

THE HISTORIC TRAVELLER

TRAVEL INSPIRATIONS TO EXPLORE EUROPE

• *Which Is Your Next Adventure?* •



DISCOVER...



GREAT LIBRARIES



BEST BEACHES



MY TOWN BRUGES

...AND MUCH MORE





Welcome to the Historic Hotels of Europe

A SPECIAL COLLECTION OF UNIQUE PLACES TO STAY
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD'S MOST INTERESTING
CONTINENT

Embark on a journey through time, where history, elegance, and luxury intertwine to create an unforgettable experience. Our carefully curated selection of hotels stands as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of Europe. From centuries-old castles perched atop emerald hills to grand palaces echoing tales of royalty, each hotel encapsulates the essence of the bygone eras.

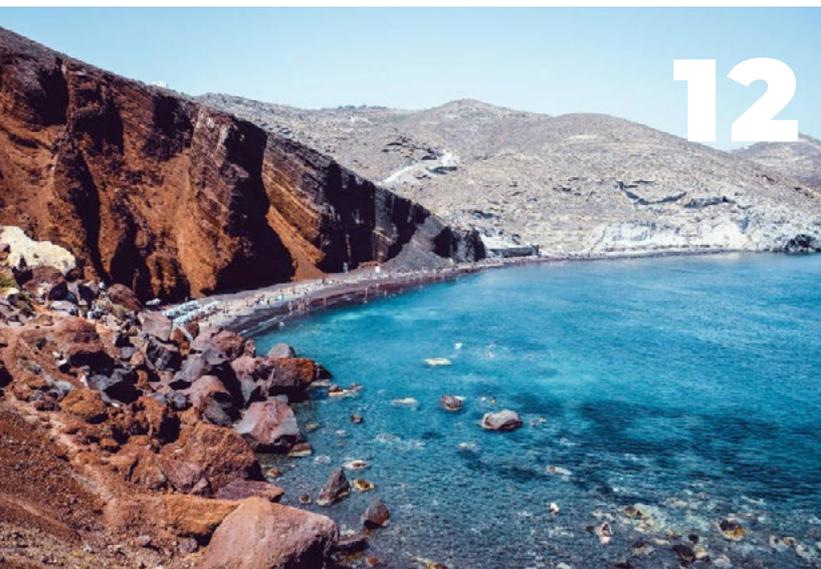
Whether you dream of an idyllic countryside retreat, an urban escape steeped in culture, or a coastal haven overlooking the azure seas, the Historic Hotels of Europe magazine has something to entice every discerning traveler. Our properties are not just places to rest your head but destinations that evoke emotions, leaving an indelible mark on your memories.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Avdis

Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors
Historic Hotels of Europe
HistoricHotelsOfEurope.com







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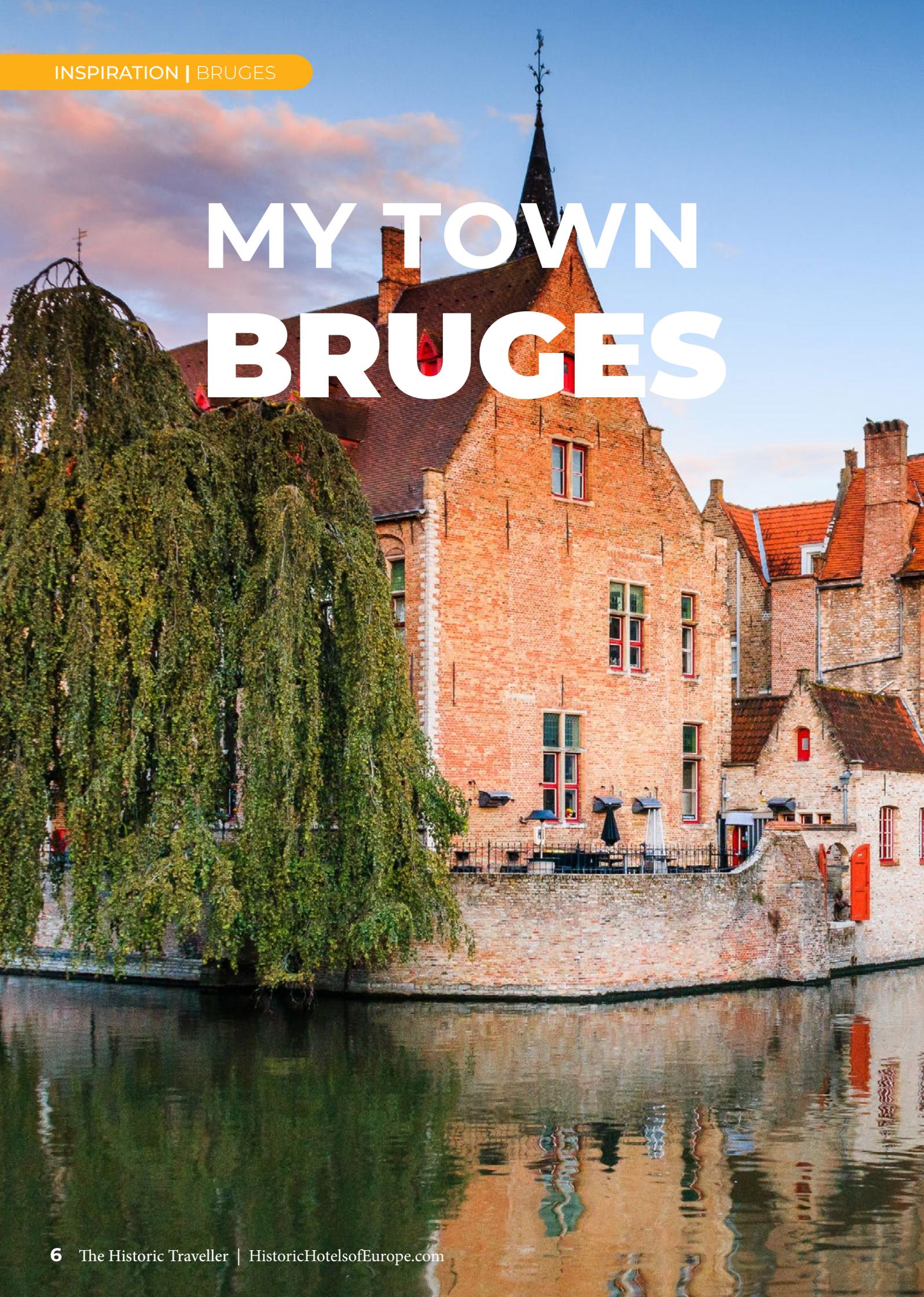
GIFT EXPERIENCE VOUCHER

Give memories that last a lifetime



66

MY TOWN BRUGES







Begijnhof (Beguinage)

Bruges is a charming city in the northwest of Belgium known for its **picturesque canals, beautiful architecture, and mouthwatering delicious chocolates**. It's a popular destination for tourists from all around the world, and for good reason. Whether you're interested in exploring historic sites, indulging in chocolate and beer, or simply taking in the beauty of the city, Bruges has something for everyone. Here's a guide to some of the best things to see, do, eat, and drink in Bruges, along with a recommendation for where to stay.

CULTURE HOTSPOTS

Bruges is a city steeped in history and culture and has been designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage site** in 2000. There are many cultural spots to visit during your stay. One of the highlights of Bruges is its historic architecture, which dates back to the medieval period. The city plays host to several beautiful churches and cathedrals, including the **Church of Our Lady** and the **Basilica of the Holy Blood**, home to a vial said to contain a cloth stained with the blood of Jesus Christ. Every May on Ascension day, the medieval Procession of the Holy Blood takes place in the streets of Bruges and attracts thousands of visitors and pilgrims from all around the world.

The city's main square, the **Markt**, is also a must-see, with its impressive Belfry tower and historic buildings. Climb to the top of the Belfry and enjoy panoramic views of the city before hitting the **Groeningemuseum**. A must-visit for art lovers, it boasts an impressive collection of Flemish Primitive and Renaissance art, housed in a stunning 15th-century Gothic mansion. Take time for a stop at the **Historium**, a unique experience that allows visitors to explore the rich history of Bruges through interactive exhibits and multimedia displays – a must-see. And finally another **World Heritage site**, the Beguinage, a secluded complex of white-washed buildings, is a tranquil oasis within the city.



Bruges Market Square

THINGS TO DO

In addition to exploring the city's historic sites, there are plenty of other things to see and do in Bruges. Bruges is often dubbed "The Venice of the North" due to its surplus of canals and bridges. One of the most popular activities is **taking a boat tour of the canals**, which offers a unique perspective on the city's architecture and scenery. If you're looking for a more active experience, you can **rent a bike and explore the city on two wheels**.

Don't miss the opportunity to stroll through the Minnewaterpark, a gorgeously maintained slice of nature based right in the heart of the city or to discover Bruges' iconic windmills circling the city borders. For those with the energy, the city's lively nightlife scene offers plenty of options for late-night party-goers.



Church of Our Lady



Historium Bruges



FOOD AND DRINK

Bruges is known for its delicious food and drink, and there are plenty of options to choose from. For a taste of local cuisine, try the stews and other hearty dishes at a traditional Flemish restaurant such as **'t Huidevettershuis**, a short stroll from the photogenic **Rozenhoedkaai** — an Instagrammers dream.

Bruges is home to some awe inspiring chocolatiers. If you're in the mood for something sweet, head to **Chocolatier Dumon**, **The Old Chocolate House**, or **The Chocolate Line** and sample some of the city's famous chocolate treats. Don't miss the opportunity to try the local specialities, such as **Belgian waffles and moules-frites**. And of course, no trip to Bruges would be complete without trying some of the local beers. **The Half Moon Brewery** and **De Halve Maan Brewery** are both popular choices.

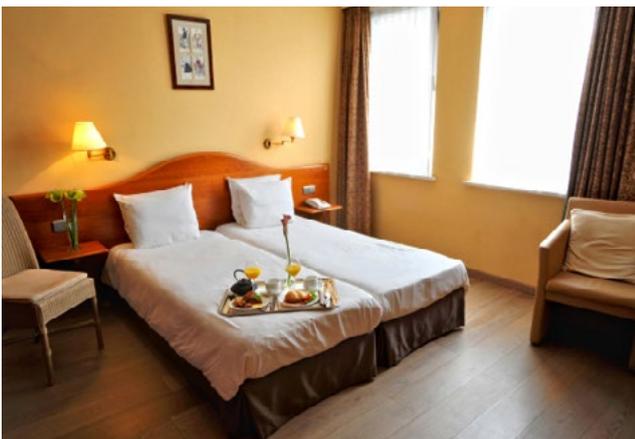


WHERE TO STAY IN BRUGES



Flanders Hotel

If you're looking for a luxurious and historic place to stay in Bruges, look no further than **Flanders Hotel**. This beautiful 4-star hotel is located in the heart of the city, just a short walk from the main square and many of the city's other attractions. Housed in a 19th-century building, the space has been fully renovated and features a modern design and lush green spaces meaning this city oasis still retains its historic charm. The rooms are spacious and tastefully decorated, and the staff are second-to-none.



So what are you waiting for? Bruges is a truly magical city that offers visitors a glimpse into its rich history, culture, and cuisine. Whether you're strolling along its charming streets and canals, indulging in its famous chocolates and beers, or admiring its impressive architecture and art, Bruges is a destination that's sure to leave a lasting impression. And with the Flanders Hotel as your home base, you'll have a comfortable and luxurious place to rest after a day of exploring. If you're planning a trip to Europe, be sure to add Bruges to your itinerary and discover all the city has to offer!

HOT, HOT, HOT!

EUROPE'S BEST BEACHES





With its diverse landscapes and breathtaking coastlines, Europe is home to some of the world's most enchanting beaches. From pristine stretches of powdery white sand to rugged cliffs and hidden coves, the continent boasts a plethora of seaside destinations that cater to every beach lover.

Whether you seek relaxation under the warm Mediterranean sun, thrilling water sports adventures, or cultural immersion amidst historic coastal towns, Europe has it all. Read on to discover some of our favourite beach spots...

