend of past and present. Olive Sea Travel's experienced local guides bring this unique character to life, offering context, culture and insider knowledge at every stop.

Exploring the historic Plaka district is a highlight, where cobbled lanes lead to boutique shops, cosy tavernas and ancient churches. Just steps away is Anafiotika, a hidden corner of Athens that feels like a Cycladic island village, built by craftsmen in the 1800s beneath the Acropolis.

Beyond the city, Olive Sea Travel takes guests to breathtaking locations such as Cape Sounion, where the Temple of Poseidon overlooks the sea. It's one of the most scenic spots in Greece, especially at sunset. So much so, that it was once admired by poets like Lord Byron, who carved his name into the temple's marble.

For those looking to discover more of Greece, Olive Sea Travel also arranges private tours to selected Greek islands, combining natural beauty with local culture, history and gastronomy. Guests can also enjoy private cruises — ideal for exploring the Aegean at a relaxed pace, stopping at hidden beaches and charming island ports along the way.

Food-lovers are also well catered for, with guided tastings of local specialities, market visits and food tours that reveal the flavours of the region. Guests can sample *loukoumades* (honey doughnuts), traditional Greek pies and artisan cheeses, or take part in wine-tastings and olive oil experiences that highlight Greece's rich culinary heritage.

DON'T MISS Wander the island-like lanes of Anafiotika with a local guide to see a secret slice of the Cyclades hidden beneath the Acropolis

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Private tours
- Private luxury vehicles
- Licensed professional guides
- Personalised itinerary planning

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Acropolis & Athens Highlights tours
- Temple of Poseidon sunset excursions & cruises
- Culinary & wine experiences
- Greek Islands private tours

GET IN TOUCH

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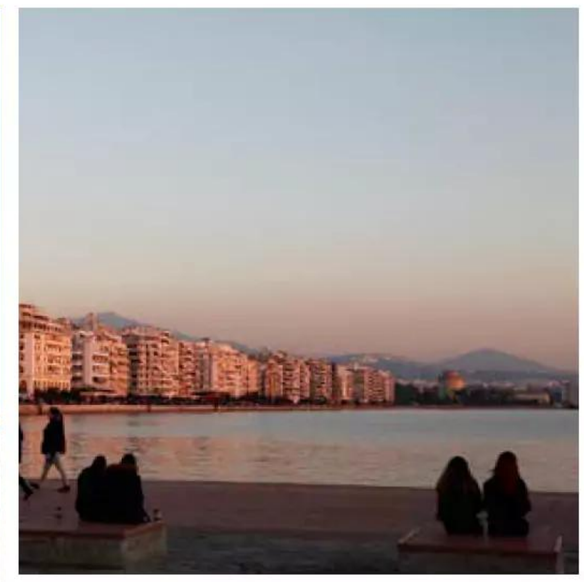

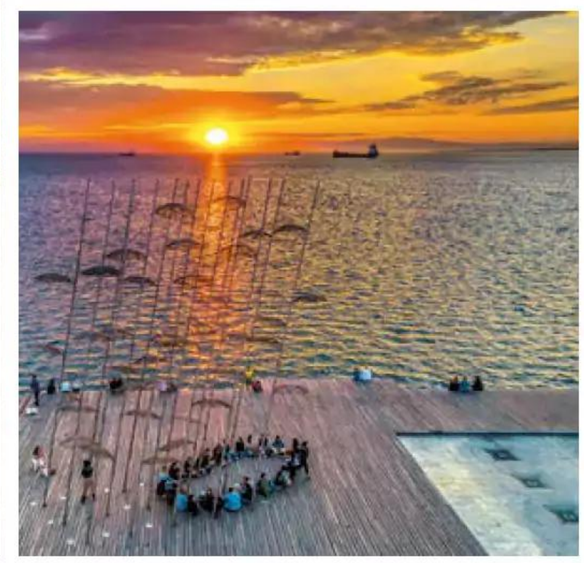

Thessaloniki Tourism Organisation

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

Thessaloniki, also known as Salonica or Thessalonica, is Greece's second-largest city and the capital of the Central Macedonia region. With a history stretching back to ancient times, it has long served as a cultural and commercial crossroads between East and West.

Today, Thessaloniki is a thriving metropolis of more than one million residents, home to numerous cultural and historical landmarks. Among its most iconic sites is the White Tower, a 15th-century structure that has become a symbol of the city. The ancient Roman Forum — considered one of the best-preserved in the Roman world — and the Rotunda, a monumental Roman building later converted into a Christian church, also stand as powerful reminders of its layered past.

The city also has a wealth of museums, including the acclaimed Museum of Byzantine Culture, which houses an extensive collection of Byzantine art and artefacts, and the compelling Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, which honours the city's once-vibrant Jewish community. Thessaloniki is equally celebrated for its lively nightlife and exceptional cuisine. The bustling waterfront promenade and Aristotelous Square are popular hubs for dining and entertainment, while the Ladadika district, with its atmospheric streets, hosts many of the city's most popular bars, restaurants and clubs.

A true melting pot, Thessaloniki's gastronomy reflects centuries of cultural exchange. Authentic flavours are elevated by fresh, seasonal ingredients from the fertile land and surrounding sea — from Greek olive oil and artisanal dairy products like feta and yoghurt to herbs, vegetables and seafood, all enhanced by the warm Mediterranean climate.

In 2011, the city launched the Thessaloniki Food Festival, now the largest, longest-running gastronomic event in Greece, which has drawn interest from the international culinary community. More recently, Thessaloniki became the first Greek city to join UNESCO's Creative Cities Network for gastronomy. This recognition celebrates its deep-rooted culinary traditions, its dynamic food scene, creative chefs and ongoing efforts to promote local ingredients.

DON'T MISS Navigate the city via the brand-new metro system, where, in some stations, travellers can see numerous archeological artefacts

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- A variety of great markets & shops
- Luxury cruises
- Museums, galleries & theatres
- Bustling nightlife

GET IN TOUCH

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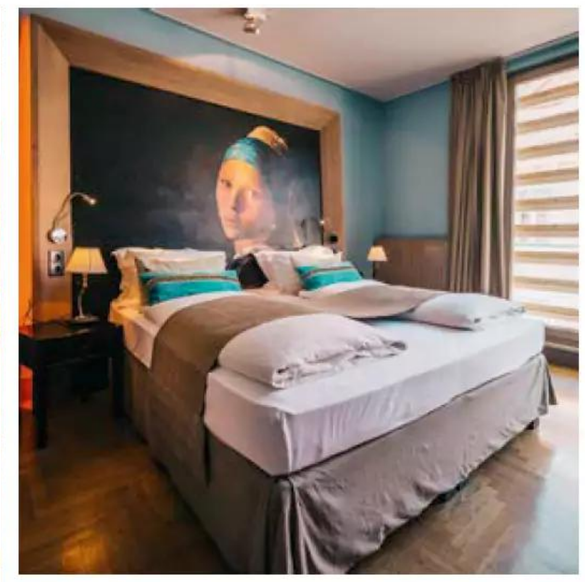

Baltazár Boutique Hotel Budapest

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Baltazár Budapest is a family-owned boutique hotel, grill restaurant and wine bar located in the heart of the historic city centre of Budapest. The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Buda Castle district is within close range of all the city's important sites, landmark buildings, national monuments, museums and neighbourhoods.

Baltazár Boutique Hotel has 11 individually designed casual, yet luxurious rooms and suites. In the stylish guest rooms, no detail is overlooked; the eclectic nature of the public spaces at Baltazár is carried on into all the rooms and suites.

Each luxury room has its own bohemian spirit featuring an innovative mix of colour, texture, artwork and graphic design. The guest rooms all come appointed with original vintage and modern furnishings and handcrafted local limestone bathrooms, complemented by top-tier amenities and technology. The individually themed rooms, wall colours, wallpapers and artwork feature designs and inspirations by the likes of Vivienne Westwood, Keith Haring, Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat.

At Baltazár, there's a strong focus on gastronomy, too. Downstairs from the rooms, there's Baltazár Grill, a vibrant restaurant and bar that's a firm favourite with locals. It features a charcoal grill and an extensive wine selection from the Carpathian Basin. There's gourmet street food, food for sharing, delicious meat dishes and great vegetarian options: simple, yet creative dishes are all part of what characterises Baltazár's lively Michelin Guide-recommended kitchen.

The romantic cobblestoned terrace, playful atmosphere, excellent service, outstanding kitchen and exceptional design help make Baltazár unique. The area offers stunning views of the city and the Danube River while also being home to several historic churches, such as the 14th-century Matthias Church.

The neighbourhood of this small luxury hotel is also a key gastronomic quarter of Budapest, with unique and celebrated restaurants such as the 40-year-old elegant Pierrot, 21 Hungarian Kitchen, Pest-Buda Bistro and Jamie Oliver's Italian restaurant.

DON'T MISS The hotel's signature restaurant, Baltazár Grill, offers delicious twists on traditional Hungarian dishes

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 11 rooms & suites
- Central location in Buda
- Rainfall showers
- Bar & grill

GET IN TOUCH

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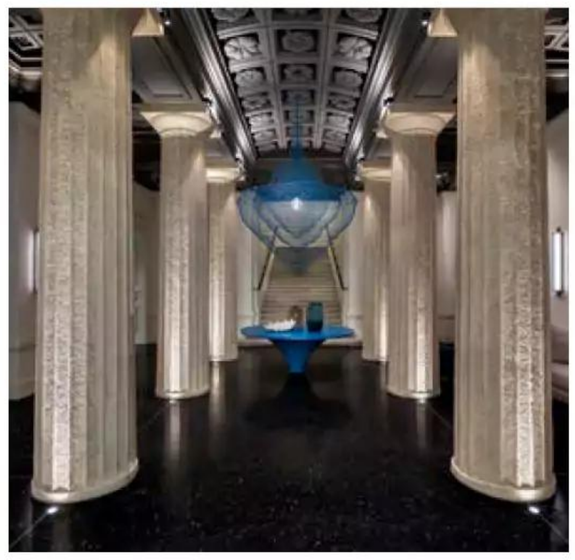

Dorothea Hotel, Budapest

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Dorothea Hotel, Budapest is an immersive destination where rich heritage meets contemporary elegance. Nestled in the heart of historic District V, this refined property pays tribute to the legacy of Archduchess Dorothea and Palatine Joseph — visionary figures from Hungary's golden age. Designed by renowned architect and designer Piero Lissoni, the hotel blends neoclassical architecture with sleek, modern sophistication.

Just steps from the Danube River, Dorothea Hotel is the perfect starting point for exploring Budapest's landmarks, including the Chain Bridge, Parliament, Buda Castle and St Stephen's Basilica. A leisurely stroll brings travellers to Váci Street, with its artisan boutiques, Hungarian design shops and lively cafes. Nearby, the Hold Street Market Hall offers a taste of the city's culinary life.

The hotel spans three beautifully restored historic buildings and features 216 elegantly appointed rooms, including 60 twin rooms — ideal for both leisure and business travellers. Guest rooms are designed with a refined, minimalist aesthetic, offering views of the streets of Budapest or the hotel's serene inner courtyard.

Lissoni's signature design language is evident throughout the interiors. The aesthetic is further enhanced by handcrafted Zsolnay ceramic tiling — a tribute to Hungary's artisanal heritage — and a curated collection of evocative works by renowned photographer Zoltán Tombor.

At the heart of the hotel lies Pavilon Restaurant & Bar, a glass-covered garden oasis where Hungarian and international flavours meet. A living herb wall, inspired by Palatine Joseph's passion for botany, supplies fresh herbs to the kitchen and bar. Sundays are celebrated with an indulgent brunch featuring oysters, sparkling wine, live music and a decadent sweet corner. The hotel is also home to Alelí, an authentic Italian restaurant, and BiBo, a vibrant Andalucian rooftop bar by chef Dani García — each offering unforgettable culinary experiences.

Wellness is a cornerstone of the Dorothea experience. The spa has a pool, steam room, sauna and treatment rooms, while a fully equipped gym is available for use 24 hours a day.

DON'T MISS Enjoy Sunday Brunch at Pavilon, which features oysters, sparkling wine, live music and a chocolate fountain in lush surroundings

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Pavilon Restaurant & Bar
- Luxury spa
- 43 suites
- Rooftop bar

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Sunday Brunch
- Adults-only spa hours
- Couples massage
- Stroll along the banks of the Danube

GET IN TOUCH

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Kimpton BEM Budapest

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Set on the blue banks of the Danube, on the Buda side of Hungary's capital, Kimpton BEM Budapest by IHG is within walking distance of the Castle District and the historic Chain Bridge. What sets it apart is not only its location but also its living-museum-like interiors, designed by internationally acclaimed Dutch designer Marcel Wanders. Inspired by the journey of the ancient Hungarian tribes from northern Asia to the Carpathian Basin, the hotel's concept tells the mythic tale of the golden stag that led them to settle by the Danube. Wanders' vibrant aesthetic is felt in every corner — from the hotel lobby and lounge to its guest rooms and signature dining venues — through bold colour palettes, statement lighting and custom Moooi Collection furniture. Tasteful and tactile materials evoke both contemporary elegance and deep cultural symbolism across the entire hotel, evident in every outlet, guest room and meeting space.

A standout within the IHG portfolio, Kimpton BEM Budapest ranks among the Top 10 Low Carbon Pioneers out of more than 6,500 IHG hotels worldwide. From its fully sustainable amenities to innovative energy-efficient systems, the property has been developed with environmental responsibility in mind.

Signature dining at Agos Restaurant further enhances the experience. Quickly gaining recognition among both locals and visiting gourmands, the restaurant reinterprets modern, Mediterranean and Magyar culinary traditions in refined, artful dishes. The open kitchen adds theatre to each meal — all of which are made using locally sourced ingredients. Guests can also enjoy premium Hungarian wines and spirits and a convivial yet elegant setting.

The Fennen Sky Bar, in a hidden rooftop garden with panoramic city views, is an ideal spot for guests to unwind. Or, they can enjoy inventive cocktails and weekly curated events at Bar Huso, a social hotspot blending design, music and mixology.

With its seamless combination of heritage, innovation, bold design and sustainability, Kimpton BEM Budapest stands as a vibrant new chapter in the city's hospitality story, both a tribute to the past and a celebration of future travel.

DON'T MISS Discover Budapest's heritage through Marcel Wanders' vibrant interiors and Agos's modern Hungarian culinary artistry

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Agos Restaurant
- Bar Huso
- Fennen Sky Bar

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Rooftop sundowners at Fennen Sky Bar
- Signature dining at Agos Restaurant
- Design discovery tour
- Castle district strolls

GET IN TOUCH

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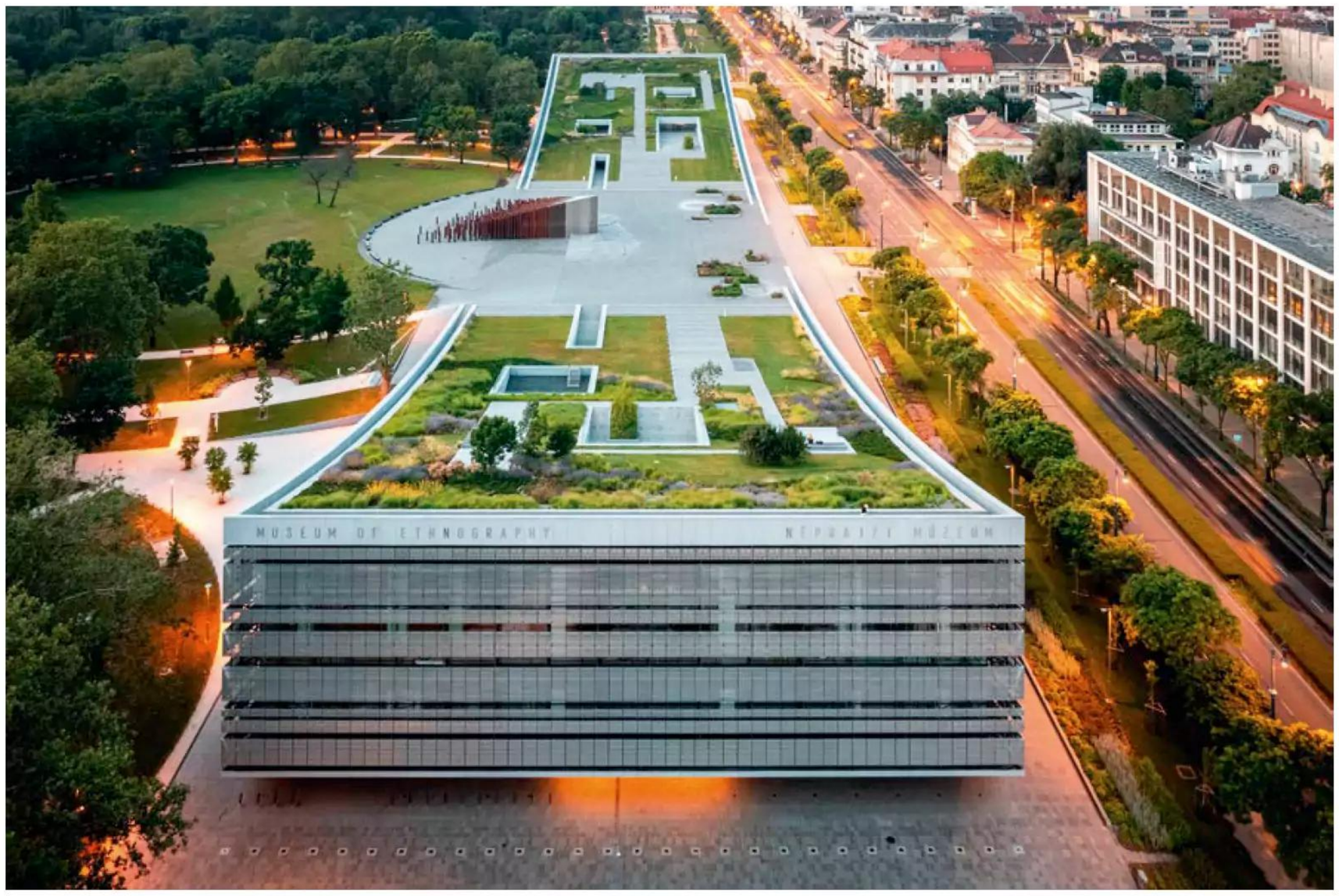

Museum of Ethnography

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Freshly unveiled in 2024, the Museum of Ethnography's permanent exhibition is a vibrant journey through time, traditions and the many ways people make sense of the world. Set across a sprawling 32,300sq ft, the space brings together an impressive 3,600 original artefacts and 1,600 photographs, organised into eight thematic sections that crisscross five continents and more than 153 years of collecting.

This is more than just a display of objects — it's a celebration of stories. A thousand, in fact, all waiting to be uncovered through 100 thoughtfully crafted interpretations. From centuries-old bridal chests packed with family lore to a Khanty shaman's funerary effigy revisited by a descendant a hundred years later, each piece holds a tale that bridges past and present, tradition and change.

At the heart of the exhibition is the idea of shifting perspectives. Visitors are invited to explore Hungarian heritage and the customs of global cultures, all while rethinking how we understand the objects that surround us. There's a special focus on the lives these artefacts have led — how they were made, used and treasured. The stories aren't just about the items on display. They're also about the people who studied them: figures like Béla Bartók, who roamed the countryside with a phonograph to capture the soundscape of folk life; Lajos Bíró, who journeyed to Oceania to document disappearing cultures; and István Györffy, a tireless explorer of ancient folk traditions. Their legacy is woven into the exhibition, alongside reflections on the museum's own beginnings — including a nostalgic nod to the first permanent exhibition in 1898 and the Ethnographic Village at the grand Millennium Exhibition.

Art, history, anthropology all collide in a space that feels more like a living archive than a museum. Through a curated mix of fieldwork, folk art and contemporary commentary, the exhibition paints a rich, layered portrait of humanity's distinct ways of life. Whether you're tracing Hungarian roots or curious about how cultures connect, the museum's new exhibition promises an inspiring and eye-opening experience, one that proves every object has a soul, and every culture a voice worth hearing.

