Choosing what destinations to include in a guide to Europe is a downright dizzying task. Zurich or Geneva? Iceland or Norway? Prague or Krakow? We wish we could fit in *all* the continent's cities and countries, but a limited page count has forced us to discriminate. The destinations covered in this book have therefore been winnowed down to only the hippest and the hottest—consider this our opinionated take on where you *really* must go.

What follows are some even more opinionated views on the best of what each carefully vetted destination in this book has to offer.

## The Best European Experiences

- Seek Out the Best Neighborhoods:
  Copenhagen's Christiania, Dublin's
  Temple Bar, Barcelona's Barri Gòtic, Amsterdam's the Jordaan, Galway City's Eyre
  Square, Paris's Marais, London's Islington,
  Berlin's Kreuzberg, Istanbul's Ortaköy,
  Lisbon's Barrio Alto and the Alfama, and
  Florence's Santa Croce are some of the
  best places for people-watching in
  Europe—perfect places to put up your feet
  and watch locals interact.
- Get a Caffeine Fix: The occasional Starbucks pops up throughout Europe, but Italy, France, Spain, and Austria all have such raging cafe cultures that it's simply
- inexcusable not to try the local brew. If you fancy tea instead, London and Edinburgh are the best places to sip a cuppa and sample a scone. Throughout Scandinavia, you simply can't leave home without I or IO Red Bulls to keep you dancing all night.
- co Celebrate Carnival: Most of western
  Europe celebrates Carnival, 3 days of preLenten festivities that pit one outrageously dressed celebrant against
  another. The most famous festivities are
  hosted by Nice, Milan, and Venice, but
  you'll also find quirky local celebrations
  in cities like Copenhagen and Vienna.

- Listen to Local Tunes: From Portugal's fado (sorrowful singing accompanied by guitar and viola players) to Iceland's electronic bands to Berlin's cabaret, tune in to the music of whatever country you're visiting. It'll bring you that much closer to the soul of its people. See p. 532.
- Get Outside: Europe isn't only about standing in line for hours, waiting to view historic cathedrals and museums. It doesn't matter if you play chess in an Italian square, swim in Capri, or catch a
- cricket match in England—the point is to be active. See "Best Water Activities" and "Best Outdoor Activities," below, for some adventurous ideas.
- Crack Open a Book or Catch a Flick:

  Trust us on this one: Reading a book or watching a movie set in the country you're visiting will enhance your experience there tenfold. See "Recommended Books, Music δ Movies" throughout this book's chapters.

# The Best Nightclubs

- Café d'Anvers (Antwerp, Belgium):
  Haven't managed to squeeze any cathedrals into your busy clubbing schedule?
  Then head to Café d'Anvers, where you can dance the night away in a gorgeous converted monastery. See p. 94.
- A-38 (Budapest, Hungary): Break out the Dramamine. One of the hippest clubs in Europe is on this ship, anchored at the Buda side of the Danube River. See p. 208.
- Pachá (Ibiza, Spain): One of the finest nightclubs, anywhere. This place has pumped up the hits to crowds of sweaty, sexy hipsters since 1975. Dance here, and be part of history. See p. 475.
- Carpe Diem Cocktail Bar/Nightclub (Hvar, Croatia): Yes, Tara Reid once came here, but don't hold that against this club. Although the surroundings are fabulously posh, this place somehow attracts both

- the superfamous and your everyday backpackers. See p. 256.
- Fabric (London, England): Three floors, a 2,500-person capacity, and big-name DJs. The scene at Fabric is hopping no matter the night. The fine tunes complement the stylish, industrial space. See p. 566.
- Atomik Café (Munich, Germany): Retro paradise. Atomik Café's 1920s night features big-band tunes that will get your inner flapper dancing. On non—theme nights, the club boasts a mellow vibe and a selection of cutting-edge indie rock tunes. See p. 645.
- Pravda (Reykjavík, Iceland): At Pravda, a club converted from police department offices, outrageous fashion and cuttingedge dance music now rule. In a city filled with hot clubs, this is the hottest. See p. 780.