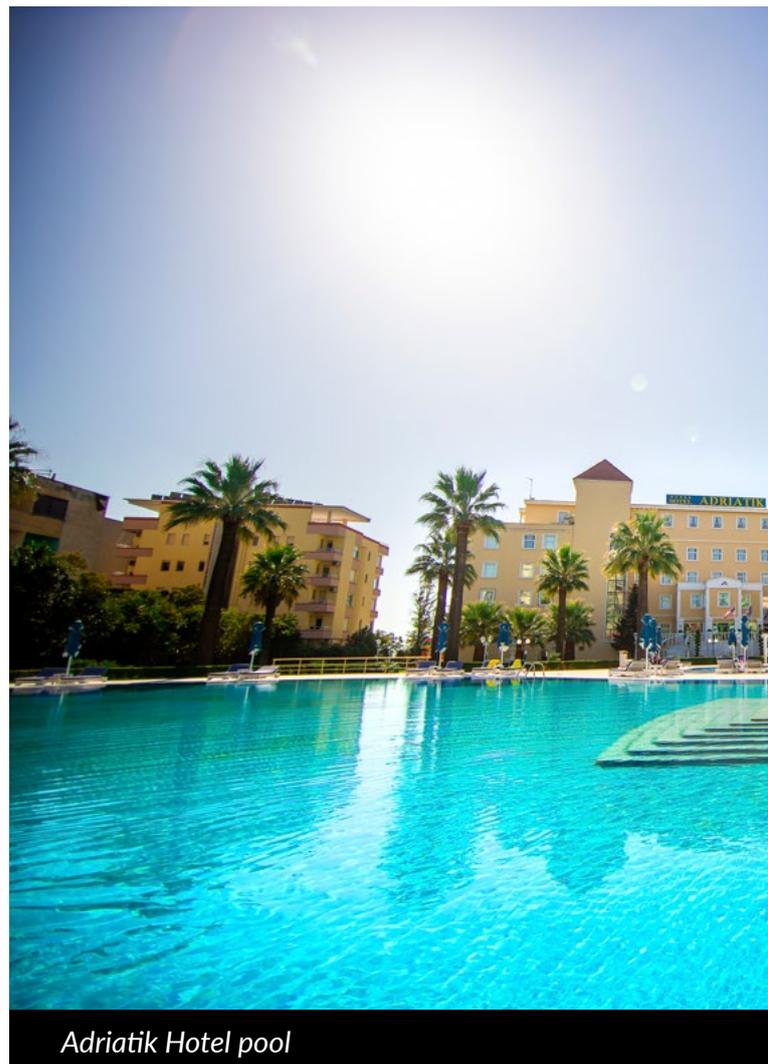
Dhermi Beach Himare Vlore, Durres



1 Durres Albania

Albania boasts a stunning coastline that remains relatively undiscovered by tourists. One of the popular beach destinations in Albania is the private Adriatik Hotel Beach in Durres. Located just steps away from the Adriatic Sea, this beach offers a long stretch of golden sand and crystal-clear waters. Bask in the sun, take refreshing dips in the sea and enjoy beachside amenities and activities provided by this five-star hotel.

Another beautiful beach in Albania is Vlora, a coastal city known for its scenic beauty and rich history. Vlora's beaches offer a mix of sandy and pebbly shores, fringed by clear blue waters. The city beach, in particular, is a popular gathering spot for locals and tourists alike. Unwind on the soft sand, swim or indulge in beachside dining at the nearby restaurants. Vlora's beaches also serve as a gateway to explore the city's historical sites, such as the Independence Monument and the Muradie Mosque.



Adriatik Hotel pool

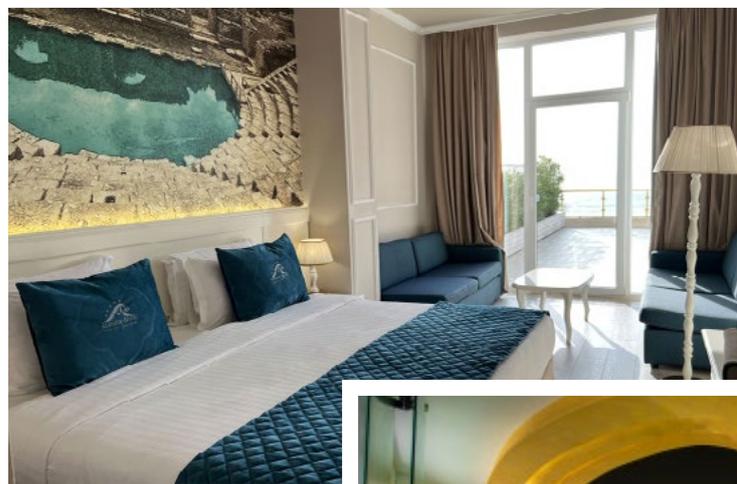
WHERE TO STAY

Just a short drive from Vlora, you'll find the charming beach town of Spille. Nestled along the Albanian Riviera, Spille boasts pristine beaches with a backdrop of lush greenery and rugged hills. The beach in Spille offers a tranquil atmosphere, making it an ideal destination for those seeking peace and seclusion. Take a leisurely walk along the sandy shores, soak up the sun or enjoy a picnic amidst nature's beauty.

The **Adriatik Hotel** in Durrës is a top choice. This luxe family-friendly hotel offers stunning rooms and suites, excellent amenities and direct access to the Adriatik Hotel Beach. Indulge in the hotel's spa facilities, dine in style at the on-site restaurants or simply relax by the pool overlooking the sea.



Adriatik Hotel beach





2 Santorini Greece



Santorini, a captivating Greek island in the Aegean Sea, is renowned for picture-perfect beaches that showcase the island's unique volcanic landscape. One such gem is Ammoudi Beach, nestled at the foot of towering cliffs near Oia. Accessible via a scenic stairway, this picturesque beach offers stunning views of the vibrant fishing harbour and the iconic Santorini caldera.

For those seeking a more secluded and off-the-beaten-path experience, White Beach (Aspri Paralia) is a must-visit. Located near the ancient site of Akrotiri, this secret beach gets its name from the striking white volcanic cliffs that surround it. Accessible only by boat or by hiking along a rugged trail, White Beach offers a serene escape from the crowds. The crystalline turquoise waters are ideal for swimming and the unique white pebbles make for an unforgettable day out.



Looking for a more adventurous beach experience? Cape Kouloumbo is an intriguing choice. Located on the northeastern tip of the island, this wild and untamed beach offers a dramatic landscape with its black volcanic cliffs and dark sand. Cape Kouloumbo's powerful waves and strong currents make it a favourite spot for experienced surfers and thrill-seekers.

WHERE TO STAY

When it comes to choosing a place to stay on this magical island, **Aigialos Hotel Santorini** and **Esperas Santorini** are two historic establishments that offer a blend of luxury, comfort, and traditional Greek hospitality. Both hotels provide a memorable and enchanting experience, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the island's rich history and charm.



Aigialos Hotel Santorini



Esperas Santorini Hotel

3 Connemara Ireland



Glassilaun Beach, Connemara, Co. Galway

Connemara, a rugged and picturesque region on the west coast of Ireland, is blessed with stunning beaches that showcase the area's otherworldly beauty. Renvyle House Hotel, located on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, is a stone's throw from a dramatic large pebble beach. Fortune favours the brave here and a dip in the icy Atlantic waters, while taking in the panoramic views of the surrounding mountains, will almost certainly blow off any cobwebs.

Another notable beach in Connemara is Renvyle 'Whitestrans Beach', located near the quaint village of Tullycross. This crescent-shaped beach boasts soft white sands that contrast beautifully against the vibrant turquoise waters. The calm and sheltered nature of the beach makes it ideal for swimming, sunbathing and beachside picnics. Surrounded by lush green fields and with the Twelve Bens Mountains as a backdrop, Whitestrans Beach offers a truly picturesque setting for beachgoers to chill and soak up the natural splendour of Connemara.





For those seeking a more remote and unspoiled beach experience, Glassilaun Beach is accessible by a scenic drive along winding coastal roads. Prepare to be captivated by its golden sands and crystal-clear waters. Glassilaun Beach is a

paradise for nature lovers and photographers alike. The beach is framed by majestic cliffs and offers stunning views of the offshore islands, creating an unforgettable coastal escape in the heart of Connemara.



WHERE TO STAY

When it comes to choosing a place to stay in Connemara, **Renvyle House** is an exceptional option. This historic hotel, situated on a 150-acre estate, overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and offers a unique blend of old-world charm and modern comforts. With its stunning location and warm hospitality, Renvyle House provides a perfect retreat for those looking to experience the beauty of Connemara and its remarkable beaches.

*Renvyle House Hotel &
Hotel Beach*



Taormina Beach

4

Sicily Italy

Italy, renowned for its exquisite coastline, offers a multitude of stunning beaches that capture the essence of Mediterranean beauty. One such captivating destination is Isola Bella in Sicily, located near the charming town of Taormina. This small island, connected to the mainland by a thin strip of sand, boasts a pebble beach surrounded by lush vegetation and crystal-clear waters. Isola Bella's natural beauty and the panoramic views of the dramatic coastline make it a spectacular spot for sunbathing, swimming and snorkelling. The beach is also home to a nature reserve, showcasing a diverse array of flora and fauna.

For a truly unforgettable beach experience in Sicily, a visit to Taormina is a must. Known for its attractive setting perched on a hilltop overlooking the Ionian Sea, Taormina offers a blend of history, culture, and of course beautiful beaches. The town's main beach, aptly named Taormina Beach, is a popular choice. With its fine golden sand, azure water and a backdrop of the stunning medieval town, Taormina Beach is not one to be missed. Make time to explore the charming alleys and vibrant squares of Taormina, adorned with historic landmarks such as the Greek Theater and the Corso Umberto.



WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Villa Schuler, a historic boutique hotel in Taormina, is nestled amidst lush gardens and offers up incredible coastal views. The hotel's classic architecture, combined with modern amenities and attentive service, creates an atmosphere of refined luxury.





5

Pembrokeshire Wales

St Brides Haven Beach and Porthmynawyd Beach in Wales are jewels along this awe-inspiring, wild coastline, and shining examples of the untouched beauty of the country. St Brides Haven offers a picturesque sandy beach framed by dramatic cliffs and rolling green hills. This secluded bay provides a peaceful escape, allowing visitors to soak up the tranquillity and admire the stunning natural surroundings.

Porthmynawyd Beach, nestled near the charming village of Roch, is a small sandy cove surrounded by rugged cliffs and rock formations. Its remote location adds to its allure, creating an intimate and peaceful atmosphere. Both beaches provide opportunities for coastal walks, picnics and exploring the nearby hidden coves and caves.

Twr Y Felin Hotel



WHERE TO STAY

To fully immerse in the beauty of these coastal treasures, staying at **Penhriw Hotel** or **Twr Y Felin Hotel** is highly recommended. Penhriw Priory Hotel, a 19th-century stylish retreat offers guests elegant rooms and serene gardens. Twr Y Felin Hotel in St Davids is a unique art hotel that combines contemporary design with historical charm.



Penhriw Hotel

6

Lisbon Portugal

Cascais, Estoril, and Caparica are three enchanting beach destinations that lie within easy reach of the vibrant city of Lisbon, offering lots of opportunities for a sun-soaked day trip. Cascais, located on the picturesque Estoril Coast, enchants visitors with its vibrant beachfront promenade and golden sandy beaches.

Praia da Rainha, the Queen's Beach, is a must-visit with its idyllic setting and calm waters. Along the coast, Praia do Guincho captivates with its wild and

windswept beauty, making it a favourite spot for surfers and windsurfers. Moving along the coast, Estoril boasts the elegant Praia do Tamariz, known for its lively atmosphere, thanks to nearby cafes and restaurants.

Meanwhile, Caparica, situated on the south bank of the Tagus River, has a vast coastline and captivating beaches. Praia de Santo António and Praia do Dragão provide a mix of relaxation and exciting water sports activities.



WHERE TO STAY

To make the most of your city beach vacation, take your pick from our collection of Lisbon hotels including [Solar do Castelo](#), [Hotel Lisboa Plaza](#) or the [Heritage Avenida Liberdade Hotel](#). From boutique hotels to historical residences, these establishments have buckets of authentic Lisbon charm. All also offer a Heritage City Beach offer, meaning you can enjoy discounted beachside adventures while experiencing the comfort of these unique hotels.



Heritage Avenida Liberdade Hotel



Hotel Lisboa Plaza



Solar do Castelo

DISCOVERING THE GREAT LIBRARIES OF EUROPE

Grand historic landmarks like the Austrian National Library and Dublin's Trinity College Library served not only as centres of knowledge but also as important hubs of scholarship and intellectual exchange. They were visited

in centuries past by scholars, philosophers, and scientists from all over the world who came to study and share their knowledge, contributing to the advancement of human understanding and cultural diversity.







1 Trinity College Library Dublin, Ireland

Amid the hustle and bustle of Dublin City, a hush descends as you enter the hallowed confines of the Trinity College Library. Established in 1592, it's the largest library in Ireland and houses over

six million printed items, including the Book of Kells, one of the most famous illuminated manuscripts in the world. At 65 metres long, the famous Long Room is one of the most photographed spaces

in the capital and is reminiscent of Harry Potter's Hogwarts. Book lovers can soak up the rarefied atmosphere of this centuries-old public destination, in easy reach of the rest of the city's cultural gems.