DON'T MISS View fascinating collections including that of Béla Bartók, who collected folk music using a phonograph

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Located at the gateway to Budapest's most beautiful park
- 75,350sq ft of world-class exhibition space
- Fascinating collections for immersion in Hungarian and international traditions

GET IN TOUCH

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IMAGES: GRÉTA SÁNTA, LÁSZLÓ INCZE & JÓZSEF MOLNÁR

Hotel Torre di Bellosguardo

FLORENCE, ITALY

Torre di Bellosguardo is a uniquely private four-star hotel housed in a 13th-century tower, nestled on a hill overlooking Florence. Surrounded by lush, lovingly tended gardens and olive groves, 'Bellosguardo' — which translates as 'beautiful view' — offers by far the most breathtaking vistas of the Cradle of the Renaissance, as Florence is often known.

With only 16 spacious guest rooms — each tastefully decorated and possessing its own individual character — a stay at Bellosguardo feels more like living in an immaculately preserved private stately home than in a hotel. The property is independently run by its owners and is deliberately not part of any hotel chain.

It's a place of great individuality and authenticity, of beauty and tranquillity – a retreat from today's hyperactivity. It invites guests to pause and reflect, to breathe in nature, to savour beauty and to truly unwind — all just a 10-minute drive from the Uffizi Gallery, Brunelleschi's Duomo, Michelangelo's David and, last but not least, Florence's finest trattorias.

Whether you choose to relax by the hotel pool, dine al fresco with Florence's historic centre quite literally at your feet, enjoy a Tuscan cooking class in the owners' private kitchen, stroll through the rich gardens, flower and water beds, vineyards and orchard, or simply read a book beneath lemon trees and cypresses, you'll find Bellosguardo is a celebration of the art of slow living.

First built in the 13th century by Guido Cavalcanti, a friend of Dante Alighieri, the Torre di Bellosguardo has been painstakingly and lovingly restored by its current owners with the sole ambition of preserving its unique beauty and offering guests a private, bespoke escape from the pressures of modern life. With its interiors of frescoed halls and antique furniture, it's a place of subtle charm and comfort — an understated contrast to the impersonal nature of many of today's luxury hotels.

Its unrivalled location and unique atmosphere make it the perfect stay for those seeking authenticity and beauty — whether art-lovers and avid sightseers, couples in search of a romantic getaway, or families with children

DON'T MISS Book a cooking class in the owners' kitchen and enjoy delicious traditional dishes paired with a glass of Bellosguardo's wine

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Swimming pool
- Free wi-fi
- Large gardens with stunning views
- Free garage

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Cooking classes
- Swimming and relaxing by the pool
- Museums
- Shopping

GET IN TOUCH

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Chiaja and Decumani Hotels de Charme

NAPLES, ITALY

Naples reveals its most elegant side through two exceptional, family-owned properties, where aristocratic heritage blends with refined hospitality. Chiaja Hotel de Charme and Decumani Hotel de Charme offer travellers an immersion into Neapolitan nobility, while providing bases for exploring Italy's most vibrant city.

Chiaja Hotel de Charme occupies part of a noble residence once belonging to Marchese Nicola Lecaldano Sasso La Terza, along with a 19th-century *maison de rendez-vous*. Just steps from the San Carlo Theatre and Piazza del Plebiscito, this boutique gem places guests at the heart of Naples' cultural landmarks and shopping districts. Meanwhile, tucked within the UNESCO-listed historic centre, Decumani Hotel de Charme transforms an 18th-century aristocratic palazzo into an elegant retreat mere steps from the ancient Spaccanapoli thoroughfare, where centuries of Neapolitan life unfolds. Rooms are individually styled to retain their historical character while offering all modern comforts; some retain remnants of the property's opulent past as the official residence of Cardinale Sisto Riario Sforza, the last Archbishop of the Kingdom of Naples.

Both properties celebrate their architectural heritage through meticulous preservation. At Chiaja, antique furnishings and period details transport visitors to the elegance of 19th-century nobility while, at Decumani, high-frescoed ceilings, golden mirrors and crystal chandeliers reflect Southern Italy's baroque traditions. Despite their central locations, both hotels offer tranquil sanctuaries. Soundproofed rooms combine historical character with modern amenities, including spacious bathrooms, air conditioning, LED TVs and broadband.

The privileged locations of these properties place Naples' most coveted attractions within easy reach. From Chiaja, guests can stroll to the seafront and Castel dell'Ovo or explore designer boutiques along Via Chiaia and Via Roma. From Decumani, treasures such as the San Severo Chapel with its renowned Veiled Christ sculpture, Underground Naples, and the artisanal workshops of Via San Gregorio Armeno, are within easy walking distance.

DON'T MISS Indulge in flaky *sfogliatelle* pastries and pillowy *babà al rum* dessert with an espresso, at a historic Neapolitan cafe

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Historic buildings
- Central location
- Terrace/solarium
- Cocktail bar

KEY ACTIVITIES

- UNESCO-listed historic centre with piazzas, churches, monuments & castles
- Culinary experiences & street-food tours

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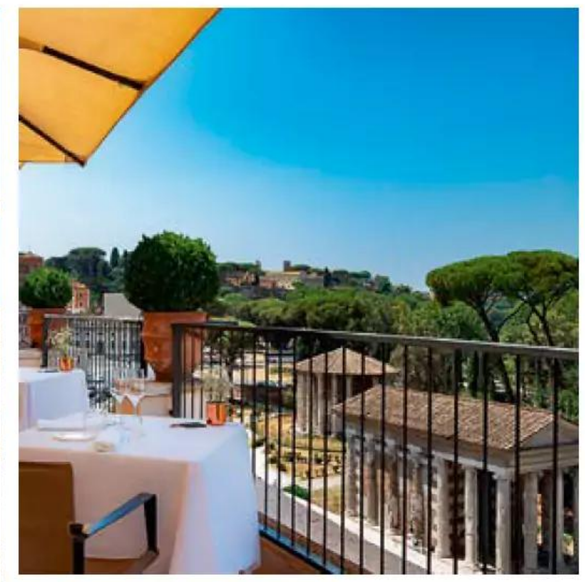

47 Boutique Hotel

ROME, ITALY

Situated in the heart of Rome, 47 Boutique Hotel is an intimate retreat where history, elegance and modern comfort converge. Housed in a striking 1930s building, it's surrounded by some of the city's most iconic landmarks, from the Mouth of Truth and the Roman Forum to the Colosseum and the vibrant Trastevere district.

Each of the five themed floors offers a world of its own, inviting guests to immerse themselves in an atmosphere of inspiration and discovery. The first floor pays homage to iconic Italian design, showcasing works by Piero Fornasetti, Gae Aulenti, Marco Zanuso, Ettore Sottsass and Achille Castiglioni. The second floor is a haven for fashion-lovers — from Giorgio Armani's understated elegance and Coco Chanel's fusion of simplicity and sophistication to Etro's distinctive patterns.

On the third floor, the spotlight turns to 1960s icons, featuring memorabilia such as Andy Warhol's posters, Sean Connery's signed photographs and Muhammad Ali's autographed glove. The fourth floor is dedicated to photography, displaying legendary works including Elliott Erwitt's California Kiss, Steve McCurry's Afghan Girl and Sebastião Salgado's African Elephant. Meanwhile, the fifth and final floor celebrates the eternal charm of Rome, offering elegant rooms with private terraces and breathtaking city views.

The hotel's shared spaces are designed for both relaxation and inspiration, featuring an exclusive private cinema and a billiard room. For a moment of tranquillity, the internal courtyard offers a secluded green oasis — perfect for a leisurely breakfast in the warmer months. Guests can also indulge in the wellness area, complete with a Turkish bath and a fully equipped gym.

Culinary experiences at 47 Boutique Hotel are equally refined. The 47 Circus Roof Garden is an elegant open-air restaurant with panoramic views, while 47 Parole in Libertà Bistrot offers a sophisticated dining space inspired by 1920s decor.

Sustainability is at the heart of 47 Boutique Hotel's ethos. Through its 'From Orange to Green' project, the hotel has taken significant steps to reduce its environmental impact, becoming the first in Rome to achieve Green Globe certification.

DON'T MISS Experience fine Italian dining on the panoramic terrace, where the Roman Forum provides a backdrop to every course

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- City centre location
- 61 rooms & suites
- Sustainable amenities
- Rooms with private terrace on the 5th floor
- Room service
- Wellness area with gym & Turkish bath
- Panoramic restaurant & cocktail bar
- Billiard room
- Private tours
- Free e-bike rental

GET IN TOUCH

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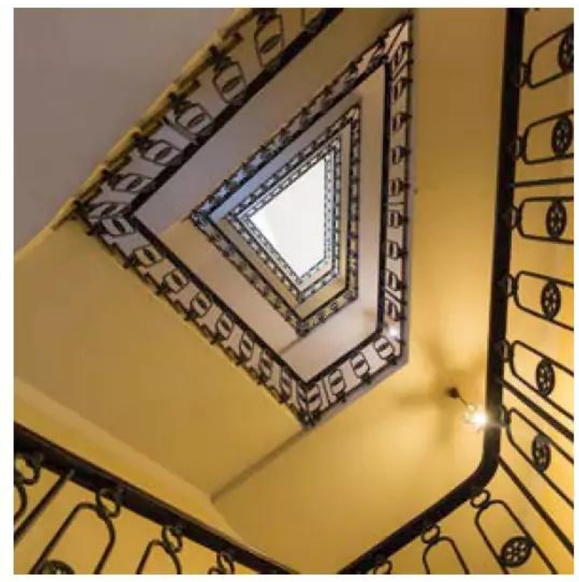

Palazzo Baj in Trastevere

ROME, ITALY

Within the late 19th-century Palazzo Baj, where a Renaissance Revival style meets modern bohemian vibes, Palazzo Baj in Trastevere is a boutique hotel that represents the perfect combination of history, good food, art, local markets and authentic experiences. It's located in the enchanting Trastevere neighbourhood, looking across the River Tiber towards the Circus Maximus, Forum Boarium and historic Jewish Ghetto.

Trastevere is the most vibrant part of the capital, offering something for every discerning traveller, whether you're exploring cobblestone streets that blend seamlessly with contemporary amenities — finding the soul of the area around iconic Piazza dei Mercanti, the Tiber Island and Santa Cecilia Basilica — or you're enjoying a rooftop aperitivo followed by a trip to a traditional trattoria serving savoury Roman cuisine. For an immersive experience that goes beyond the tourist path, this district is a treasure trove waiting to be explored, from the quaint artisan ceramic or leather workshops offering unique handicrafts, to the taste of true Roman hospitality in family-run eateries.

In this unique setting, Palazzo Baj in Trastevere is the perfect refuge for travellers looking for an authentic experience as they discover a side of Rome that most other visitors don't get to see. Every detail of this exquisite small property exudes sophistication and comfort, from its meticulously designed rooms to its customised welcome. Palazzo Baj in Trastevere spares no detail in ensuring a truly luxurious and sustainable accommodation and travel experience.

All four suites have original vaulted ceilings from the late 19th century, as well as hardwood rovere parquet floors, custom furnishings with a contemporary design, handcrafted decoration by local artisans, and furniture and lighting chosen from among iconic pieces of Italian design.

Palazzo Baj in Trastevere offers a blend of warm, personalised hospitality and carefully curated local experiences, including private walking tours and a nearby hammam bath. Staying here feels like relaxing with a friend over an espresso in the lounge, all while enjoying the refined service and high standards of an intimate boutique hotel.

DON'T MISS Stroll the quaint cobblestone streets of Trastevere and pick up a slice of traditional ricotta and sour cherry tart in the Jewish Ghetto

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 4 private suites
- Lounge area including buffet
- Wide selection of experiences
- Hammam in the Jewish Ghetto
- Organic, vegan & gluten-free options
- Local walking tours
- Travel proud certified

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Porta Portese market on Sunday
- Pizza al taglio to go in street bakeries
- Campagna Amica Km0 market at Circo Massimo
- Jogging along the Tiber riverbank
- Piazza dei Mercanti & Church of Santa Francesca Romana
- Sunset at Gianicolo hill
- Cooking classes & street food tours

GET IN TOUCH

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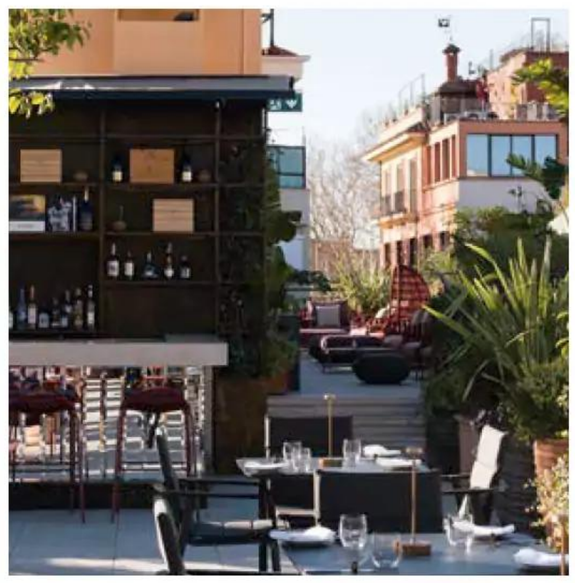

Palazzo Ripetta

ROME, ITALY

Situated on Via Ripetta, one of Rome's most historic streets, Palazzo Ripetta is a short stroll from Piazza del Popolo, the Spanish Steps and Via del Corso. Reopened in 2023 after an extensive restoration, this independent, family-owned hotel offers 78 elegant rooms and suites, each adorned in rich jewel tones that exude warmth and sophistication.

Originally built in the 17th century as a shelter and run by nuns, Palazzo Ripetta provided education to orphaned young women for nearly three centuries. Today, as a proud member of Relais & Châteaux, it blends Rome's historic charm with contemporary luxury, offering a refined retreat for couples and families in the heart of Rome. The hotel itself is an immersive gallery, displaying sculptural installations and curated historical artefacts, including works by Pomodoro, Ortiz, Warhol and Sinisca. The hotel's Salone Bernini, once an 18th-century oratory, now stands as one of central Rome's most prestigious event spaces, adorned with the breathtaking Triga fresco and sculptures by Liberatore — an extraordinary setting for meetings and special occasions.

Palazzo Ripetta's culinary offering is equally exceptional. At San Baylon, the hotel's intimate and refined restaurant, the executive chef presents an innovative menu that elevates Italian flavours with technical precision, complemented by a meticulously selected wine list. The open kitchen creates a sense of theatre, ensuring a seamless dining experience. For a more relaxed atmosphere, Piazzetta Ripetta's secret garden offers a tranquil escape for all-day dining and cocktails by the fountain, while the Baylon Cocktail Bar inside serves expertly crafted drinks that blend classic mixology with creative twists. In summer, the Etere Rooftop provides panoramic views over Rome — an idyllic spot for *aperitivi* and Mediterranean delicacies beneath the Italian sun.

Beyond luxury accommodation and fine dining, Palazzo Ripetta is also a leader in sustainability. Holding the Green Key certification, the hotel operates as a zero-impact structure, powered entirely by renewable energy, with every detail designed to minimise its carbon footprint and uphold the highest environmental standards.

DON'T MISS Soak up breathtaking views of Rome's skyline from Etere Rooftop as the sun sets over the Eternal City

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 3 sustainable food & drink venues:
  San Baylon — fine dining, with indoor & outdoor seating
  Piazzetta Ripetta — a hidden garden sanctuary
  Etere Rooftop — an open-air wine bar with panoramic views
- 5 meeting & event spaces with natural daylight, accommodating up to 100 guests
- 78 spacious rooms & suites
- State-of-the-art gym

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Sunday brunch
- Art & cultural tours
- Cooking class at San Baylon for all the family & mixology class

GET IN TOUCH

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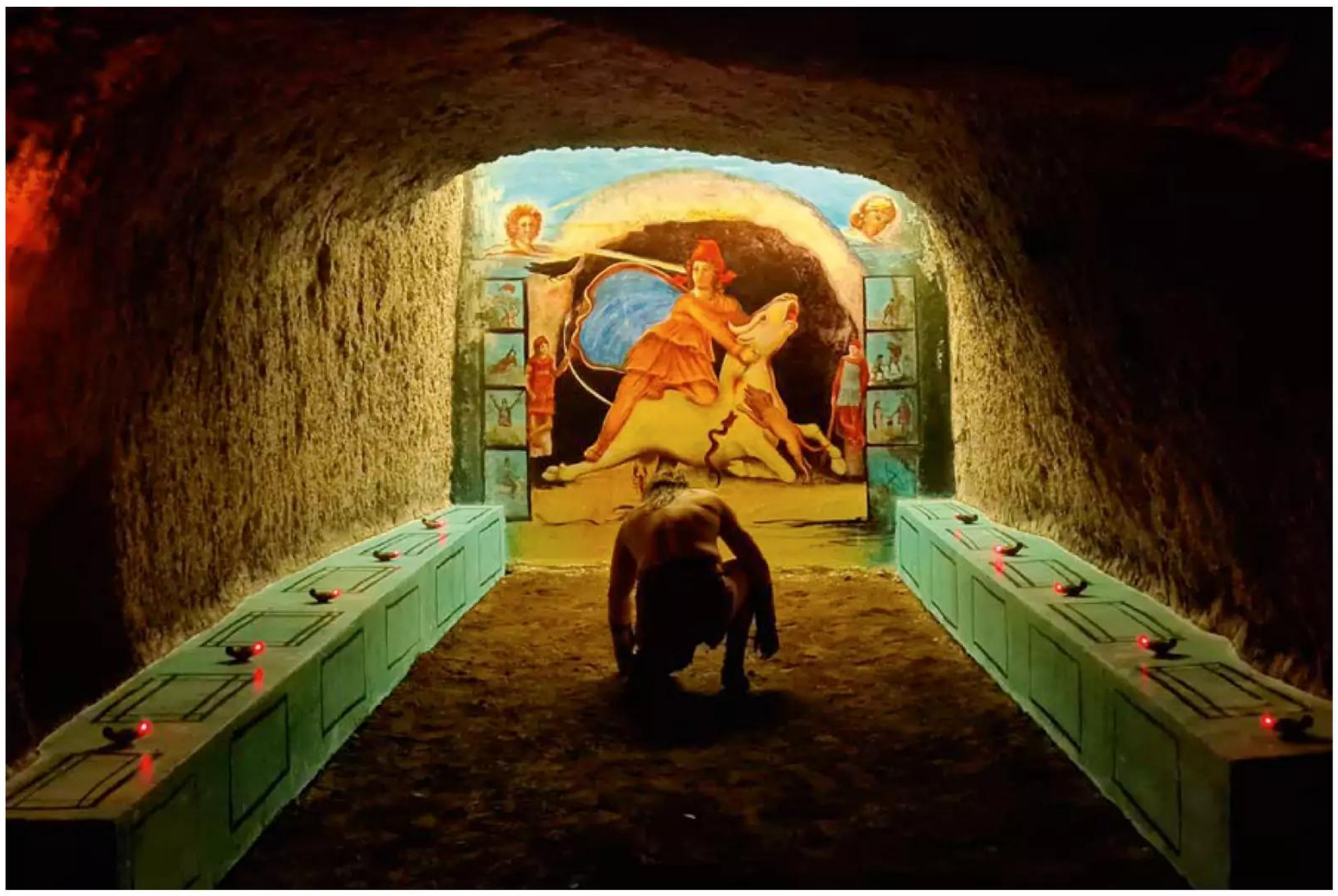

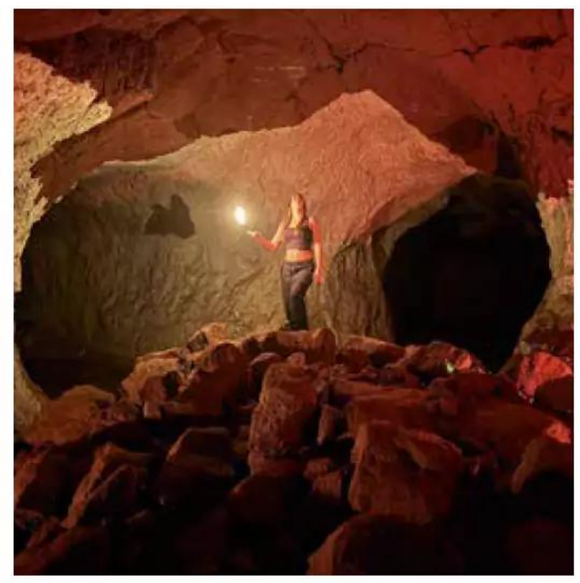

Sotterranei di Roma

ROME, ITALY

Beneath the cobbled streets and lively markets lies another Rome — less visible but equally compelling. A city carved below the surface, layered with centuries of history in the form of catacombs, aqueducts, ancient quarries and forgotten crypts. This is underground Rome: a lesser-known but integral part of the capital's story.

