

For many people, travelling across Europe is a major life goal. From exceptional art and culture to an absurd variety of gourmet cuisine, the various destinations of Europe have something to offer most anyone. But knowing where to start in a continent so full of history can be a massive challenge. So with that in mind, let's take a look at our picks for the top 20 places to visit in Europe.

20. Budapest, Hungary

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapest>

Often regarded as one of the most beautiful and culturally rich cities in Europe, the ancient capital of Budapest, Hungary merges the old and new in a way few other places in the world can boast. As an important strategic center for centuries, the distinct architectural influences are apparent in the construction of beloved landmarks such as the Buda Castle, Széchenyi Chain Bridge, Matthias Church, Central Market Hall, and Fisherman's Bastion. If you're a fan of European history and culture, the Pearl of Danube needs to be on your list.

19. Istanbul, Turkey

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul>

Right on the border of Europe and Asia, the city of Istanbul, Turkey, has a storied and complex history, as the one-time capital of two different empires, the Ottoman and Byzantine. Modern Istanbul offers a compelling juxtaposition of sacred monuments and 21st-century architecture. Cut in two by the Bosphorus strait physically dividing Europe and Asia, this picturesque city bustles with color, life, and incredible food on every corner. If you make the trip, be sure to stop by the ancient Hagia Sophia now serving as a museum, the otherworldly Blue Mosque, or the Grand Bazaar, which has been open for over 500 years.

18. St. Petersburg, Russia

https://travel.usnews.com/St_Petersburg_Russia/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landmarks_of_Saint_Petersburg

St. Petersburg, Russia, has a unique look and feel among both European and Russian cities. Founded by Peter the Great, who was known to appreciate European style, this city has a ton of that influence in its architecture and layout. However, there's no mistaking the distinctly Russian culture that thrives there. After all, it's the birthplace of several influential Russian writers and musicians. St. Petersburg offers a unique marriage of European aesthetic and Russian sensibility, with landmarks such as the Peterhof, Kazan Cathedral, and Nevsky Avenue, exemplifying that spirit.

17. Reykjavik, Iceland

https://travel.usnews.com/Reykjavik_Iceland/

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reykjav%C3%ADk>

There are few places on earth with the same kind of natural beauty offered in Reykjavik, Iceland. From the famous geothermal spas to the awe-inspiring aurora borealis, the capital of Iceland offers unique experiences you can't find anywhere else. If you visit during the summer, you'll enjoy incredibly beautiful and long days, sometimes even as much as 20 hours of sunlight! Reykjavik, and Iceland in general, is a paradise for nature lovers. Between the mighty volcanoes, majestic waterfalls, and serene countryside dotted around Iceland, you'll truly find a new level of connection to the world.

16. Prague, Czech Republic

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague>

Any fan of WWII history needs to plan a trip to Prague as soon as possible. Despite suffering from catastrophic damage during the war, Prague has remained a quaint little destination. Landmarks such as the Prague Castle, Old Town Square, Charles Bridge, and the Prague Astronomical Clock are surrounded by a multitude of walkable areas, making the city a dream for pedestrians. It's not all about the history though. Don't miss out on Prague's exciting nightlife and cuisine options while you're there!

15. Poznan

<https://www.europeanbestdestinations.com/european-best-destinations-2019/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pozna%C5%84>

A hidden gem among the hotspots of Europe for years, Poznan, Poland is now a rapidly growing travel destination. This city is chock-full of green spaces, making exploring new locations a delight. Popular destinations include the Stary Browar shopping center, Old Market Square, and Imperial Castle. Poznan is also a hotspot for music lovers thanks to the annual Ethno Port music festival.

14. Berlin, Germany

https://travel.usnews.com/Berlin_Germany/

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin>

Split by a wall for nearly 30 years, Berlin has really thrived over the last 30 as the cultural center of Germany. You'll find some of the best food and drink along with a vibrant nightlife and cultural scene boasting such landmarks as the Brandenburg Gate and Museum Island. You'll also find several memorials and museums dedicated to their dark past, including the Berlin Wall Memorial and Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. However, this city's unique relationship to both art and tragedy is perhaps nowhere more apparent than the iconic East Side Gallery.

13. Stockholm, Sweden

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stockholm>

https://travel.usnews.com/Stockholm_Sweden/

Simply put, there are very few places like Stockholm in the world. It is situated on a gorgeous archipelago which covers thousands of islands in the Baltic Sea. Stockholm itself takes up 14 of these islands, making waterways a significant part of life and travel there. Some of their most popular destinations are “Old Town,” which dates back to the 1200s and the ornate Royal Palace. Like Iceland, if you visit in the summer, you’ll enjoy over 20 hours of continuous daylight. This event is celebrated in the sites, sounds, and tastes of their annual Midsummer Festival.

12. Dublin, Ireland

https://travel.usnews.com/Dublin_Ireland/

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin>

Dublin, Ireland, is a beautiful marriage of the old and new worlds. Both traditional Irish feel and international flair are never in short supply in Dublin. For history buffs, there is no shortage of impressive gothic and medieval castles and cathedrals to visit, including Dublin Castle, Christ Church Cathedral, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. It's also home to several beautiful parks, including the Victorian St. Stephen's Green and Phoenix Park, home of the Dublin Zoo. You can get all the culture you want out of a trip to Ireland during the day while gaining access to the impressive nightlife and restaurant scene of a major city by night.