WHERE TO STAY



Roughly one hour away from the course is **Rathsallagh House**. The winner of numerous awards, including the National Hospitality Awards, this quaint country house delivers worldclass service and traditional Irish ambience on tap. Between its spa room and tennis court, there's plenty to do. Better yet, a golf course – Rathsallagh Golf Club – is right next door. www.hhe.travel/rathsallagh



Barberstown Castle is just a 30-minute drive from Dublin, making it the perfect base for exploring the culture and history of Ireland's capital city. A 13th-century castle, it now offers four-star luxury as an elegant country house hotel with spectacularly landscaped surroundings.





2 Admont Benedictine Abbey

Admont, Austria

The Admont Benedictine Abbey Library is a beautiful and historic library located in the town of Admont, Austria. Often considered to be one of the most stunning libraries in the world, it's a popular destination

for literature-loving visitors from around the globe. While the original structure was founded in 1074 by Archbishop Gebhard of Salzburg, the current library building was designed between 1776 and 1778

in the Baroque style. Its stunning interior features ornate sculptures, frescoes, intricate carvings, and shelf upon shelf of theological volumes.

WHERE TO STAY

A 30-minute drive from the Admont Benedictine Abbey is [Villa Bergzauber](#) in Upper Austria. A family-owned listed hotel overlooking the quaint town of Windischgarsten, Villa Bergzauber is a romantic and well-designed country guesthouse with every conceivable comfort catered for.





3 Mafra Palace Library Mafra, Portugal

The Rococo-style wooden bookshelves of the grand Mafra Palace Library contain around 36,000 valuable leather-bound volumes, dating from the 14th to the 19th centuries.

This literary destination has one very unique point of difference: a colony of bats that rests peacefully behind the bookcases by day. As night falls and the library doors are locked, the bats

emerge to swoop between the stacks, pursuing the paper-munching pests that would otherwise pose a danger to the valuable pages collected in the Mafra Palace Library.



WHERE TO STAY

Less than one hour from Mafra by car, Lisbon's [Hotel Britania](#) offers an authentic glimpse into 1940s glamour. Designed by the Portuguese Modernist architect Cassiano Branco, it offers 32 spacious rooms and one suite — an excellent base from which to explore the delights of Lisbon.





4 Austrian National Library

Vienna, Austria

The Austrian National Library is the national library of Austria, located in the heart of Vienna at the historic Hofburg Palace complex. Its collection dates back to the 14th century and includes over 12 million

items, including books, manuscripts, maps, and music scores. The library's main building is the spectacular Palais Mollard-Clary, built in the 18th century by famous Baroque architect Johann Bernhard Fischer von

Erlach. Visitors who enter the building will be awestruck by the grand staircase, many ornate ceilings and frescoes and a series of marble columns and statues.



WHERE TO STAY

A 20-minute walk from the Austrian National Library, **Hotel Stefanie** is the oldest hotels in Vienna. For over four hundred years, it's been providing first-class hospitality, food, and accommodation, just a stone's throw away from the capital's first district and most spectacular sights.



5 Abbey Library of St Gall Switzerland



The Abbey Library of St. Gall is a historic attraction located in the town of St. Gallen in northeastern Switzerland. Founded in the 8th century by St. Gallus, an Irish monk, it's one of the oldest and most important libraries in the world and was designated a UNESCO

World Heritage Site in 1983. Over the centuries, the library has grown in both size and importance; today it houses over 170,000 volumes, including many manuscripts, incunabula ((books printed before 1501) and early printed books.

WHERE TO STAY

The charming **Schloss Wartegg** is a spectacular castle hotel on the shores of Eastern Switzerland's Lake Constance. From lakeside adventures to cycling, on-site concerts to hiking routes, both the castle and its beautiful surroundings are tailor made for exploration.



Schloss Wartegg



6 Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense Milan, Italy

The Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense is a historic library located in the Brera district of Milan. Founded in 1770, it's part of the Brera Academy cultural and educational complex, which also includes an

art gallery and botanical garden. The library is housed in a beautiful 18th century building originally designed by architect Giuseppe Piermarini and features a grand staircase, ornate frescoes

and a reading room with enormous windows. A tranquil atmosphere makes the Biblioteca di Brera, as it's often called, a popular destination for scholars and researchers.



WHERE TO STAY

The **Grand Hotel et de Milan** is your portal right into the heart of Italian history and culture. Sleek, stylish and in the centre of thriving Milan, it's just a short walk away from the best places to eat, drink and shop as well as landmarks like the Duomo Cathedral: an unmissable sight and spiritual experience rolled into one. A variety of charming and decadent restaurants and bars on-site, as well as luxury five-star accommodation, make The Grand one of Italy's most exceptional historic hotels. You'll want to try it out for yourself presto.



7 Baroque Library Hall Clementinum, Prague

The Baroque Library Hall, located in the Clementinum complex in Prague is a stunning example of Baroque architecture. The Clementinum is a historic complex of buildings that houses the National

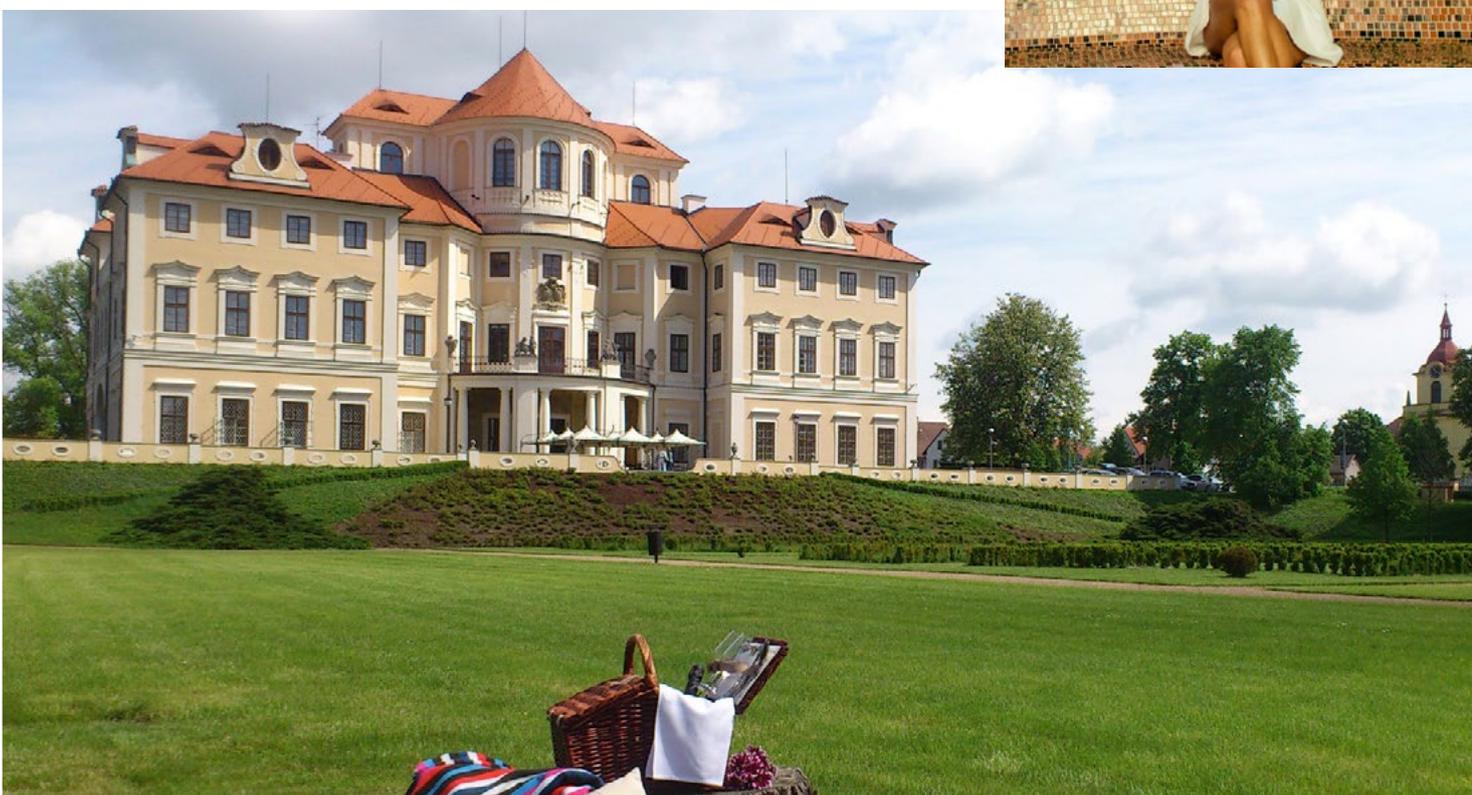
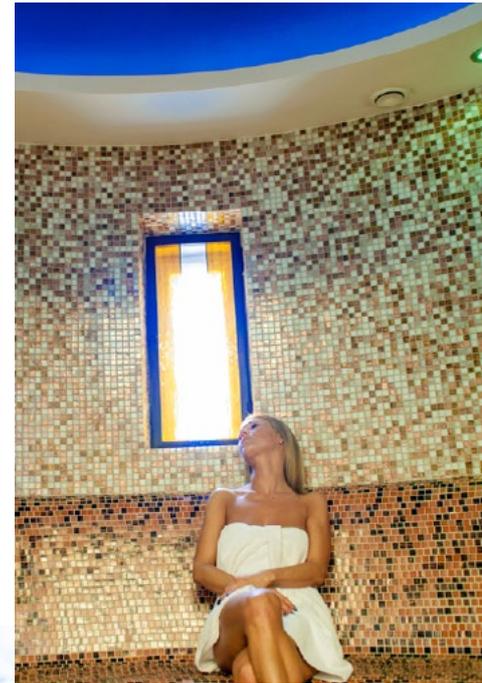
Library of the Czech Republic. Built in the 18th century, the hall itself was designed by the architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel, who created a masterpiece of Baroque architecture with soaring ceilings, ornate

decorations, and beautiful frescoes. The library hall is known for its impressive collection of over 20,000 books housed in dark wooden bookcases, many of which date back to the 16th century.



WHERE TO STAY

One hour from Prague is the beautiful **Chateau Liblice**, a four-star castle hotel that has perfected the art of blending the old with the new, and combines a classic atmosphere with contemporary comforts, such as top-class amenities and decadent room service. There's a restaurant and spa to explore, too: both of which elevate this property to heavenly heights.



Chateau Liblice

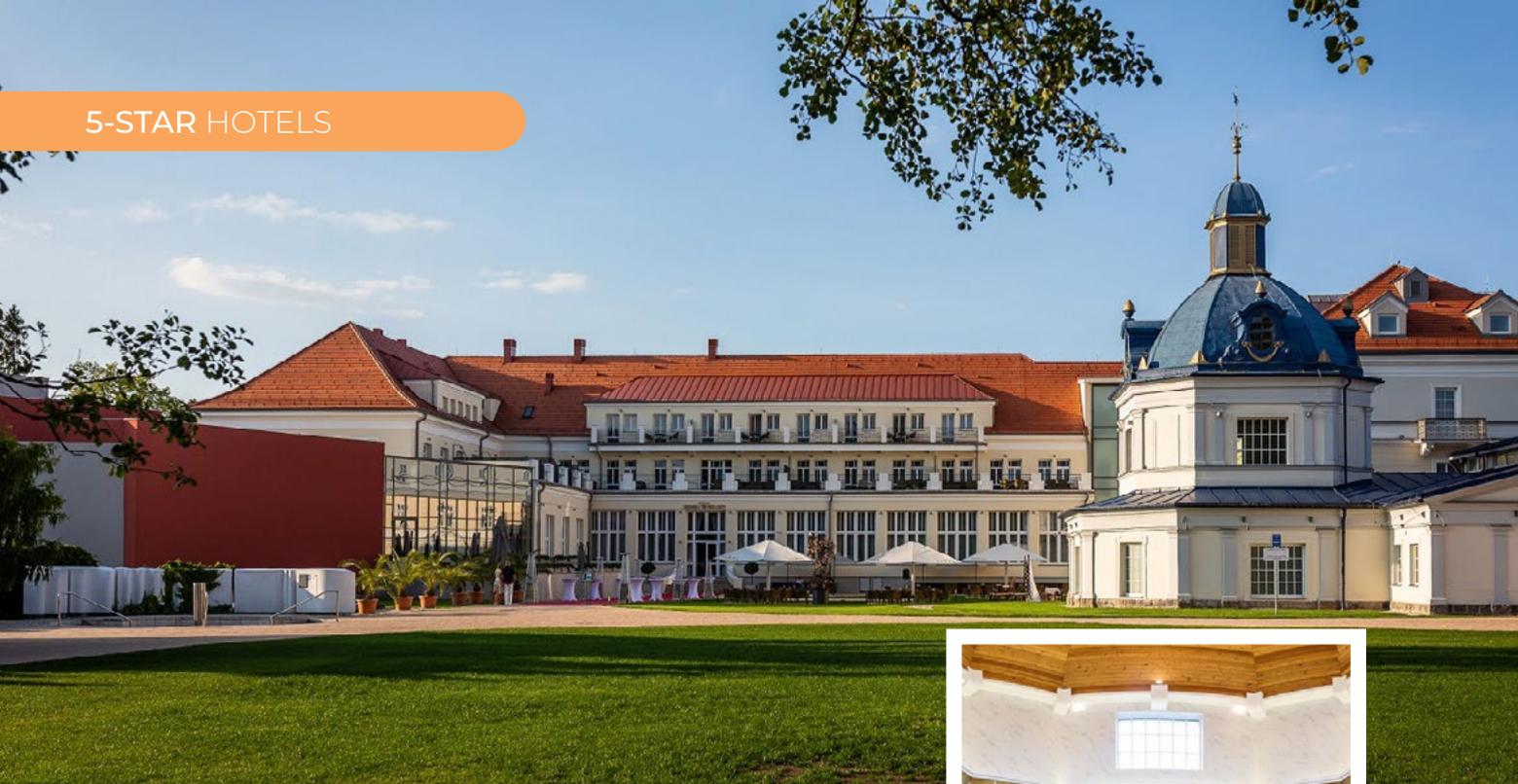


5 STAR STAYS

To Make Once-In-A-Lifetime Memories This Year

Five-star stays: yes, please. Best service, delectable food, amazing activities... and anything else your heart may desire. A holiday that ticks all the boxes.