Leading the way into this hidden landscape is Sotterranei di Roma, a nonprofit organisation made up of archaeologists, historians and speleologists committed to preserving and sharing the city's underground heritage. Their guided tours — available throughout the year — offer rare access to areas typically closed to the public and are driven by meticulous research and a passion for history and storytelling.

One tour explores early Christian burial sites and quarry tunnels once used to extract stone for imperial monuments — eerie yet fascinating spaces that speak to the ingenuity and resilience of ancient Romans. Another follows the path of ancient aqueducts stretching through the countryside, still echoing the grandeur that inspired Renaissance masters, while a third uncovers the hidden corners of Trastevere, one of Rome's oldest neighbourhoods, where visitors find crypts, early Christian hideouts and fragments of medieval Rome tucked beneath the modern city.

Each tour goes beyond sightseeing, delving into the rituals, beliefs and urban planning that shaped Roman civilisation from below. These subterranean routes reveal how the city's spiritual and practical needs were entwined — from the need for clean water and burial grounds to secret spaces for worship during periods of persecution.

Exploring these underground spaces offers a more complete understanding of Rome's past. Rather than focusing on iconic landmarks, visitors engage with the foundations on which the city was built — both literally and historically. In these quiet, preserved environments, history feels closer and more tangible. Travellers see the hand-chiselled marks left by ancient quarry workers, trace the path of water that once sustained an empire, and feel the stillness of underground chapels that once hosted whispered prayers.

DON'T MISS Take Sotterranei di Roma's expert-led underground tour of catacombs and quarries to uncover Rome's hidden subterranean marvels

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Expert-led tours by archaeologists, historians and speleologists
- Access to underground sites normally closed to the public
- Year-round itineraries across different districts of Rome
- Small group sizes for an immersive, in-depth experience
- Focus on preservation and responsible exploration

GET IN TOUCH

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Turtle Tours

ROME, ITALY

Discover the Eternal City, where ancient history merges seamlessly with vibrant culture, and every hidden gem tells a rich, compelling story. As a premium tour guide company, Turtle Tours is dedicated to crafting and delivering unforgettable experiences. It offers value-added services tailored to all kinds of travellers — whether you're a history buff, a foodie or an art enthusiast.

The company's unique offerings focus on comfort, luxury and authenticity, brought to life through captivating golf cart tours that operate both during the day and night. These are complemented by enticing food tours, all designed to immerse you in Rome's multifaceted charm. Turtle Tours uses state-of-the-art, eye-catching electric golf carts that are eco-friendly and zero impact for a truly magnificent urban safari. The name of the company is inspired by a gentle animal that embodies safety and comfort, reflecting the essence of the offerings.

When visiting Rome, tourists are often overwhelmed by the sheer wealth of things to see and do. That's why the expertise of a skilled local tour guide, operations manager, historian and other team members is invaluable. Turtle Tours aims to simplify the process — transforming the notion of a 'tourist' into something deeper: a feeling of belonging, a profound connection to the city.

Rome is the beating heart of Italy, not only as its capital but as the former seat of the mighty Roman Empire. It holds the highest concentration of historical and architectural assets in the world. It is vital to choose a tour that offers a distinctive and efficient experience, especially for clients wanting to explore key landmarks — both man-made and natural — within a limited time.

Turtle Tours prides itself on tailoring adventures to match the desires of each customer, curating experiences that reflect your unique interests. Highlights include ancient wonders such as the Colosseum, an architectural masterpiece that once hosted gladiatorial contests; the iconic Trevi Fountain; Gianicolo Hill, offering sweeping panoramic views of the city; and the Pantheon, the best-preserved building of Ancient Rome. Tours often culminate at the centre of Catholicism and the world's smallest country: Vatican City.

DON'T MISS Soak up sweeping city views from Gianicolo Hill on a scenic golf cart ride – the perfect photo stop above Rome's rooftops

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Privately curated and tailor-made experiences
- Local expert tour guides with in-depth knowledge
- Environmentally friendly tours with locally sourced electric carts
- Main attractions and unique adventures

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Day and night tours with cultural immersion
- Centralised locations for points of pick-up and drop-off
- An authentic taste of Rome's culinary delights
- Multiple modes of breathtaking exploration

GET IN TOUCH

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Hotel Al Ponte Mocenigo

VENICE, ITALY

Tucked away in one of Venice's most enchanting quarters, Hotel Al Ponte Mocenigo (a small, three-star boutique hotel) offers the perfect blend of elegance and authentic charm. Just a short stroll from the Rialto Bridge and only 15 minutes on foot from the famed St Mark's Square, the hotel places travellers in the heart of the city, yet comfortably removed from its busiest tourist routes.

Set within a beautifully restored historic palace, the hotel immerses guests in the refined elegance of 18th-century Venice. Each room is individually styled, with Murano glass chandeliers, soft damask fabrics in pastel tones and large, comfortable beds. Modern amenities are seamlessly incorporated, offering all the comforts required for a relaxing stay without compromising on character.

Owners Sandro and Valter are known for their warmth and personal approach, welcoming guests with genuine hospitality and a wealth of local insight. Their thoughtful attention to detail and dedication to service have made Hotel Al Ponte Mocenigo a favourite with visitors seeking a more authentic Venetian experience.

Ideally situated just behind the beautiful San Stae Church and around 150ft from the San Stae vaporetto stop — accessible without crossing any bridges — the hotel provides an excellent base for exploring the city, whether on foot or by water. The surrounding streets are full of hidden treasures and lesser-known corners that reveal Venice's quieter, more authentic side.

In the immediate vicinity, travellers will find Ca' Pesaro, a baroque masterpiece housing both the Museum of Oriental Art and the International Gallery of Modern Art, where works by Klimt, Chagall, Kandinsky and Rodin are on display. The nearby Museum of Natural History and the Mocenigo Palace — once the home of the noble Mocenigo family, now dedicated to the history of textiles and costume — are also well worth a visit.

For a taste of everyday Venetian life, guests should head to the lively nearby squares of Campo San Giacomo, Campo dei Frari, San Rocco and Campo Santa Margherita. Each offers a colourful glimpse into local culture, while the bustling Rialto Market brings the area to life every morning.

DON'T MISS Wander through the Rialto Market in the morning to see the city come alive with vibrant stalls of fresh fish, fruit and vegetables

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Peaceful, central location
- Surrounded by cultural landmarks, museums & hidden local gems
- Set in a beautifully restored historic Venetian palace
- Rooms furnished in elegant 18th-century style
- Complimentary modern comforts including wi-fi, air conditioning & minibars
- Renowned personal hospitality

GET IN TOUCH

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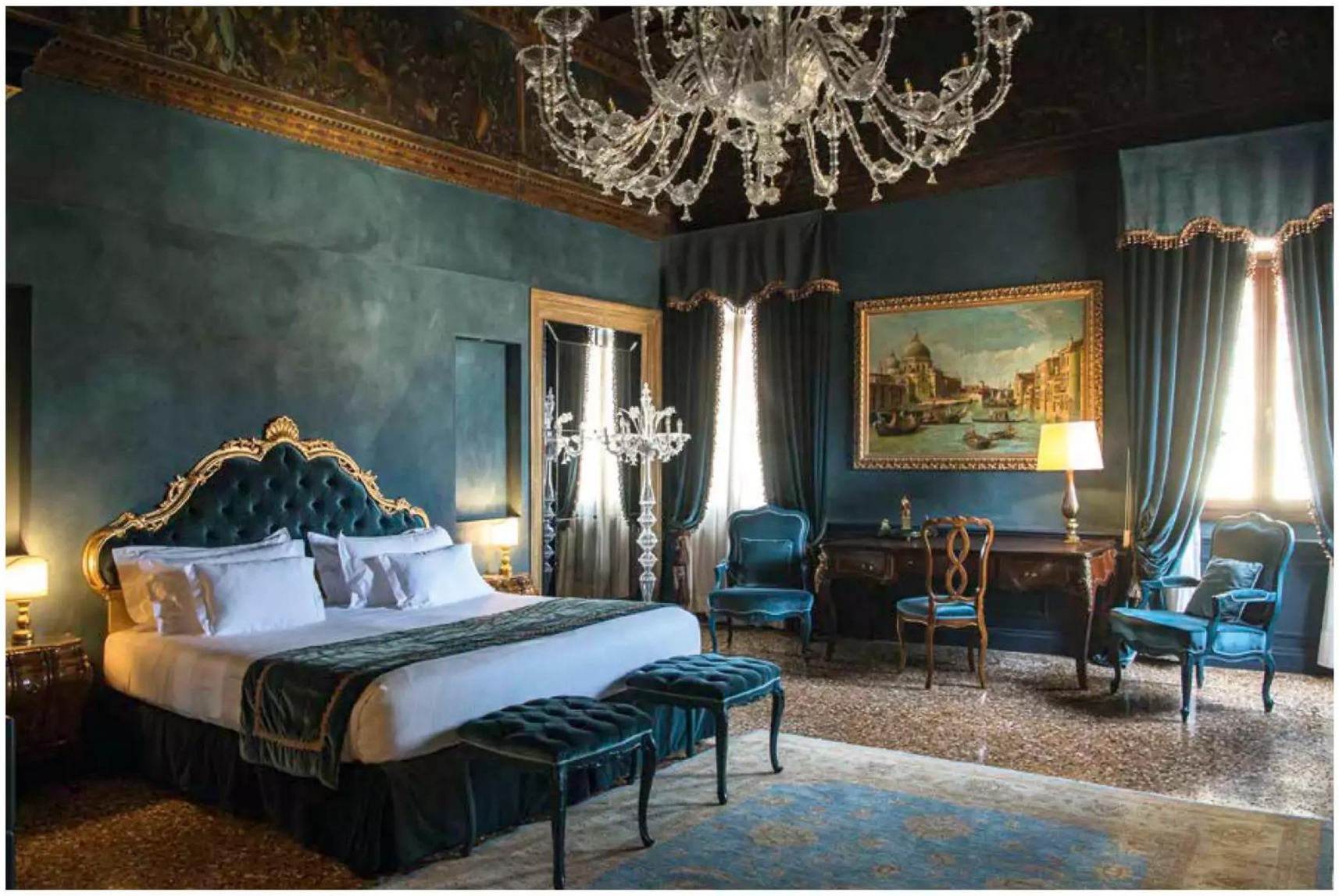

Hotel Nani Mocenigo Palace

VENICE, ITALY

Every corner of Hotel Nani Mocenigo Palace tells a story. Original frescoes, intricate Murano glass chandeliers and antique furnishings create an atmosphere steeped in nobility and grace.

Carefully restored to preserve its historic soul while offering modern comforts, Hotel Nani Mocenigo Palace stands as a living testament to the city's glorious past. High coffered ceilings, silk wall coverings and ornate details reflect the grandeur of the Venetian Renaissance, while soft lighting and luxurious materials provide a warm, welcoming ambiance.

The 30 rooms and suites are designed to immerse guests in an atmosphere of refined beauty. Each one is uniquely decorated, featuring period furniture, precious fabrics and sumptuous beds that ensure a restful and regal stay. Some rooms offer private balconies or breathtaking views over the tranquil canals, where gondolas glide past in a timeless dance.

The garden of Hotel Nani Mocenigo Palace is a rare gem — an authentic example of a Venetian garden. It features an original well, part of the ancient system used to supply fresh water in the city. In a place built on salt water, where the city comprises more than 50 islands connected by bridges and canals, gardens are precious, unique and scarce. This tranquil retreat offers a peaceful escape from the city's vibrant energy.

La Bauta restaurant, led by renowned chef Gennaro Esposito, offers a culinary journey through Venetian traditions. The menu celebrates the freshest seasonal produce and regional excellence.

Venetian cuisine, primarily based on the freshest fish and seafood, has been shaped over centuries by merchants who brought back herbs and spices from the Far East — flavours that have enriched traditional recipes. Esposito adds his own Neapolitan touch to this heritage, honouring the city's past while making the most of his creative flair.

At La Bauta, whether enjoying a simple aperitif or a full tasting menu, guests are invited to savour the gastronomic history of the region in its most elegant and imaginative form.

DON'T MISS Dine al fresco in the hotel's secret garden, where you'll be served sumptuous Venetian specialities

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 20 double rooms
- 5 junior suites
- 4 suites
- 1 family suite
- La Bauta restaurant

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Jogging
- Boat tours
- *Cicheti* (snacks) & wine
- Sightseeing

GET IN TOUCH

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Riga Motor Museum

RIGA, LATVIA

Located in the Mežciems district of Riga, the Riga Motor Museum is one of the most remarkable destinations for local visitors and travellers. It's a museum not only for car history enthusiasts and technology-lovers, but for everyone who wants to discover the world of vehicles.

Established in 1989, the museum has grown into the largest collection of historic vehicles in the Baltics. After a revamp in 2016, it was reborn with an exhibition blending history and innovation. Even the museum's facade reflects its unique character — its design is inspired by the iconic Rolls-Royce grille.

The museum is spread across three floors, each dedicated to a different era and theme in automotive history. The ground floor takes visitors back to the origins of motoring. On the first floor, the world of motorsport comes to life, showcasing racing cars and cult cars, and an extensive collection of Soviet-era vehicles, including the grand limousines. In the basement floor of the museum, you'll find an impressive display of heavy trucks and specialised vehicles, alongside exhibits that were designed and built in Latvia.

One of the museum's true gems is the 1938 Auto Union Type C/D racing car. The original was saved by Latvian enthusiasts from destruction and later exchanged for this precise reproduction, allowing visitors today to admire the engineering marvels of the pre-war Grand Prix era.

The Riga Motor Museum is more than just a collection of cars — it's an interactive and educational experience. The exhibitions are enhanced with multimedia features, simulations and hands-on activities. Visitors can not only observe but also participate — test interactive displays, explore virtual archives or go on a simulated drive.

The museum is located right next to the historic Biķernieki race track — Latvia's most important motorsport venue. This adds a special atmosphere to the visit, especially for racing fans, as it connects the museum's exhibits with the sounds and stories of real racing history still alive today.

For those eager to dive deeper into the stories behind the exhibits, guided tours are available, led by knowledgeable experts who bring each vehicle's history to life.

DON'T MISS Explore the museum's collection of more than 100 rare vehicles, brought to life through multimedia and hands-on exhibits

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Suitable for people with disabilities
- Conference hall
- Gift shop
- On-site cafe

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Guided tours
- Interactive attractions
- Audio guide
- Bikernieki race track simulator

GET IN TOUCH

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The Museum of the Occupation of Latvia

RIGA, LATVIA

Offering a thoughtful insight into a pivotal chapter of Baltic history, the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia in Riga explores the country's experiences under successive occupations. After just two decades of independence following the First World War, Latvia endured three foreign occupations during the Second World War, followed by nearly 50 years under Soviet rule. The museum traces these turbulent periods, highlighting the resilience of the Latvian people.

Visitors can explore the museum's carefully curated exhibitions and gain a deeper understanding of the fragile nature of peace and sovereignty. Displays include historical documents, photographs, personal testimonies and video stories that capture the challenges faced by ordinary citizens during times of political upheaval. The museum doesn't shy away from the complexities of this history, offering nuanced perspectives on how different regimes impacted Latvia and its people.

Located in Riga's Town Hall Square, the museum was founded in 1993 and recently underwent major renovations to modernise its exhibitions. Visitors can explore independently, take an audio-guided tour available in several languages or join a guided tour led by knowledgeable staff who bring the historical narrative to life.

A visit to the museum can also include the KGB Building, located in central Riga. Known locally as the 'Corner House', this site was once the headquarters of the Soviet security services. Today, its preserved cells and interrogation rooms offer a look at the experiences of those who lived through these times. Tours of the building provide further insight into the personal stories of those affected and the context of Latvia's 20th-century history.

The museum's mission is to remember and to educate, ensuring that the events of the past aren't forgotten. It also highlights the continuing importance of safeguarding democracy and national identity — themes that remain relevant today. With its central location, compelling exhibits and powerful storytelling, the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia is an essential stop for travellers interested in history, culture and the enduring spirit of a nation.

DON'T MISS Experience the Latvian nation's emotional journey through the darkness of occupation to restored freedom

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Permanent exhibitions
- Temporary exhibitions
- Souvenirs
- Books

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Guided tours
- Audio guides
- Individual visits
- Various events

GET IN TOUCH

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The Principality of Liechtenstein

LIECHTENSTEIN

Tucked between Switzerland and Austria, the small Principality of Liechtenstein often escapes the spotlight of European travel. But what this alpine microstate lacks in size, it makes up for in natural beauty, cultural richness and unforgettable outdoor adventures. At just over 60sq miles, Liechtenstein is a land of compact contrasts — a place where high mountains meet charming villages and world-class museums are just steps away from untouched nature.

For hiking enthusiasts, Liechtenstein is nothing short of paradise. With more than 250 miles of well-marked trails, the country has the densest hiking trail network in Europe. And the crown jewel of it all? The Liechtenstein Trail, a 47-mile route that weaves through all 11 municipalities, from the southern tip in Balzers to the northern village of Ruggell. This 'one country, one trail' experience offers a unique opportunity to walk through a nation's soul, past vineyards, mountain vistas, the castle of Vaduz and sleepy hamlets. Another highlight is Route 66, which offers idyllic views across the valley.

But Liechtenstein isn't just for hikers. Its capital, Vaduz, is a cultural hub that surprises many first-time visitors. Strolling through the Städtle — the pedestrian zone in the heart of Vaduz — travellers are greeted by modern architecture, cosy cafes and the towering Schloss Vaduz high above the town, the official residence of the Prince of Liechtenstein. The castle view alone is worth the walk, but the area also impresses with its 'museum mile' — six museums within a short distance of each other, from the contemporary Kunstmuseum to the treasure-filled SchatzKammer.

This juxtaposition of wilderness and culture defines the Liechtenstein experience. Guests can spend the morning hiking a panoramic trail at over 6.500ft above sea level, and by afternoon, enjoy a wine-tasting at the renowned Hofkellerei or explore modern art masterpieces at one of the many museums or galleries.

Liechtenstein is more than a destination — it's a reminder that sometimes the most memorable experiences are found off the beaten path, in places that still hold the magic of discovery.

