

THE HISTORIC TRAVELLER

TRAVEL INSPIRATIONS TO EXPLORE EUROPE

Which Is Your Next Adventure?



DISCOVER...



FROM MANORS TO CASTLES



POLAND UNRAVELLED



ULTIMATE WELLNESS RETREATS

...AND MUCH MORE

Schloss Frankenberg, Germany



The Brisley Bell, England



Welcome to the Historic Hotels of Europe

EXPLORE, UNWIND AND CELEBRATE HISTORY

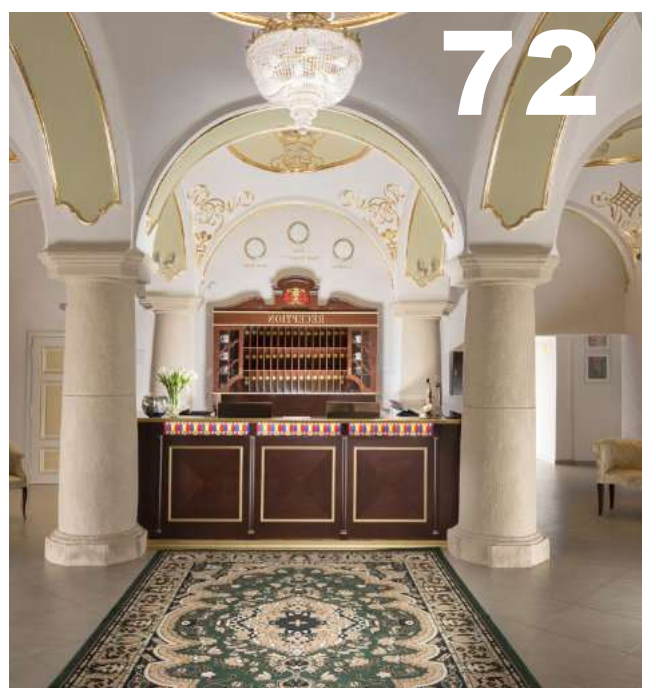
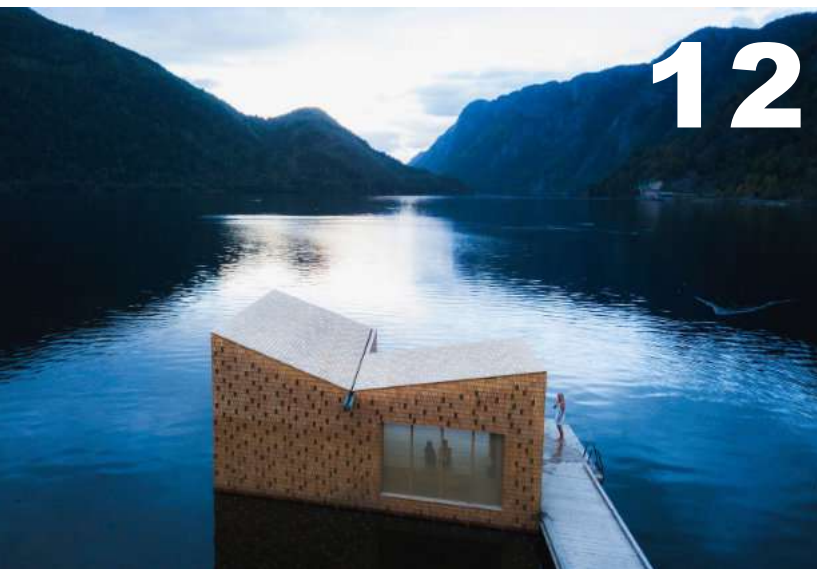
We're delighted to share a new collection of journeys with you — each one shaped by history. Discover manor houses in Sweden and unforgettable historic stays across the UK. Uncover coastal gems along the Adriatic and dive into a storybook road trip across Poland. Or bask in the festive glow of Europe's Christmas markets — every feature in this edition is an invitation to explore.

At the Historic Hotels of Europe, we believe travel is about connection - to culture, to community, and to moments that linger long after you return home.

Yours sincerely,

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







52

CONTENTS

GET INSPIRED BY TRAVEL
EXPERIENCES

06

MY TOWN COPENHAGEN
DISCOVER THE DANISH CAPITAL

12

ULTIMATE WELLNESS RETREATS
ACROSS EUROPE

20

ITINERARY
POLAND UNRAVELLED

32

THE MAGIC OF
CHRISTMAS MARKETS

38

SWEDEN'S TIMELESS HOTEL TREASURES
FROM MANORS TO CASTLES

44

OLD WALLS, NEW STORIES
HISTORIC STAYS ACROSS THE UK

52

GREAT HEIGHTS
MOUNTAIN HOTELS IN EUROPE

58

ADRIATIC ADVENTURES
A SUN-SOAKED JOURNEY

72

OLD WORLD CHARM
HERITAGE HOTELS TO MAKE YOU SWOON



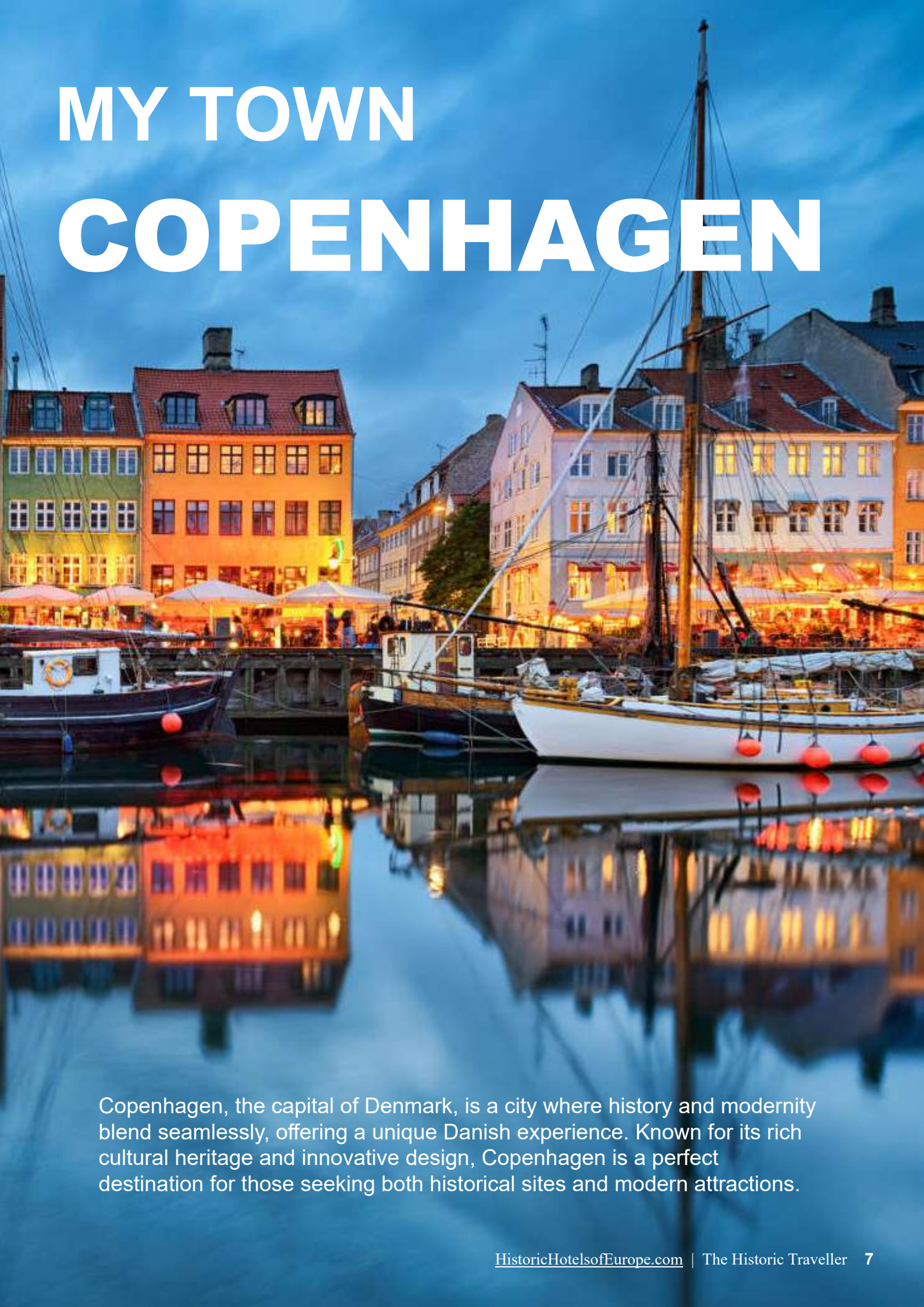
38



58



MY TOWN COPENHAGEN



Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, is a city where history and modernity blend seamlessly, offering a unique Danish experience. Known for its rich cultural heritage and innovative design, Copenhagen is a perfect destination for those seeking both historical sites and modern attractions.



5 MUST-SEE PLACES IN COPENHAGEN

Nyhavn stands as Copenhagen's most photographed landmark, where colorful 17th-century townhouses line a picturesque canal. Once a bustling commercial port, it's now home to charming restaurants and cafés where Hans Christian Andersen once lived and wrote.

Tivoli Gardens offers enchanting experiences year-round as one of the world's oldest amusement parks. Beyond thrilling rides, visitors discover beautiful gardens, open-air concerts, and seasonal celebrations that capture the Danish spirit of celebration.

The Little Mermaid Statue pays homage to Andersen's beloved fairy tale. While modest in size, this bronze sculpture represents Copenhagen's literary heritage and offers scenic harbor views.

Rosenborg Castle houses the Danish Crown Jewels and provides insight into royal history through its Renaissance architecture and meticulously preserved rooms showcasing four centuries of Danish monarchy.

Christiansborg Palace serves as the seat of Danish government while offering public access to royal reception rooms, ruins beneath the palace, and tower views over the city.



THINGS TO DO

Outdoor Activities and Parks

Copenhagen offers a plethora of outdoor activities, including exploring its beautiful parks and waterfront areas. Cycling is a quintessential Danish experience. Take a refreshing dip at one of Copenhagen's beaches, or simply relax and enjoy the cosy atmosphere in one of the city's many parks. Make sure you visit Copenhagen and immerse yourself in the outdoors.

Cultural Experiences and Museums

Copenhagen is steeped in cultural experiences, with world-class museums and galleries showcasing Danish art and history. Immerse yourself in the city's artistic vibe by exploring local art galleries and attending cultural events.

Tivoli Gardens



Opera House



Rosenborg Castle

National Museum Denmark



COPENHAGEN'S FOOD SCENE

The city pioneered the New Nordic cuisine movement, transforming traditional ingredients into innovative culinary experiences that have earned global recognition.

Copenhagen boasts **17 Michelin-starred restaurants**, more per capita than most European cities. **Noma**, consistently ranked among the world's best restaurants, revolutionized Nordic cuisine with its innovative approach.

Smørrebrød (open-faced sandwiches) remains Denmark's culinary signature. Traditional toppings include pickled herring, roast beef, and Danish cheese. Visit **Aamanns** for modern interpretations or **Schønnemann** for century-old recipes.



Street food markets like Reffen and Torvehallerne offer diverse international cuisines at reasonable prices. Additionally, these venues showcase Copenhagen's multicultural dining landscape.

Hygge culture extends to cozy cafés serving exceptional coffee and Danish pastries. Meyers Bageri and Lagkagehuset provide authentic Danish baking experiences.





WHERE TO STAY IN COPENHAGEN

For a truly memorable stay in Copenhagen, the **Ascot Hotel** is highly recommended. This boutique hotel, situated near Tivoli Gardens and the city centre, offers a blend of elegance and comfort. Its prime location makes it easy to explore Copenhagen's attractions, including Nyhavn and Rosenborg Castle. The Ascot Hotel provides a perfect base for your trip to Copenhagen, offering impeccable service and style.

This boutique hotel, situated near Tivoli Gardens and the city centre, offers a blend of elegance and comfort. Its prime location makes it easy to explore Copenhagen's attractions, including Nyhavn and Rosenborg Castle. The Ascot Hotel provides a perfect base for your trip to Copenhagen, offering impeccable service and style.