## The Best Bars & Pubs

- The Long Hall (Dublin, Ireland): Tuck into one of the traditional snugs of this gorgeous Victorian and order a pint or two of Guinness. The mellow atmosphere and friendly bartenders make this one of the best places in Ireland to try the dark brew. See p. 289.
- Pavilhão Chinês Bar (Lisbon, Portugal): At this drinking playground, you'll find everything from boy toys to actual toys. The walls are lined with G.I. Joe figures and other kitschy dolls, though you may be too distracted by the sexy clientele to notice. See p. 531.

## • Hofbräuhaus (Munich, Germany): It's the world's most famous beer hall, so it's gonna be crowded. Plow through the crowds of up to 4,500, though, and you'll be rewarded with live oompah music and mug after mug of some of Germany's best beer. See p. 644.

• Tropical Bar (Santorini, Greece): Proof that it's the people—not the bar—that makes the scene, Tropical Bar compensates for its lackluster decor with a crowd of hot tourists who break out the occasional table dance. The amazing beachside location doesn't hurt. See p. 450.

#### The Best Live Music # 3

- Habanilla Café (Seville, Spain): Run out of a former whorehouse, Habanilla boasts a supernatural setting and trippy jam music. No matter the time of day, this place is bumping. See p. 852.
- Naranzaria (Venice, Italy): We challenge you to find a more fabulous, unpretentious spot in all of Italy. This wine bar features 50 exclusive-feeling seats on the wide-open Erbaria esplanade, and it faces the Grand Canal just north of the Rialto Bridge. See p. 905.

#### **The Best Live Music**

- Melkweg (Amsterdam, Holland): If you can't find something to suit your tastes here, you won't find it anywhere. Melkweg has a restaurant, a coffee shop, a bar, an art center, a dance floor, a photo gallery, and an exhibition space. The live acts are just as eclectic, influenced by art forms as
- varied as world beat music and gay/lesbian theater. See p. 77.
- Razzmatazz (Barcelona, Spain): This mega warehouse complex can house 10,000, and it boasts five clubs under one roof, as well as a concert space for indie rock. See p. 135.

# The Top 16 Attractions

- The Acropolis (Athens, Greece; p. 114)
- Sagrada Familia (Barcelona, Spain; p. 139)
- Charlottenburg Palace (Berlin, Germany; p. 166)
- Grand-Place (Brussels, Belgium; p. 187)
- Tivoli (Copenhagen, Denmark; p. 238)
- Diocletian's Palace (Dalmatian Coast, Croatia; p. 252)
- Edinburgh Castle (Edinburgh, Scotland; p. 351)
- Santa Croce and The Duomo (Florence, Italy; p. 384 and p. 382)
- Monte-Carlo Casino (Monte-Carlo, France; p. 416)
- Hagia Sophia (Istanbul, Turkey; p. 509)
- Westminster Abbey (London, England; p. 572)
- Pompeii (Pompeii, Italy; p. 670)
- Notre-Dame and Tour Eiffel (Paris, France; p. 722)
- Prague Castle (Prague, Czech Republic; p. 760)
- Roman Forum and St. Peter's Basilica (Rome, Italy; p. 821 and p. 826)
- Alcázar (Seville, Spain; p. 856)

- The Crane (Galway City, Ireland): Trad Irish music complete with old men dressed in tweed sporting scruffy old beards. This is the genuine article. Sessions can occur at any time, but the Sunday afternoon one is the most religious experience. Worship at the altar of folk. See p. 314.
- Royal Albert Hall (London, England): If, like John Lennon, you've wondered "how many holes it takes to fill the Albert Hall," check out this curious circular domed building just off Kensington Gardens. The music—everything from the summer Proms (p. 572) to classical and rock concerts—is as great as the architecture. See p. 568.
- Le Blue Note (Paris, France): This cozy little spot mixes Brazilian music, jazz, and

- blues into its nightly repertoire. Tasty Brazilian cocktails help enliven the shows. See p. 715.
- El Tamboril (Seville, Spain): El Tamboril will make you a flamenco convert. Male and female performers stamp, clap, and exude rigidly controlled Iberian passion, and then make way for you to try out your own moves. See p. 854.
- Vienna Boys Choir (Vienna, Austria): In a city steeped in musical traditions and institutions, this group stands out. Created in 1498, the choir still performs Masses by Mozart and Haydn at the Hofburgkapelle on Sundays and holidays from September through June. See p. 938.