DON'T MISS Hike the Liechtenstein Trail, a one-of-a-kind experience that takes travellers through all 11 municipalities

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Stunning hiking trails
- Cultural riches in Vaduz
- Panoramic views
- Royal charm

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Hiking adventures
- Wine-tasting

GET IN TOUCH

tourismus.li/en
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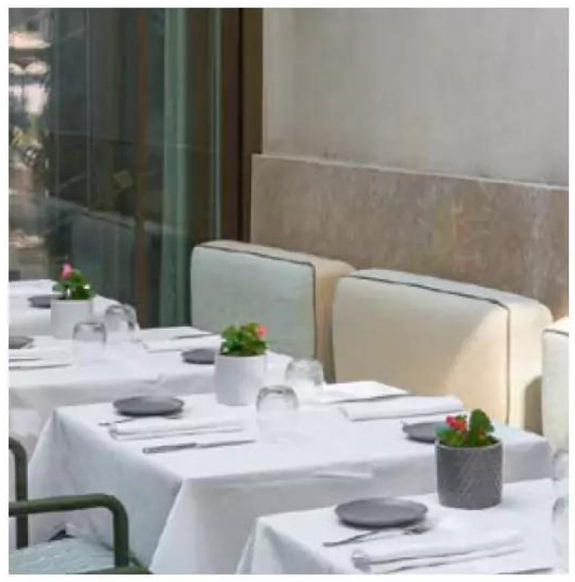
E: info@liechtenstein.li



Hôtel Le Place d'Armes, Relais & Châteaux

LUXEMBOURG

As a proud member of Relais & Châteaux, Hôtel Le Place d'Armes embodies the elegance and charm of old-world Luxembourg while offering every modern comfort. Set within seven beautifully restored 17th-century townhouses, this five-star retreat has preserved its architectural soul, blending art nouveau flourishes with understated sophistication. The hotel's rooms and suites are designed to feel both indulgent and intimate. Many feature original wooden beams, period details or private terraces, creating a sense of place that bridges heritage and contemporary luxury. Thoughtfully curated interiors reflect a commitment to serenity and balance, offering guests a rare moment of stillness in the city.

This same philosophy extends to the hotel's culinary offering, delivered through four distinct dining venues. At La Cristallerie, fine dining meets creative seasonal cuisine, all served in a refined Art Nouveau setting. Le Plëss, a modern rotisserie imagined by designer Tristan Auer, presents French seasonal dishes with a distinct Luxembourgish influence. Nearby, Le Café de Paris captures the spirit of a traditional brasserie with classic French fare and a relaxed, welcoming ambiance. For cocktails, Le 18 Bar — also designed by Tristan Auer — offers an elegant yet inviting setting, perfect for unwinding with a signature drink in hand. Many of these spaces open onto tastefully designed terraces, allowing guests to savour al fresco moments in a refined atmosphere.

Hôtel Le Place d'Armes is equally committed to responsible hospitality. As a certified Green Key property, it places sustainability at the core of its operations — from thoughtful resource use and waste reduction to sourcing local ingredients and prioritising eco-friendly materials. It's a quiet, considered approach that aligns perfectly with the values of Relais & Châteaux.

To stay here is to experience the essence of Luxembourg — a European capital where history, culture, and nature coexist in harmony. The city's UNESCO-listed Old Town, elegant architecture and expansive green spaces invite exploration, while its dynamic mix of museums, boutiques and cafes offer a rich taste of European *art de vivre*.

DON'T MISS Wander through the cobblestone streets of the UNESCO-listed Old Town, located just steps from the hotel

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 24-hour reception
- Clefs d'Or concierge service
- Valet parking
- Laundry & dry cleaning service
- Fitness room
- Massages available upon reservation
- Meeting rooms and private event spaces
- Seasonal rooftop
- 24-hour room service
- Gourmet dining & cocktail bar
- Pet-friendly services

GET IN TOUCH

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Discover splendour in the heart of Valletta
St John's Co-Cathedral
• Valletta Malta •

St John's Co-Cathedral

VALETTA, MALTA

St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta is one of Malta's most treasured landmarks. While its exterior reflects the restrained elegance of Valletta's 16th-century design, the interior is often hailed as one of Europe's finest examples of high baroque architecture. Commissioned by the Knights of the Order of St John, the cathedral was built to reflect both spiritual devotion and the Knights' growing influence across the Mediterranean. Inside, you'll find gilded carvings, elaborate stonework and vivid frescoes by Mattia Preti. His ceiling paintings bring to life scenes from the life of St John the Baptist, employing light and dramatic perspective to captivating effect.

A centrepiece of the cathedral's art collection is The Beheading of St John the Baptist by Caravaggio — powerful and emotionally charged, and the only work the artist ever signed. Equally remarkable is the marble floor, often described as a 'carpet of tombs', with nearly 400 inlaid gravestones commemorating Knights of the Order.

Still an active place of worship, the Co-Cathedral shares ecclesiastical status and hosts services throughout the year. It's far more than a religious site, however. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it stands as a cultural and historical monument of international significance.

To meet growing visitor interest, the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation has introduced a premium experience — an exclusive visit offering guests a more peaceful and contemplative atmosphere. This allows for deeper engagement with the cathedral's art, history and spiritual resonance, making it ideal for those seeking a more reflective encounter.

Beyond its beauty, the Co-Cathedral continues to thrive as a dynamic cultural institution. It supports education, offers opportunities for scholarly research and serves as a distinguished venue for concerts, lectures and exhibitions, fostering dialogue and promoting Malta's artistic heritage. More than a monument, St John's Co-Cathedral remains a living symbol of Malta's enduring identity — an essential destination for those wishing to understand the island's unique cultural and spiritual soul.

DON'T MISS Admire the marble floor, comprising nearly 400 richly inlaid marble gravestones commemorating a Knight of the Order

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Vaulted ceilings
- Frescoes
- Immersive & reflective tours
- Distinguished venue for high-profile concerts, lectures & exhibitions

GET IN TOUCH

stjohnscocathedral.com/buy-tickets
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Incredible Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Celebrated as one of Europe's most vibrant and multicultural cities, Amsterdam offers a rich cultural programme that caters to curious minds and refined palates alike. Even on a short sojourn, travellers can explore iconic landmarks, savour innovative gastronomy and immerse themselves in the city's distinctive charm.

Founded 750 years ago, Amsterdam is a city shaped by centuries of pivotal events and proud achievements. In the lively Dam Square — the historic heart of the city — Dutch heritage, striking architecture and modern energy converge. It's the perfect starting point for those looking to journey back to the city's origins, when the Amstel flowed freely, the sea was ever-present and no monarch had yet ruled. A Cultural City Tour brings these stories to life, guiding visitors along bridges, canals and centuries-old buildings.

For food-lovers, the Cultural Food Tours blend Amsterdam's storied past with its evolving culinary scene. From Dam Square, the route meanders west through handpicked cafes, bakeries and delicatessens — all committed to their craft and eager to challenge cliches like 'cheese nation' or 'fries country'. A standout stop is Gastrovino, where aromatic cheese bites and port wine are paired with captivating tales of maritime history.

Amsterdam also carries the powerful legacy of Anne Frank, whose diary became a global symbol of resilience. Her story resonates throughout the city, especially in the Jewish Quarter, where synagogues and memorials speak to a long-established community. A walking tour of the neighbourhood offers poignant insights into the early days of Jewish life in Amsterdam, the traumas of wartime occupation and the tragic interruption of Anne's once carefree childhood.

A completely different character, but one that is also deeply embedded in Amsterdam's identity, is the city's famed Red Light District. With its glowing windows and buzzing nightlife, it's often perceived as purely a party destination. Yet behind the facade lies a complex, lived-in neighbourhood. A guided tour here offers a more nuanced perspective, shedding light on the district's history, controversies and social realities.

DON'T MISS Visit the hidden, enchanting backyards on a walking tour through the endearing Jordaan district

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Cultural City Tour
- Anne Frank Tour
- Cultural Food Tour
- Red Light District Tour
- Cultural Jordaan Tour

GET IN TOUCH

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Leonardo Boutique Museumhotel, Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam's rich past breathes through its canals and historic facades, none more so than the Leonardo Boutique Museumhotel Amsterdam. Located on Pieter Cornelisz Hooftstraat, the city's premier shopping avenue, this hotel places you at the doorstep of Amsterdam's Museum Quarter.

Built in 1873 by architect Jean Servais, the neoclassical building originally housed six grand townhouses. Over time, the structure evolved, eventually becoming a hotel. Multiple renovations modernised and expanded the property, and the 2019 refurbishment took inspiration from the Rijksmuseum, incorporating its famed artworks into the décor of the hotel's 188 stylish rooms and expansive suites.

Step inside, and the scent of freshly roasted coffee welcomes travellers into the lobby and lounge. The Coffee Boutique provides guests with locally sourced breakfasts, quick bites and artisanal treats, creating a homely yet sophisticated atmosphere in the heart of the city.

The highlight of any stay is the breathtaking views of the Rijksmuseum, where guests can lose themselves in thoughts of Vermeer's The Milkmaid and Rembrandt's The Night Watch. Just a short stroll away, the Van Gogh Museum showcases the master's most celebrated works, while the Stedelijk Museum brings contemporary art-lovers into the present.

Evenings come alive at Leidseplein, a vibrant hub of theatres, restaurants and live music venues, perfect for an authentic Amsterdam night out. Prefer a more tranquil escape? Take one of the hotel's city bikes and ride through the renowned leafy oasis of Vondelpark, where locals gather for picnics, open-air concerts and leisurely strolls. For those beautiful summer evenings, guests can sip a wine on the garden terrace to unwind and escape from the city crowds.

The Leonardo Boutique Museumhotel is more than just a place to stay, it's an invitation to become immersed in the arts, history and effortless charm of Amsterdam. Whether sipping a coffee in the boutique cafe, gazing out at the Rijksmuseum or exploring the cultural gems just steps away, every moment here is an adventure.

DON'T MISS Book a Rijksmuseum-view room and lose yourself in Vermeer's The Milkmaid and Rembrandt's The Night Watch

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 188 stylish hotel rooms
- Remote working lounge
- The Coffee Boutique
- Bar
- Garden terrace

GET IN TOUCH

leonardo-hotels.com
T: +31 20 662 1402
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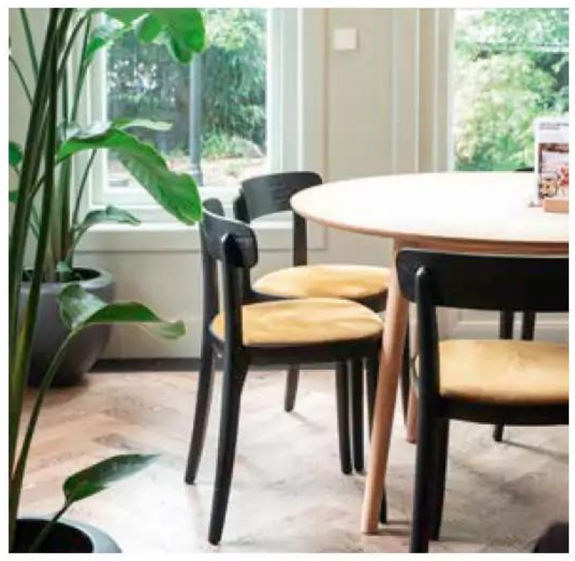

Anne&Max Boutique Hotel

UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Located in the heart of Utrecht, at the foot of the iconic Dom Tower, Anne&Max Boutique Hotel combines four-star service with a relaxed, homely atmosphere. No stiff suits here, but genuine hospitality in trainers and jeans wearing a big smile.

Housed in a beautiful, monumental building, the hotel features 15 luxury rooms spread over three floors. This was once the winter residence of the renowned De Beaufort family. The first two floors still impress with their high ceilings and distinctive details, such as original wainscoting in one room and a stunning fireplace in another. The hotel owners love these features and have preserved them for their guests to enjoy. Today, the comfortable beds are perfect for unwinding in, and those who treat themselves to a suite on the top floor will enjoy a private rooftop terrace with views of the Dom — the ultimate Utrecht experience.

On the ground floor, the Anne&Max all-day brunch restaurant invites guests to enjoy a relaxed breakfast with speciality coffee. The menu is 'planet-friendly', featuring organic ingredients and lots of vegetarian options, so you can enjoy your meal knowing you're not harming the planet. The coffee is direct trade, ensuring farmers get a fair price.

In the restaurant you can find a lively mix of hotel guests and locals every day. In the afternoon, the renowned high tea takes centre stage, and in the evening the bar is the perfect spot for a casual drink. Anne&Max Boutique Hotel is small and informal, with high standards and a great vibe.

Then there's the city of Utrecht. It's the fourth-largest in the Netherlands — not too crowded, it maintains its intimate atmosphere. The historic city centre is lined with charming canals.

What makes Utrecht unique are its low quays, allowing visitors to walk along the water or relax on one of the canal-side terraces. The city is filled with boutiques, vintage shops, bookstores and restaurants, all close to the hotel. Or venture a little further and discover Rotsoord: a former industrial area just outside the city centre. It's home to a variety of inviting restaurants set in former warehouses and factories. Getting round Utrecht is easiest by bike, a typically Dutch way to explore. Alternativaly, rent a canoe and experience Utrecht from the water.

DON'T MISS Enjoy some of the city's best speciality coffee, served fresh every morning, at Anne&Max in Utrecht

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- All-day brunch restaurant
- Bar
- Lift
- Luggage storage
- Keyless entry
- Air conditioning

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Climb the Dom Tower
- Paddle through the canals
- Rent a bike & explore the banks of the Vecht River
- Catch a concert at TivoliVredenburg
- Enjoy a picnic in one of the beautiful green parks
- Indulge in a shopping spree

GET IN TOUCH

annemax.nl/boutiquehotel
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Hotel Saski Kraków Curio Collection by Hilton

KRAKÓW, POLAND

Situated in the heart of Kraków's Old Town, just moments from the Main Square, Hotel Saski is a place where history, culture and luxury intertwine. More than just a five-star stay, this iconic hotel has been a landmark for more than two centuries and is now part of the Curio Collection by Hilton.

The hotel's design pays homage to its storied musical legacy, with interiors adorned by the visionary work of Kraków-born photographer Ryszard Horowitz. Throughout the corridors, portraits of legendary composers and jazz icons set the tone for a stay steeped in artistry. Each of the 117 rooms and suites tells its own story, individually designed with music-inspired elements and luxurious furnishings. It was here that Paderewski gave his debut performance — a legacy honoured in the hotel's most opulent accommodation, the presidential suite that bears his name.

Once a monastery, then transformed into an extravagant hotel in the early 19th century, Saski has long been a gathering place for artists, composers and intellectuals. Guests can still step into the magnificently restored Saski Ballroom, where the likes of Franz Liszt and Johannes Brahms once performed, and admire the carefully preserved 19th-century frescoes.

Dining at Regale Bar & Restaurant is just as refined. Led by celebrated chef Roman Pawlik, the menu is a masterful blend of Polish tradition and international flair, using the finest local ingredients. Whether indulging in a leisurely breakfast, an elegant dinner or an expertly crafted cocktail from the tableside Regale trolley, every meal is an occasion. For those seeking an al fresco escape, Saski Garden offers a hidden oasis in the city's historic heart.

Beyond indulgence, Hotel Saski is a place of wellness and rejuvenation. The Saski Spa, set within the hotel's historic basement, invites guests to unwind in the largest indoor pool in Old Town, alongside luxurious saunas, a state-of-the-art gym and an intimate relaxation space.

A short stroll beyond the hotel's doors unveils some of the Old Town's most iconic landmarks, such as the medieval cloth halls of Rynek Główny, the echoing chambers of Wawel Castle and the jazz clubs that keep the city's musical soul alive.

DON'T MISS Enjoy a cocktail mixed tableside from the Regale trolley or unwind in the historic Saski Ballroom, where legends once performed

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Prime location in Kraków's Old Town, around 160 feet from the Main Square
- 117 uniquely designed rooms & suites, including 3 historic Saski Rooms with hand-restored frescoes
- Historic Saski Ballroom, with its restored 19th-century frescoes
- Regale Bar & Restaurant, featuring traditional Polish cuisine with an international twist
- Saski Garden — a secluded courtyard dining space available during the summer months
- Luxury spa, with the Old Town's largest swimming pool, as well as saunas & a gym

GET IN TOUCH

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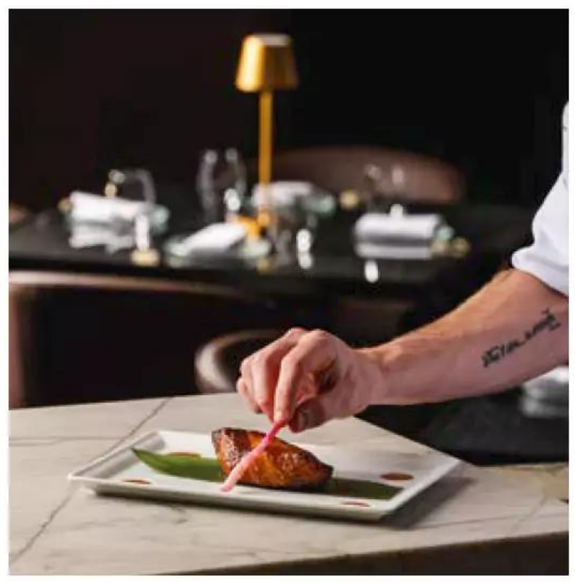

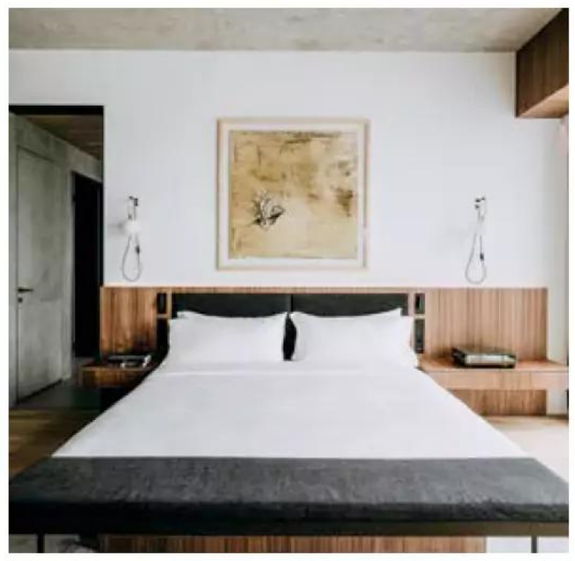

Nobu Hotel

WARSAW, POLAND

Nobu Hotel Warsaw blends the city's storied past with contemporary elegance, offering a refined escape in the heart of the Śródmieście district. The hotel's architecture is a conversation between two eras. The art deco wing, a carefully restored 20th-century landmark, reflects Warsaw's rich heritage with intricate wood panelling, vintage furnishings and timeless craftsmanship. In contrast, the modern wing, a bold interplay of glass, wood and natural stone, embodies minimalist sophistication.

At the world-renowned Nobu Restaurant, Japanese-Peruvian flavours take centre stage, including signature dishes such as black cod miso and yellowtail jalapeño. Guests seeking a deeper experience can opt for the multi-course Omakase menu, which showcases Nobu's renowned artistry. Sakebar by Nobu harmoniously blends Japanese heritage with Warsaw's vibrant energy, offering a refined cocktail bar experience in an artful, evocative setting. Guests are invited to savour Nobu-style tapas and curated seasonal menu of beverages, including premium sakes, fine wines and hand-crafted cocktails.

Beyond its culinary excellence, Nobu Hotel Warsaw places wellbeing at the forefront. The Fitness & Wellness Centre invites guests to unwind with a sauna, steam room and bespoke spa rituals, including the Lomi Lomi massage — an ancient Polynesian therapy that restores balance through rhythmic, flowing movements.

Beneath the hotel, Jassmine Jazz Club offers an intimate musical experience, where world-class acoustics set the stage for performances ranging from soulful classics to avant-garde improvisations. Inspired by the delicate jasmine flower and the deep-rooted jazz traditions of New Orleans, Jassmine is a sophisticated yet electrifying venue.

Situated along Wilcza Street, Nobu Hotel Warsaw is immersed in the city's creative pulse. The Śródmieście district is a vibrant blend of pre-war architecture, independent boutiques and contemporary design studios. A short stroll leads to Hala Koszyki, a historic market hall reimagined as a modern culinary hub, while Łazienki Park offers a serene retreat among ornate palaces and free-roaming peacocks.