ULTIMATE WELLNESS RETREATS

In the hustle and bustle of modern life, finding a sanctuary for the mind and body has never been more essential. Europe, with its diverse landscapes, rich cultural tapestry, and centuries-old tradition of wellness, offers some of the world's most enchanting retreats. From the towering peaks of the Dolomites to the tranquil fjords of Norway, the continent boasts destinations that promise not just relaxation, but a profound, transformative experience.



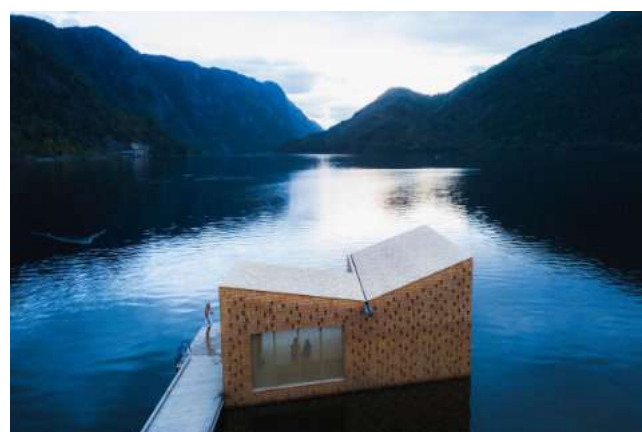


Award winninge sauna at Dalen Hotel

NORWAY

Situated by the scenic Telemark Canal in southern Norway, **Dalen Hotel** is a historic Scandinavian experience unlike any other. Known as the “fairytale hotel,” Dalen’s distinctive architecture and lush surroundings create a truly magical atmosphere for relaxation.

The spa highlight here is the **award-winning Soria Moria Sauna** at the end of Dalen Hotel’s garden, designed by Feste Landskap/Arkitektur, and surrounded by dramatic scenery and stunning views of Bandak. Guests can book the sauna with a personalised spa pack and then sit back and enjoy the exquisite views.



Exploring the surrounding nature through activities like hiking, boating, and fishing is a must-do and perfect for promoting physical and mental well-being. The serene mountain environment makes Dalen Hotel an ideal destination for those seeking a tranquil getaway. Tip: Cruise the historic Telemark Canal aboard vintage ship M/S Henrik Ibsen from 1907.



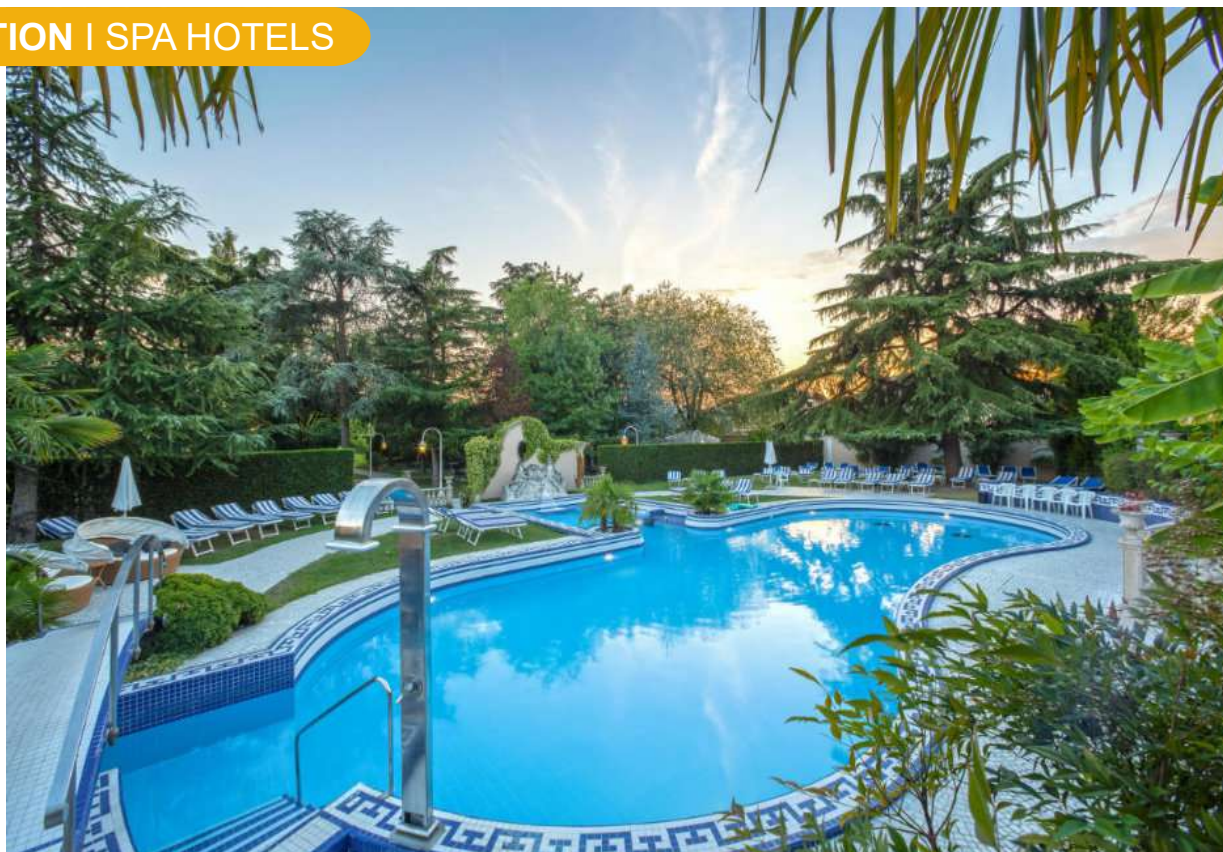
Sauna culture meets manor elegance at Hestraviken Hotell & Spa

SWEDEN

If sauna culture is part of the Swedish psyche, then **Hestraviken Hotell & Spa** embraces it with sophistication. Set in Småland's forested heart beside the Nissan River, near Lake Algustorpasjön and the trails of Isaberg, this early-20th-century hotel captures the essence of Nordic wellbeing.



At its Riverside Spa, guests move between saunas, warm outdoor pools and invigorating cold plunges in the river — a rhythmic dance of heat and refreshment. The hotel also arranges nature-based experiences from hiking to gentle outdoor excursions, all designed to reconnect body and mind. Guest rooms are housed in timbered lodges and cottages that blend naturally into the forested setting, while the restaurant — listed in Sweden's White Guide — showcases local produce and seasonal flavours. As dusk settles, the spa's soft light and scent of pine create a cocoon of warmth against the crisp air outside.



ITALY

Thermal tradition at Abano Ritz Hotel Terme

For centuries, travellers have journeyed to Abano Terme, just outside Padua, in search of the region's fabled healing waters. Today, the **Abano Ritz Hotel Terme** continues that legacy — a family-run sanctuary steeped in Italian spa culture and old-world refinement.

The hotel's twin thermal pools are fed by ancient volcanic springs, their mineral-rich waters held at around 33°C. Guests drift between the indoor and outdoor pools beneath rising steam, then

move on to fango mud therapies or revitalising massages in the hotel's calm treatment rooms. Beyond the waters, Abano Ritz retains its nostalgic grandeur: elegant lounges and period rooms, with outlooks to the Euganean Hills. It's an environment where time stretches — designed for lingering conversations, quiet reading and slow aperitifs.



Hidden sanctuary at Talaria Resort & SpA

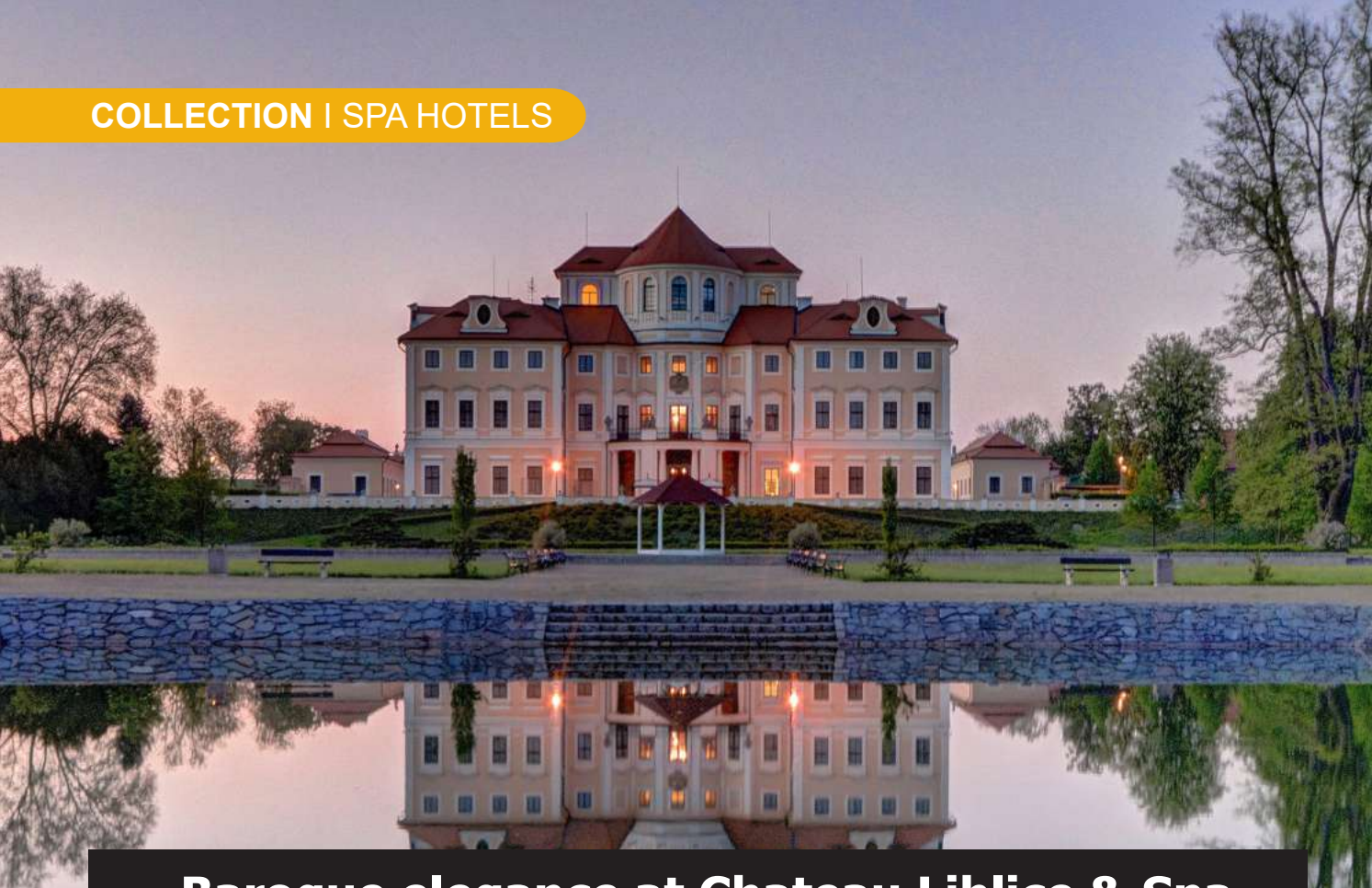
POLAND

East of Warsaw, **Talaria Resort & Spa** rests within the peaceful countryside of Trojanów. Once a 19th-century noble residence, the palace has been reimagined as a wellness retreat surrounded by parkland and lakes. Inside, the spa's Finnish and steam saunas, jacuzzis and indoor pool create a tranquil rhythm of warmth and calm. The resort is known for its relaxed, feminine atmosphere and

weekend women-only wellness concept, focusing on balance, rest and natural therapies.

The landscape itself contributes to the serenity: misty gardens, gentle rivers and a sense of rural stillness that feels far removed from city life. At Talaria, time slows to the pace of your own breathing.