## The Best Hostels

- Albergue de Juventud Kabul (Barcelona, Spain): This is not the place for rest. Two hundred young backpackers can cram into this hostel's rooms, which sleep from four to eight. The hostel is smack dab in the city's best nightlife area. See p. 126.
- Hotel mitArt (Berlin, Germany): Tired of not being able to actually sleep in your hostel? Then head to Hotel mitArt, which boasts extremely quiet rooms and an arty decor that will help you snooze in style. See p. 154.
- Charlie Rocket's (Bruges, Belgium): Charlie Rocket's is converted from what was once Bruges' largest cinema. The cheap, clean rooms and bonus amenities, including a game room and restaurant, guarantee that you won't feel cheated on the price of admission. See p. 191.
- Isaacs Hostel (Dublin, Ireland): Calling itself "Dublin's first V.I.P. hostel," Isaacs adds a full restaurant and an attractive sauna to the usual mix of TV rooms, lockers, and bunk beds. See p. 276.
- Balmer's Herberge (Interlaken, Switzerland): Right in the middle of the city's

- younger, sports-friendly Matten 'hood, Balmer's has an activities office that can book you on the spot for skydiving and whitewater-rafting trips. Or, you can try to make your way through the hostel's crowded Metro Bar-an adventure in its own right. See p. 483.
- Wake Up! London (London, England): You may not rise early if you stay at Wake Up! London. That's because London's best hostel is regularly packed with a mix of punk-rockish Aussie and European guests who are primed to party. See p. 560
- The Beehive (Rome, Italy): Pardon the pun, but this buzzing place features artfully decorated rooms, a beautiful garden, free Wi-Fi, and organic food at the cafe. The vibe is also thankfully mellower than the city's more frat-worthy hostels. See p. 799.
- Hostel Af Chapman/Skeppsholmen (Stockholm, Sweden): This hostel was converted from an authentic three-masted schooner. Land lubbers can dock in one of the more spacious rooms located off the ship. See p. 866.

#### The Best Cheap Eats 9 5

## The Best Deal & Big-Deal Hotels

- Hotel Arena (Amsterdam, Holland): A converted Roman-Catholic orphanage built in 1890, the Hotel Arena now features spare, modern guest rooms styled by young Dutch designers. Need convincing? You can check out the rooms online at www.hotelarena.nl. See p. 67.
- Hotel Burchianti (Florence, Italy): This is one of the most sought-after little hotels in Florence, and for good reason-from its incredible frescoes to its all-in-the-family service it is that rare combination: classy and cheap. See p. 370.
- Pension Unitas (Prague, Czech Republic): All the guest rooms here used to be holding cells for the secret police. Don't worry—they're actually plusher than the average cheap hotel. With its unbeatable location, the Pension Unitas is a great value for the money. See p. 746.
- Hôtel Byblos (St-Tropez, France): Attached to one of the best nightclubs in St-Tropez, Byblos is where the hot and hip come to preen before heading out to dance. The hotel is pricey, so you may want to simply check out the nightclub. See p. 408.

- Astra Apartments (Santorini, Greece): Try one of the luxury studios, which room up to three to four people. The kitchenette and pool only add to the deal, though the real reason to stay here is the amazing view-the hotel is perched on the dramatic cliffs of Imerovigli. See p. 448.
- Hotel Amadeus (Seville, Spain): This peaceful haven of high culture is run by a family of music lovers. Music is everywhere, from the periodic concerts to the soundproofed practice rooms with pianos. See p. 845
- X-Tra Hotel Limmat (Zurich, Switzerland): X-tra literally rocks. The management organizes some of Switzerland's best rock concerts, and the nightclub on the ground floor is one of the hottest in the city. Rooms are basic, but who cares when you'll be spending all your time at shows? See p. 958
- L'Hôtel (Paris, France): Once a 19th-century fleabag, its major distinction used to be that Oscar Wilde died in one of its rooms. Today's guests, however, aren't anywhere near destitute; this place isn't cheap. The seriously Parisian bar is worthy of a drink or two. See p. 706.