To help you plan your perfect getaway, we've put together some of our finest five-star stays for you to choose from. Head to the ever-astounding alps, enjoy luxury in Slovakia, revel in rural Ireland and more. Which of these magnificent hotels is for you?



Hotel Royal Palace

Slovakia

Crafted in 1883, **Hotel Royal Palace** has always been the epitome of elegance, culture and class. Filled with vibrant art deco details - along with nostalgic furnishings - its lush interiors hark back to times gone by, when social nobility flocked its hallways.

We're sure that same nobility would be just as impressed with the palace now as they were back then: especially if they dipped their toes into the hotel's serene spa. As well as various treatments, you'll find a quintessentially Slovakian Royal Bath there - a circular shaped swimming pool with a golden mosaic that has its own active "piscina", where thermal water from the underground soothes and nourishes you.

Continuing on the theme of "nourishment", Restaurant Sissi - the hotel's onsite eaterie - takes further steps to gratify your body through its menu, which includes recipes that were once popular in royal kitchens (another nod to the building's noble origins) and Slovakian specialities. Eating and bathing all day long: what could be better? historically significant documents. But whether you're into cultural activities or not, a quick caper around this town is one you're not likely to forget.



DON'T MISS

Experience both sides of traditional Slovakian life - from the royal to the regular - with a trip to The Museum of the Slovak Village. It's the largest ethnographic open-air exposition in the country, and includes examples of folk architecture, agricultural homesteads, a Roman-Catholic church from 1792 and more. Check out the **museum's programme** before you book your visit: they host events all year round.





Park Hotel Kenmare

Ireland

There's a reason why the New York Times dubbed **Park Hotel Kenmare** "one of the world's most renowned hotels". Based on the shores of Kenmare Bay, this luxurious establishment is blessed with world-class service and a range of exciting activities, both inside and outside of its walls.

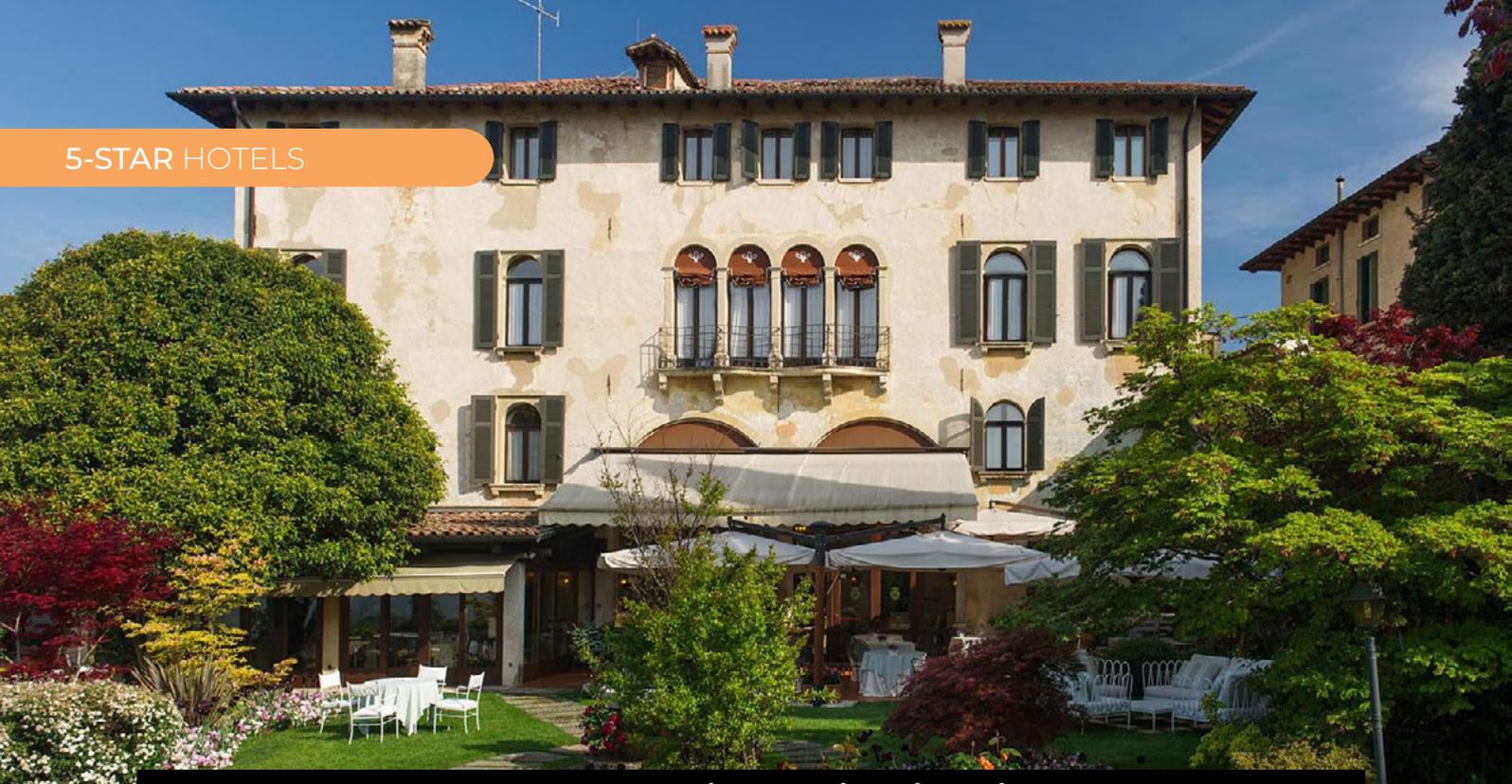
Out in the surrounding areas, guests can enjoy one of the hotel's many lifestyle programmes, enjoying mental and physical relaxation through carefully-planned heritage walks, hiking, yoga, golf and fishing. It's not even

necessary to wander that far, though. Those who want to go less further afield are sure to enjoy the hotel's pool, tennis court and other amenities, while its terraced gardens make for a wonderful romantic walk after dinner, where you'll eat meals composed largely of local wares.

You can't talk about this hotel without mentioning its award-winning spa, either. SĀMAS spa blends healing and therapeutic traditions from the East and West to restore you on every level - ensuring you check out of this hotel feeling like your very best self.

DON'T MISS

A scenic cruise of Kenmare Bay. The bay's tantalising waters are home to varied wildlife, including puffins and eagles - and with the salty sea wind teasing your hair and the gentle lapping of waves beneath your feet, you'll be hard-pressed to find a more wonderful way to spend an afternoon in this part of Ireland.



Hotel Villa Cipriani

Italy

Spending time at **Hotel Villa Cipriani**? It's simply heavenly. Encased by ambrosial views of rural Asolo and resplendent throughout with examples of the finest Italian craftsmanship - including eye-catching watercolours - it's no wonder that this establishment was once owned by the beauty-loving poet, Robert Browning.

Indeed - even the shortest stay at this hotel is bound to inspire the poet in you! In the spring and summer, aromatic flowers burst into bloom on the villa's walls and in its surrounding gardens, while its glittering pool - which sits like a sapphire among the surrounding flora and fauna - is a constant temptation under the hot Florentine sun.

There's nothing better than snuggling up in one of the hotel's cosy rooms during the colder months, either. Furnished with antiques and complete with big windows, which fill each space with the soft glow of natural light, you'll feel truly at peace here. Filled with so many delights, it's no wonder that Hotel Villa Cipriani is considered one of our most remarkable five-star stays.



DON'T MISS

If you've got a soft spot for golfing, Asolo is the place to indulge it. **Asolo Golf Club** is a 27-hole course that neighbours Monte Grappa and sits within several acres of lush, green parkland, making it a jaw-droppingly scenic space to enjoy the sport. You'll be enchanted.





Hotel L'Helios & SPA

France

Snow capped mountains, cabin vibes and family-friendly rooms are the bread and butter of this ski escape: **Hotel L'Helios & SPA**, one of our most standout five-star stays. Kids and adults alike will love cosyng up next to the bar's grand fireplace, while skiing opportunities and luxurious spa areas -

including an indoor pool and Hamman - will give adult guests that extra chance to unwind.

The food here is exceptional, too - an especial advantage considering all the energy you'll need for your daily adventures in the snow! Sample melt-in-the-mouth

crepes at the onsite creperie, Le 2 du Doron, or enjoy elegant dining at L'Helios Restaurant. Serving up Savoie delicacies with a twist, just one bite of the restaurant's sophisticated wares will make it obvious why they've won so many awards.



DON'T MISS

Based in Méribel, this hotel is ideally situated to explore the 3 Valleys, where you can try hundreds of activities from biking and hiking in the Plan de la Tuéda nature reserve, to taking advantage of the mountain's equally-split expert and easy ski runs. You'll be constantly entertained.



Roch Castle

Wales

Five-star stays are made even more special when they're spent in a castle, and **Roch Castle** is the perfect example of one at its very best. This historic venue, built in 1195, has housed conquerors and courtesans, served as a royal stronghold and survived wars before becoming the grand getaway it is today - and we really do mean "grand". Roch Castle is decked out from tower to base with pockets of comfort and plush furnishings: its rooms boast everything from hypo-allergenic toppers to 300 thread count linens - promising a seamless night's sleep - while elsewhere, a unique Sun Room will take your breath away. Fitted with glass walls and an alfresco viewing platform, you can enjoy the castle's panoramic views of St Brides Bay and Preseli Hills from dawn until dusk.

Beyond the charming castle walls, you'll find plenty of ways to amuse yourself. Wander 186 miles of National Park coastline, enjoy cosmopolitan quirks at the city of St Davids or dive into the wildlife rich islands of Ramsey, Skomer and Skokholm during your top-tier stay. Don't be surprised if you end up coming here more than once...



DON'T MISS

Ever fancied horseback riding on the beach? Check out **Nolton Stables**. Just a stone's throw away from the castle, you can book beach rides, woodland rides and combined rides through this provider.



Hotel Hebros

Bulgaria

Built over 200 years ago, **Hotel Hebros** retains its original personality and is named after the Ancient Greek title for the Maritsa river, Hebros. Located in the Old Town, which nestles on top of three hills in the beautiful Plovdiv, we are just minutes from the city centre. A restored Revival-style house — a 19th-century wooden-frame construction built by the emerging class of Bulgarian merchants, the hotel offers all their guests an authentic Bulgarian welcome.

The Old Town, is crammed with Bulgarian renaissance-style houses on either side of cobbled streets and dotted with fine restaurants and art galleries. Steeped in history, you don't have to venture far to spot remnants of Thracian and Greek influences along the passageways. Plovdiv was 4,000 years old when the Romans arrived, constructing an impressive amphitheatre and used today for operas and concerts.