DON'T MISS Savour signature dishes such as black cod miso at Nobu Restaurant, then unwind with live jazz at Jassmine

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Nobu Restaurant
- Sakebar by Nobu
- Nobu Spa
- Jassmine Jazz Club
- Aozora Terrace
- Sakura event space

GET IN TOUCH

nobuhotels.com/warsaw/
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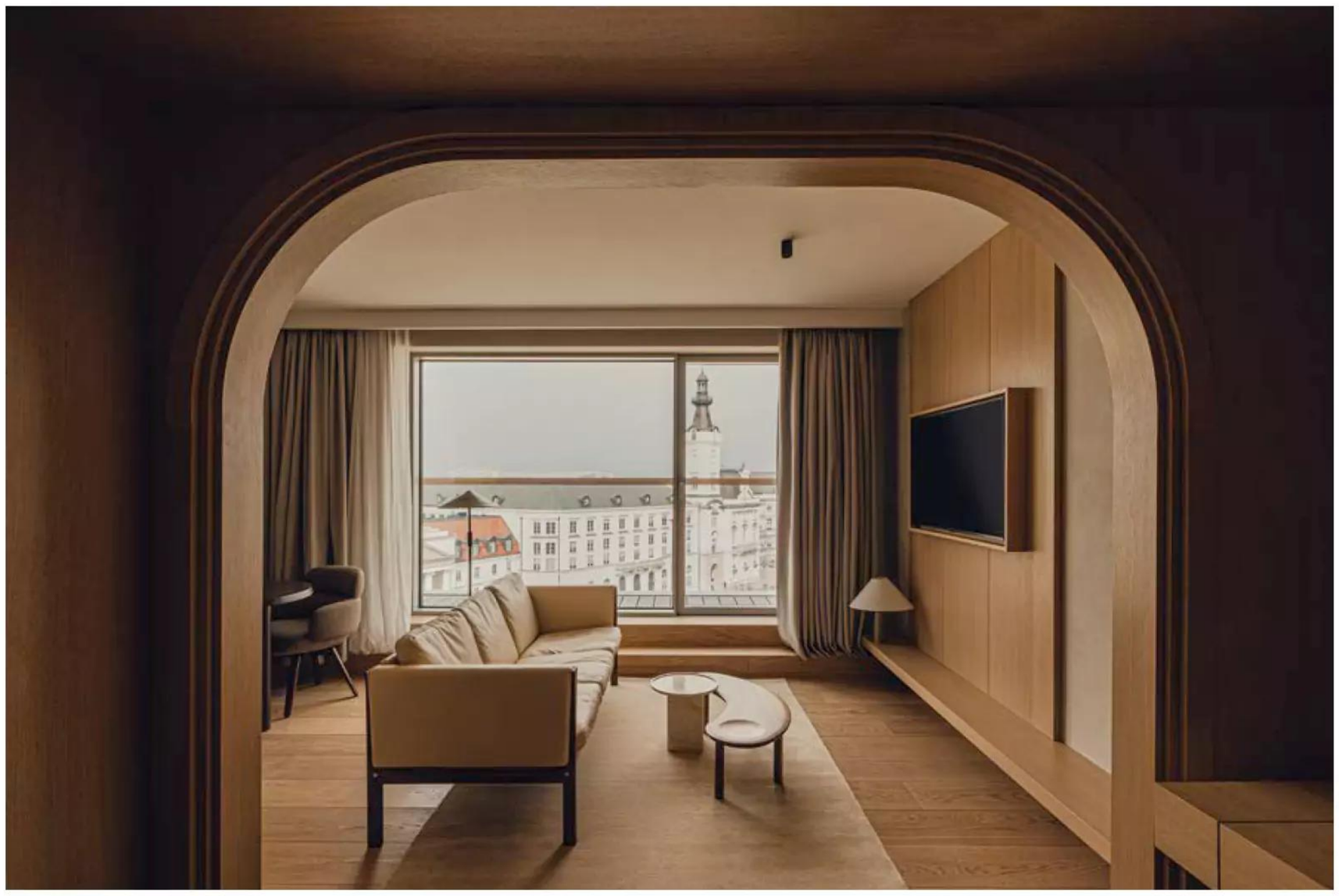

PURO Warszawa Stare Miasto

WARSAW, POLAND

Having welcomed its first guests in spring 2025, Puro Warszawa Stare Miasto is the second Warsaw location of Puro Hotels, a Polish hospitality brand with Scandinavian roots. Designed by the renowned GamFratesi studio, this boutique-style hotel introduces a touch of Nordic minimalism to Poland's capital. It's located just steps from the iconic Theatre Square and aims to be a welcoming space for both visitors and the local community.

Puro Warszawa Stare Miasto offers 192 rooms that blend Scandinavian design with contemporary elements. Guests can enjoy breathtaking views of Warsaw's Old Town from the rooftop terrace or unwind on one of two ground-floor patios. The hotel also features a gym and a tranquil spa area complete with a sauna.

At the heart of it all is Mund — a restaurant, cafe, wine bar and rooftop venue that forms a distinctive Scandinavian eatery concept. It merges a semi-public yet intimate setting with the city's vibrant rhythm. The menu celebrates the best of Nordic cuisine, such as *smørrebrød* (open sandwiches), Danish pastries and *frikadeller* (traditional meatballs), offering a culinary journey that runs from morning through to night.

More than just a hotel brand, Puro represents a lifestyle shaped by thoughtful design, creativity and a deep sense of place. Conceived as spaces where locals and travellers naturally come together, Puro hotels are designed to inspire interaction, exploration and a genuine sense of belonging.

The brand currently operates eight hotels across six major Polish cities: Warsaw, Kraków, Wrocław, Poznań, Łódź and Gdańsk. In Kraków, Puro's two properties — one in the Old Town and the other in the Kazimierz district — offer a captivating blend of heritage and modern culture. Meanwhile, Puro's first Warsaw location on Widok Street continues to delight guests with its rooftop bar, Loreta.

Always situated in the heart of the city, Puro hotels reflect the unique spirit of their surroundings. With new properties set to open in Budapest and Prague in 2026, Puro continues to expand beyond Poland while remaining true to its essence: thoughtful design, curated art and a hospitality experience that feels both personal and effortless.

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Mund bakery, restaurant, winebar & rooftop

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Scandinavian breakfast a la carte at Mund
- Free bike rentals to explore Warsaw
- Free tickets to Zachęta – National Gallery of Art
- Sauna experience in the spa

GET IN TOUCH

purohotels.com
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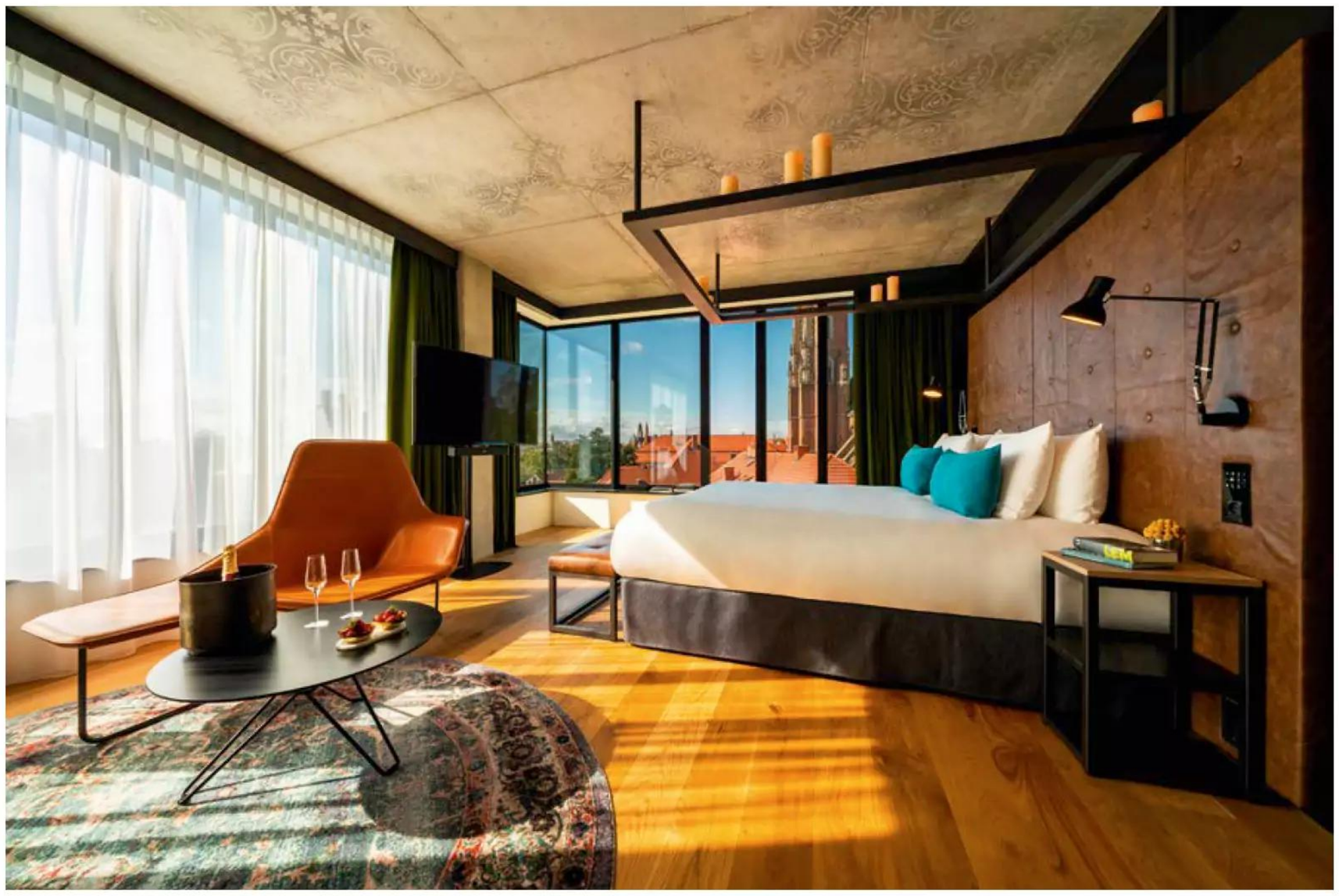
DON'T MISS Check out the wonderful programme of concerts at the Grand Theatre – National Opera, located just next door



The Bridge MGallery Wrocław

WROCŁAW, POLAND

Wrocław, the jewel of southwestern Poland, is a city where history and modernity seamlessly intertwine. Situated along the picturesque Oder River, this vibrant metropolis is often called the 'City of a Hundred Bridges', thanks to its labyrinth of waterways and connecting footbridges.

The historic Market Square, home to one of Europe's most beautiful gothic town halls, serves as the heart of the city. A short walk away, Ostrów Tumski — the oldest part of Wrocław — offers a journey through time, where cobblestone streets lead past soaring cathedral spires, and flickering gas lanterns are still lit by hand every evening. Wrocław also boasts a thriving arts scene, hosting renowned festivals such as the Wratislavia Cantans and the New Horizons Film Festival.

At the heart of it all stands The Bridge MGallery Wrocław, a five-star retreat that blends heritage with contemporary luxury. Nestled in the serene surroundings of Ostrów Tumski, the hotel offers unparalleled access to the city's most treasured landmarks, including the gothic Cathedral of St John the Baptist and the lush Botanical Garden.

The hotel's 184 elegantly appointed rooms, including 17 suites, offer a refined escape, with many breathtaking views of the Oder River or the Cathedral Square. Historical references are woven into the hotel's design, with bespoke artwork created in collaboration with the National Museum in Wrocław adorning the walls.

Beyond its exceptional rooms, The Bridge MGallery Wrocław is a premier destination for events and gatherings. Its state-of-the-art conference facilities include four meeting rooms and a spectacular 5,270sq ft ballroom — an ideal setting for grand celebrations, corporate events and cultural showcases.

A highlight of any stay is the hotel's exceptional gastronomy. Craft Restaurant, an inviting space with an industrial yet elegant ambiance, showcases the rich flavours of the Lower Silesia region through a menu rooted in seasonal and locally sourced ingredients. In the warmer months, guests can unwind at the Summer Bar in the hotel's serene garden or take in panoramic views of the city from the rooftop Sky Bar.

DON'T MISS Savour The Bridge Wrocław's tartare and bread ice cream, a unique flavour that showcases the restaurant's inventive approach

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Craft Restaurant
- The Bridge Spa & Wellness
- Fitness centre
- The Bridge Summer Bar
- The Bridge Sky Bar
- Meeting rooms

GET IN TOUCH

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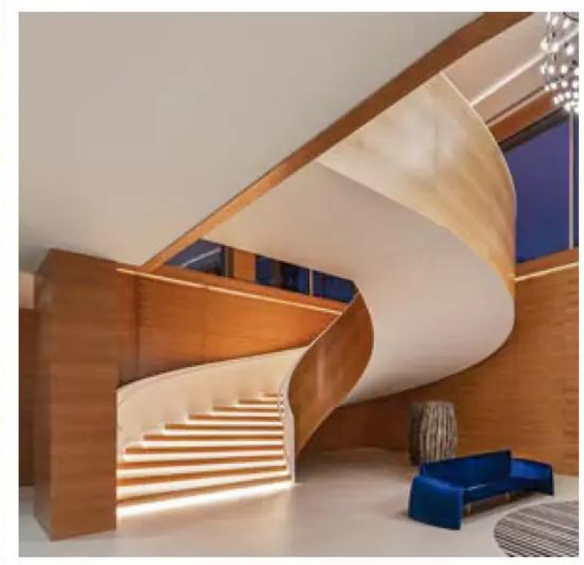

Hyatt Regency Lisbon

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Located in the riverside area of Belém, the Hyatt Regency Lisbon offers a serene retreat with direct views over the glimmering Tagus River and the iconic 25 de Abril Bridge.

Belém itself is a gateway to some of Lisbon's most important landmarks: the Jerónimos Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Torre de Belém, a 16th-century fortress. Just minutes from the hotel, travellers can also find the world-famous Pastéis de Belém bakery, where the original recipe for Portugal's beloved custard tart has been kept a secret since 1837.

The Hyatt Regency Lisbon reflects modern Portuguese elegance through its architecture and interiors — from sleek, minimal lines to local touches in stone and azulejo-inspired textures. Many of the rooms and suites open to private balconies overlooking the river, while the rooftop bar offers breathtaking sunset views.

Dining at the hotel honours the essence of Portuguese cuisine. At Viseversa, the signature restaurant, guests are invited to embrace the national tradition of sharing dishes around the table. The menu features a refined take on regional favourites such as *açorda de marisco e gambas* (a rich seafood and prawn bread stew), *carne de porco à alentejana* (pork with clams and potatoes from the Alentejo region) and *arroz de polvo* (octopus rice).

For lighter fare, Zest offers a menu of fresh, nutritious dishes and juices, available in-house and via local delivery platforms, serving a growing community of wellness-minded locals.

Guests can unwind at the award-winning Serenity — The Art of Well Being spa, the largest of its kind in Lisbon, offering treatments inspired by Iberian traditions and featuring a heated pool, sauna and Turkish bath. The hotel also provides easy access to Lisbon's riverside running trails and cycling paths.

A lesser-known local gem is the MAAT — the Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology — just a short walk from the hotel. On Saturdays, the nearby LX Factory hosts one of Lisbon's most vibrant creative markets, housed in a former industrial complex filled with independent shops, bookstores and design cafes.

DON'T MISS Sip a signature cocktail at Icon Bar & Rooftop while taking in Lisbon's skyline from one of its best panoramic terraces.

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Serenity — The Art of Well Being spa
- Icon Bar & Rooftop with Tagus River views
- Viseversa restaurant
- Active fitness centre and wellness studio, open 24/7

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Riverfront cycling and running trails
- Local food and wine-tastings
- Cultural visits to Jerónimos Monastery and Torre de Belém
- Art exploration at MAAT and LX Factory

GET IN TOUCH

hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/pt-pt/lishr-hyatt-regency-lisbon
T: +351 21 241 1234
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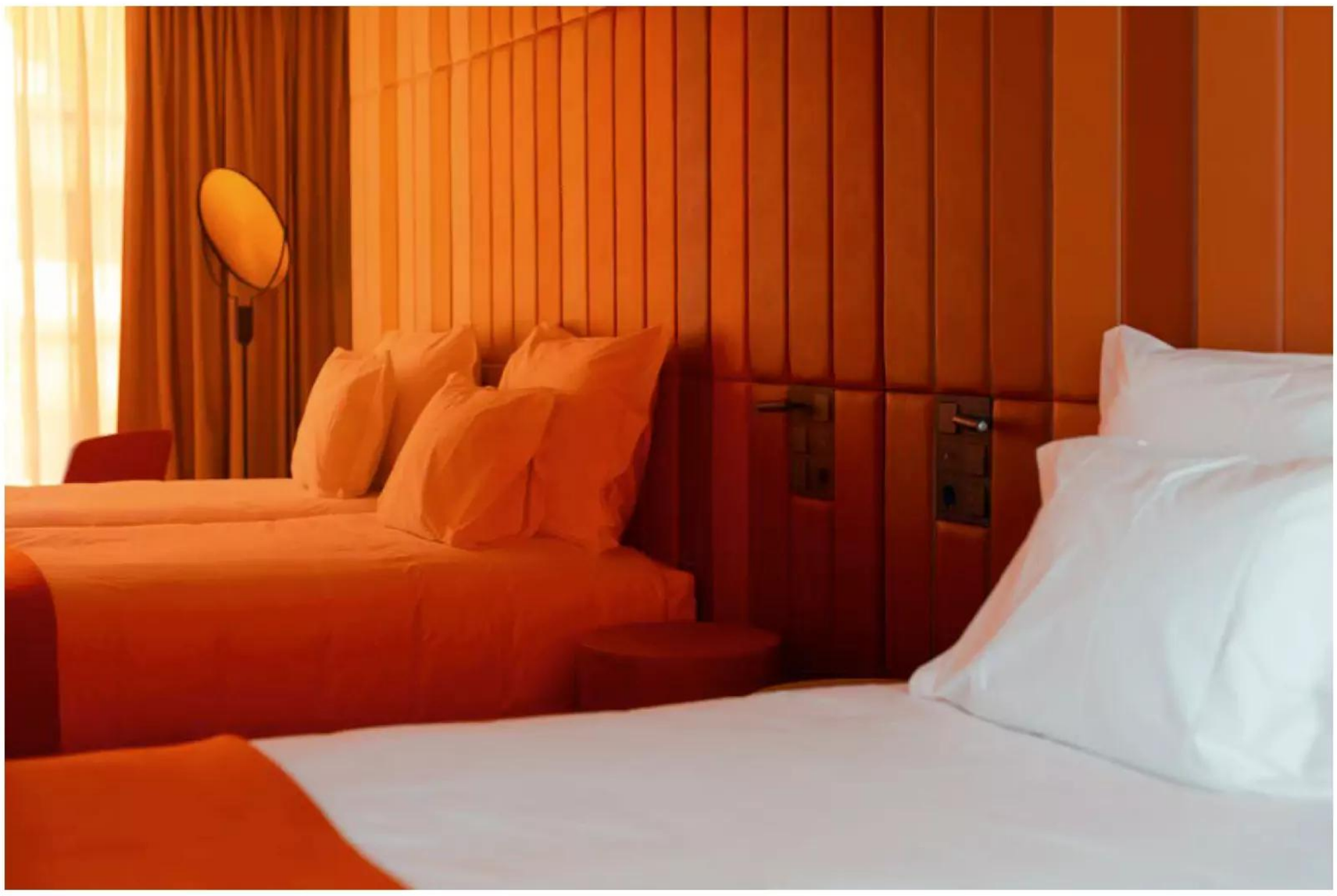

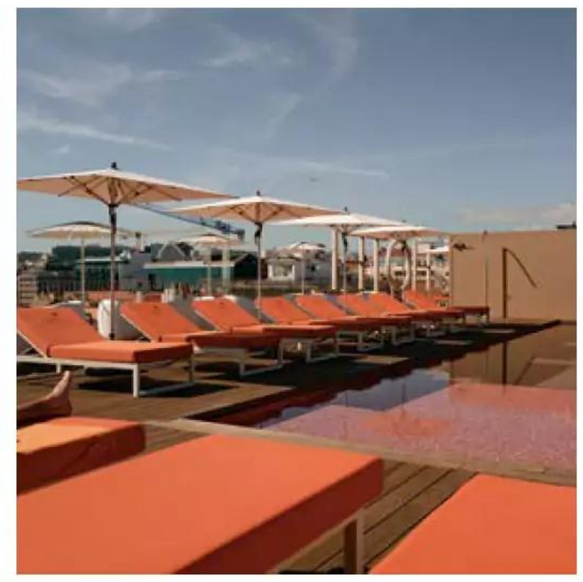

Lumen Hotel & The Lisbon Light Show

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Located in central Lisbon, the Portuguese capital, Lumen combines the efficiency and comfort of a city hotel with the good taste and modernity of a place where people love to linger. Lisbon's famed light floods the hotel's various spaces, creating interplays of gleaming light and shadow unlike anywhere else. The 'golden hour' is the essence of the project. Whether in the design and the construction, decor and furnishings, light is a constant presence, from the rooftop with its red pool and view of the city to the secluded inner courtyard — which is reminiscent of a Japanese garden — and from the spacious and airy rooms to the fun and versatile common areas.