Baroque elegance at Chateau Liblice & Spa

CZECH REPUBLIC

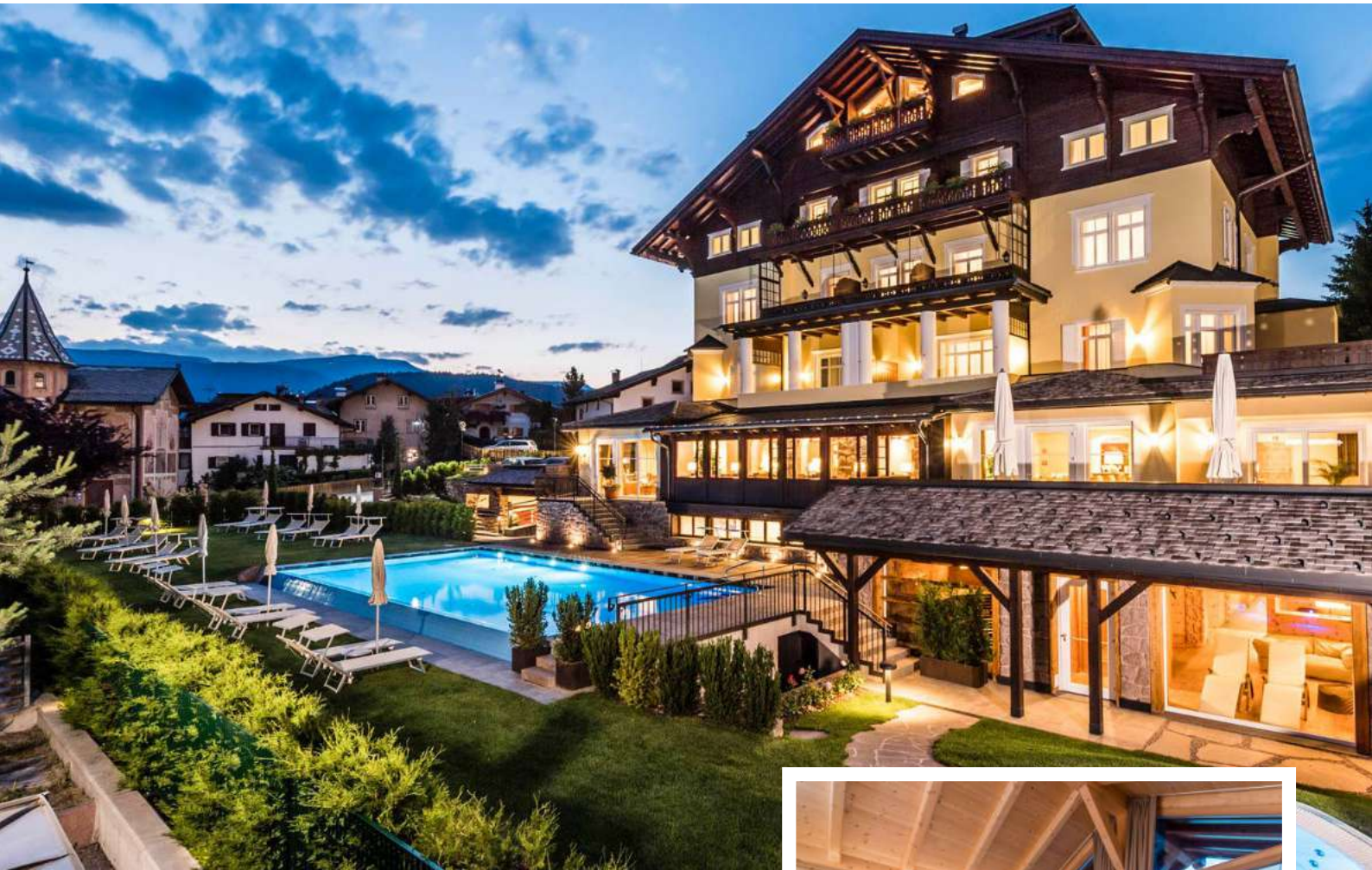
Chateau Liblice stands as a four-star wellness retreat within a Baroque castle, where centuries of noble heritage meet contemporary spa luxury. Once home to countesses and aristocrats, now owned by the Czech Academy of Sciences, the property preserves its historical grandeur through traditional furnishings and period architecture.



The spa exemplifies European wellness standards with Finnish saunas, whirlpool baths, hydro-massage showers and a sun parlour. Treatments range from herbal wraps to the signature chocolate massage—a culinary approach to relaxation. The castle's restaurant specializes in fine dining, completing the experience of refined hospitality.

At Chateau Liblice, history breathes through every hall, inviting guests to slow down and be revitalized inside and out.

Alpine serenity at Hotel Villa Kastelruth



ITALY

At the foot of the Sciliar and the Alpe di Siusi, **Hotel Villa Kastelruth** rests within the legendary UNESCO-protected Dolomites. Founded in 1903 as an alpine nursing home and recently renovated, the property blends Tyrolean tradition with modern wellness comforts.

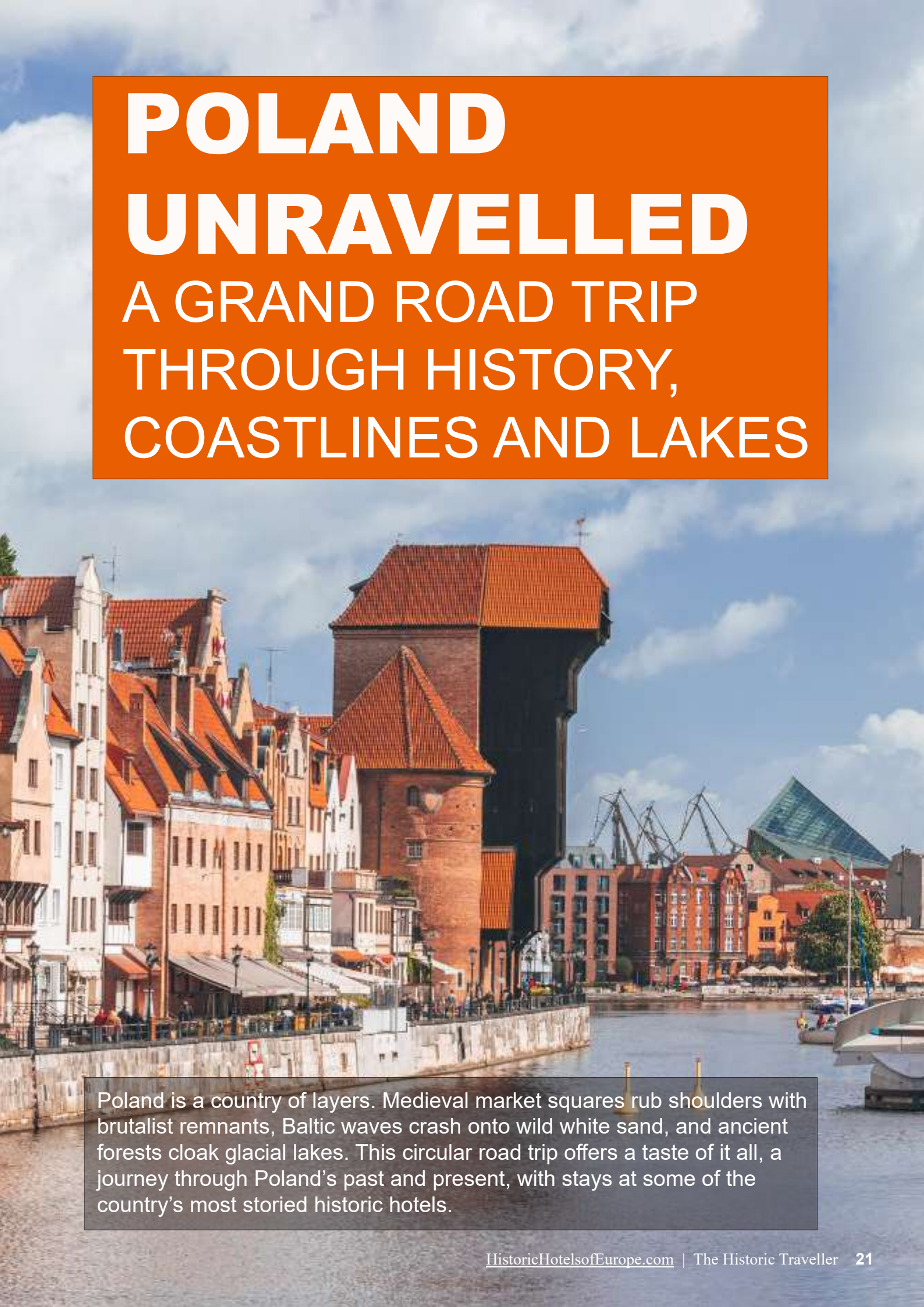
The 15-meter heated outdoor pool stretches toward the mountain panorama, while two spectacular saunas frame the peaks through floor-to-ceiling windows. An outdoor jacuzzi and intimate relaxation room complete the spa experience, offering tranquility with every view. Tyrolean cuisine anchors the dining experience, and the seasons shape the rhythm here—summer brings guided excursions into the Italian Alps, winter delivers world-class skiing terrain. At Villa Kastelruth, the Dolomites are not just scenery but an invitation to both movement and rest.





POLAND UNRAVELLED

A GRAND ROAD TRIP THROUGH HISTORY, COASTLINES AND LAKES



Poland is a country of layers. Medieval market squares rub shoulders with brutalist remnants, Baltic waves crash onto wild white sand, and ancient forests cloak glacial lakes. This circular road trip offers a taste of it all, a journey through Poland's past and present, with stays at some of the country's most storied historic hotels.

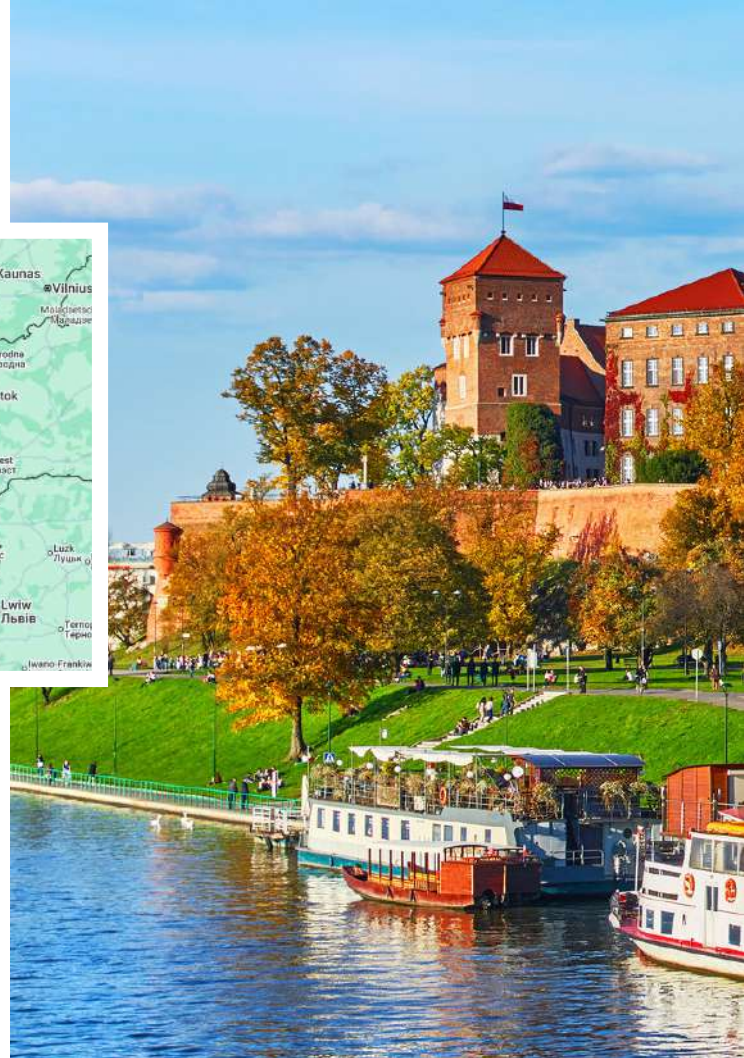


STAGE 1

KRAKÓW – THE HEART OF POLAND’S PAST

Fly into Kraków, the country’s cultural capital, and spend two days absorbing its intoxicating mix of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Begin in the Old Town, a UNESCO-listed labyrinth of cobbled streets that spiral out from Rynek Główny, Europe’s largest medieval square. Watch the bugler’s call from St Mary’s Basilica, duck into the Cloth Hall for amber trinkets, and seek out the tucked-away Czartoryski Museum to glimpse Leonardo da Vinci’s *Lady with an Ermine*.