DON'T MISS

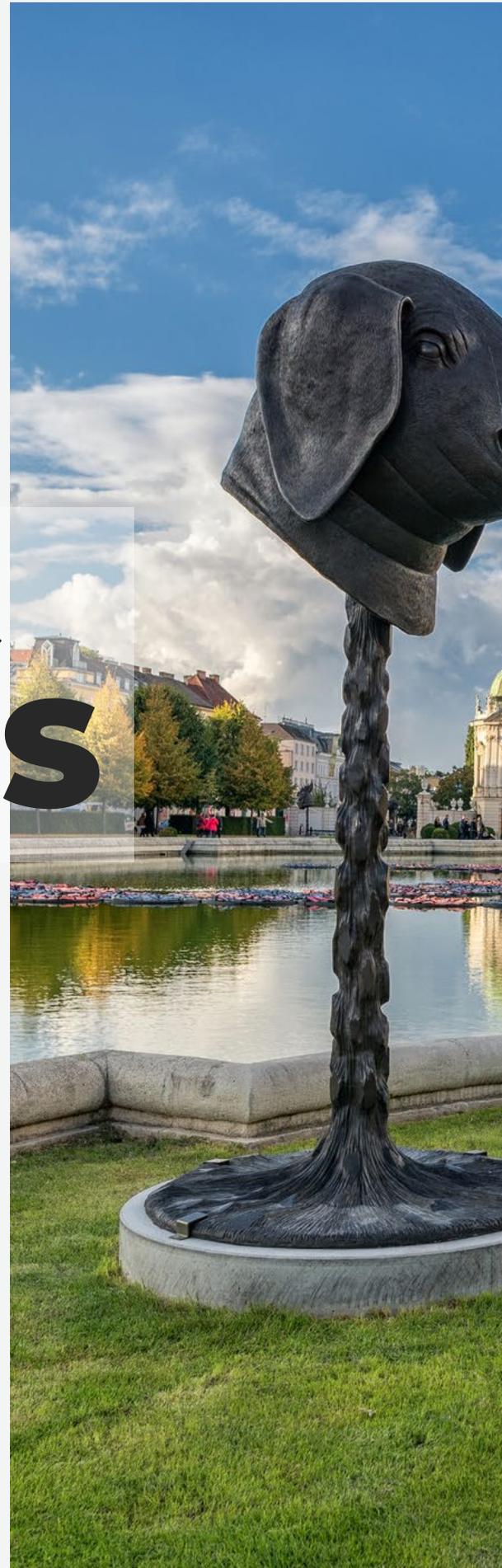
A city bursting with life, the temptation to spend your days wandering the narrow streets will be significant, but the Rhodope Mountains to the south are within easy reach for day trips, hikes and monastery visits. Plovdivians often refer to themselves as the 'ailiatsi', or laid-back ones. During your stay, sit back and relax.



EUROPE'S MOST INCREDIBLE PARKS & GARDENS

This year, boost your mood, health and mindfulness with a day of discovery in one of Europe's beautiful parks and gardens. Research shows that immersing ourselves in nature offers enormous benefits for both body and soul; absorbing the stillness, fresh air and tranquillity

of these spectacular spaces is the perfect way to catch a breath. The following list of vibrant green oases are sure to inspire and delight: in easy reach of each of these European landmarks, there's a historic hotel waiting to be explored.





PARKS & GARDENS



Vienna, Austria

Schönbrunn Garden

A UNESCO World Heritage site, **Schönbrunn Palace Gardens** is an awe-inspiring destination within the elegant city of Vienna. Opened to the public around 1779, it is now one of Austria's most popular tourist attractions, drawing over two million visitors a year.

The historic Desert House (formerly known as Sundial House) is worth a visit to explore its valuable collection of succulents.

Those who want a taste of something similar can head onto **Schloss Belvedere** - a property consisting of two Baroque palaces, an orangery and stables - where flowers and fountains decorate the perimeter. Between its sculpted gardens and richly-painted panoramic views, you'll be hard pressed to find a more romantic spot.

Belvedere Palace & Garden



For a more private glimpse of Austrian wildlife, tourists can head to the Danube River. There, you'll find a "waterpark" - a secret glade consisting of two big ponds and an island where water birds come to rest. Observe ducks, seagulls, herons and more, or take to one of the many nearby hiking paths to head deeper into nature.

WHERE TO STAY



Proudly serving guests for over 100 years, **Hotel Erzherzog Rainer** is a Viennese institution. Located in the vibrant neighbourhood of Freihausviertel, it's surrounded by artisan stores, galleries and cafés and just a stone's throw many hotspots and must-see attractions.

West Cork Garden Trail, Ireland

West Cork showcases some of the finest nature in all of Ireland. With its unique Gulf Stream climate, glittering coastline and unbridled wildlife areas, it's ideal for those looking to dive into the countryside on their next Irish holiday.

So, where to start? That'd have to be the West Cork Garden Trail. This collection of 27 gorgeous gardens showcases many of the world's most divine feats of nature, from subtropical flora to fascinating fauna.

Of course, it would be impossible to visit them all in one trip, or in just one day. That's why we've whipped together this short itinerary - coupling some of the best parks with nearby places to stay - to help you make the most of your time on the trail.

STAGE 1

Newcomers to the West Cork Garden Trail should start with **Glebe Gardens**. This horticultural hotspot provides a true picture of Irish country life. Old meadows neighbour beautiful vegetable gardens and woodland, while a grand

amphitheatre acts as the stage for concerts, plays and other ceremonies. Glebe Gardens actually hosts plenty of events throughout the year, so if you time your visit well, it could coincide with a special gardening course or dining experience.



WHERE TO STAY

Keep up the nature theme with an overnight stay at **Fernhill House**. This exquisite 4-star country house hotel has acres of gorgeous parkland all its own, as the owner, Michael O'Neill, is a passionate gardener - something that's easy to see as you amble through the lush greenery surrounding the property. A fitting way to end a floricultural day.

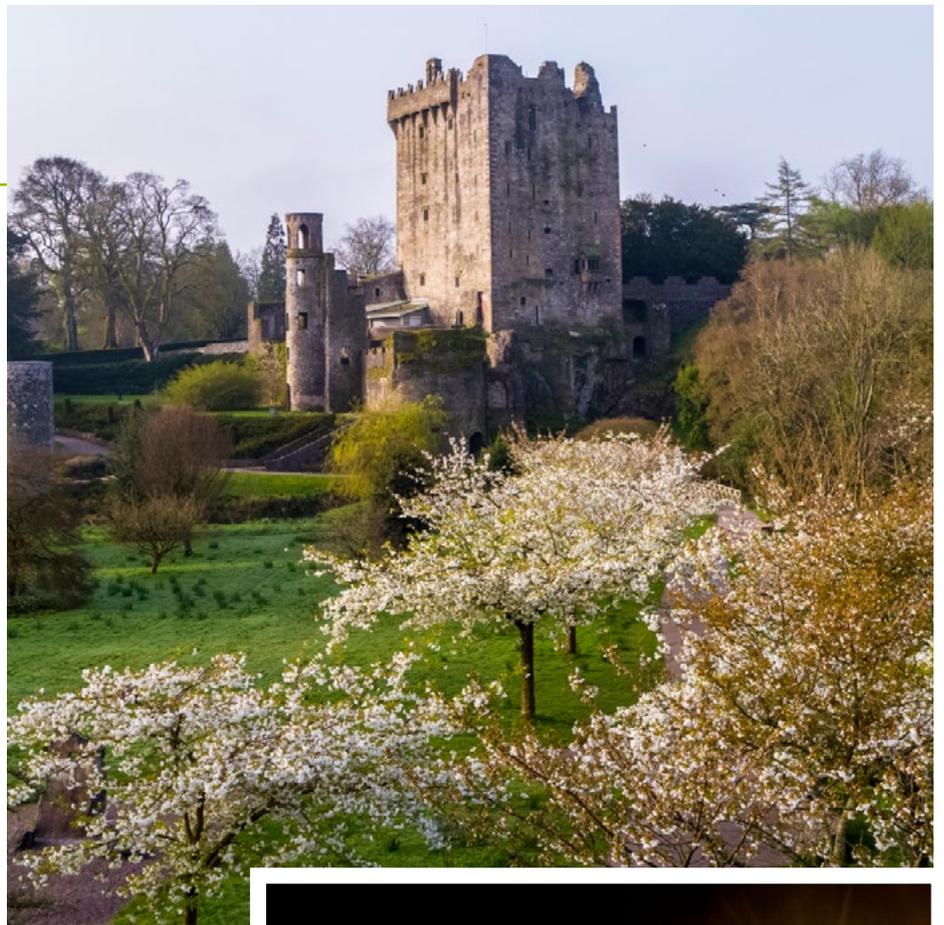


Fernhill House



STAGE 2

The next leg of your journey simply has to include **Blarney Castle**. Built nearly 600 years ago, it's since been attracting visitors from all over the globe... and not just for its impressive interiors. The grounds surrounding the castle are utterly compelling in their own right, and include a Poison Garden, Himalayan Walk and fairy glade.



WHERE TO STAY

There are a few options for travelers wishing to see the castle. Just a fifteen minute drive away is the **Metropole in Cork**, where guests can enjoy 4-star luxury and world-class customer service. Elsewhere, there's the charming **Blue Haven Hotel** or **Old Bank House**, both based in the culture-rich town of Kinsale.



Blue Haven Hotel



Metropole in Cork



Old Bank House

STAGE 3

A garden tour of Ireland simply wouldn't be complete without a visit to **Garinish Island**. A utopia for horticulturists, it boasts a wondrous wealth of shrubs, flowers and trees along with a historic house where you can learn all about the island's heritage and owners.

Better yet, you don't even have to wait before dipping your toe into this particular paradise. The Garinish Island website is currently offering a few online tours so that you can start exploring right

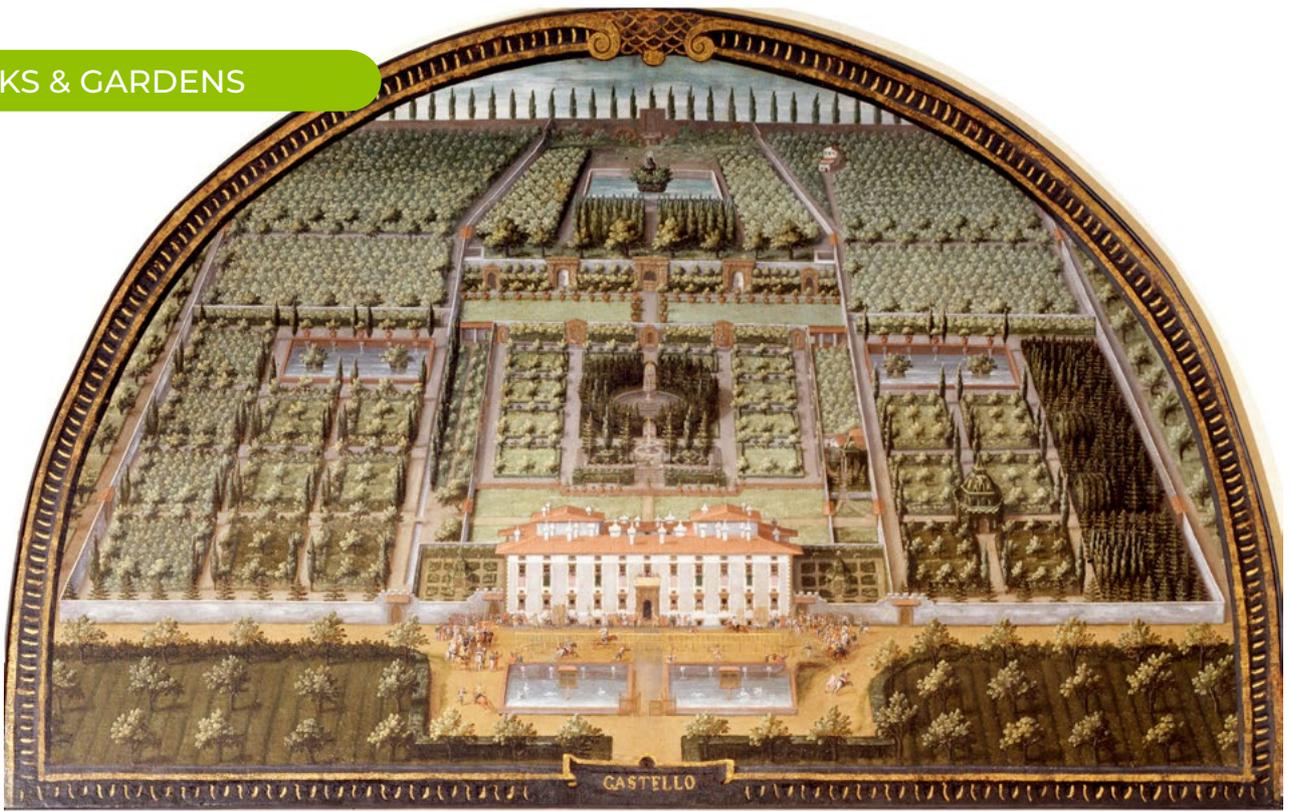


Eccles Hotel

WHERE TO STAY

End your West Cork Garden Trail tour with a night at **Eccles Hotel**. Overlooking Bantry Bay and Garinish Island, the panoramic views it offers are unrivalled. There's a gorgeous spa on-site, too - perfect for relaxing in after so many active days outside.