# **The Best Cheap Eats**

- Frites (Antwerp, Belgium): Otherwise known as french fries, these tasty treats are best served with mayo. Some of Beligum's best can be found at Frituur No1 in Antwerp. For around 2€, you'll get a big old order of fries with sauce. See p. 93.
- Döner Kebab (Barcelona, Spain): Barcelona's King Döner in the Rambla de Rayal manages to outdo all kebab shops in a city chock-full of them. For 3.50€, you'll get a schawarma, a tasty "Arab taco" filled with heaping portions of lamb or chicken and fresh veggies. They also
- have falafel for those PETA card-holding members. See p. 129.
- o Irish stew (Dublin, Ireland): On a cold day in Dublin, get thee to The Porterhouse. For about 6€, you can get a heaping bowl of stew that will warm you up immediately. See p. 285.
- Gelato (Florence, Italy): If you're human, you'll succumb to at least one gelato (ice cream) a day in Italy. The stuff served up at Vivoli, the most famous gelateria in Florence, is among the city's best. See p. 376.

- Tapas (Madrid, Spain): These minitreats are your best bet for cheap food throughout Spain. Madrid's Automático Bar dishes up some of the county's most delicious, including dates with bacon and a bunch of homemade pâtés. See p. 600.
- Pizza (Naples, Italy): Naples is the home of Margherita pizza—your standard slice with dough, cheese, tomatoes, and basiland the city's Brandi restaurant claims to have invented it. It's certainly perfected it. See p. 664.
- Falafel (Paris, France): You'll find falafel—fried balls of chickpeas in a pita all over Europe, but they're especially omnipresent in Paris. At the chain Maoz you can load your sandwich with toppings from a self-serve bar. See p. 709.
- OGyros (Santorini, Greece): There are exactly 15,000 trillion gyro places in Greece. Lucky's, a tiny stand in Fira's main square, is among the best. The meatpacked gyros are topped with an unreal tzatziki and french fries, and they're worth the wait. See p. 449.

## **The Best Cafes**

- Attanasio (Naples, Italy): Come here for Europe's best sfogliatelle (triangles of layered puff pastry, filled with delicious ricotta). See p. 665.
- Le Fumoir (Paris, France): Right off the rue de Rivoli, with a view of both the Seine and the dome of the Institut de France, Le Fumoir is how you imagined Paris would be. This long, ersatz-'30s speakeasy is peopled with just about everyone who's anyone. See p. 710.
- Café Slavia (Prague, Czech Republic): Former President Havel loves this place, open since 1863. He even intervened to keep it in business back in the 1990s. Once you've had a chance to soak in its history and sample the shop's affordable coffee and snacks, you'll understand why. See p. 749.
- Kaffi Hljomalind (Reykjavík, Iceland): This laid-back, unpretentious cafe boasts

## The Best 13 Festivals

- Carnival (throughout Europe). See "The Best European Experiences," above.
- Amsterdam Pride (Amsterdam, Holland; p. 79)
- Barcelona street festivals (Barcelona, Spain; p. 137)
- Love Parade (Berlin, Germany; p. 166)
- Bloomsday (Dublin, Ireland; p. 294)
- The Fringe Festival (Edinburgh, Scotland; p. 347)
- Galway Arts Festival (Galway City, Ireland; p. 316)
- Oktoberfest (Munich, Germany; p. 647)
- Rock en Seine (Paris, France; p. 720)
- Prague Spring Festival (Prague, Czech Republic; p. 759)
- Feria de Abril (Seville, Spain; p. 855)
- Stockholm Jazz Festival (Stockholm, Sweden; p. 874)
- Walpurgis Eve (Uppsala, Sweden; p. 880)

#### The Best Things to Do for Free or Dirt Cheap \* 7

- delicious organic eats from pasta dishes to pies. The crowd mainly consists of New Age hippie types, mothers with young children, and serious-looking intellectuals. See p. 779.
- Café Latte (Seville, Spain): This place takes "dinner and a movie" to a whole new level. Settle into one of the cafe's designer chairs, order some delicious macchiatos or mojitos, and watch the
- music videos and movies shown on the dining area's big screen. See p. 851.
- Café Sacher (Vienna, Austria): Sachertorte fans, welcome home. The decadent chocolate layer cake was created here in the 1880s, and this cafe is still the perfect old-world setting in which to satisfy all your chocolate cravings.
  See p. 935.