All of the 160 rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows, either with a view of the street or of the Photosynthesis Courtyard and the video mapping show. Every night, the walls of the indoor garden oasis turn into a stage for a stunning video mapping show. Like the hotel as a whole, the city's light takes centre stage. Called The Lisbon Light Show, it shows everything that the light allows visitors to experience.

Clorofila Restaurant, which has direct access both to the exterior and the garden, is the hotel's casual fine dining outlet and a privileged spot to watch the show every night while taking a bite of the Portuguese-flavoured delicacies created by chef Celso Dias. The hotel's multipurpose open-air indoor space benefits greatly from the building's location. It's closely connected to nature and, on a lower floor, creates a more sheltered, cosier atmosphere.

The water mirrors between the flower beds refresh the air and the imposing buttresses, which are gradually subsumed by nature as the ivy planted during construction grows, create shadow games as the light changes during the day. This 42-seat facility is perfect for a drink, a quick meal or to watch the video mapping show every day at 10pm. Lumen Hotel also has fantastic meeting rooms that adapt to any type of event — from corporate meetings to fine dining meals served in exclusive spaces or even al fresco dinners, which can be served on the patio. Each event can also be customised using the video mapping software.

DON'T MISS Lumen offers a nightly video mapping show, projected on the walls of a stunning interior garden

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 160 rooms
- Photosynthesis Courtyard with nightly video mapping light show
- Clorofila Restaurant
- Meeting & event spaces with customisable video mapping

GET IN TOUCH

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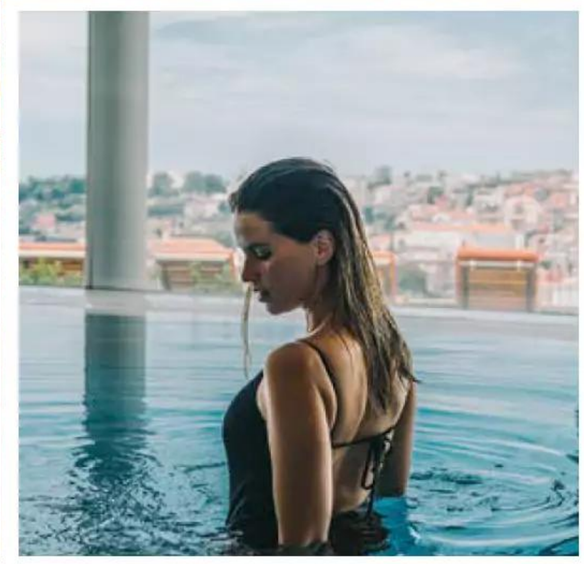

The Yeatman

PORTO, PORTUGAL

A proud member of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux collection and home to a two-Michelin-star restaurant, The Yeatman stands as a beacon of classic luxury in Porto. Located in the historic Port wine lodges of Vila Nova de Gaia, this distinctive hotel offers world-class hospitality and a connection to the region's celebrated wine culture.

Perched on a hillside within seven acres of tranquil gardens, The Yeatman affords sweeping views across the River Douro to Porto's old town. Its spacious terraces are the perfect vantage point for soaking up sunsets with a glass of wine from the hotel's award-winning cellar. Guests can unwind in both indoor and outdoor infinity pools, or indulge in the luxurious Wine Spa, which combines holistic skincare treatments with deep relaxation in a state-of-the-art wellness environment.

Each of the 109 rooms and suites is individually styled and affiliated with a different Portuguese wine producer, designed with ample natural light. Floor-to-ceiling glass doors open onto private terraces or balconies, offering panoramic views of the Douro and the Dom Luís I Bridge.

Dining is a true highlight. Guests can savour the gastronomic creations of chef Ricardo Costa at the hotel's two-Michelin-star restaurant or enjoy more relaxed fare in the stylish Orangerie. Dick's Bar & Bistro offers a more informal setting, perfect for cocktails or light dishes, all with views over the city and a distinctive sense of atmosphere.

Porto itself is one of Europe's most captivating destinations. Its striking architecture, riverside setting and deep-rooted wine heritage lend the city a charm that's both authentic and compelling. Visitors can explore lush gardens, clifftop viewpoints and nearby beaches, take a traditional boat ride beneath the city's iconic bridges, and experience some of the finest seafood in the world.

After a day of discovery, return to the calm of The Yeatman, where activities include weekly wine dinners, food and wine pairing experiences, themed events, tastings and masterclasses, as well as perusing the permanent exhibitions that celebrate Porto and Portuguese wine. Just next door, guests can explore the Taylor's Port Cellars and visit WOW Porto — The Cultural District.

DON'T MISS: Savour world-class cuisine at The Yeatman's two-Michelin-star restaurant and soak up unforgettable sunsets from the terraces

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 2 fine dining restaurants
- Dick's Bar & Bistro
- 2 panoramic infinity pools
- The Wine Spa

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Wine-tastings in the wine cellar
- Unique wine dinners
- Frequent themed events
- WOW Porto – The Cultural District

GET IN TOUCH

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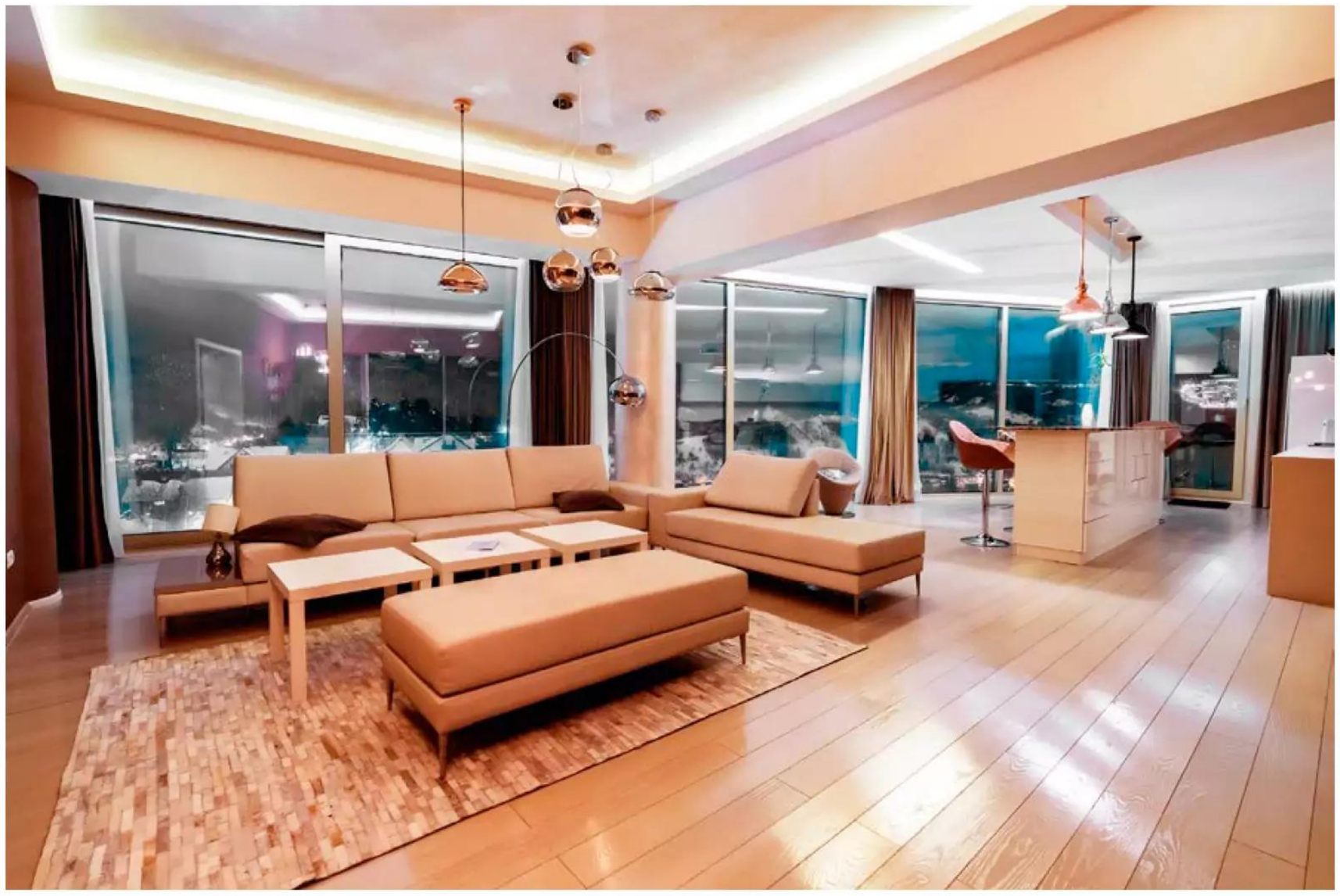

Grand Hotel Belvedere

BRAȘOV, ROMANIA

Set on Stejerișului Street in Brașov, Grand Hotel Belvedere pairs contemporary comfort with the natural and historic charm of Transylvania. With sweeping views over the medieval old town and the Tâmpa, Postăvaru, Piatra Mare and Bucegi mountains, it offers a peaceful base for travellers looking to explore, relax or work in one of Romania's most picturesque regions.

Rooms are spacious and modern, designed for both comfort and style. Whether visiting for a romantic break, a hiking holiday or a business trip, the hotel offers premium amenities, attentive service and a relaxed atmosphere.

Gastronomy is at the heart of the experience. The fine dining restaurant on the top floor offers panoramic views of the city and mountains, while the seasonal menu is rooted in Romanian culinary traditions, reinterpreted with a modern twist. Dishes are crafted using local ingredients, led by celebrated chef Ioan Florescu. A multi-award-winning figure in Romanian gastronomy, Florescu has earned accolades at the IKA/Culinary Olympics and the Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg. Under his guidance, each dish is thoughtfully composed, blending flavour with finesse.

For those in need of downtime, the hotel's wellness centre includes an indoor pool, sauna and spa services — ideal after a day of sightseeing or hiking. Business guests are also well catered for, with fully equipped conference rooms and private event spaces supported by a professional hospitality team.

Brașov remains one of Romania's most popular destinations, known for its gothic architecture, bustling markets and traditional food — from hearty stews and smoky *ciorbă de burtă* (tripe soup) to walnut-filled *cozonac* (sweet bread). The hotel is also home to Vin la Brașov, a respected wine fair that brings together winemakers and viticulture enthusiasts from across Europe each year.

Whether travellers are in Brașov for leisure, business or cultural discovery, Grand Hotel Belvedere offers more than just a place to stay. It's a well-rounded experience of Transylvanian hospitality, combining comfort, cuisine and location in one of Romania's most scenic settings.

DON'T MISS Dine at Romania's most awarded restaurant, where sweeping views complement the seasonal, international menu

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Gourmet restaurant
- Wellness centre
- Conference rooms
- Private parking

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Wine-tastings
- Historical tours
- Mountain hikes
- Cultural festivals

GET IN TOUCH

hotelbelvederebv.ro
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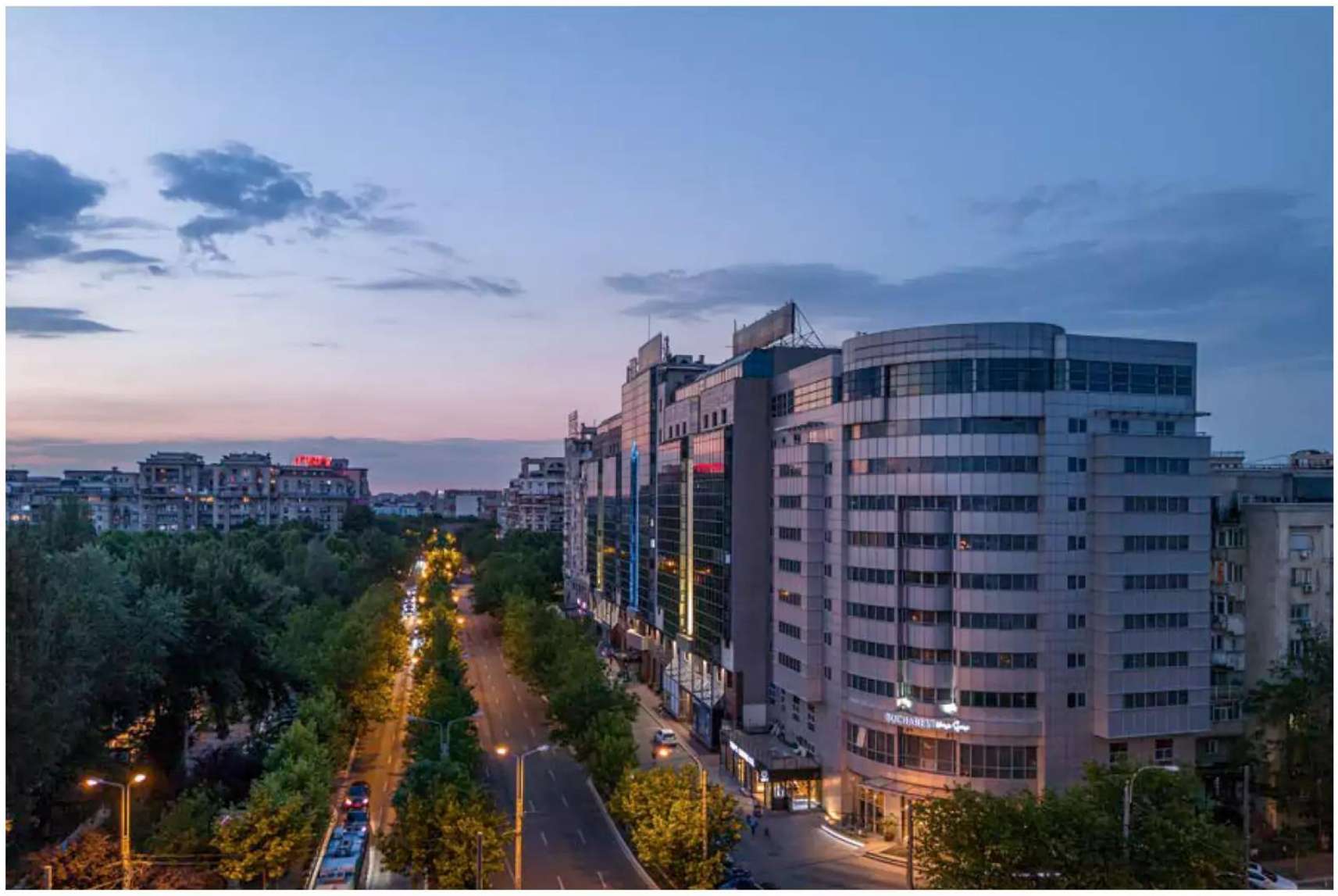
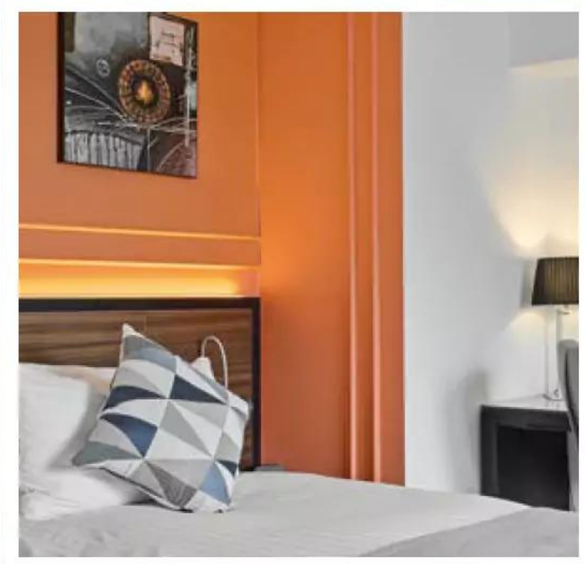
E: office@hotelbelvederebv.ro





Bucharest Unirii Square Handwritten Collection

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

The Handwritten Collection Hotel at Unirii Square, part of Accor's curated portfolio, is more than just a stylish stay — it's a deeply personal project shaped by its owner's Lebanese heritage and passion for craftsmanship. Set in a quietly elegant neighbourhood, just steps from the vibrant city centre, the hotel is ideally located for urban explorers. The cobblestone charm of the Old Town, the monumental scale of the Palace of the Parliament and the green serenity of Carol Park are all close at hand, making this the perfect base from which to explore Bucharest and its many contrasts.

What truly sets the property apart, however, lies within its walls. The hotel's renovation was guided with care and creativity by its Lebanese owner, whose vision blends Middle Eastern warmth with European sophistication. Drawing on his cultural roots, he infused the design with subtle nods to Lebanese tradition: ornamental details, natural textures and a philosophy of hospitality centred around genuine human connection. The result is a space that feels both refined and welcoming, where modern design harmonises with stories of heritage.

Each of the 88 rooms is thoughtfully crafted with comfort and simplicity in mind. Smart TVs, workspaces and complimentary wi-fi cater to travellers of all kinds. Accessibility has also been prioritised, with wheelchair-friendly accommodation available. On the ground floor, guests can unwind in the hotel's vibrant sports bar — an inviting space to watch international games over drinks and snacks — or enjoy a quiet moment in the cosy coffee shop, ideal for morning brews or afternoon escapes.

With easy access to public transport and both the North Railway Station and Henri Coandă International Airport just a short ride away, convenience complements character at every turn.

Whether guests are discovering Bucharest for the first time or returning to uncover new layers, the Handwritten Collection at Unirii Square doesn't just host their stay — it becomes part of their story. This is a place where tradition meets modernity, and every thoughtful detail reflects a tale of the city, its vibrant culture and a sense of belonging that lingers long after departure.

DON'T MISS Experience the cultural harmony of this boutique hotel, where a Lebanese soul meets timeless European style

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Cosy coffee shop
- Fully equipped gym
- Elegant rooms & suites
- Massage services

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Visit the landmark Palace of the Parliament
- Explore Bucharest's Old Town
- Stroll through Carol Park
- Unwind at the hotel's sports bar

GET IN TOUCH

all.accor.com/hotel/C2B4/index.en.shtml
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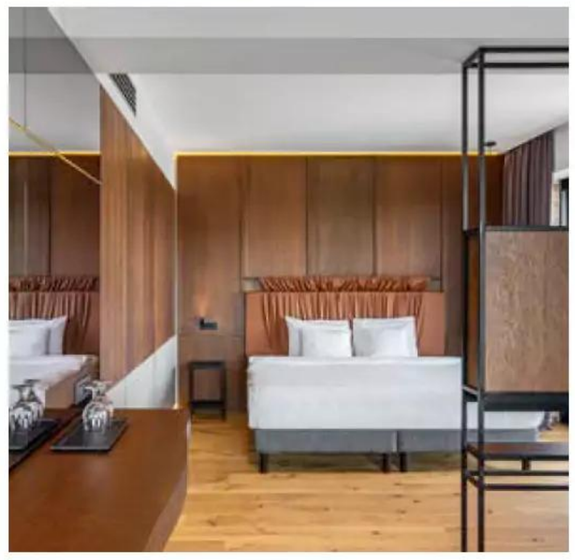
E: HC2B4@accor.com



Caro Hotel

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Set amid a rare expanse of greenery in the heart of Bucharest, Caro Hotel offers a unique retreat where nature and urban sophistication meet. Once an industrial factory, the property now stands as a carefully preserved blend of historical architecture and modern design. The hotel's distinctive redbrick facade and serene private garden make it a welcome surprise in Romania's busy capital.