11. Amsterdam, Netherlands

https://travel.usnews.com/Amsterdam_Netherlands/

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amsterdam>

One of the undisputed kings of personal freedom in Europe, Amsterdam has taken a relaxed stance on many things the rest of the world frowns upon or outright bans. However, these are just a few of the reasons someone may want to visit this beautiful Dutch city. Between the scenic canal ways and surplus of artisan shops, you immediately feel like you're in another world. Dam Square is well-known for being a major cultural center of not only Amsterdam but the Netherlands as a whole. Those there for the natural beauty can enjoy the expansive spaces and waterways of Vondelpark, while the Bloemenmarkt ensures a unique shopping experience.

10. Monte Carlo, Monaco

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monte_Carlo

Tucked along the Mediterranean sea beats the heart of Monaco. Monte Carlo has long been synonymous with glamour, and this city lives up to its reputation. Famous for its casinos and car

racing, the city also boasts beautiful architecture and stunning views, such as those found at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco. There is a reason why this city is so often depicted in literature, film, and even video games. If you are looking to live the lifestyle of the rich and famous, this is the spot for you.

9. Copenhagen, Denmark

<https://shershegoes.com/things-to-do-copenhagen-denmark/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copenhagen>

Originally a Viking fishing village, Copenhagen is a unique city that has so much to offer. The bright, colorful buildings lining the waterways are a sight to as you ride your bike down the street. You'll find countless cultural spots to explore, from the oldest functioning observatory to Hamlet's Castle. The famous Tivoli Gardens is not one to be missed either. The cuisine is unique, and nothing like you'll find elsewhere. Copenhagen offers a delight for all your senses and sensibilities.

8. Barcelona, Spain

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barcelona#Culture>

Parked along the Mediterranean in the northeast of Spain lies Barcelona. Filled with culture, beauty, and delicious tapas, this city is a must for anyone who loves to travel. From admiring the world-famous Gaudi architecture to the excitement of a top tier football game, you will never be lost for something to do. Barcelona is truly a global city, influencing how the world functions and much of that is reflected in the heart of the city. From the food to the music and dance, it won't take long for you to fall in love with this paradise.

7. Venice, Italy

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venice>

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

It is impossible to think about Venice without the romantic image of a gondolier gliding down their famous canals, singing beautiful Italian songs. Venice also offers gorgeous architecture, amazing museums, and delicious food. At one time, Venice was a forceful center, and its impact can still be found today, especially in their art. A must-see is the beautiful San Marco Square and San Marco Basilica. It is better to hit this one sooner rather than later; as the water rises, Venice sinks!

6. London, UK

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London>

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

If you are looking for iconic, you are looking for London. Big Ben, double-decker busses, Buckingham Palace and it's guards. There is a reason London shows up in so much in television, literature, and movies, and we're not just talking imperialism. There are numerous icons of London that are instantly recognizable. While there may be a lot to see, make sure to make time for the famous London Eye, and appreciate some Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre. These are sights and experiences you do not want to skip.

5. Swiss Alps, Switzerland

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Alps

<https://www.viator.com/Swiss-Alps/d5015>

Magnificent natural beauty, exciting snow sport, fantastic culture, and heritage; the Swiss Alps are something to behold. Dotted with charming towns and villages between beautiful lakes, rivers, and peaks, there are many unique ways to experience the alps for yourself. If you don't ski, you can try your hand at yodeling in the valleys, or just experience truly unmatched views on a pleasant train ride through the country. You can even go get a glimpse of the world-famous Matterhorn.

4. Florence, Italy

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence>

<https://www.thecrazytourist.com/20-best-things-florence-italy/>

A city of masterpieces, Florence, was a cultural powerhouse and is widely considered to be the birthplace of the Renaissance. The density of art in all varieties is astonishing—literature, painting, sculpture, music, all there to delight the senses. You can see the Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore, the world-famous David statue, the Piazza Della Signoria, and countless more historical sites. Everywhere you turn, there is beauty to spark delight and wonder. The history of this city is astounding as some of the most powerful families of Europe have roots here. Florence is a must for anyone looking to immerse themselves in culture and experience.

3. Santorini, Greece

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santorini>

The island of Santorini is one of the most picturesque places in the world. White buildings with bright blue roofs snuggled up on hillsides looking out onto the Aegean sea, it is impossible not to be enchanted. Aside from soaking up rays, you can go to archeological sites dating to the Minoan civilization, see an active volcano, and taste the delightful and unique wine of the island. This is an excellent location for a laid back vacation made better by culture and nature.

2. Paris, France

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris>

It's no mystery why Paris is one of the most beloved cities on the planet. The City of Lights is an epicenter for romance, fashion, food, and art. Its reputation as a place you absolutely must visit is well deserved and warranted. Versailles, the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe: all amazing places you must see. Rue de Rivoli, food and drinks, the Eiffel tower: all incredible experiences you must have. Even the low key experience of sipping coffee and eating a croissant outside a cafe is so quintessentially Parisian. Paris is a place where you will want to explore everything you can and experience whatever the world sends your way.

1. Rome, Italy

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome>

<https://www.touropia.com/best-places-to-visit-in-europe/>

Many of the cities on this list have been cultural centers, many of them filled to the brim with history, art, and unique experiences that you can only find there. Then there is Rome. The seat of an empire that once ruled the majority of Europe, centuries of arts and education ever moving forward but celebrating the past. Rome is an experience in and of itself. There is something to appreciate everywhere you look; even the graffiti is beautiful! This city is so grand and so influential that Vatican City, the seat of Catholicism and influential world power of its own, is nestled inside of it. There is no experience in the world that matches Rome, and that is why it should absolutely be top of your list as well.

OUTRO

Not many of us will have the chance to jet-set around Europe one day. So we hope our list was able to help you narrow down your selection to a few choice options. Do you think we missed anything that should have made the cut? We'd love to hear from you in the comments below! Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow on Twitter to receive all the latest videos and lists. Don't forget to like and subscribe if you enjoyed the video, and we'll see you next time.