## **The Best Dining Spots**

- Restaurante Olivier (Lisbon, Portugal): This is the Barrio Alto's hottest spot, so you'll need reservations. You'll also have to knock to gain entry which lends this stylish, small spot—serving delicious Mediterranean cuisine—a definite speakeasy vibe. See p. 528.
- Cocoon (London, England): This Pan-Asian restaurant offers an enticing mix of tasty cocktails and inventive dishes like jungle curry with seafood. See p. 562.
- Louisiana Bistro (Milan, Italy): Head to this converted brothel for some traditional American grub. If you can tear your eyes from all the models, you'll be rewarded with a big-screen TV that shows music videos. See p. 622.
- Mandala Ray (Paris, France): One of the city's most popular see-and-be-seen

- spots, Mandala Ray serves small portions at big prices. The haute Asian-fusion cuisine goes perfectly with the haute fashion on the attractive clientele. See p. 708.
- Supper Club (Rome, Italy): For a transporting experience into modern Euro-fabulousness, check out this über-trendy spinoff of the original joint in Amsterdam. Barely clad waiters serve tasty Mediterranean- and Asian-inspired dishes—good fuel for dancing in the restaurant's swank club area. You can even get a massage here. See p. 807.
- Grand Veranda (Stockholm, Sweden): You'll get grand views of the harbor and the Royal Palace, as well as truly grand traditional Swedish food (yes, reindeer is on the menu). See p. 871.

## The Best Things to Do for Free or Dirt Cheap

- Picnic: There's no better way to mingle with the natives than to stop at a market and grab some food for a picnic. You'll save money and you'll be able to savor the parks, lakes, or other green areas of wherever you're visiting. Going to market is a sightseeing venture in its own right.
- Visit a Museum: Some cities offer free admission to their museums (like London), and many more offer free days. You also may want to keep an eye out for notices for gallery openings. These are
- usually free and open to the public, and some include complimentary drink and food.
- Get a City Pass: Many European cities offer special deals with free or discounted admission to attractions, along with public transport access, if you buy a 1-, 2- or 3-day pass. Check with the local tourist board for details.
- Attend a Summer Festival: You may pay more money to fly to Europe during the summer, but you'll be rewarded with

all sorts of free theater, dance, and music performances. See "The Best 13 Festivals," earlier in this chapter, to get some idea of all that the continent has to offer.

• Go Underground for Art: For roughly 1€ (the average Métro fare), you'll gain

instant access to Paris's Art Nouveau subway entrances, Brussel's metro murals, and Budapest's labyrinthine subway passages, to name just a few.

## **The Best Panoramas**

- Mount Tibidabo (Barcelona, Spain): Unbelievable views of Montserrat and the Pyrenees. On a clear day, you can see as far as Mallorca. See p. 141.
- Fisherman's Bastion (Budapest, Hungary):
   This place is pure romance, with sweeping views of Pest and the Danube. See p. 212.
- The City Wall (Dubrovnik, Croatia). A work of art in its own right, the city wall also offers a prize-worthy vista of greater Dubrovnik. See p. 329.
- Top of Jungfraujoch (Interlaken, Switzerland): Once you're done marveling at how a train could climb up such a steep mountain, take some time to admire the worthy view. See p. 488.

- Castelo de São Jorge (Lisbon, Portugal): This castle looms over Lisbon, so it's not surprising that it serves as a great vantage point to look out over the city. See p. 534.
- Tour Eiffel (Paris, France): It's cheesy, but you have to go. The views are simply great. See p. 722.
- The Prater Ferris Wheel (Vienna, Austria): Take a spin around this 65m-tall (213-ft.) Ferris wheel, and you'll get an aerial view of the whole city. (Watch *The Third Man* first, if you can—it'll enhance the ride.) See p. 944.