A visit to Kazimierz, the old Jewish quarter, is essential. By day, explore the poignant history at the Galicia Jewish Museum; by night, hop between cosy vodka bars and candlelit restaurants serving plump pierogi and steaming bowls of żurek.



For those interested in venturing beyond the city, a day trip to the Wieliczka Salt Mine offers an extraordinary underground world carved from rock salt, complete with chapels, chandeliers, and centuries of mining history.



WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Polski Pod Białym Orłem in the heart of Kraków is an ideal place to stop. One of the city's most historic hotels, it stands across from the medieval defense walls where local artists now display their work. For nearly 200 years, this cherished retreat has welcomed guests into uniquely designed rooms, each with its own distinctive character—a stay infused with history and charm in beautiful Kraków's center.



Hotel Polski Pod Białym Orłem

Alternatively, choose **Sieraków Manor**, a refined countryside retreat just 30 minutes from the city center. Dating back to 1847, this historic estate sits within four hectares of peaceful parkland, offering English-style rooms where traces of the past live on in period furniture and art. The restaurant, recommended by Slow Food Polska, serves exceptional cuisine alongside the largest wine collection in the Małopolska region—a tranquil escape before hitting the road again.



Sieraków Manor



STAGE 2

POZNAŃ – A CITY OF HERITAGE AND MODERN CHARM

A five-hour drive west delivers you to Poznań, Poland's oft-overlooked gem. The pastel-hued Old Market Square, dominated by an ornate Renaissance Town Hall, is a feast for the eyes. Time your visit to midday to witness the city's famous mechanical goats butt heads. Stroll along the Warta River, where industrial warehouses have transformed into craft breweries and buzzing art spaces. The Imperial Castle, once built for Kaiser Wilhelm II, now houses art galleries, an arthouse cinema and some of Poland's best coffee spots.

Outside the city, Rogalin Palace offers a glimpse into Polish aristocratic life, while the Malta Lake area is perfect for a leisurely bike ride or boat trip



Pałac Lucja

There are plenty of historic stays and detours to enjoy on the drive to Poznań.

Pałac Lucja in Zakrzów village offers a striking butter-yellow retreat set in acres of lush parkland, where nature meets history and top-tier hospitality delivers great food and service within minutes of each room—an escape to truly switch off.

WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Dębowy in Poland's Lower Silesian region features 36 rooms across two stunning period residences with Art Nouveau elements. At the foothills of the Owl Mountains and surrounded by epic hiking trails, it balances relaxing tranquility with outdoor adventure.

Pałac Wojanów, nestled in the Karkonosze Mountains of Lower Silesia, is a meticulously restored 13th-century palace set within 16 hectares of parkland. With 81 unique rooms, the Garden Restaurant, and a spa, this enchanting estate combines modern luxury with timeless romance and breathtaking surroundings.

Pałac Wiechlice rests in the enchanting Borów Dolnośląskich region—an 18th-century retreat nestled among ancient trees, offering luxurious apartments, a stylish restaurant, and a grand ballroom where elegance meets tranquility.

Olandia is also a great option: a charming historic estate in the village of Pruism, an hour west of Poznań. Surrounded by the Land of 100 Lakes within Sieraków Landscape Park and the Noteć Forest, it offers 60 comfortable rooms, a slow food restaurant, a cosy wine cellar, and a spa with massages and beauty treatments—pure air, greenery, and peace.



Hotel Dębowy



Pałac Wojanów



Pałac Wiechlice



Olandia



STAGE 3

KOŁOBRZEG – THE BALTIC ESCAPE

Head north to the Baltic coast, swapping city spires for the briny air of Kołobrzeg, a spa town famed for its sea breeze and sandy beaches. Stroll along the pier, breathe in the iodine-rich air and take in the town's historic lighthouse. The Museum of Polish Arms provides an unexpectedly fascinating dive into Poland's turbulent history..

For a more immersive seaside experience, take a boat tour along the coast or cycle the scenic Baltic Trail, which winds past dunes, forests, and charming fishing villages.



WHERE TO STAY

Manowce Palace, a five-star mansion overlooking the Szczecin Lagoon, offering luxury and seclusion. This neoclassical beauty sits hidden within dense forest on the shores of Western Pomerania—a true refuge from modern life. Inside, elegant antiques and paintings blend seamlessly with contemporary furniture creating opulent suites and comfortable apartments. Inviting gardens and a contemporary sauna complete the estate, where breathtaking architecture meets tranquil forest surroundings.



STAGE 4

GDYNIA & GDAŃSK – POLAND’S MARITIME MAJESTY

Follow the coast east to the Tricity region, home to Gdynia, Sopot and Gdańsk. Gdynia, a port city with a modernist soul, is Poland’s gateway to the sea. Walk the seafront boulevard, explore the Emigration Museum, and admire the streamlined architecture that speaks to its interwar heyday. Then, on to Gdańsk, a city that carries the weight of history. Stroll down Długi Targ, past pastel townhouses and the imposing Neptune’s Fountain. Learn about the Solidarity movement at the strikingly designed European Solidarity Centre, before retreating to a harbourside bar for a glass of locally brewed gold-hued beer.

For a quieter coastal experience, head to the Hel Peninsula, a thin stretch of land that juts into the Baltic, offering pristine beaches and excellent windsurfing.

WHERE TO STAY



Uphagen Manor House, a beautifully restored four-star manor offering a historical yet comfortable stay. Located in the heart of Gdańsk’s historic Dolne Miasto district—a revitalized neighborhood by the Motława River—this property sits just steps from the city’s Downtown and Old Town. More than a hotel, it is a space filled with character and stories, where interiors preserve the past while embracing the present.



STAGE 5

MASURIAN LAKE DISTRICT – A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Turning inland, leave the Baltic behind for the Masurian Lake District, Poland's answer to Scandinavia's lakelands. Mragowo, with its shimmering lakes and dense forests, is an outdoor enthusiast's dream. Hire a kayak, take a slow boat across the water, or simply soak up the silence in this under-explored paradise.

History buffs should visit the Wolf's Lair, Hitler's wartime headquarters on the Eastern front hidden deep in the forest, while nature lovers can enjoy the Pisz Forest, a haven for birdwatching and hiking.



Hotel Zamek Gniw

WHERE TO STAY

Stops along the way from the coast to the lake district include **Hotel Zamek Gniw**, a majestic fortress steeped in Polish history. Once the seat of kings and knights, this extraordinary castle in northwestern Poland now complements its heritage with modern comfort—offering luxurious accommodation, spa treatments, family activities and romantic dining amidst picturesque grounds where history meets luxury.

Pałac Mortęgi Hotel & SPA, nestled in the peaceful village of Mortęgi in northern Poland, brings together history and elegance. Fifty beautifully designed rooms and suites exude noble charm, while the tranquil spa area and restaurant offer the perfect escape to relax and rejuvenate, surrounded by stunning landscapes.

An hour's detour east of the region will bring you to **Mioduński Dworek**, a charming 19th-century Prussian manor house overlooking Lake Szymon in the stunning Masurian Lake District. Built by descendants of philosopher Johan Gottlieb and now run by the Białobrzeski family, this historic retreat immerses visitors in the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage through its cozy guesthouse, where every detail reflects a deep connection to place.



Pałac Mortęgi Hotel & SPA



Mioduński Dworek



STAGE 6

WARSAW – A CAPITAL OF CONTRASTS

The final stretch of the journey takes you south to Warsaw, a city that wears its scars with defiant elegance. Levelled in World War II and painstakingly rebuilt, its Old Town is a remarkable feat of resilience. But Warsaw is no living museum – this is a city of contrasts, where communist-era tower blocks stand beside glass skyscrapers, and where pierogi-filled milk bars coexist with Michelin-starred restaurants.

Explore the edgy Praga district, visit the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and toast to the end of the trip in a rooftop bar overlooking the neon-lit skyline. If time allows, Wilanów Palace, the 'Polish Versailles,' is a must-see, as is the Royal Łazienki Park, where peacocks roam beside neoclassical pavilions.





WHERE TO STAY

Jaworowy Dwór

Choose from **Jaworowy Dwór**, 50 km north of the city—a family-run 18th-century manor nestled in the heart of Mazovia and surrounded by tranquil fields and forests. Lovingly restored, this serene retreat offers 20 uniquely designed stylish rooms that combine classic elegance with modern comfort, complemented by authentic furniture, an outdoor pool, and a restaurant.

Alternatively, **Palace Mała Wieś**, a historic palace on the outskirts of Warsaw, offers a final dose of grandeur before departure. Set within serene 18th-century gardens, this enchanting retreat features 54 boutique rooms and luxury apartments, gourmet cuisine, a spa, and live music—creating an unforgettable ambiance where history meets indulgence.



Palace Mała Wieś

THE ROAD HOME

A two-hour drive south returns you to Kraków, completing the loop. From medieval Kraków to Baltic beaches, from the urban energy of Warsaw to the serenity of Masurian lakes, this Polish odyssey is proof that Poland is so much more than the sum of its postcards. It's a country that rewards the curious, the wanderers, and the road-trippers willing to go beyond the usual tourist trails. Each stop on this journey is an opportunity to step deeper into Poland's rich and complex history, to savour its regional flavours, and to experience the landscapes that shape its identity. With castles, lakes, coastline, and dynamic cities along the way, this road trip offers an immersive way to experience the best of Poland, past and present.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS MARKETS



Twinkling lights, spiced wine, and the hum of festive music echoing through cobbled streets — Europe's Christmas markets are more than just seasonal attractions; they're a celebration of community and craft, shaped by centuries of local tradition. From grand castle courtyards in Bavaria to riverside promenades in the Alps, these markets capture the warmth of the season in every candle and carol.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS



Vienna, Austria

Locals love the nostalgic tingles they're showered in while wandering Viennese Christmas markets. The wafting scent of cookies takes them back to grandma's kitchen, as does the hearty goulash, flavour-crammed sausages and Lángos (Hungarian deep-fried dough). You'll love it too – head to Karlsplatz right in front of St. Charles Church to experience one of the best Christmas markets in Austria. You won't find tacky souvenirs here – just genuinely unique arts and crafts, warming mulled wine and even a place to build straw castles with the kids.

WHERE TO STAY?

Hotel Stefanie is the oldest hotel in the city and full of charm – wrapping you up in old-world guest rooms, lip-smacking wiener schnitzels and lashings of Viennese 'Schmäh'.



Lisbon, Portugal

Did somebody say Christmas cake? It's Portugal's speciality at this time of the year. Foodies must try the bolo rei king cake – a festive pastry stuffed with fruit that you can sample at Lisbon's Natal E Na Fil market. Every year, Lisbon's centre is drenched with magical lights and graced with a glorious tree, which look fairytale-like surrounded by chocolate-box style market stalls selling toys and gifts galore.

WHERE TO STAY?

Round-off a day of festivities in a beautiful bed at **As Janelas Verdes**, a charming 18th-century mansion in the heart of the capital.





Prague, Czech Republic

Prague looks made for Christmas. Gothic towers rise above twinkling streets, choirs sing beneath Baroque facades, and the aroma of cinnamon, honey and roasted chestnuts fills the air. The city's main market, in Old Town Square, is one of Europe's most beloved — centred around a giant Christmas tree and wooden stalls selling traditional ornaments, handmade toys, and trdelník, a pastry rolled in sugar and nuts.

Smaller markets in Wenceslas Square and near Prague Castle offer quieter corners to explore, with mulled wine served in painted mugs and live folk music in the background.

WHERE TO STAY?

Retreat from the festive crowds to **Villa Lanna**, a neo-Renaissance villa set in peaceful gardens just north of the Old Town. Perfect for those who want the beauty of Prague by day and calm elegance by night.