Villa Medici

Tuscany, Italy

Renaissance gardens are the bread and butter of the Tuscan countryside. It's no wonder, then, that some of the most superb European parks are based here.

Begin your nature-focused trip with an afternoon at the **Villa Medici of Castello**, which is famous for being the prototype of the 16th-century Italian garden. With its handsome structures - including the famous fountain of Hercules and Antaeus - and acres of meticulously-designed, colourful parks, you'll feel as though you've stepped into your very own wonderland.

Elsewhere, the magnificent **Boboli gardens** await their chance to take your breath away. Home to many impressive structures including an amphitheatre, Neptune's fountain and "Viottolone" - a gorgeous green avenue flanked by

emerald cypresses and historic statues - it strikes a masterful balance between culture and nature.

Those looking to move beyond 16th century influence should head for the Baroque gardens at **Villa Gamberaia**. Surrounded by the rolling hills of Florence, this horticultural haven is the very definition

of serenity. Continuing on the villa trend, **Villa Cetinale** is also a very worthy option to consider: decorated throughout with glimmering pools and wisteria-covered walkways that surround the property in a sea of purple. It's truly enchanting.



Villa Gamberaia



Boboli gardens

WHERE TO STAY



Villa le Barone is in driving distance from all of the above locations, making it an excellent choice for those looking to get lost in the Tuscan sun... though you can enjoy some striking scenery on the villa's own doorstep, too. More than 100 different rose species grow on the property, as well as an orchard full of cherry, plum and apricot trees. Idyllic.



Kvarner Riviera, Croatia

As with The West Cork Garden Trail, the Kvarner Riviera has more than a few gorgeous parks that cry out to be explored.

Overlooking Kvarner Bay you'll find **The American Gardens**, a collection of terraced areas that offer unparalleled views of the water. That is, if you can tear your eyes away from the gardens themselves. Natural objects have been finely clipped and arranged to create extraordinary effects - turning shrubs into flawless

spheres and planting flowers in complex web formations - resulting in an extraordinary aesthetic throughout.

Elsewhere, **Park Angiolina** is one of the most celebrated parks in all of Opatija. The park a lush, verdant paradise with stunning views and fragrant flowers. Visitors flock to this 20-hectare oasis to follow winding paths and observe numerous species of flora and fauna. The famous Villa Angiolina houses a museum with an impressive collection

of artefacts from both modern and ancient times, bringing the story of the coastal town of Opatija to life.

Based in the heart of the city, tourists and locals alike flock here for some repose from the bustling streets. This can also be achieved at **Park Margarita** - the second largest and third oldest park in Opatija - whose colourful flowers and trees create a peaceful setting for moments alone.



American Gardens

Want an easy way to see some of Croatia's other dazzling greenery? Tourists need only follow the Franz-Joseph Promenade, which follows the coastline for 12km between Volosko and Lovran. Along the route you'll see more than your fair share of traditional villas and ambrosial parks, set against the backdrop of the crystalline sea.

For something totally different from Croatia's purposefully-styled outdoor spaces, the Istrian peninsula is the place to go. The highest point, Vojak, is surrounded by nature you won't find elsewhere, due to its specific climate. Marvel as you hike at the black hornbeam, oak and pine trees that nestle alongside rare and endangered plant species. It's a once in a lifetime experience.



Park Angiolina

WHERE TO STAY

Boutique hideaway **Villa Astra** is a great choice for those seeking an intimate escape. At the hotel in the town of Lovran, with only seven bedrooms, a restaurant, a swimming pool and several private gardens on-site, you'll feel as though you've stepped into a fairytale. Its seaview is lovely, too.



Villa Astra





Margraves of Ansbach, Germany

Pastoral Bavaria is home to some of the most magical European parks on the map. But if we had to choose just one to dive into, we'd have to pick the **Margraves of Ansbach**.

Gardens in southern Germany just don't get more magnificent than this. In particular, the "Hofgarten" (Court Garden) is a must-visit - where natural greenery sits alongside more formal, Baroque-inspired parkland, and a giant orangery creates a stunning silhouette against the Bavarian skyline. Once a year in July, it also hosts the Rococo festival, which celebrates the elegance of the Ansbach court. It's quite the historic affair.



WHERE TO STAY



Schwarzer Bock

Close to the gardens you'll find **Schwarzer Bock**, a boutique hotel that's beloved by guests the world over. Modern amenities and medieval influence are expertly met, here, making your stay one that's as comfortable as it is cultural. To indulge in the garden theme further, opt for the Hofgarten or Margravine rooms.



Efteling Fairytale Park, Netherlands

A unique and magical destination, Efteling Fairytale Park in Kaatsheuvel has been delighting visitors since it opened in 1952. It brings nostalgic fairy tales, myths and legends to life through stunningly

detailed landscapes, charming characters and captivating rides. One of the largest theme (and most unique) parks in Europe, Efteling Fairytale Park attracts over five million visitors every year.

WHERE TO STAY

You'll find **Hotel Central** in Hertogenbosch, just a 25-minute drive from Efteling Fairytale Park. The Impeccable interiors, attentive staff and unique design features combine to make this a truly indulgent holiday destination. Like much else in this extraordinary city, it's a work of art.





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OLD-FASHIONED:

Charming Hotels in Europe

Historic, charming hotels in Europe have an appeal all their own. They run the gamut from ancient inns to grand old palaces, where everyone from local legends to the rich and famous of the day would once stay.

Many of the hotels in our collection are still owned by the same families who built these glorious buildings centuries ago – giving them an atmosphere and style that no modern chain can compare to. Step inside and let us take you back in time...

Chateaux Salavaux gourmet





Chateaux Salavaux

Switzerland

Building
1592

Nestled in the tranquil Swiss countryside, **Chateaux Salavaux** is a luxurious and refined boutique hotel that offers an unparalleled guest experience. The property, originally built in the 16th century, has undergone meticulous restoration over the years to offer a unique blend of contemporary style with a nod to the past. 17

elegant rooms and suites feature thoughtful design elements showcase the attention to detail. The lush gardens and calming rural location provide the perfect setting to relax and unwind. An attentive and dedicated team is committed to delivering exceptional service, ensuring that every aspect of your stay is memorable. At Chateaux

Salavaux you're served finest cuisine, prepared using locally sourced and organic produce. The hotel is well situated and in close proximity to a range of exciting activities and experiences, including hiking and cycling tours, water sports, and wine tastings. Perfect for your next getaway to Switzerland.



Hotel Giorgione Venice, Italy

Building
1300

Just a stone's throw from the iconic Piazza San Marco, you'll find the four-star **Hotel Giorgione** in one of the most authentic and characterful parts of Venice. The historic residence is surrounded by the vibrant sights and sounds of this ancient city, but enter the exclusive internal courtyard and you'll find complete tranquillity. Here the focus is on the wellbeing of their guests, with a saline water

swimming pool offering relaxation and rejuvenation. You'll find impeccable hospitality and a warm welcome at the well-preserved landmark, with multilingual staff on hand to give recommendations and advice on enjoying the spectacular surrounding attractions. Each of the stunning guest rooms have been individually designed and decorated, with authentic features painting

a picture of old-world Venice. Standard options include Classic, Superior and King Deluxe and Family rooms, while a range of luxurious suites and apartments are also available. The 24-hour reception offers a first-class standard of service for all guests, who can fully immerse themselves in the unique, history-soaked ambience.





Palazzo Tiglio

Tuscany, Italy

Building
1650

Built in the 17th century on medieval foundations, the **Palazzo Tiglio** is a luxury stay with a fascinating history. Rich in heritage and lovingly restored, the hotel offers a glimpse into the past as far back as Roman times. Visit the ancient cellars to see a medieval water well and ancient grain stores cut into the rock, both thought to be from this period. The perfect place to explore the beautiful Tuscan countryside from, the hotel is just minutes from the quaint townland of San Pancrazio. Sitting on a hilltop, the location marks the historically significant crossing of

the Strada dei Procacci -- a pilgrim and trade route that once connected the upper Arno valley with the southern part of via Laurentina towards Rome. Now cared for by the Werich family, the building has been owned by a long line of noble dignitaries over the years. Decorated with gilded furniture and decadent antiques, there are many eye-catching interior details along with artwork to admire during your stay. With two opulent and palatial apartments, outstanding dining options and a welcoming atmosphere, the Palazzo Tiglio is what Tuscan dreams are made of.





Philipshaugen Lodge

Norway

Building
1899

Built in 1899 by British naturalist Ethelbert Lort Phillips, **Philipshaugen Lodge** is a remote, romantic destination surrounded by the majestic Øksendal mountains. Designed in the Scottish Highland style, the lodge boasts many historic features, such as the original notched timber logs and wood panelling. The Old Lodge offers 10 bedrooms, with a mix of double rooms, suites, family rooms and four bed rooms, and three newly renovated bathrooms

nearby. The more modern wing features 15 bedrooms with shared bathrooms and a guest kitchen, while the tranquil Madagaskar Cottage offers a fully equipped kitchen, cosy living room and private bathroom. The living rooms are designed for relaxation with log fires and comfortable Chesterfield armchairs. A delicious breakfast is served every morning, while the restaurant offers both traditional fare and international options.

Nestled in the Øksendal valley, Phillipshaugen Lodge is a spectacular place to visit at any time of year. Epic skiing experiences are popular in the winter months while summertime guests can embark on exciting cycling and hiking adventures. The Øksendalsøra Nature Reserve is just 4km away, perfect for a day of exploration — with the cosy armchairs of Phillipshaugen Lodge awaiting your return.



Dingle Benners Hotel

Ireland

Building
1800s

Old-world charm, a welcoming ambience and authentic Irish heritage are waiting for you at **Dingle Benners Hotel**. Nestled in a bustling port town on the shores of a ruggedly wild peninsula, Dingle Benners Hotel is an intrinsic part of the fabric of Dingle. As you stroll up Main Street, passing by quaint pubs and popular seafood restaurants, you'll find Dingle Benners — a handsome grey-painted townhouse with eye-catching Georgian front entrance. A warm welcome awaits inside, where the 52 elegant guest rooms (a blend of classic, superior and deluxe) have been fitted and decorated to a high standard.

A delicious menu is served all day in the cosy Mrs Benners Bar, where you may certainly meet some friendly locals with a tale or two to tell. The location of the historic hotel, at the heart of an iconic Kerry town, means that adventures of all kinds are only a stroll away. The spectacular Ring of Kerry is less than a two hour drive away, while Dingle itself is surrounded by epic beaches and cliff walks and contains a wealth of picturesque pubs and restaurants. Whether you're seeking a romantic getaway or a family adventure, Dingle Benners Hotel will ensure you have an unforgettable experience.





The Lansdowne Kenmare

Ireland

Building
1799

The Lansdowne Kenmare has been part of Kenmare's history since it was first built in 1799, as the town residence of the second Earl of Shelbourne, William Perry Fitzmaurice. At the historic hotel, you'll find the finest in hospitality and stellar service from the start to end of your visit - beginning with the warmest possible welcome, and ending with a friendly goodbye. From the restaurant to your carefully prepared bedrooms, you will feel truly pampered here. The hotel is designed to be your cosy home away from



home: an oasis of fine decor, the best amenities and pleasing perks that will make you want to return again and again. Totally restored in 2021, The Lansdowne Kenmare offers 28 bedrooms, a dining bar terrace, piano lounge and more for you to relax in, before heading out into beautiful Kenmare to experience its many shops, restaurants and traditional Irish pubs. Experience a quaint Irish break at its best.





Hotel Villa Westend

Merano, Italy

Building
1896



Designed in 1890 by the architect Pietro Delugan, **Hotel Villa Westend** is the perfect retreat in Italy's magnificent South Tyrol. A designated listed building since 1984, Hotel Villa Westend is an Art Nouveau gem; its stunning facade, adorned with flowers, is an iconic sight in the Alpine spa town of Merano. Original furniture and period furnishings adorn each of the spacious

bedrooms, with single and economy and standard rooms available, as well as the superb Westend Suite. The welcoming Art Nouveau dining hall serves a delicious breakfast buffet in the mornings and an elegant four-course menu in the evenings — with concerts, Tyrolean events and candlelit dinners also taking place throughout the year. The central location in Merano

means that the cultural landmarks, shopping hubs and medieval city gates are just a stroll away — while a delightful riverside walk (the Passer Promenade) lies just outside the front entrance. The welcoming staff members are ready to advise on the best local restaurants and attractions to explore and to help make your stay at Hotel Villa Westend truly unforgettable.