While Caro is a favourite among corporate travellers, it also sets the stage for unforgettable leisure stays thanks to its extensive facilities and location. Guests are invited to unwind in a 53,000sq ft private garden filled with mature trees and peaceful walking paths. Several of the hotel's premium rooms and suites overlook this oasis, an unexpected view in the middle of the city.

Dining is a highlight here, with several different venues to explore. La Vitrine offers a fine-dining experience in an elegant setting, while Glucoza Bar serves some of the city's best pizza. La Hamace, a relaxed terrace nestled in the garden, invites guests to unwind in hammocks with a drink in hand, and occasionally comes to life with vibrant daytime events, while the cosy Wine Bar offers an intimate ambiance for evenings. Breakfast is served in a bright, dedicated space often used for events.

The surrounding area is equally rich in experiences. Just a short walk or bike ride away (bicycles are free for guests to use) lies the elegant Primăverii district and the vast King Michael I Park, home to lakes, boat rentals and the open-air Dimitrie Gusti National Village Museum. For more urban exploration, guests can stroll down Calea Victoriei. The city-centre avenue is known for its interbelic architecture, independent cafes and vibrant atmosphere, and part of it is turned into a pedestrian zone during the weekend.

Caro also hosts standout cultural events. Each May, RAD Art Fair transforms the hotel grounds into a walkable gallery of contemporary art from a selection of both Romanian and international artists. During the summer, Caro Cultura screens open-air films in the garden. During winter, Caro IceLand draws clients and locals to its large skating rink with hockey lessons, food trucks and festive cheer.

DON'T MISS Visit Caro Cultura's open-air cinema in the summer and Caro IceLand's skating rink in winter

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Private garden, 400 parking spaces & electric car charging
- Wellness club with gym & pool
- Fine-dining restaurant, pizza bar
- Premium rooms with garden & lake views

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Free bicycles for city tours
- RAD Art Fair (May)
- Birdwatching all year round
- Summer food festivals

GET IN TOUCH

carohotel.ro
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E: reservation@carohotel.ro

Radisson Blu Hotel, Bucharest

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Set along the historic Calea Victoriei in Bucharest, the Radisson Blu Hotel Bucharest stands as a symbol of contemporary luxury and timeless elegance. Romania's largest five-star hotel and the flagship property of the Radisson Group in Southeast Europe, it offers a refined blend of modern design, exceptional facilities and impeccable service. Guests enjoy a comprehensive range of amenities, including a luxurious spa and direct access to the World Class Health Academy — Romania's leading fitness chain — featuring a 22-metre indoor pool and whirlpool bath.

For conferences, events and social celebrations, the Radisson Blu offers more than 19,000sq feet of newly renovated meeting spaces. Natural daylight floods the venues, where sleek interiors and local artistic details provide an inspiring setting for any occasion, from business meetings to dream weddings. Wellness is at the core of the Radisson Blu experience. ThaiCo Spa invites guests to unwind with a curated selection of treatments designed to relax and rejuvenate both body and mind. In the summer months, the hotel's inner garden transforms into Nami Beach Club — a sophisticated urban oasis offering a beachside vibe in the heart of the city.

Food-lovers are in for a culinary journey. Dacia Felix delights with a lavish breakfast buffet and a la carte offerings. Aristocool, ranked among the top restaurants in Bucharest on TripAdvisor, serves breakfast, relaxed lunches and lively dinners in a stylish setting. Ginger Sushi Bar & Lounge offers refined Asian flavours, while Maison des Arts blends tradition and innovation in a menu for all tastes. At Prime Steak & Seafood, premium cuts are 'kissed by fire' on a Josper grill and smoker.

Just steps away from the National Museum of Art and within walking distance of the historic centre, major landmarks and beautiful city parks, the Radisson Blu Hotel Bucharest places guests in the perfect location to explore Romania's dynamic capital. With frequent direct flights connecting Bucharest to all major cities across Europe, and a vibrant urban culture, the city is an ideal destination for travellers in search of fresh, exciting experiences.

DON'T MISS Stroll along the historic Calea Victoriei, which turns into a charming pedestrian promenade on weekends from April to October

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Steps away from Bucharest's historic landmarks
- Complimentary access to World Class Health Academy, featuring an indoor pool & whirlpool bath
- Award-winning ThaiCo Spa
- Nami Beach Club
- 6 restaurants & bars
- Renovated event spaces

GET IN TOUCH

radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-bucharest
T: +40 21 311 9000
E: reservations.bucharest@radissonblu.com

ASTRA Museum

SIBIU, ROMANIA

Situated within the Dumbrava Sibiului Nature Reserve on the outskirts of Sibiu, the Astra Museum is Europe's largest open-air museum and Romania's foremost ethnographic institution. This vast cultural landscape, which spans an impressive 237 acres in the southern part of Transylvania, brings together more than 400 authentic buildings from every historical region of Romania — from rustic peasant homes and craft workshops to traditional sheepfolds, wooden churches, windmills and watermills. Each structure has been carefully preserved or reconstructed to offer insight into the daily lives, values and skills of village communities across generations.

Beyond its architectural richness, the museum is home to more than 400,000 heritage objects. These artefacts form the foundation of a unique educational platform, rare among European open-air museums, where tens of thousands of children and visitors engage in workshops that highlight the sustainability, creativity and practicality of traditional crafts. From weaving and pottery to blacksmithing and woodworking, the museum fosters a renewed appreciation for skills often forgotten in modern life. Romanian culinary heritage also plays a central role at Astra. Every weekend, traditional gastronomy takes the spotlight, with demonstrations and tastings that follow the rhythm of the seasons. Visitors can observe or participate in cooking sessions, discovering the logic of seasonal ingredients and the stories behind age-old recipes.

Cultural diversity is also celebrated throughout the year, particularly during Astra Multicultural, a festival honouring Romania's ethnic mosaic, including Saxon, Serbian, Greek and Lipovan communities. Summer events showcase the iconic Romanian blouse, *ia*, an enduring symbol of identity and craftsmanship, which visitors are encouraged to wear and take home as a memento.

The museum also pulses with music and festivities. Weekly events bring together traditional Romanian music and contemporary sounds during gatherings such as Astra Rock, which bridges the past and present through rhythms, music and celebration.

DON'T MISS Experience the Astra Rock Festival, an evening of live music set within the unique surroundings of a European open-air museum

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Wi-fi
- Outdoor parking
- 2 restaurants
- 2 guesthouses & hostels

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Outdoor walks
- Interactive craft workshops
- Educational workshops
- Traditional Romanian gastronomy

GET IN TOUCH

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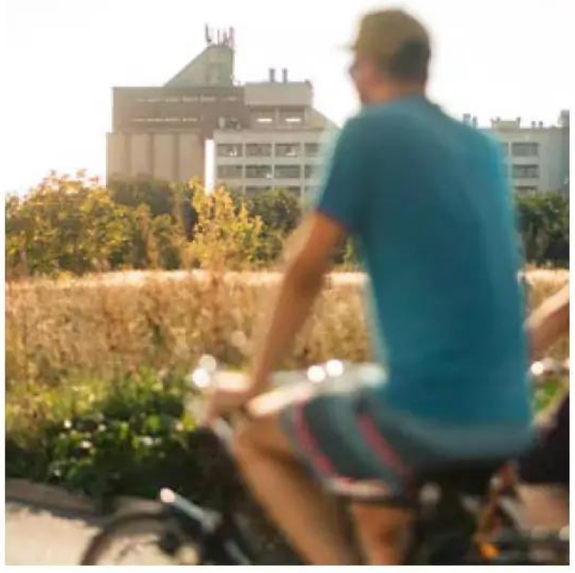

Experience Trnava Region

TRNAVA, SLOVAKIA

Trnava, once the ecclesiastical capital of the Kingdom of Hungary, is Slovakia's 'Little Rome' — a hidden gem that rivals Czech medieval towns but without the crowds. Its charming streets, lined with historic townhouses, lead to open-air markets laid out beneath the Renaissance Town Tower and some of Europe's finest early baroque churches. This western Slovak town exudes old-world elegance yet remains wonderfully peaceful, making it a perfect alternative to busier European cities for a long-weekend escape.

Founded in the ninth century at a vital trade crossroads, Trnava became the first Slovak town granted free royal city status in 1238. Its golden age began in the 16th century when the fall of Esztergom to the Turks forced the Hungarian Archbishop to relocate here, transforming Trnava into the kingdom's religious capital for nearly 300 years. Modernism is surrounded by ancient walls. Remnants of its medieval past remain in its well-preserved city walls — among Slovakia's oldest fortifications — which encircle a centre buzzing with culture. Galleries, theatres and creative spaces thrive here, while the town has also embraced Slovakia's burgeoning coffee scene, offering everything from artisanal roasteries to mobile coffee carts. Despite its deep historical roots, Trnava is far from a town lost in time. Alongside its grand Baroque sculptures, travellers will find striking brutalist architecture, such as the House of Culture —an imposing concrete structure that provokes mixed reactions. Nearby, modernist landmarks like the NUPOD automatic mill and the town's distinctive water tower showcase Slovakia's 20th-century design legacy. Thanks to Trnava's extensive network of cycling paths, these architectural contrasts are easily explored.

For those seeking a retreat into nature, the Little Carpathians lie just beyond Trnava's borders. Smolenice Castle crowns the rolling hills, offering panoramic views of the countryside. To the south, Dolná Krupá Manor, once linked to the famous composer Beethoven, is a masterpiece of rural classical architecture. Surrounded by an English-style park and home to a rare rosarium, it's a place where history and nature harmoniously intertwine.

DON'T MISS Uncover the origins of America's national instrument — the Dobro guitar, invented by John Dopyera of Trnava

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- City Tower
- Town Hall
- The town fortifications
- Trnava House of Culture
- St John The Baptist Cathedral
- Basilica of St Nicholas
- Ján Palárik Theatre
- Smolenice Castle
- Driny Cave
- Dolná Krupá Manor House

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Mead-tasting with beekeepers
- Shopping at the traditional Trnava market
- Hiking in the Small Carpathians
- Coffee ride with locals
- Wine-tasting at vineyards

GET IN TOUCH

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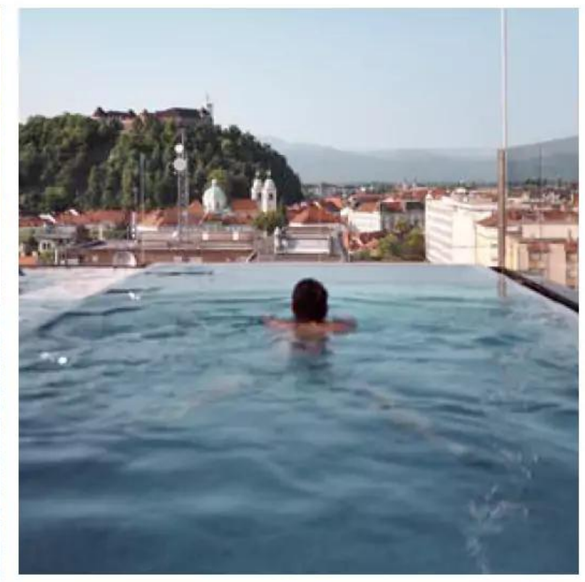
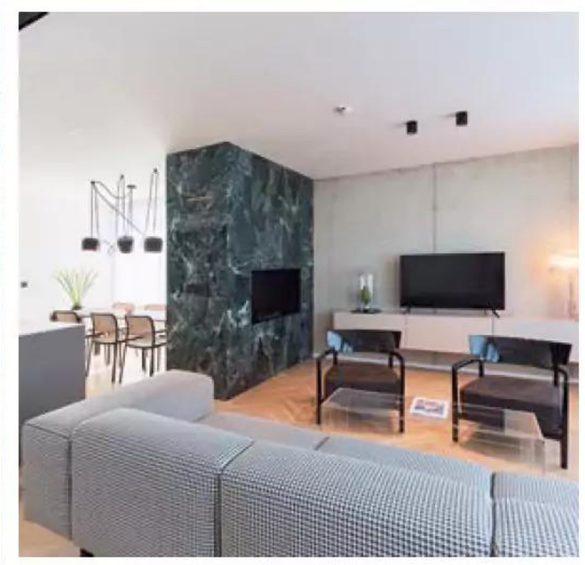
IMPLEMENTED WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC





Neu Residences

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

Situated in the vibrant heart of Ljubljana, Neu Residences offers a contemporary and sustainable accommodation experience for modern travellers. Just a short walk from the historic old town, the residences offer guests the chance to easily explore the city's rich cultural heritage, charming architecture and lively local scene. Ljubljana's efficient public transport system, including shared bicycles, e-scooters and city buses, provides convenient access to attractions.

Neu Residences presents a range of meticulously designed apartments, from cosy studios to expansive penthouses. The accommodations feature high-quality furnishings and state-of-the-art appliances from renowned brands such as Bora, Nespresso and Kartell, ensuring a luxurious stay.

A highlight of the property is the rooftop terrace with a breathtaking pool. This serene oasis offers panoramic views of Ljubljana, including the iconic Ljubljana Castle, providing an ideal spot to unwind after a day of exploration. The bar operates during favourable weather conditions, offering a selection of premium beverages in an elegant setting.

Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate Neu Bar & Bistro, located within the residence. It serves speciality coffees sourced from esteemed Slovenian roasters, an array of craft cocktails and a curated selection of local wines and beers. Guests can also indulge in a thoughtfully crafted food menu — from vibrant brunch plates to flavourful main courses — all prepared by the residence's talented in-house chef. The ambiance is warm and inviting, making it perfect for morning meetings, relaxed afternoon gatherings or leisurely dinners.

Neu Residences is committed to sustainability, proudly holding the Green Key certificate, which reflects its dedication to environmentally friendly practices across all operations. Additionally, the property participates in the Porsche Destination Charging programme, offering two electric vehicle charging stations on site, with complimentary charging for Porsche owners.

An insider tip for guests is to visit the Odprta Kuhna (Open Kitchen), a unique food market held every sunny Friday from March to November in Ljubljana's city centre.

DON'T MISS Unwind above the city by the rooftop pool and take in views of Ljubljana Castle at this design-led urban retreat

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Rooftop pool with breathtaking city views
- Neu Bar & Bistro offering speciality coffees, craft cocktails & delicious food
- Co-working space with high-speed internet
- Electric vehicle charging stations

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Exploring Ljubljana's historic old town
- Attending the Open Kitchen food market
- Enjoying local wines and craft cocktails at Neu Bar & Bistro

GET IN TOUCH

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PlayTour

BARCELONA, SPAIN

Barcelona's streets pulse with history, flavour and flair — and PlayTour Barcelona captures the very soul of the city through its immersive culinary experiences. From intimate tapas-tastings in tucked-away neighbourhoods to vineyard visits beyond the city limits, this standout operator has curated a selection of tours that celebrate Catalonia's vibrant food and wine culture in the most authentic way possible.

One of its most beloved offerings is the Spanish Wine and Tapas Gastrotour, a two-and-a-half-hour guided experience through a local, lesser-known barrio. Guests visit four family-run bars, each with its own character and charm, where traditional tapas are thoughtfully paired with wines from across Spain's diverse regions. The tours are relaxed, unpretentious and welcoming, with guides who offer more than just knowledge — they bring the city's stories to life with humour and heart. One happy traveller summed it up: "We visited some really good tapas places that we wouldn't have discovered on our own. Moises, our guide, was fantastic — full of fun facts and great energy. We loved the food and the whole experience." With a five-star rating and over 1,500 glowing reviews, it's a must for food-lovers wanting to eat like a local.

Equally popular is the Old Town Food Tour, which meanders through the labyrinthine streets of the Gothic Quarter. Along the way, guests uncover hidden corners of the historic Casco Antiguo while enjoying 11 different tastings, which span classic Catalan bites to regional specialities. The tour offers a fascinating glimpse into the city's layered past, blending local legends and lesser-known landmarks with memorable food moments. With dietary requirements thoughtfully accommodated, everyone is made to feel welcome.

Beyond the city, PlayTour Barcelona also offers wine-focused day trips to the nearby Penedès region — home of Spain's famed sparkling wine, cava. These tours are deliberately intimate, spotlighting family-owned bodegas that champion organic or biodynamic winemaking. Guests meet the winemakers, walk among the vines, and learn the nuances of each bottle in settings steeped in history and care.

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Family-run tapas bars
- Diet-friendly options — vegan, vegetarian & gluten-free available
- Historical walking tours
- Wine tours in vineyards
- Small group tours

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Meet local winemakers passionate about organic, traditional techniques
- Explore the Old Town with expert guides who bring its history to life
- Enjoy tapas served by welcoming bar owners sharing local flavours

GET IN TOUCH

playtoureurope.com
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DON'T MISS Indulge in the Spanish Wine and Tapas Gastrotour, a flavour-packed walk through a local neighbourhood in Barcelona

Tours for Today

BARCELONA, SPAIN

Barcelona is a city of vibrant contrasts, where centuries-old history meets bold modernity. Each neighbourhood offers its own distinctive atmosphere — from the elegant avenues of the Eixample to the narrow, medieval lanes of El Born. Beyond its architecture and landmarks, the city's true character lies in the rhythm of daily life: bustling squares, lively markets and cafes.

It's this spirit of locality that shapes the most memorable travel experiences. Tours For Today embraces that authenticity, offering guided tours led by official guides with in-depth city knowledge. Their know-how helps to create immersive moments that reveal the soul of Catalonia.

Even Barcelona's best-known icons can be experienced in more meaningful ways. For those with a special interest in architecture, history, religion or art, bespoke private tours connect personal passions with expert insight. Small-group visits to landmarks like the Sagrada Família and Park Güell provide space for reflection. At the Sagrada Família, sunlight pours through stained-glass windows into the forest-like nave. Meanwhile, Park Güell's colourful mosaics and panoramic views reflect Gaudí's singular vision and deep connection with nature.

In the heart of the old city, the compact layout lends itself to slow, thoughtful exploration. Begin the day with closed-door access to the Cathedral of Barcelona — a rare moment of stillness before the city awakens. Close by, the Picasso Museum and the Moco Museum offer two very different takes on art: one tracing the early steps of a modern icon, the other celebrating bold, contemporary and street artists. Expert-led tours add context and depth. Just around the corner, the 14th-century Santa Maria del Mar stands as a proud symbol of the city's history, its rooftop terraces offering sweeping views and a sense of connection to generations past.

Beyond the city limits, the dramatic mountain range of Montserrat awaits. Home to a Benedictine monastery, it's a place of pilgrimage and natural beauty. Visitors come to see the revered Black Madonna, hear the haunting voices of the boys' choir, and sample local mató cheese drizzled with honey — often sold by the monks themselves.