Milan, Italy

Milan is home to several alluring Christmas Markets, but the Mercatino di Natale in Piazza Duomo (Piazza Duomo Christmas Market), with its spectacular Christmas tree, is undoubtedly one of the most picturesque. In front of the city's mighty Duomo cathedral, the market is home to over 60 wooden chalets selling all kinds of delightful ornaments and sweet and savoury treats. Grab a firunatt, a long necklace of smoked chestnuts, before exploring the square behind the Duomo. Here you'll find lines of wooden huts filled to the brim with decorations, delicacies and tasty Italian produce, from local cheeses and preservatives to cured meats and wines. great day out.

WHERE TO STAY?

Centrally located is the magnificent **Grand Hotel et de Milan**, a 19th-century building only minutes walk from La Scala theatre – a must-go for opera buffs.



CHRISTMAS MARKETS



Zagreb, Croatia

Zagreb's Advent celebrations have earned it the title of Europe's Best Christmas Market more than once — and for good reason. From late November, the entire city transforms into a glowing winter festival. At Zrinjevac Park, white-topped stalls line the avenues, selling handmade decorations, local sausages, and sweet fritule doughnuts. King Tomislav Square hosts a vast open-air ice rink surrounded by fairy lights, while street musicians fill the air with festive melodies. Locals gather over hot chocolate and mulled wine, and the mood is infectious — warm, relaxed, and full of life.

WHERE TO STAY?

Right in the heart of the capital, **Hotel Capital** offers Art Deco sophistication and an unbeatable location. After an evening of carols and lights, unwind with a nightcap at the hotel's elegant bar before retreating to your room's marble-lined calm.



Ljubljana, Slovenia

Slovenia's capital and largest city, Ljubljana, is rich in history and culture and often wrongly overlooked as a festive destination. Come December, Ljubljanas' Prešeren Square is decorated with twinkling lights and a generous helping of festive cheer. Browse the Christmas stalls that line the banks of River Ljubljanica, sip warm mulled wine and lose yourself in the medieval streets of this storied spot. You can even take a funicular ride up to Ljubljana Castle for picture-perfect vistas over the city.

WHERE TO STAY?

There's no better place for a Christmas escape than the romantic **Antiq Palace**, a 16th-century boutique stay in the very heart of the city.





Setúbal, Portugal

If you like your Christmas a little warmer, Setúbal is a delight. Just south of Lisbon, this coastal town combines festive charm with Atlantic breezes. The main market in Praça de Bocage brims with local crafts, nativity scenes and regional sweets like *filhós* (fried pastries with cinnamon and sugar). The waterfront lights glimmer against fishing boats, while open-air concerts and choirs fill the squares with music.

Setúbal's mild climate means you can sip hot chocolate outdoors or walk the beach at sunset before heading to an evening market. It's Christmas with a distinctly Portuguese twist — colourful, joyful and relaxed.

WHERE TO STAY?

Rio Art Hotel is a stylish, art-inspired hotel in the centre of town, perfect for soaking up the festive atmosphere. Its bright interiors and contemporary comfort provide a refreshing contrast to the winter markets, while cafés, restaurants, and the waterfront are all within easy reach.



Meran, Italy

Framed by snow-capped peaks in South Tyrol, Meran feels like the set of a Christmas film. The town's market, held along the Passer Promenade, is lined with wooden chalets selling local crafts, Alpine cheeses, and steaming cups of *vin brulé*. The scent of pine and cinnamon drifts through the crisp air as choirs sing beneath twinkling trees.

Meran combines Italian style with Austrian tradition — think strudel and espresso, brass bands and opera singers. It's also a gateway to the surrounding mountains for winter walks or spa days in the town's thermal baths.

WHERE TO STAY?

Hotel Villa Westend sits gracefully by the river, just steps from the market. Its Belle Époque architecture and warm hospitality make it the ideal winter retreat — elegant yet relaxed, with views of both the river and the snow-covered Alps.



DESTINATION | SWEDEN

FROM MANOR TO CASTLE

SWEDEN'S TIMELESS HOTEL TREASURES

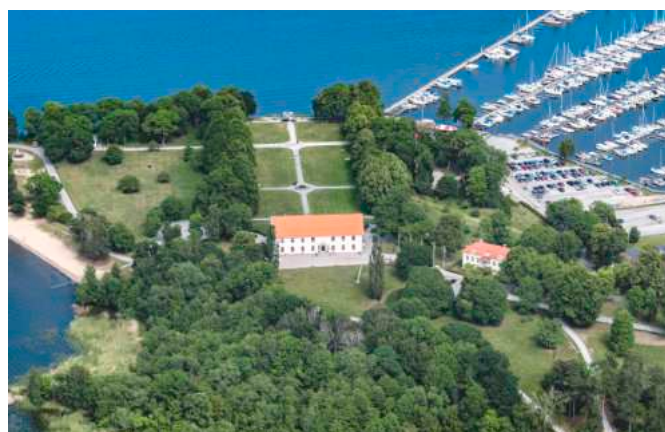




Sweden's history isn't only preserved in museums and palaces — it lives on in its hotels. Across the country, manor houses, villas, castles and guesthouses have been reimagined for modern travellers, offering more than a night's rest. Each carries the imprint of centuries past: stories of noble families, monastic traditions, industrial pioneers and the cultural shifts that shaped Sweden. Staying in one of these properties is less about luxury and more about stepping into a narrative. From west coast villas to lakeside castles and highland retreats, here are ten hotels where heritage remains vivid and alive.

Sundbyholm Castle

Eskilstuna, Södermanland



Standing on the edge of Lake Mälaren, **Sundbyholm Castle** was built between 1639 and 1648 by Admiral Carl Gyllenhielm, son of King Charles IX. Its grounds once belonged to a medieval monastery, and nearby lies the Sigurd Carving, one of Sweden's most important Viking rune stones. Guests today stay not in the castle itself but in historic outbuildings across the estate — from the Coachman's Quarters to suites with garden terraces. The castle halls serve as dining and gathering spaces, their interiors recalling centuries of history. With a sandy beach, marina and lakeside paths nearby, Sundbyholm unites heritage with natural beauty.

Villa Sjötorp

Lyckorna, West Coast

Built in 1901 as the summer home of industrialist Carl Emil Haeger, **Villa Sjötorp** is a wooden seaside villa that captures the elegance of Sweden's turn-of-the-century architecture. Its carved gables, dragon-head details and Arts & Crafts interiors reflect an era when craftsmanship mattered, setting the tone for a hotel steeped in heritage.

The restaurant champions local produce, sourcing seafood from the Bohuslän coast and vegetables from nearby farms — earning recognition in Sweden's White Guide.

Overlooking the Skagerrak, with a garden that runs to the sea, it offers a stay shaped by the coastal landscape that defines life here.



Toftaholm Manor

Vittaryd, Småland

Founded in 1389 by Jöns Skötta of the Stenbock family, **Toftaholm Manor** has long been a place of power, refuge and legend. The current manor house, built in 1871, stands beside older estate buildings, including the 1640 inn Den Gyllene Abborren with its vaulted cellar and open fires. Stories abound: King Gustav Vasa is said to have met his third wife Katarina Stenbock here, while folklore tells of a tunnel linking the estate to a ruined medieval fort nearby. Guests today relax in wood-fired hot tubs by Lake Vidöstern or in individually styled rooms that mix manor-house elegance with comfort. The resident ghost, Mats, adds a final layer of lore to this centuries-old Småland estate.

Vadstena Klosterhotel

Vadstena, Östergötland



Few hotels can claim a setting as rich in history as **Vadstena Klosterhotel**. Once a royal palace, it became a Bridgettine monastery in the 14th century.

Today, it offers the rare chance to stay within one of Sweden's most significant medieval landmarks. Rooms span historic buildings, some

with vaulted ceilings and thick stone walls that echo centuries gone by. The spa draws on monastic calm, with treatments and spaces for reflection. Just steps away lie Lake Vättern, Vadstena Abbey and cobbled streets — reminders that this is more than a hotel, but living Swedish heritage.

Två Skyttlar

Örby, Västra Götaland

On the shores of Lake Västra Öresjön, **Två Skyttlar** has grown from modest origins into a family-run countryside retreat. The main building began as a poorhouse in the 1880s, before three local weavers opened a café here in 1950, calling it Tre Skyttlar — “Three Shuttles.” When one left, the name became Två Skyttlar, and it has remained ever since. Later transformed into a course centre and hotel, it still reflects that spirit of community and craft. Guests stay in light-filled rooms with forest and lake views, dine on dishes from local farms and the kitchen garden, and unwind in wood-fired saunas and hot tubs by the water.





Stufvenäs Gästgifveri

Söderåkra, Småland



Dating back to 1798, **Stufvenäs Gästgifveri** began as guest lodgings for nearby Värnanäs Manor, once home to families linked with Gustav Vasa's dynasty. Yet history here runs deeper: archaeological finds reveal settlement over 5,000 years old. Inside, original floors, tiled stoves and doors remain, while careful renovations have expanded it into a respected countryside hotel. Known for gastronomy, the inn highlights Småland produce, and its rebuilt wine cellar has earned international recognition. A spa overlooking the coast offers renewal, while the surrounding Örarevet Nature Reserve brings beaches, oak groves and birdlife. Stufvenäs unites tradition, history and comfort.

Tällbergsgårdens Hotel

Tällberg, Dalarna

High above Lake Siljan in the timber village of Tällberg, this hotel reflects the cultural heart of Dalarna. The site once housed the village school before Johansson's boarding house opened here in 1908. Inside, heritage remains central: red-painted timber walls, kurbits-style folk paintings and decorative panels that evoke local traditions. Johansson's Restaurant, rated in the White Guide, serves seasonal menus with lake views, continuing a century-long tradition of hospitality. **Tällbergsgården Hotel** is more than a hotel: it's a window into Dalarna's folk art, storytelling and enduring sense of place.



Wallby Säteri

Vetlanda, Småland)

Wallby Säteri is a corner of countryside calm—an old manor with deep roots and open doors, tucked among the hills and stone walls of Skirö in Småland. Just beyond the tree-lined avenue, guests will find red-painted cottages, walking trails, a private lake, and a wood-fired sauna.



Whether visitors arrive to recharge or reconnect, Wallby balances stillness with inspiration. The estate hosts everything from quiet getaways to lively gatherings, offering cosy accommodation, generous meals in the manor restaurant, and meeting spaces with plenty of daylight and room to think. The land has been settled since the 14th century, and while much has changed, the spirit of care remains. Wallby isn't polished or formal—it's personal. A place to breathe, reflect, or simply enjoy the view with no rush to be anywhere else.



Skytteholm Nordic Spa

Ekerö, Lake Mälaren

Set on the island landscape of Ekerö, **Skytteholm Nordi Spa** traces its origins to Johan Skytte, a 17th-century statesman and royal tutor. The manor was reshaped in the early 1900s, but its historic heart is now paired with a contemporary Nordic Spa. Guests follow elemental rituals by the lakeshore: wood-fired saunas and hot tubs under the sky, heated pools,

and lounges for rest. Accommodation balances manor-house elegance with modern simplicity, while surrounding forests and trails connect visitors with nature. Close to UNESCO-listed Drottningholm Palace, Skytteholm is both heritage estate and wellness retreat — where Sweden's past endures, yet calm and balance prevail.



OLD WALLS, NEW STORIES



HISTORIC STAYS ACROSS THE UK

In an age of sleek new openings and carbon-copy design hotels, it's the older walls that feel most alive. Across the United Kingdom, historic inns, manor houses and coastal retreats are writing new chapters without losing their past. Whether it's a centuries-old pub reborn as a foodie hideaway or a Georgian home turned boutique guesthouse, these are places where time lingers — and comfort comes with character.



ENGLAND: INNS WITH HISTORY AND HEART

THE KING'S HEAD INN

Bledington, Cotswolds



If ever there were a scene to bottle English village life, Bledington's green would be it: stone cottages, ducks on the brook, the gentle clang of the church bell. **The King's Head Inn** sits at its centre, a honey-hued landmark offering log fires, local ales and rooms that marry simplicity with style. Owners Archie and Nicola Orr-Ewing have restored its reputation as one of the Cotswolds' most beloved dining pubs, celebrating produce from nearby farms. After a long walk on the Oxfordshire Way, there's no finer sight than the inn glowing gold in the evening light.