15 BREATHTAKING EXPERIENCES





There are so many wondrous places to discover in Europe. Magnificent museums and glorious gardens. Extraordinary events and astounding attractions. There's a wealth of wondrous places to discover in Europe... if you know where to look. With our suggestions, you'll have enough inspiration to plan any number of historic holidays filled with unforgettable moments. Where will you start?

1 Hiking around Braies Lake

Milan, Italy

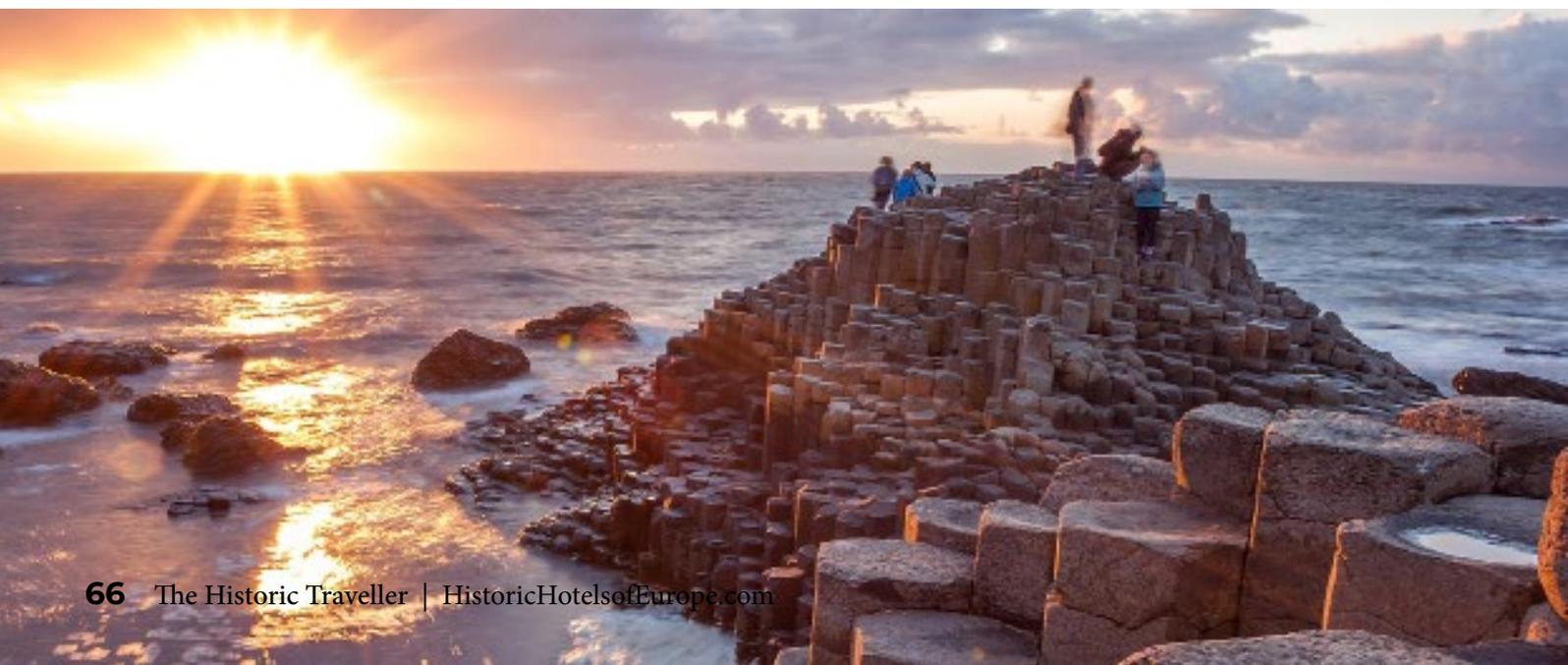
Nestled in the heart of the Italian Dolomites, Braies Lake is a hidden gem that captivates visitors with its turquoise waters and breathtaking mountain scenery. Also known as Lago di Braies or Pragser Wildsee, this alpine lake is a haven for nature enthusiasts and avid hikers alike. Surrounded by towering peaks and dense forests, the area offers a multitude of hiking trails that cater to all levels of experience. From leisurely strolls along the shoreline to challenging ascents up rocky slopes, exploring Braies Lake on foot promises an unforgettable adventure filled with stunning vistas and natural wonders at every turn.

[READ MORE...](#)



WHERE TO STAY

[Hotel Alte Goste](#)



2 Heeswijk Castle

Heeswijk-Dinther, Netherlands

Heeswijk Castle, also known as Kasteel Heeswijk, is a magnificent medieval castle: Situated in the picturesque village of Heeswijk-Dinther, this historical gem stands proudly as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the region. Its origins can be traced back to the 11th century when it was initially built as a defensive fortress. Over centuries, Heeswijk Castle has witnessed numerous additions and renovations that have transformed it into an architectural marvel. [READ MORE...](#)

3 St. Beatus Caves

Sundlauenen, Switzerland

Hidden deep within the magnificent Swiss Alps lies a mystical wonderland known as the St. Beatus Caves. Carved over millions of years by the relentless force of water, these caves hold secrets dating back to ancient times. As visitors venture into this subterranean labyrinth, they are transported to an ethereal realm adorned with awe-inspiring stalactites and stalagmites, mysterious underground lakes, and hidden chambers shrouded in darkness. [READ MORE...](#)

4 Santa Caterina del Sasso

Lake Maggiore, Italy

Nestled on the picturesque shores of Lake Maggiore in northern Italy, Santa Caterina del Sasso stands as a testament to centuries of history and spirituality. This stunning hermitage, perched atop a rugged cliffside, is not only renowned for its mesmerizing beauty but also for its rich religious significance. With its captivating architecture and breathtaking views, Santa Caterina del Sasso has become an iconic landmark that attracts visitors from near and far seeking both tranquility and enlightenment. [READ MORE...](#)

5 The Giants Causeway

Causeway, Northern Ireland

The Giants Causeway is a natural wonder located on the northeastern coast of County Antrim. This unique geological formation is renowned for its hexagonal basalt columns, which were formed over 60 million years ago by volcanic activity. The site has long captivated visitors with its mythical origins and extraordinary beauty, earning it a UNESCO World Heritage status in 1986. Stretching over three miles along the rugged shoreline, the Giants Causeway offers breathtaking views. [READ MORE...](#)



Hotel Central



Hotel Falken

WHERE TO STAY



Locanda dei Mai Intees



Ghan House



6 Tenaro Lighthouse

Anatoliki Mani, Greece



WHERE TO STAY

[Kyriami Hotel](#)

Located in the picturesque region of Anatoliki Mani in Greece, the Tenaro Lighthouse stands tall as a symbol of maritime history and breathtaking

coastal beauty. With its strategic position at the southernmost point of mainland Europe, this iconic lighthouse has guided ships through treacherous waters for

over a century. Perched on the rocky cliffs overlooking the deep azure waters of the Mediterranean Sea,

[READ MORE...](#)

7 Northern Lights

Øksendal, Norway



The mesmerizing beauty of the Northern Lights, known as Aurora Borealis, has captured the imagination of people around the world for centuries. This celestial phenomenon, characterized by vibrant colors dancing across the night sky, is a natural wonder that can only be witnessed in certain parts of our planet. The small village of Øksendal, nestled amidst breathtaking landscapes of majestic mountains, cascading waterfalls, and glistening fjords, is among those regions.

[READ MORE...](#)

WHERE TO STAY

[Phillipshaugen Lodge](#)

8 The Templar Knights – UNESCO site

Tomar, Portugal



The Templar Knights, renowned for their legendary bravery and mystique, have captivated the imagination of people for centuries. These medieval warrior-monks, originating in the 12th century during the Crusades, were not only formidable fighters but also skilled architects and influential figures throughout Europe. Among their many strongholds, one particularly stands out – Tomar.

Located in central Portugal, this enchanting town was once home to a significant Templar presence and is now a treasure trove of historical landmarks that bear witness to their enduring legacy.

[READ MORE...](#)



WHERE TO STAY

[As Janelas Verdes](#)



9

Bressanone – Brixen

Bressanone, Italy

Bressanone is a beautiful town nestled in the heart of the Italian Alps is a true gem waiting to be discovered. This charming town boasts an incredible history and culture, making it an ideal destination for anyone who wants to explore new places and experience something different.

From its stunning architecture to its breathtaking landscapes, Bressanone Brixen has something for everyone. The town's winding streets are lined with quaint shops and cafés that offer visitors a taste of local life.

[READ MORE...](#)



10

Uhrovec Castle Ruins

Hrad, Slovakia

Perched atop a hill in the rolling landscapes of Slovakia, the Uhrovec Castle Ruins stand as a testament to the rich history and turbulent past of this enchanting region. These ancient remains, located near the village of Uhrovec, serve as a captivating link to a bygone era, inviting visitors to delve into centuries-old tales of knights, nobles, and fierce battles. With its imposing stone walls and commanding views over the surrounding countryside, Uhrovec Castle Ruins offer not only a glimpse into medieval life but also an opportunity for modern-day explorers to immerse themselves in an intriguing historical journey!

[READ MORE...](#)



WHERE TO STAY

[Hotel Cavallino d'Oro](#)



WHERE TO STAY

[Gino Park Palace](#)



Cliffs of Moher

Lislorkan North, Ireland

The Cliffs of Moher, located on the west coast of Ireland, have long captivated visitors with their awe-inspiring beauty and dramatic views. Rising up to 214 meters (702 feet) above the Atlantic Ocean, these sheer cliffs stretch for about 8 kilometers (5 miles), making them one of Ireland's most iconic natural landmarks. With their rugged limestone formations, towering heights, and panoramic vistas that seem to stretch into eternity, the Cliffs of Moher offer a truly unforgettable experience for nature lovers and adventurers alike. Not only are the Cliffs of Moher an impressive geological wonder, but they also hold immense historical and cultural significance.

[READ MORE...](#)



WHERE TO STAY

[Gregans Castle](#)

Eidsborg Stave Church

Eidsborg, Norway

Norway is home to so many amazing traditions, artifacts and structures left by the Vikings. While you're in the land of the midnight sun, be sure to check out one of the incredible stave churches. Dating back to the middle ages, these unique structures, made entirely from wood, were built by the Vikings to celebrate the birth of Christianity in Norway. A notable stave church is The Eidsborg Stave Church.

The Eidsborg Stave Church is believed to have been built between 1250 and 1270 and is one of the best preserved examples of 28 protected stave churches in Norway.

[READ MORE...](#)



WHERE TO STAY

[Dalen Hotel](#)

13 Wawel Castle and Cathedral

Krakow, Poland



Perched atop a limestone hill in Kraków, Poland, the majestic Wawel Castle and Cathedral stand as a testament to the country's rich history and architectural prowess. With its origins dating back to the 11th century, this historic complex has witnessed

numerous dynasties, political intrigues, and cultural transformations throughout the centuries. Serving as both a royal residence and a religious center, Wawel Castle and Cathedral encapsulate not only Poland's tumultuous past but also its vibrant

artistic heritage. As one explores these magnificent structures, they are transported through time on a captivating journey that unravels stories of kings and queens, saints and sinners, triumphs and tragedies.

[READ MORE...](#)



WHERE TO STAY

Sierakow Manor



WHERE TO STAY

Palac Lucja



14 Jasna Lake

Kranjska Gora, Slovenia

Nestled in the picturesque Julian Alps of Slovenia, lies the enchanting Jasna Lake in the town of Kranjska Gora. This stunning alpine lake is a hidden gem that captivates visitors with its crystal-clear turquoise waters and breathtaking surrounding scenery. With its tranquil ambiance and pristine natural beauty, Jasna Lake offers a perfect retreat for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

[READ MORE...](#)



WHERE TO STAY

Antiq Palace



15 Narva Fortress

Narva, Estonia

Nestled on the banks of the Narva River, in the northeastern corner of Estonia, stands an imposing structure that has withstood centuries of conflicts and witnessed countless historical events – the Narva Fortress. With its strategic location at the crossroads between Western Europe and Russia, it has been both a coveted prize for conquerors and a crucial defense point throughout history.