DON'T MISS Enjoy exclusive early access to the Cathedral of Barcelona before it opens to the public, followed by a leisurely brunch

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Intimate small-group experiences
- Fast-track access to top monuments
- Customised itineraries aligned with personal interests
- Expert local guides

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Sagrada Família private guided tour
- Montserrat small-group excursion
- Hidden gems through historic districts with food and wine-tasting
- Catamaran cruise with views of the city skyline at sunset

GET IN TOUCH

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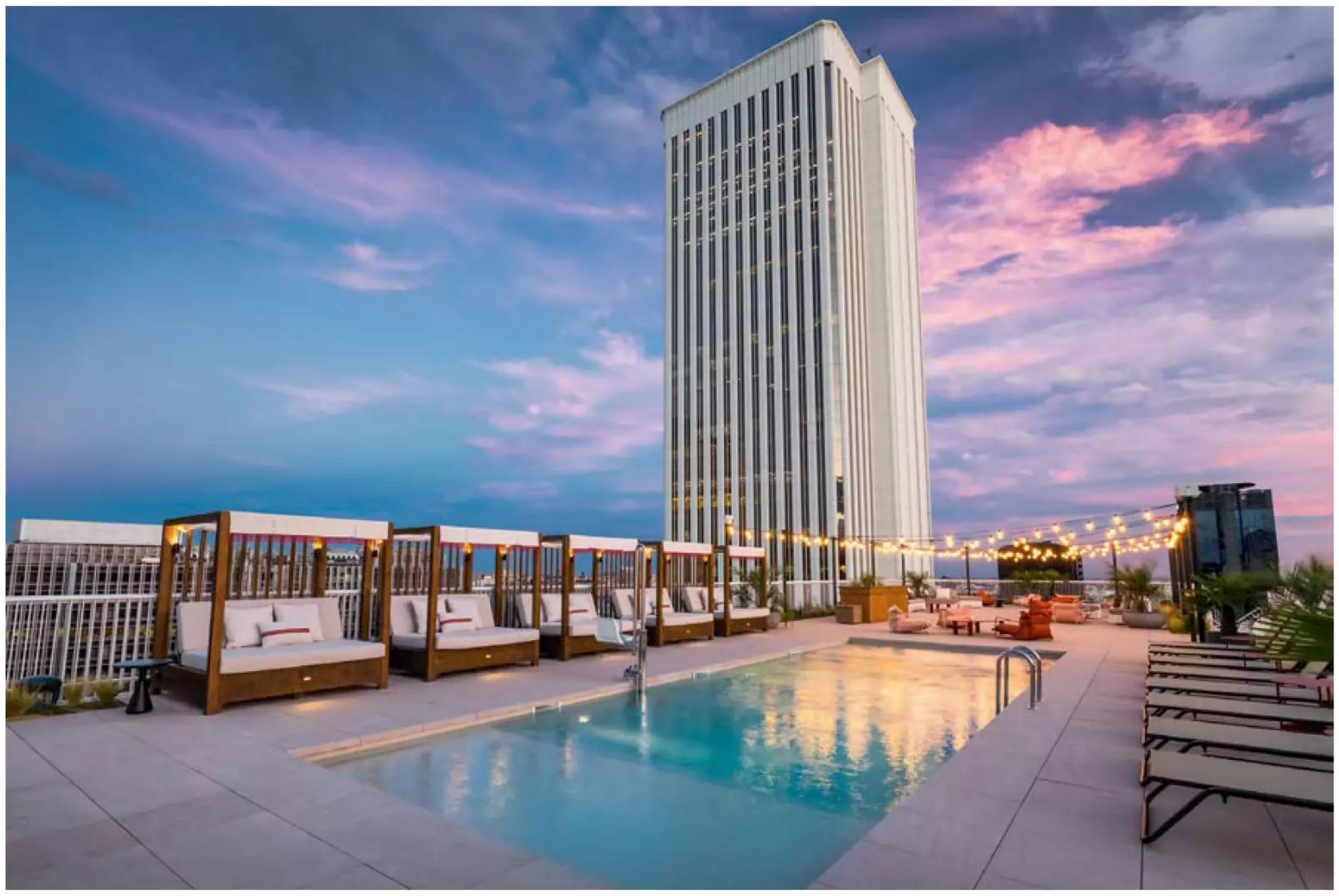

Canopy by Hilton Madrid Castellana

MADRID, SPAIN

Situated in the vibrant Castellana district, Canopy by Hilton Madrid Castellana is perfectly positioned for guests wishing to explore both the Spanish capital's bustling business hub and its cultural heart. With a design ethos rooted in comfort, elegance and local flair, this stylish property offers 314 spacious and thoughtfully designed rooms and suites, each reflecting the essence of Madrid.

Expect interiors adorned with locally inspired decor, comfortable bedding and large windows that flood the rooms with natural light. Modern amenities such as smart TVs, high-speed wi-fi and signature Canopy beds ensure each room serves as the perfect retreat after a day of discovery. For those seeking something extra special, premium rooms offer sweeping views across Madrid's skyline.

Food and drink are highlights at Canopy by Hilton Madrid Castellana. The hotel's acclaimed restaurant, Escándalo, has quickly become one of the city's culinary hotspots.

Here, dishes are crafted using the finest locally sourced ingredients. The a la carte menu celebrates the traditional flavours of Madrid and the wider Mediterranean, offering a vibrant gastronomic experience. Be sure to catch one of the regular MomentaZos concerts, which showcase national and international artists in an intimate, exclusive setting.

The hotel's lively terrace, Planta Z, offers the perfect backdrop for after-work drinks or a relaxed evening out. Guests can enjoy cocktails made with local spirits, along with delicious urban-fusion cuisine served straight from the on-site food truck.

Another standout feature is the rooftop pool, an idyllic spot to cool off and unwind — be it lounging on Balinese beds with a cocktail in hand or taking in panoramic views of the city. The hotel also features a fully equipped fitness center where the guest can work out and recharge after a busy day in the city.

Thanks to its central location, the hotel is just a short stroll from key landmarks including Retiro Park, the Museo del Prado and the iconic Gran Vía. Whether they're visiting for work or leisure, guests staying at Canopy by Hilton Madrid Castellana can expert the perfect blend of luxury, comfort and local character.

DON'T MISS Catch a live MomentaZos concert at Escándalo — a high-energy night of music, flavour and flair

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Stylish, locally inspired rooms
- Escándalo restaurant
- Planta Z terrace
- Rooftop pool
- Wellness & fitness facilities

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Daily 'evening tasting' from 6-7pm at Escándalo
- Working out at the gym
- Fusion dishes & tapas from the food truck
- Fresh, local & organic breakfasts

GET IN TOUCH

hilton.com
T: +34 91 178 1800
E: info@canopymadrid.com

WALK IN.
DANCE OUT.

Discover the Legacy of a Global Phenomenon At ABBA The Museum in Stockholm, music history comes to life. Step inside an immersive world of iconic costumes, personal stories, and unforgettable songs.

An essential stop for travelers seeking the soul of Swedish creativity.

www.abbathemuseum.com

ABBA The Museum

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Located on the scenic island of Djurgården in Stockholm, ABBA The Museum offers an immersive journey into the world of one of the most iconic pop groups in history. Since its opening in May 2013, the museum has welcomed visitors from around the globe, eager to explore the legacy of Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid.

But this isn't just a place to view costumes behind glass — ABBA The Museum is a vibrant, interactive adventure. Visitors step into the band's story, from their humble beginnings to their spectacular rise to global fame. Among the many highlights are original stage outfits, handwritten lyrics, gold records and personal items that offer insight into the members' lives. One of the most mysterious and charming features is the *Ring Ring* telephone — a real phone that only the four band members know the number to. If it rings while you're there, you just might get the surprise of a lifetime.

The museum invites every guest to become the 'fifth member' of the band. Step onto a virtual stage alongside holograms of the group, join in karaoke sessions or show off your disco moves in an interactive dance experience. There's also a replica of the Folkpark where the band first met, and a nostalgic walkthrough of their summer house in the Swedish archipelago — a heartfelt nod to their roots.

A highlight for music-lovers is the recreated Polar Studio, where many of ABBA's biggest hits — as well as global classics by artists like Led Zeppelin, Genesis and The Ramones — were recorded. Visitors can step into the studio's iconic sound booth, explore the original equipment and feel the creative energy that once pulsed through its walls. Polar wasn't just ABBA's playground — it was a hub that helped shape international music history.

Open daily from 10am, the museum welcomes visitors all year round. Tickets can be booked in advance for a specific time slot and are available online. It's easily accessible by tram, bus, ferry or a scenic walk from Stockholm's city centre. Whether you're a lifelong fan or simply curious about music history, ABBA The Museum offers an emotional, fun and unforgettable experience for all ages — no glitter jumpsuit required.

DON'T MISS Perform alongside ABBA's holograms on a virtual stage — an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime chance to join the band

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Become the fifth member of ABBA
- Karaoke opportunities

GET IN TOUCH

abbathemuseum.com
E: info@abbathemuseum.com

Hotel Alpenblick Bern — kind of a hotel

BERN, SWITZERLAND

Welcome to the beautiful neighbourhood of Breitenrain in Bern, Switzerland. Situated in this charming part of town is Hotel Alpenblick Bern — a unique establishment that captures the attention of tourists from all over the world with its distinctive features. These include a hairdresser, beehives on the rooftop, a floor-to-ceiling library, a photobooth for souvenirs and, most importantly, a team with hearts full of hospitality.

The quiet neighbourhood is perfect for travellers who enjoy a peaceful stay on the outskirts of Bern. There are local cafes, bakeries and brunch spots. Many guests visit this area because of its artistic character. There's a wide selection of dining options around town, and one restaurant specialising in local and seasonal dishes accompanied by unique low-intervention wines is located in the same building as the hotel. In the summer months, guests can enjoy a delightful dinner on the terrace, which is surrounded by a homely garden.

Most of the hotel rooms feature a kitchenette with all the necessary equipment. If guests decide to stay in and enjoy the cosy rooms, they can prepare their own meals and relax and soak in the beautiful atmosphere. All rooms have been designed to create a welcoming feeling, with modern yet simple elements that give them their outstanding character.

The reception lobby, as well as the library, contribute to the hotel's charming style. Originally built in 1897, the hotel has since been restored, but some elements have been preserved, such as the original brick walls in the library, the old staircase with terrazzo flooring and the building's exterior.

Alpenblick Bern is a popular destination in the summer due to its proximity to the Aare River. Taking a swim in the refreshing river is a popular activity for both locals and tourists during the hot summer months. The hotel even offers dry bags to borrow in the rooms that can keep clothes and belongings from getting wet. The summer terrace provides the perfect spot to relax in the afternoon after a day of exploration. The park just outside the hotel also offers a tranquil space for guests to unwind and recharge.

DON'T MISS Swim in the crystal-clear Aare River to experience Bern from a whole new and refreshing perspective

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Spacious apartments
- Cosy double and single rooms
- Penthouse with view of the Alps
- Calm & artistic neighbourhood
- Summer terrace
- Industrial-style library
- Parking on site
- Darling – the hottest restaurant in town
- Enrico Bizzarro, star hairdresser

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Swimming in the Aare River
- Visit the Bear Pit
- Visit Gurten and attend its festival
- Parliament building
- Museum of Communication
- Albert Einstein Museum

GET IN TOUCH

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Legends of Lake Lucerne — a legendary voyage

LAKE LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND

Set the heart of Switzerland, Lucerne is a city steeped in myth, natural splendour and timeless tradition. Its most iconic body of water, Lake Lucerne, is more than just a postcard-perfect landscape — it's a portal to the country's soul. Aboard the historic steamship *Gallia*, the fastest steamship in Europe, guests are invited on a five-hour immersive journey that revives the spirit of Swiss legend and elegance.

The *Gallia*, which has graced these waters for over a century, offers more than simple passage. It's an intimate floating stage where history, storytelling and scenery converge. Only 65 guests are welcomed per voyage, ensuring exclusivity and personal attention. From the ship's state-of-the-art steam engine to its pioneering solar-fuel adaptation — making it the world's first partially solar-powered steamship — this vessel is a marvel of both tradition and innovation.

As the ship glides past the peaks of Rigi, Pilatus and Bürgenstock, travellers are treated to a culinary journey equal to the visual spectacle. A five-course menu of regional delicacies, such as Swiss zander and beef tenderloin, is served with hand-picked wines and champagne. The unique 'flying service' allows three of the five courses to be enjoyed from any viewpoint — ideal for diners who can't bear to miss a second of the majestic Alpine scenery.

But the real magic lies in the legends. Each moment on board is interwoven with dramatic retellings of the region's folklore — from the tales of William Tell to lesser-known myths hidden within the fjord-like corners of the Urnersee. These stories are presented not just in words, but through surprising, immersive encounters that catch even seasoned travellers off guard.

Crew members, many of whom have worked these waters for years, offer not just service but soul. Conversations with the captain, behind-the-scenes glimpses of the steam engine, and personal stories from life on the lake give the journey a heartfelt authenticity.

Whether it's the hum of the engine, the shimmer of the lake at sunset or the unexpected moment when myth comes alive — Legends of Lake Lucerne is more than a cruise. It's a living story, and every guest becomes a part of it.

DON'T MISS Experience Swiss legends brought to life aboard the historic *Gallia* — an exclusive, story-filled voyage across Lake Lucerne

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- Historic steamship *Gallia*
- Five-course regional gourmet dining
- Partially solar-powered steam engine
- Panoramic viewing decks

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Legendary storytelling experiences
- Culinary journey with local wines
- Behind-the-scenes information
- Scenic cruise across Lake Lucerne

GET IN TOUCH

lakelucerne.ch/en/legends
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The Bank Hotel Istanbul

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The Bank Hotel Istanbul, a proud member of Marriott International's Design Hotels, blends rich heritage with 19th-century eclectic architecture. Originally designed in 1876 by architect Antoine Tedeschi in the neo-Renaissance style, the building has served as the home of several prominent financial institutions, including Crédit Général Ottoman, Deutsche Bank and Sümerbank. Today, the hotel honours this legacy through a meticulous restoration guided by the principle of 'renewing by preserving' — retaining original features such as bank vaults, antique cash registers and historic calculators.

Situated in the vibrant Karaköy district, the property boasts 62 rooms and suites, including a signature penthouse. The rooms feature high ceilings, original radiators and Carrara marble bathrooms, as well as bespoke furnishings designed by architect Sinan Kafadar. Of particular note are the restored stencilled ceilings, carefully uncovered by students from Mimar Sinan University, which lend a sense of historic depth and authenticity to the interiors.

The Bank Lobby Bar & Restaurant welcomes guests into a warm and refined atmosphere. In addition to an array of cocktails and an extensive wine and drinks menu, it offers international cuisine and open buffet breakfast options.

At Serica Restaurant, the culinary journey is rooted in the diverse cultural history of the region — a cradle of civilisations stretching back centuries. The chef crafts a menu that celebrates geographically marked local ingredients, bringing the story from soil to plate in each dish.

Perched on the rooftop, The Bank Roof Bar delivers a luxurious and unforgettable experience. This stylish bar floats above Karaköy, offering sweeping views of Istanbul, including the Golden Horn, the Bosphorus, Hagia Sophia, Topkapı Palace and the Blue Mosque.

For business or events, The Bank Hotel Istanbul offers a unique experience, combining historical charm with contemporary comfort. Meeting rooms are adorned with vault doors, cash registers and calculators from the Sümerbank era, creating an inspiring backdrop that reflects the building's past.

DON'T MISS Order a sunset cocktail or two at The Bank Roof Bar while enjoying views of Istanbul's skyline

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 62 rooms & suites
- Serica Restaurant
- The Bank Roof Bar
- Spa & fitness centre

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Art and gallery tours in Karaköy
- Sunset drinks overlooking the Bosphorus
- Historical city walks
- Local market and culinary discovery

GET IN TOUCH

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Swissôtel Büyük Efes

IZMIR, TURKEY

In the heart of Izmir, Turkey's vibrant western jewel, Swissôtel Büyük Efes rises like an oasis of calm and contemporary sophistication. Set within 14,352 sq yards of lush landscaped gardens, this five-star sanctuary effortlessly blends Swiss refinement with the soulful warmth of the Aegean.

Izmir, with its Mediterranean charm and modern spirit, is a city that invites exploration. Along its sun-drenched coastline and lively boulevards, past meets present — from the bustling Kemeraltı Bazaar and verdant Izmir Cultural Park to nearby treasures such as the ancient city of Ephesus, the House of the Virgin Mary, and the hilltop ruins of Pergamon. Just a short drive away lies Urla, a gastronomic paradise famed for its boutique vineyards and acclaimed farm-to-table restaurants.

Swissôtel Büyük Efes offers 402 elegantly appointed rooms, including 55 refined suites, many with private balconies overlooking the Aegean Sea. For an enhanced stay, the Swiss Executive Lounge provides added exclusivity and tailored service.

But this is more than just a place to rest — it's a destination infused with artistic soul. A remarkable permanent art collection features works by Fernando Botero, alongside pieces by leading Turkish contemporary artists.

For events both grand and intimate, the hotel delivers on every level. From open-air garden receptions to large-scale conferences, the on-site convention centre and outdoor venues provide a striking backdrop for unforgettable moments.

Culinary journeys unfold in every corner: Scappi, recognised in the 2025 Michelin Guide, reimagines Italian cuisine, offering signature cocktails and an exceptional wine list — all complemented by live jazz or DJ sets that elevate the experience. Aquarium Mezzes & Grill serves up modern takes on Turkish classics, while Cafe Swiss delights with its international and Anatolian buffet.

Wellness is woven into the hotel's DNA. At the Pürovel Spa & Sport, guests can unwind in 14 serene treatment rooms, an elegant indoor pool and fish-shaped outdoor pool. A full suite of services — including personal training, Pilates and tennis courts — allows guests to reconnect with themselves in harmony with the seasons.

DON'T MISS Discover masterpieces by Fernando Botero and top Turkish artists in the hotel's remarkable permanent art collection

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 3 acres of landscaped gardens
- 402 rooms including executive & family suites
- 3 restaurants & rooftop bar
- Curated modern art collection
- Convention centre & event venues
- Pürovel Spa & Sport with indoor & outdoor pools

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Stroll through lush gardens
- Cycle along Izmir's scenic Kordon
- Experience culinary hotspots
- Enjoy a curated art tour
- Rejuvenate with Swiss Vitality at Pürovel Spa

GET IN TOUCH

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Johnnie Walker Princes Street

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Johnnie Walker Princes Street is an immersive must-visit experience in the heart of Edinburgh. Located in a historic building on Princes Street, it offers whisky fans, and those newer to the liquid, a multi-sensory journey through flavour exploration and discovery and was crowned World's Leading Spirit Experience in 2023 and 2024.

Johnnie Walker Princes Street's 1820 Rooftop Bar is a must-visit. Wrapped around the opulent sandstone building's sixth floor, the venue's terrace offers an unbeatable view of Edinburgh Castle and a panorama of the city, stretching out as far as the Firth of Forth. The food and beverage team have gained a reputation for creating stunning experimental cocktails and non-alcoholic alternatives, and guests can also enjoy delicious dishes using locally sourced, seasonal produce.

Among the latest creations are the Johnnie Walker Black Ruby cocktails, including the Black Ruby Sour, Black Ruby Highball and Black Ruby Ultrasonic Rob Roy. These cocktails showcase Johnnie Walker Master Blender Dr Emma Walker's first innovative blend using Johnnie Walker Black, creating a bold, fruit-forward Johnnie Walker Black Ruby. The new blend has also been introduced to one of the venue's most popular whisky experiences — Johnnie & The Chocolatier — a pairing that exemplifies the venue's creative approach to whisky, offering a unique experience that's enjoyable for both whisky aficionados and those new to the spirit. After a Black Ruby welcome cocktail, guests enjoy an expert-led tasting of four luxury Johnnie Walker drams, each paired with chocolate truffles crafted by the world-renowned Highland Chocolatier, aka Iain Burnett.

At its core, Johnnie Walker Princes Street's Journey of Flavour Experience embodies the venue's ethos and ambition to break barriers and redefine the stereotypes around whisky. Using live performances, immersive light shows and whisky expertise, the team take guests on an adventure through Scotch Whisky and Johnnie Walker, complete with three cocktails or non-alcoholic options. It's the perfect activity for whisky-lovers and non-whisky drinkers alike. *DrinkIQ.com*
Drink responsibly, bedrinkaware.co.uk

Need to know

KEY ACTIVITIES

- The Journey of Flavour
- Johnnie & The Chocolatier
- Whisky Explorers at the Explorers' Bothy
- Whisky Makers' Cellar

GET IN TOUCH

johnniewalkerprincesstreet.com
T: 0131 376 9494
E: reservations.jwps@diageo.com

DON'T MISS Fill your own bottle of exclusive Johnnie Walker Princes Street Seasonal Whisky from the retail area

PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY. VISIT BEDRINKAWARE.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

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