SHIBDEN MILL INN

Halifax, West Yorkshire

Hidden down a wooded lane in the Shibden Valley, this 17th-century corn mill has perfected the art of the warm northern welcome. **Shibden Mill Inn** pairs old beams and low ceilings with gentle refinement: crisp linens, local artworks and quietly confident cooking. Its connection to place runs deep — the moorland paths of West Yorkshire are right outside, while nearby Shibden Hall tells the story of Anne Lister, the remarkable 19th-century diarist whose life has inspired modern audiences. Here, history feels close enough to touch.



THE BRISLEY BELL

Norfolk

On a crossroads north of Dereham, **The Brisley Bell** looks like a textbook country pub: whitewashed brick, woodburning fires, friendly chatter at the bar. Yet everything has been thoughtfully tuned — from Norfolk cheeses and Cromer crab on the menu to light-filled garden rooms tucked behind the main building. Owners Marcus Seaman and Amelia Nicholsson have created a spot where locals linger and travellers return. It's the kind of inn that makes a weekend away feel both indulgent and reassuringly familiar.





In the Shropshire countryside, **The Hundred House** charms with its gentle eccentricity — beams, blooms and the hum of conversation from a dining room that champions its own kitchen garden. The Phillips family have tended it for decades, cultivating an atmosphere that's less hotel, more home with

exceptional cooking. Ludlow's markets and Ironbridge's industrial heritage are within reach, yet you could easily spend the day wandering the garden paths and sampling the herb-infused dishes grown metres from your table.

THE ROSE & CROWN

Romaldkirk, Teesdale

In picture-postcard Romaldkirk, where three greens meet beside a Saxon church, **The Rose & Crown** has welcomed travellers since 1733. This 18th-century inn is owned by the Robinson family and keeps things beautifully simple: fires that actually crackle, a bar locals love, and 14 bedrooms spread between the main inn, ground-floor courtyard rooms and the 17th-century Monk's Cottage. Come for Teesdale walks (High Force, Raby Castle within striking distance), stay for careful, seasonal cooking and the sense that time moves differently here.





THE INN AT WHITEWELL

Clitheroe, Lancashire

To many, **The Inn at Whitewell** is the definitive English inn. Set above the River Hodder amid the wild beauty of the Forest of Bowland, it's a jumble of stone buildings with deep armchairs, roaring fires and the comforting rhythm of country life. Rooms are big and individual, food is generous and honest, and the wine list is famously good.

The Tolkien Trail passes nearby, and the hills seem to begin at the doorstep. For all its accolades, Whitewell remains what it's always been: a place to rest, eat well and feel far from the rush of things.

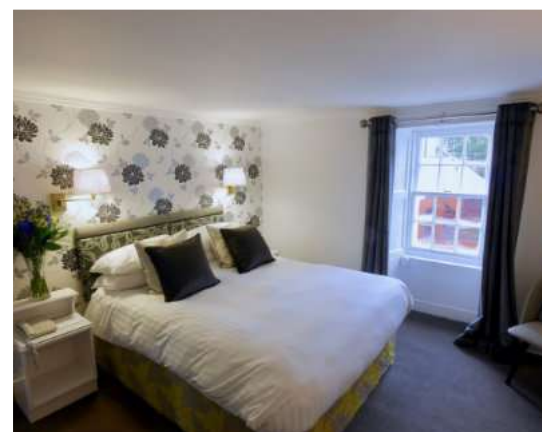


SCOTLAND: CREATIVE CALM ON THE COAST



SELKIRK ARMS HOTEL

Kirkcudbright, Dumfries & Galloway



In Kirkcudbright, Scotland's "artists' town," the **Selkirk Arms Hotel** has been hosting travellers since the 18th century. Robert Burns once stayed here, but the welcome feels as fresh as ever. The hotel's bright rooms, airy restaurant and fireside bar reflect the town's creative spirit — a balance of tradition and reinvention. Guests rise early for harbour walks or drives through the soft Galloway hills, returning to plates of local scallops or beef reared just up the road. Kirkcudbright remains one of Scotland's lesser-known corners, which is precisely why it's so rewarding.



Maclellan's Castle and War Memorial



NORTHERN IRELAND: GEORGIAN GRACE ON THE CAUSEWAY COAST

DROMORE HOUSE

Coleraine

Tucked among green fields near Coleraine, **Dromore House** proves that luxury doesn't need marble or mirrors to impress. Owner Angela Rolston has restored this Georgian house; there are four generously sized rooms filled with books, fabric textures and the scent of home-baked bread. Breakfasts are legendary — served leisurely and with conversation. The location is ideal for exploring Northern Ireland's spectacular north coast: the Giant's Causeway, Dunluce Castle, and Portstewart Strand are within easy reach, yet the house feels miles from the world. If you leave without promising to return, you're in the minority.



Giant's Causeway



Dromore House

GREAT HEIGHTS

MOUNTAIN HOTELS IN EUROPE





Sea and sand holidays are wonderful, but some of us feel more at home in the crisp mountain air. We've hand-picked this selection of mountain hotels in Europe to suit lovers of tranquil lakes, fresh-air adventures and culture that captures the imagination.



HOTEL L'HÉLIOS & SPA MÉRIBEL, FRANCE

With panoramic views across the three spectacular peaks and valleys of Méribel, **Hotel l'Helios & Spa** is a luxurious experience from the moment you arrive. Perched at an altitude of 1,550m, this ski-in ski-out hotel is a snow lovers' dream. Roaring fires welcome you into this traditional chalet-style wood-clad building – especially dreamy in the winter but beautiful year-round. It's difficult to imagine a more idyllic spot for a long lunch than the sun-soaked

terrace at the Crêperie here, a quick detour off the Doron blue run. Dinner at l'Helios is a treat too, think beet leaf mille-feuille and roasted saddle of lamb, followed by rich chocolate mousse and Breton biscuits. Perfection. After a long day on the slopes, recharge and retreat to the glittering spa area for a soak in the pool or catch a movie in the on-site cinema.



NEW HELVETIA HOTEL PLATRES, CYPRUS

The **New Helvetia Hotel** offers a unique mountain retreat in the picturesque Troodos Mountains. Founded in 1929 and now managed by its fourth generation, the hotel was proudly awarded the prestigious Historic Hotels of Cyprus label in 2024. Inspired by Swiss chalet architecture, the hotel is situated above the vigorous freshwater stream of the Kaledonia Waterfalls, providing guests with stunning views of the densely wooded gorge. It blends historical preservation with modern comforts, featuring unique elements like a 250-year-old pine tree growing through the roof of its Pine Tree Bar and a Veranda restaurant offering forest vistas. Guests have easy access to various mountain activities such as hiking, exploring nature trails, and winter sports in the surrounding Troodos region.

VILLA BERGZAUBER



PYRHN PRIEL, UPPER AUSTRIA

Pops of Art Nouveau charm can still be seen within this recently renovated villa run by Markus and Christin Schmidleitner. Resting within the Totem and Sengsen ranges, the gorgeous **Villa Bergzauber** is surrounded by awe-inspiring mountain scenery. Guests here are encouraged to sit back and relax but if you do feel like exploring, check out the ancient beech woodlands in nearby Kalkalpen National Park. It's the largest forested area in Central Europe and a delight to behold. Alongside the main building accommodation, the hotel grounds are home to 10 design-led 'earth houses' that circle an inviting outdoor azure pool. These self-catering options are decked out with modern kitchens and stunning interiors and come complete with obligatory, breathtaking mountain views.

STÖRSÄTRA MOUNTAIN HOTEL

IDRE, SWEDEN



Opened in 1939, **Storsätra Mountain Hotel** is recognised as Dalarna's first alpine retreat. Founded by Margit Jonsson, it pioneered mountain hospitality in Sweden's southern highlands and still offers wilderness with warmth. Guests stay on a full-board basis, enjoying hearty meals and evenings by the fire, with time to unwind in a wood-fired sauna or

hot tub beside the Grövlan river. Winter brings over 100 kilometres of ski trails, while summer opens hiking routes into national parks across Sweden and Norway. Family-run to this day, Storsätra remains a gateway to adventure and a historic refuge in one of Sweden's most unspoilt landscapes.



HOTEL FALKEN

WENGEN, SWITZERLAND

Jumpstart a new exercise regime in the heart of the Swiss Alps. High altitude holiday experiences see you working on endurance, strength and flexibility on the elevating peaks. Rest weary bones at **Hotel Falken**, which serves nourishing meals and mountain-view rooms to relax and power you through. The hotel's position in the car-free village makes it a skier and hikers' paradise, providing direct access to some of the most spectacular alpine terrain in the world.



HOTEL CHESA GRISHUNA

KLOSTERS, SWITZERLAND

Welcome to Klosters, a quaint farmer's village, tucked away at the bottom of the Parsenn ski area in the heart of the Swiss Alps. It's here you'll find the **Hotel Chesa Grischuna** — a cosy mountain lodge that dates back to the 16th century. After a day of hiking or skiing in the alpine landscapes, relax in this historic hotel (a favourite with royals and Hollywood stars over the years) with a cup of hot chocolate or something a little stronger. Think cosy wooden interiors, roaring fires and impeccable Swiss hospitality — perfection.

HOTEL LA STUA

CAVALESE, ITALY



Hotel La Stua is located in the heart of Cavalese, in a charming house from the 1700s nestled in the oldest part of town near the Franciscan Friars' square. This secluded retreat showcases original frescoes and unique rooms, complemented by exceptional dining and warm family hospitality.

The sunny terrace offers stunning views of the Lagorai mountain chain and Pale di San Martino, while the historic center provides handcraft shops, wine bars, and quality restaurants. The Valle di Fiemme, a UNESCO World Heritage area, delivers year-round activities from skiing at Alpe Cermis and Latemar to hiking, mountain biking, and paragliding amid breathtaking alpine landscapes.

HOTEL CAVALLINO D'ORO

CASTELROTTO, ITALY

Cosy Tyrolean-style rooms whisper stories of a 700-year past at this quaint, alpine bolthole bordered by the extraordinary Italian Dolomites. **Hotel Cavallino d'Oro** is packed to the brim with history, ever present in the art and photography that adorns its walls. As fascinating as it is welcoming,

Cavallino is located in the heart of medieval Castelrotto, the largest town in the Alpe di Siusi. There's a hike to suit every level here – from easy walks to more taxing treks. For something a little more stationary, try the Finnish sauna and steam bath in the hotel spa, a former wine cellar converted into a little oasis of calm.



DESTINATION | ADRIATIC

ADRIATIC ADVENTURES

A SUN-SOAKED JOURNEY





Discover the diverse treasures of the Adriatic coast, from Croatia's elegant resorts and Greece's volcanic islands to Montenegro's UNESCO bay in Kotor and Albania's historic Durres. This curated guide showcases destinations that blend ancient heritage with modern luxury along Europe's most captivating coastline.



1 Croatia: Jewel of the Adriatic

KVARNER BAY

Kvarner Bay serves as Croatia's gateway between the Istrian Peninsula and the Dalmatian coast, where crystal-clear waters embrace a stunning archipelago of islands and elegant coastal resorts. This sheltered bay benefits from a unique microclimate that combines Mediterranean warmth with Alpine freshness from the nearby Učka Mountains, creating ideal conditions for year-round tourism. The bay's eastern shores showcase the legacy of the Austro-Hungarian Empire through magnificent Belle Époque architecture, grand hotels, and manicured promenades that once hosted European royalty.



Kvarner's strategic position has made it a cultural crossroads for centuries, blending Italian, Austrian, and Croatian influences into a distinctive regional identity. The famous Lungomare promenade connects charming coastal towns along 12 kilometers of scenic coastline, while nearby islands like Krk, Cres, and Rab offer pristine nature and authentic island experiences just a short ferry ride away.



LOVRAN

Lovran captivates visitors with its authentic Istrian charm, where medieval streets wind down to secluded pebble beaches surrounded by lush Mediterranean vegetation. This picturesque fishing village maintains its traditional character while offering sophisticated dining experiences featuring fresh seafood and renowned Istrian wines. Lovran's historic center preserves centuries-old stone houses adorned with colorful shutters, creating postcard-perfect scenes at every turn. The town's proximity to both mountain trails and pristine coastline makes it ideal for active travelers seeking diverse experiences. Local festivals celebrate everything from cherries to asparagus, showcasing the region's agricultural bounty and community spirit.



WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Villa Astra provides intimate luxury in a beautifully restored Mediterranean villa, offering personalized service and stunning sea views that perfectly complement Lovran's peaceful, authentic atmosphere.



OPATIJA

Opatija enchants visitors as Croatia's most elegant seaside resort, where Habsburg grandeur meets Mediterranean charm along the stunning Kvarner Bay. This Belle Époque jewel earned its reputation as the "Nice of the Adriatic" through magnificent 19th-century villas, manicured parks, and the famous Lungomare promenade that stretches for 12 kilometers along the crystalline coastline. Opatija's mild climate and refined atmosphere attract discerning travelers seeking sophisticated relaxation without sacrificing natural beauty. The town's cultural heritage shines through its historic hotels, concert halls, and traditional Austrian coffeehouse culture, while modern amenities ensure contemporary comfort.



Hotel Milenij



WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Milenij offers five-star luxury in Opatija, set within a magnificent Habsburg-era villa. It provides panoramic sea views and world-class spa facilities, blending classic Austro-Hungarian style with modern comfort. Guests can enjoy gourmet Mediterranean cuisine, or relax on the terrace with stunning sea views. The Milenij Spa offers pools, saunas, and signature treatments for ultimate relaxation.

Hotel Agava provides boutique elegance in a restored villa setting. Blending the charm of a historic 1896 Habsburg villa with modern elegance, this hotel sits amid century-old gardens offering stunning views and classic décor. Located in the heart of Opatija, guests can savor delightful dining at the Caffè bar and Restaurant Kitchen—a perfect mix of historic allure and contemporary comfort delivered with old-world charm.



Hotel Agava



Hotel Sveti Jakov is a luxurious 5-star boutique hotel in Opatija, combining modern comfort with traditional Croatian hospitality. Nestled in the tranquil St. Jakov Park, it offers a romantic escape with spacious, elegantly designed rooms and suites, completely renovated in 2020. Some rooms even feature a jacuzzi on the terrace with park views. The hotel's restaurant redefines Mediterranean cuisine using fresh local ingredients. Housed in an 1886 Austro-Hungarian villa, it was once home to Julius Glax, the founder of thalassotherapy in Opatija.



Hotel Sveti Jakov



2

Greece: Land of Myth and Sun



SANTORINI

Greece needs little introduction as a world-famous sun destination. Partially located in the Balkans, it offers visitors sun-drenched beaches, ancient ruins and mouth-watering cuisine. Its legendary scattering of islands are dotted across the Aegean and Ionian Seas, each with its own unique identity: admire the postcard-perfect setting of Santorini's iconic whitewashed buildings and deep blue seas or lose yourself in one of the renowned beaches that showcase the island's unique volcanic landscape. One such gem is Ammoudi Beach, nestled at the foot of towering cliffs near Oia. For those seeking a more secluded and off-the-beaten-path experience, White Beach (Aspri Paralia) is a must-visit .

A neoclassical gem on the edge of Fira's cliffs, **Aigialos Hotel** combines caldera views with walkable access to the Kykladitisses exhibition and the heart of Santorini's cultural calendar. Book a stay over September 20 to enjoy Ifestia fireworks right from your private balcony.

WHERE TO STAY





Hidden in the island's inland heart, **Villa Santa Croce** offers peaceful, panoramic views and easy access to harvest activity in surrounding vineyards. From here, guests can hike through Pyrgos' winding alleys, visit historic churches, and enjoy direct links to local wineries offering exclusive tastings.

Set in a quiet corner of iconic Oia, **Hotel Esperas** offers privacy, elegance, and the most iconic sunset views that need no filter. With fewer crowds in autumn, Oia regains its tranquil charm—making Esperas a perfect base for exploring local art galleries, enjoying cliffside dinners, and watching the caldera light up during Ifestia.



Esperas Santorini Hotel

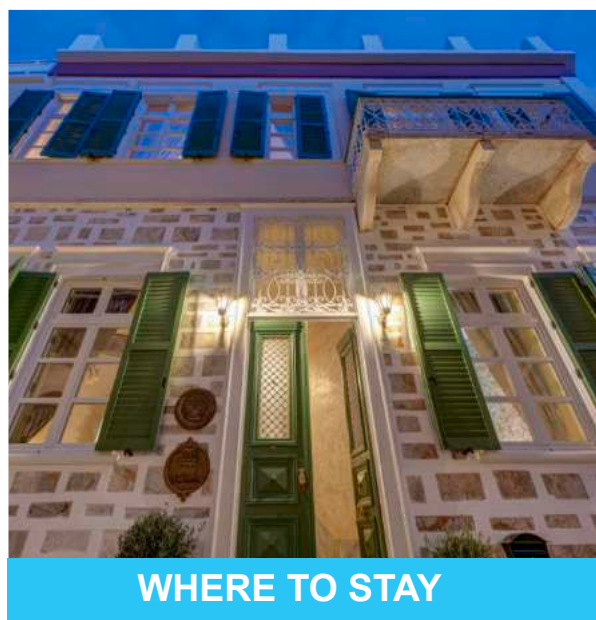




SYROS

Syros surprises visitors as the elegant capital of the Cyclades, where neoclassical architecture and sophisticated culture create a distinctly cosmopolitan Greek island experience. Hermoupolis, the island's main town, showcases 19th-century grandeur through marble-paved squares, ornate mansions, and the impressive Apollo Theater modeled after La Scala.

Syros maintains authentic Greek island life away from mass tourism, where locals gather in traditional kafenions and summer festivals celebrate music and arts. The island's varied landscape encompasses both developed areas with excellent infrastructure and secluded beaches with crystal-clear waters. Syros' strategic location makes it perfect for island-hopping while offering substantial cultural attractions in its own right.



WHERE TO STAY

Palazzo Santa Maria is more than a hotel—it's a living expression of Syros' Golden Era, lovingly restored with the spirit of true hospitality. Built in 1874 and perched on the west hillside of Hermoupolis, this fresco-filled mansion has been recognized as a cultural monument of Greece. The property blends neoclassical grandeur with modern comfort, given new life through care and vision while preserving its 19th-century character. Just a short walk from the city's cultural heart, Palazzo Santa Maria invites guests to step into a beautifully restored piece of Greek history.

RHODOS

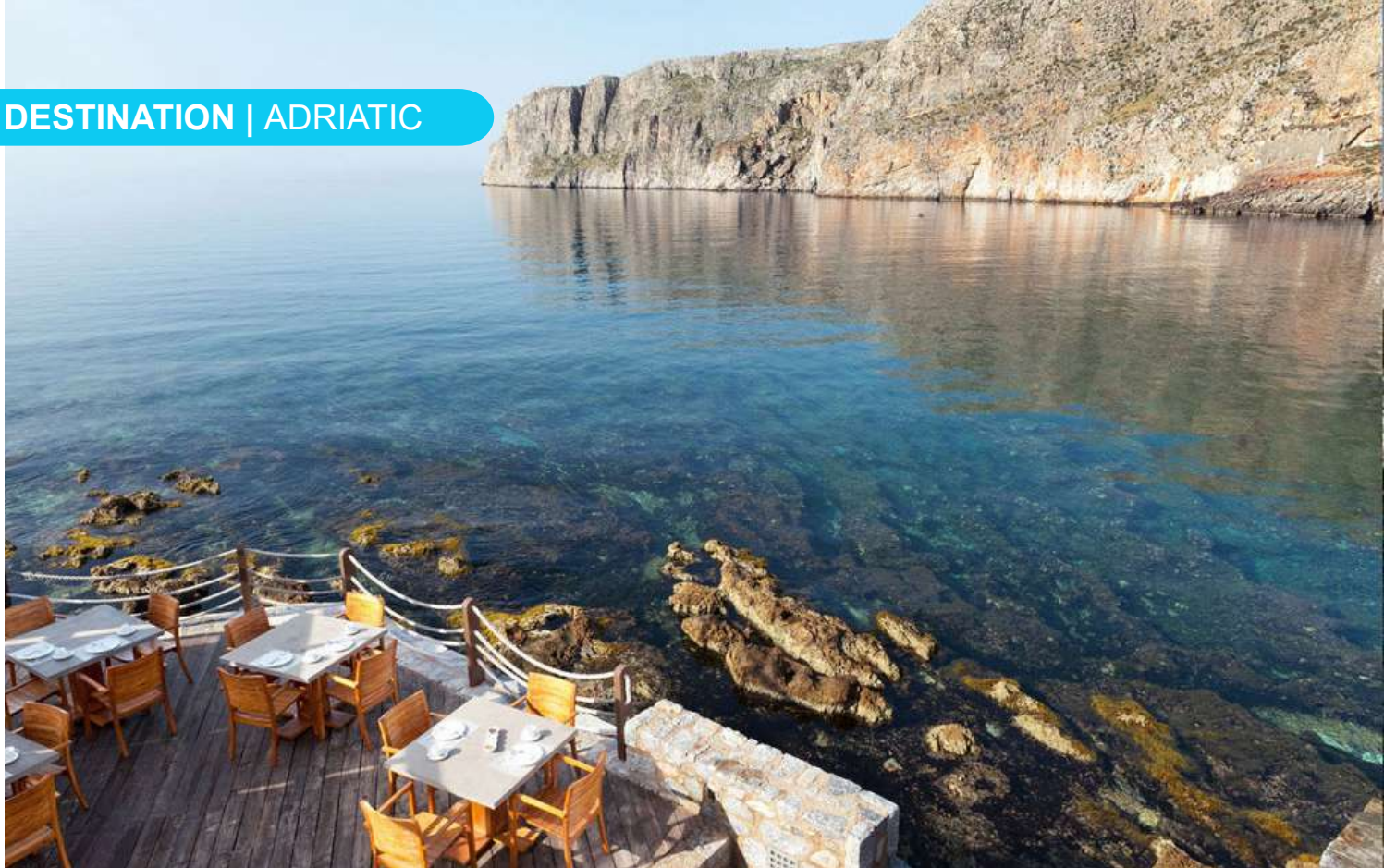
Rhodes is a captivating island in the Aegean Sea that offers an exceptional blend of history and coastal beauty. The medieval Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, features remarkably preserved stone walls and the grand Palace of the Grand Master built by the Knights of St. John, while ancient treasures include the dramatic cliff-top Acropolis of Lindos and remnants of the legendary Colossus of Rhodes, once one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Beyond its rich historical tapestry, Rhodes boasts a stunning coastline with diverse beaches and coast attracts water sports enthusiasts.



WHERE TO STAY



Allegory Boutique Hotel is an unforgettable blend of modern luxury and historic charm in the old town of Rhodes. Here, you can experience the true meaning of the Greek word *philoxenia* – literally translated to “friend to a stranger”. Enjoy the best of Greek hospitality while exploring the medieval streets of Rhodes, relaxing on the white-sand beaches and immersing yourself in Greek culture.



Peloponnese Mainland

The Peloponnese reveals Greece's authentic soul through rugged landscapes, ancient ruins, and traditional villages that have remained largely unchanged for centuries. This legendary peninsula, connected to mainland Greece by the narrow Isthmus of Corinth, encompasses diverse terrain from pristine beaches along the Messenian Gulf to the dramatic peaks of the Taygetos Mountains. The region's rich history unfolds through archaeological sites like Olympia, birthplace of the

Olympic Games, and Mycenae, center of Bronze Age civilization. Traditional stone towers dot the Mani Peninsula, where fierce independence and unique architectural heritage create an otherworldly atmosphere. Local tavernas serve exceptional cuisine featuring olive oil, honey, and wine produced using methods passed down through generations, while secluded coves and traditional fishing villages offer peaceful retreats from modern life.