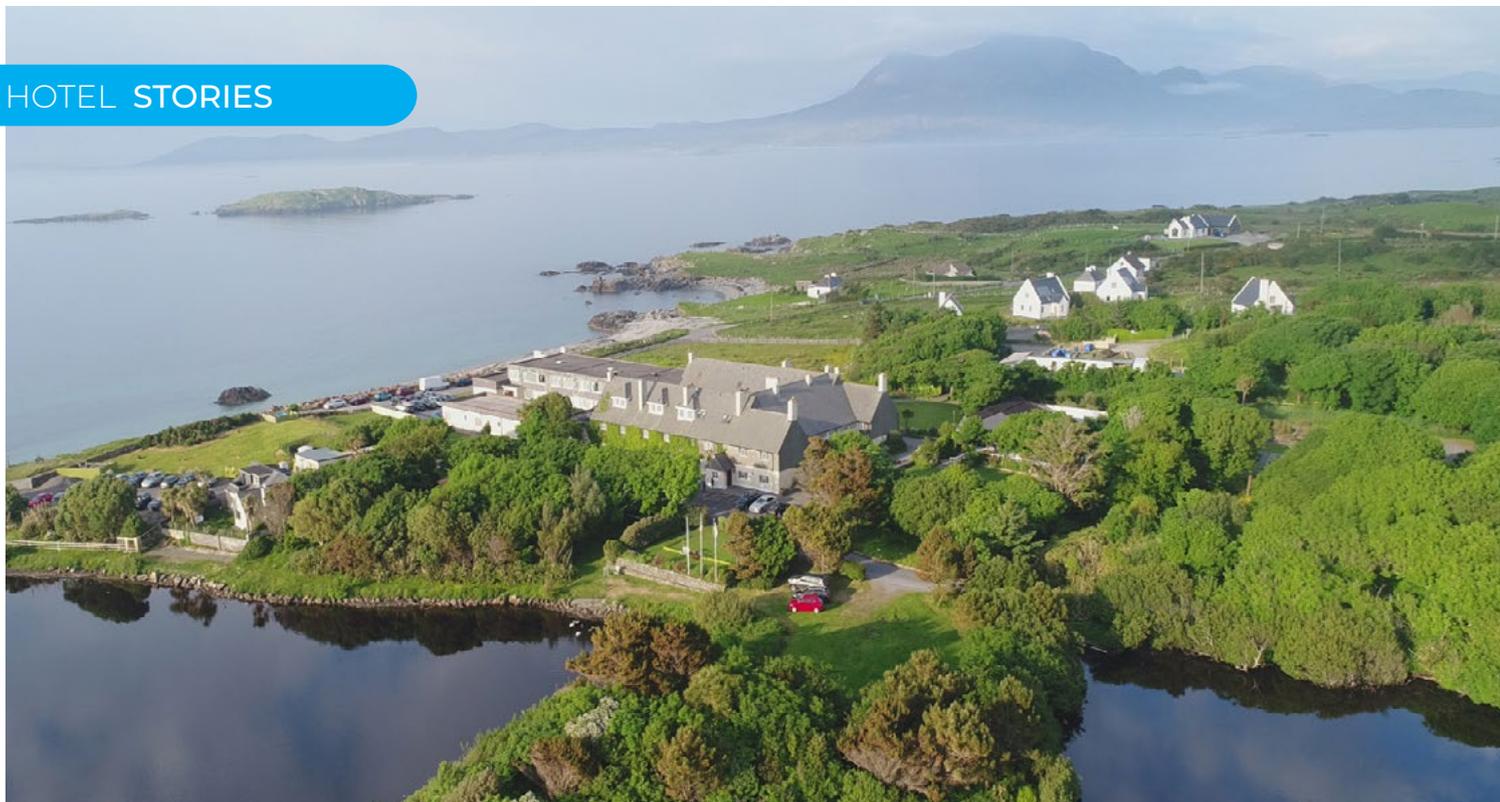
Today, visitors can explore this majestic complex, marvel at its medieval architecture, and unravel its captivating stories that have shaped the region's identity over time.

[READ MORE...](#)



WHERE TO STAY

Saka Manor House



Gastronomy Story

Achieving a tantalizing menu while integrating locally sourced, seasonal produce and ingredients harvested from the grounds of the Hotel, is the secret to taking the guests on a magnificent journey.

Imagine a “Hotel on the edge of the Sunset... a place where you would like to sleep for days and days, and to dream for years and years.”, Mario M. Rossi described the historic Renvyle House in his book “Pilgrimage in the West”, 1933

Located in the pristine western part of Ireland, **Renvyle House** sustains this charm, warmth and welcome for every guest intact to this date but also prides for its award-winning restaurant where dining feels as an inimitable experience in a local friend's gourmet kitchen.

Spending time with Zoe Fitzgerald, Chairman and Strategy Officer, and Anne Marie Kelly the General Manager of the Renvyle House, I am marveled by their commitment over the years to the great tastes and flavors of the Rusheenduff Restaurant that recently received the accolade of “the Best Hotel and Guesthouse Restaurant in Co. Galway and Connaught 2023”.



Renvyle House Hotel: Co. Galway

"Our focus remains on fresh fish, Connemara Lamb, Irish Beef and seasonal vegetables served by a knowledgeable and helpful team. We insist that the providence of our food is local, so much for the ultimate experience of our guests, but also from our pledge to support the local farmers and economy", states Zoe Fitzgerald.

"We have our own herb garden and apple orchards in the premises of Renvyle House Hotel & Resort," adds Anne Marie Kelly. "Our guests love seeing and walking through our gardens. We want that our guests indulge in the delicious but also the sustainable food that we offer. One of our Hotel's winter proposed breaks include a

cookery demonstration with seasonal recipes that guests can bring home. Breakfast at Renvyle House is also a treat with a great selection of local recipes to choose from and of course cooked to order." Apart from the gardens, Renvyle House also boasts an apiary of Native Irish Black Bees using treatment free beekeeping practices. The 4 very productive hives yield to the hotel and its guests up to 250 jars of pure honey! This summer the hives are heaving, such an encouraging sustainability message from nature!

Going through the hotel's guest book, I am delighted to read the comments of the Renvyle House Hotel guests,

the precious reward for Zoe, Anne Marie and their team towards the good cuisine and the sustainable practices through the years: "the food was the best we had experienced to date: fresh wild oysters, tender lamb, delicious scallops and juicy mussels in their shells". "We stayed here 3 weeks into a golfing road trip and the food was the best we had experienced to date: fresh wild oysters, tender lamb, delicious scallops and juicy mussels in their shells. A big positive is that they have both a restaurant and bar, each serving good quality food. The cook to order breakfasts were also excellent."

Barbara Avdis





History in the Making Story

How History can make the difference even in the most Experiential Destinations around the world.

Travelers have always felt about staying in iconic places and historic properties – it's an experience never to forget. On a destination such as Santorini that is mostly known for its unique sunset and volcano, what can set a Historic Hotel apart?

"It is all about the identity and the sense of the place", Nicolas confirms to me, the General Manager of the **Aigialos Hotel** in Fira.

Lounging on one of the private verandas of the property and sipping a glass of Athiri wine while mesmerizing at the deep orange sunset colors, Nicolas explains how guests can feel that they're part of a meaningful and an important place when they visit the Aigialos.



Aigialos Hotel: Santorini

“Here, every object and every furniture have a story to tell. Most of the rare antiques and paintings are part of the private collection of the late owner, and family heirlooms. Our mission is to be guardians of these objects and to preserve them while blending them with the contemporary amenities for the luxury of our guests. The scenery certainly is important, and the inimitable setting of Santorini is unbeatable. But when the cultural immersion is aligned with the overall experience, then we have all it takes to create unforgettable memories for our guests.”

The island is much more than a honeymoon destination. Rich in antiquities, it boasts one of the most significant archaeological sites

in the Mediterranean. History and Tradition have also shaped the now internationally acclaimed wines of the island. Wines were produced and consumed on the island even from the ancient times.

As I watch the sun go down and marvel at the sea and sky colors on my private verandah, I can only feel blessed for this experience and I promise to return in late summer or Autumn to savor every inch of this sacred island.

Barbara Avdis



KLOSTERS MUSIC

29 July to 6 August 2023



Giovanni Antonini, © Marco Borggreve

Sat, 29 July 2023, 7.00 pm, Concert Hall, Arena Klosters

JOIE DE VIVRE

JULIE FUCHS SOPRANO
DANIEL COHEN CONDUCTOR
CAMERATA SALZBURG

Sun, 30 July 2023, 5.00 pm, Concert Hall, Arena Klosters

THE CREATION

GIOVANNI ANTONINI CONDUCTOR
BASEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
THE BAVARIAN RADIO CHORUS

Mon, 31 July 2023, 5.00 pm, Old Schoolhouse, Klosters

CUCKOO MEETS KANGAROO

 FAMILY CONCERT

PIANO DUO BERAIA PIANOS
NIKOLAUS SCHMID NARRATOR
KAMMERPHILHARMONIE GRAUBÜNDEN

Mon, 31 July 2023, 7.00 pm, Atelier Bolt, Klosters

THE RED DIAMOND

 READING

THOMAS HÜRLIMANN AUTHOR
FEDORA WESSELER MODERATOR

Tue, 1 August 2023, 5.00 pm, Concert Hall, Arena Klosters

TRIPLE BILL

CHARLIE CHAPLIN – LAUREL & HARDY – BUSTER KEATON
KEVIN GRIFFITHS CONDUCTOR
CITY LIGHT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Wed, 2 August 2023, 7.00 pm, Church St. Jacob, Klosters

CELESTIAL FANFARES

IMMANUEL RICHTER TRUMPET
RUDOLF LUTZ ORGAN

Thu, 3 August 2023, 7.00 pm, Concert Hall, Arena Klosters

BEAUTY AND FRAGILITY

ARABELLA STEINBACHER VIOLIN
KAMMERAKADEMIE POTSDAM

Fri, 4 August 2023, 7.00 pm, Concert Hall, Arena Klosters

SPIRITS OF DELIGHT

VERONIKA EBERLE VIOLIN
ANTOINE TAMESTIT VIOLA
SOL GABETTA VIOLONCELLO

Sat, 5 August 2023, 7.00 pm, Concert Hall, Arena Klosters

DISTANT LANDSCAPES

SHARON KAM CLARINET
TARMO PELTOKOSKI CONDUCTOR
**DIE DEUTSCHE KAMMERPHILHARMONIE
BREMEN**

Sun, 6 August 2023, 5.00 pm, Concert Hall, Arena Klosters

AT THE STILL POINT OF THE TURNING WORLD

SIR ANDRÁS SCHIFF PIANO

Tickets online available at klosters-music.ch

BOOKING A TICKET

Here's where you should stay

Here's where you should stay **Hotel Chesa Grischuna** has hosted a number of celebrities since opening in the 1930s, earning it the nickname "Hollywood on the Rocks"! This cosy property is one you don't want to miss if you're bound for the festival. Festooned throughout with chalet-style details and boasting a beautiful restaurant dishing up fresh food, it's bound to be a popular pick for those heading to Klosters Music 2023. Reserve your room soon... There are only twelve on offer at this intimate locale.



Hotels published in this edition

ALBANIA - Adriatik Hotel
AUSTRIA - Hotel Stefanie, Hotel Erzherzog Rainer, Villa Bergzauber
BELGIUM - Flanders Hotel
BULGARIA - Hebros Hotel
CROATIA - Hotel Villa Astra
CZECH REPUBLIC - Chateau Liblicre
ESTONIA - Saka Manor
FRANCE - Hotel L'Helios & SPA
GERMANY - Hotel Schwarzer Bock
GREECE - Aigialos Hotel, Esperas Hotel, Kyrimai
IRELAND - Barberstown Castle, Blue Haven Hotel, Dingle Benners Hotel, Eccles Hotel, Fernhill House Hotel, Ghan House, Gregans Castle, Park Hotel Kenmare, Old Bank House, Rathsallagh House, Renvyle House Hotel & Resort, The Landsdowne Kenmare Hotel, The Metropole Hotel Cork
ITALY - Grand Hotel et de Milan, Hotel Alte Goste, Hotel Cavallino d'Oro, Hotel Giorgione, Hotel Villa Cipriani, Hotel Villa Schuler, Hotel Villa Westend, Locanda dei Mai Intees, Palazzo Tiglio, Villa Le Barone
NETHERLANDS - Hotel Central
NORWAY - Dalen Hotel, Phillipshaugen Lodge
POLAND - Palac Lucja, Sierakow Manor
PORTUGAL - As Janelas Verdes, Heritage Avenida Liberdade Hotel, Hotel Britannia, Hotel Lisboa Plaza, Solar Do Castelo
SLOVAKIA - Gino Park Palace, Hotel Royal Palace
SLOVENIA - Antiq Palace
SWITZERLAND - Chateau Salavaux, Hotel Chesa Grishuna, Hotel Falken, Schloss Wartegg
WALES - Penrhiw Priory, Roch Castle, Twr y Felin Hotel

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