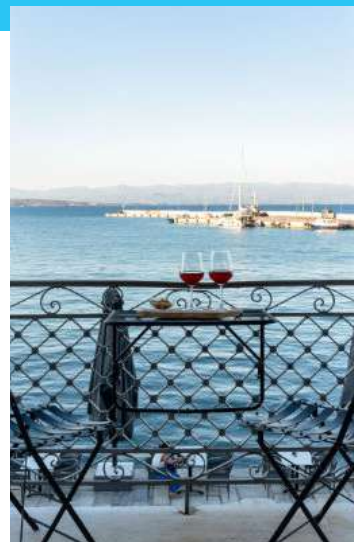


Kyrimai Hotel



WHERE TO STAY

Housed in a fully restored 19th century building complex, just off the southernmost tip of Mani, **Kyrimai Hotel** combines traditional architecture with modern comfort. Built in 1870 as the old trade centre of Mani, this exquisite renovation features period architecture with stairways, arches and inner courts. Perched so close to the sea that guests are literally lulled by the waves, with crystal blue sea views and award-winning cuisine combining traditional Maniot tastes with modern innovation. Perfect for sophisticated travelers seeking authentic Greek hospitality in Gerolimenas.



YeeOn Boutique Hotel



Built on a historic 19th-century building in the heart of Gythio, this by-the-sea boutique hotel brings well-living to the center of its experience. Rated 9.8 by recent guests, **YeeOn Boutique Hotel** features modern rooms with private hammams, sea views, and an indoor rocky cave pool with sauna for relaxation. The on-site Yee All-Day Healthy Bistro serves local products with a wellness-focused approach. Perfect for sophisticated travelers seeking luxury and rejuvenation in Gythio's historic center.



3 Montenegro: Mountainous Mystery

The Adriatic coastline of Montenegro is a hidden gem just waiting to be discovered. If you're hoping to combine sunshine with peace and tranquillity, the spectacular Bay of Kotor, with its fjord-like scenery and mediaeval towns, offers the perfect escape. Budva, known for its sandy beaches and lively atmosphere, is a trendy destination for beachgoers and party enthusiasts alike. In search of adventure? Don your gear and head for the rugged beauty of Durmitor National Park or take a boat tour to the pristine beaches of the Lustica Peninsula. With its blend of natural wonders and historical charm, Montenegro will enchant you with its beauty at every turn.



Located in the core of UNESCO-protected Kotor Old Town, **Historic Boutique Hotel Cattaro** offers uniquely decorated rooms in a renovated 18th century building. Built within three historic buildings – Napoleon's theatre, the Prince's palace and a 16th-century city guard tower, this top-ranked boutique hotel features luxury amenities and an on-site restaurant. Perfect for travelers seeking historic charm with modern comfort.



4 Albania: Mediterranean delights

Albania's emergence as a sun holiday destination has been nothing short of remarkable. The vibrant coastal city of Durrës, with its ancient Roman amphitheater and bustling waterfront promenade, serves as the perfect gateway to Albania's Mediterranean treasures. Its stunning Adriatic coastline offers pristine beaches and crystal-clear waters just minutes from the capital Tirana. Explore the nearby archaeological wonders of Apollonia, wander through traditional villages nestled in rolling hills, or discover hidden coastal gems along the dramatic shoreline. The Durrës region combines rich history spanning millennia with modern resort

amenities, while the surrounding countryside offers authentic cultural experiences in charming mountain towns. A blend of warm hospitality, fascinating heritage, and untouched landscapes make the Durrës area an ideal Mediterranean escape.



Hotel Adriatik, nestled along Durrës' picturesque coastline, this five-star beachfront haven traces its origins to 1957 and underwent lavish renovation in 2024. Located just steps from the beach, offering spa center, outdoor pools, private beach with umbrellas, and traditional Albanian specialties. Set on 16 acres of lush gardens with indoor restaurants and outdoor bars, featuring modern amenities and breathtaking ocean views for the ultimate Adriatic escape.

OLD WORD CHARM

HERITAGE HOTELS TO MAKE YOU SWOON

Heritage hotels in Europe have a special kind of magic. The sort that whips the weight of the world from your shoulders, transporting you into simpler times. Roaring fireplaces, centuries-old beams and time-warp details tell a million stories without whispering a word. Want a peek inside their historic doors? Come on in...





SCHLOSS FRANKENBERG

Germany

Rising from the rolling vineyards of Franconia, **Schloss Frankenberg** has seen centuries of reinvention, from medieval fortress to baroque residence. Its twin towers and sweeping courtyards hint at its noble past, while today's guests discover vaulted wine cellars, landscaped gardens and elegant chambers above the vines. Few castle stays balance history and hospitality with quite so much ease.



Discover the charm of Mdina, Malta's Silent City, from this meticulously restored 14th-century **Palazzo Bifora**. Built in 1400 and renovated in 2020, this boutique hotel offers six individually designed rooms and suites. Enjoy a luxurious hotel experience with a rooftop pool, exceptional Mediterranean-fusion dining, and personalized service in a truly unique setting.

PALAZZO BIFORA

Malta



CASTELLO DI GARGONZA

Italy

Across the rolling hills of Tuscany, **Castello di Gargonza** invites you to explore medieval history while enjoying the serenity of the Italian countryside. Wander through the charming streets of nearby Arezzo, where the Piazza Grande hosts a monthly antique fair. Immerse yourself in the artistic legacy of Tuscany at the Basilica of San Francesco in Arezzo. Castello di Gargonza is a timeless retreat surrounded by the beauty of rural Italy.



DINGEL BENNERS

Ireland



Dingle Benners Hotel is located in the unique, scenic town of Dingle on the southwest Atlantic coast of Ireland and experience the true meaning of céad míle fáilte (one hundred thousand welcomes). A shining example of world-famous Irish hospitality, it's a perfect base from which to

explore the rugged landscapes of the Dingle Peninsula and the rich cultural tapestry of Ireland — from experiencing the Irish language and one-of-a-kind pubs to the best of traditional music and top-class food and drink.



FERNHILL HOUSE HOTEL

Ireland

Set within acres of lush gardens in West Cork, Fernhill House Hotel is a family-run retreat where peace and warmth go hand in hand. Built in 1826, this Georgian country house offers a slower pace of life, with elegant rooms, open fires, and the kind of Irish hospitality that makes you feel instantly at home. Wander through the

estate's wildflower meadows, find a quiet bench beneath ancient trees, or enjoy a drink on the terrace as the sun sets over the rolling hills. Whether you're escaping for a weekend or just looking to reset, Fernhill House Hotel offers a gentle, restorative kind of luxury.

HOTEL BRITANIA

Portugal

Portugal's Hotel Britania is situated in the heart of Lisbon and offers guests top-class hospitality from the moment they arrive. A gleaming Art Deco masterpiece; this 1940s hotel is consistently rated as a top choice by visitors to Lisbon for both excellent value and service. It's hard to leave this beautiful hotel but venture out and explore the colourful neighbourhoods of the Portuguese capital, visit the historic Belém Tower, indulge in incredible food and wine and take a day trip to nearby sandy beaches.



CHATEAU TŘEŠŤ

Czech Republic



Modern luxury meets romance at this atmospheric chateau in the majestic highlands of central Czech Republic. Set within a glorious 16-hectare castle estate and surrounded by green hills, lush forests and scenic lakes, **Chateau Třešť** seamlessly combines old-world history with contemporary comforts. Only 15 km from the UNESCO World Heritage town of Telč, this magnificent property offers 57 luxury rooms purpose-built for relaxation—from recently renovated rooms to family accommodation and suites. The chateau's restaurant completes the experience with fine dining in elegant surroundings. An unforgettable escape from the demands of modern life, Chateau Třešť invites guests to discover the magic of the historic Bohemian-Moravian region.

HOTEL GINO PARK PALACE

Slovakia

Hotel Gino Park Palace in Slovakia captures the essence of romance in the Upper Váh River Valley, a charming tourist region with plenty of opportunities to spend quality time with your loved one. For thrill-seeking couples, choose from a multitude of hiking and bicycling trails, especially at Javorníky and in the Strážov and Súľov Mountains. Or simply spend some quality time with your loved one by exploring the area's many cultural monuments and historic buildings.



EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF THE HISTORIC HOTELS OF EUROPE



Magnificent castles, grand palaces, storied manors, exquisite villas, enchanting monasteries and so much more... the Historic Hotels of Europe is a collection like no other. Our blend of luxury and history makes your dream a reality.
A world of wonder is waiting for you!



VIEW & BOOK YOUR HOTEL

HOTELS PUBLISHED

Adriatik Hotel | ALBANIA
Hotel Stefanie | AUSTRIA
Villa Bergzauber | AUSTRIA
Hotel Agava | CROATIA
Hotel Capital | CROATIA
Hotel Villa Astra | CROATIA
Hotel Sveti Jakov | CROATIA
Villa Milenij | CROATIA
New Helvetia Hotel | CYPRUS
Chateau Liblice | CZECH REPUBLIC
Chateau Trest | CZECH REPUBLIC
Villa Lanna | CZECH REPUBLIC
Ascot Hotel | DENMARK
Dromore House | UK
Selkirk Arms Hotel | UK
Shibden Mill Inn | UK
The Brisley Bell | UK
The Inn at Whitewell | UK
The King's Head Inn | UK

The Rose & Crown | UK
Hotel L'Helios & SPA | FRANCE
Schloss Frankenberg | GERMANY
Aigialos Hotel Santorini | GREECE
Allegory Boutique Hotel | GREECE
Hotel Esperas | GREECE
Kyriami Hotel | GREECE
Palazzo Santa Maria | GREECE
Villa Santa Croce | GREECE
YeeOn Boutique Hotel | GREECE
Dingle Benness Hotel | IRELAND
Fernhill House Hotel | IRELAND
Abano Ritz Hotel Terme | ITALY
Castello di Gargonza | ITALY
Grand Hotel et de Milan | ITALY
Hotel Cavallino d'Oro | ITALY
Hotel La Stua | ITALY
Hotel Villa Kastelruth | ITALY
Hotel Villa Westend | ITALY

**GIFT
EXPERIENCE
VOUCHER**

Would You Be Happy to Receive our Hotel Gift Voucher?

Hotel Capital, Croatia

Imagine opening an email to find the gift of choice—access to historic castles, palaces, and heritage hotels across Europe. If that sounds like the perfect present to you, your friends and family will feel exactly the same way.

Whether it's a birthday, anniversary, retirement, or simply a gesture of appreciation, give the gift of unforgettable memories.



Partner of
Miles & More

VISIT VOUCHER SHOP

Palazzo Bifora | MALTA
Hotel Cattaro | MONTENEGRO
Dalen Hotel | NORWAY
Hotel Dębowy | POLAND
Hotel Polski Pod Białym Orłem | POLAND
Hotel Zamek Gniew | POLAND
Jaworowy Dwór | POLAND
Pałac Lucja | POLAND
Palace Mała Wieś | POLAND
Pałac Mortęgi Hotel & SPA | POLAND
Pałac Wiechlice | POLAND
Pałac Wojanów | POLAND
Talaria Resort & Spa | POLAND
Olandia | POLAND
Manowce Palace | POLAND
Mioduński Dworek | POLAND
Uphagen Manor House | POLAND
Sieraków Manor | POLAND
Hotel As Janelas Verdes | PORTUGAL

Hotel Britania | PORTUGAL
Rio Art Hotel | PORTUGAL
Hestraviken Hotell & Spa | SWEDEN
Skytteholm Nordic Spa | SWEDEN
Sundbyholm Castle | SWEDEN
Stufvenäs Gästgifveri | SWEDEN
Tällbergsgårdens Hotel | SWEDEN
Toftaholm Manor | SWEDEN
Två Skyttlar | SWEDEN
Vadstena Klosterhotel | SWEDEN
Villa Sjötorp | SWEDEN
Wallby Säteri | SWEDEN
Hotel Chesa Grischuna | SWITZERLAND
Hotel Falken | SWITZERLAND
Hotel Gino Park Palace | SLOVAKIA
Antiq Palace | SLOVENIA

Image sources: Dreamstime.com



HISTORIC HOTELS OF EUROPE

Operational Office: Via Borsieri 8 - 28832 Belgirate (VB), Italy - Mob +39 335 536 3405

Registered Office: Dublin, Ireland

info@HistoricHotelofEurope.com - HistoricHotelsOfEurope.com