# The Top 12 Museums

- Anne Frankhuis (Anne Frank House) and Rijksmuseum (Amsterdam, Holland; p. 79 and p. 81)
- Erotik Museum and Museuminsel (Berlin, Germany; p. 166 and p. 167)
- Museo Tattile di Pittura Antica e Moderna (Bologna, Italy; p. 393)
- Uffizi Gallery (Florence, Italy; p. 387)
- The Burrell Collection (Glasgow City, Scotland; p. 435)
- Tate Modern and The British Museum (London, England; p. 576 and p. 574)
- Museo del Prado (Madrid, Spain; p. 607)
- ZAM (Munich, Germany; p. 650)
- Museo Archeologico Nazionale (Naples, Italy; p. 668)
- Centre Pompidou and the Louvre (Paris, France; p. 723)
- Vatican Museums/Sistine Chapel (Vatican City; p. 827)
- Kunsthistorisches Museum (Vienna, Austria; p. 941)

#### The Best Markets # 9

## **The Best Offbeat Tours**

- Heineken Experience Tour (Amsterdam, Holland): An insufferable tourist trap. For 10€, you get a chance to see how the amber brew in the green bottle is made, via amusement rides and touch-screen exhibits. See p. 79.
- Ghosts and Gore Tour (Edinburgh, Scotland): They're a bit overacted and cheesy, but once you get past that, you'll find these tours of Edinburgh's darker side fun and informative. See p. 337.
- Whale-Watching Tour (Reykjavík, Iceland): Reykjavík offers a ton of whalewatching tours, all of them great. Chances are, you'll see over a dozen leviathans

- and, during the summer, you even might spot a puffin or two. See p. 784.
- Underground Tour of the Catacombs of San Callisto (Rome, Italy): Rome's subterranean world is a veritable street labyrinth, so it really helps to have a guide. Though the Catacombs of San Callisto are often packed with tour-bus groups, they're also phenomenal. See p. 822.
- Original Sound of Music Tour (Salzburg, Austria): Musical fans, this 4-hour tour pays homage to one of the most-watched American musicals ever, and by golly, it's a damn good time. See p. 949.

# The Best Markets

- Monastraki Flea Market (Athens, Greece): At this Athens shopping institution, you'll see knockoffs galore. But you'll also find everything from touristy gifts to antiques. See p. 117.
- Las Ramblas (Barcelona, Spain): Although not technically a market, this promenade crams enough street entertainers, news vendors, and flower vendors into one street to qualify as one. See p. 121.
- Marché-aux-Puces (Brussels, Belgium): Every weekday from 7am to 2pm, the Marché-aux-Puces in place du Jeu-de-Balle hosts a big old flea market. Memorize a few French phrases and see how low you can talk someone down. See p. 189.
- San Lorenzo street market (Florence, Italy): This queen of Florentine markets fills up Piazza San Lorenzo and surrounding side streets with a chaotic and colorful array of stands. Merchants hawk T-shirts, silk scarves, and lots and lots of leather. See p. 390.
- The Grand Bazaar (Istanbul, Turkey): This bazaar is a grand collection of over 2,600

- shops (at last count); 24 hans (privately owned marketplaces); 65 streets; 22 gates; two bedestens (covered markets); and sundry restaurants, mosques, fountains, and tea houses. Prepare for an exhausting day of shopping and some major haggling. See p. 514.
- Portobello Market (London, England): Portobello is most famous for its antiques stalls and shops. It also sells fruits and vegetables and some innovative fashion. See p. 58o.
- Marché aux Puces St-Ouen de Clignancourt (Paris, France): Paris's most famous flea market is actually a grouping of more than a dozen markets. This complex of 2,500 to 3,000 open stalls and shops sells everything from antiques to junk, from new to vintage clothing. See p. 729.
- Naschmarkt (Vienna, Austria): If you like to haggle, come to Vienna's outdoor foodand-produce market. It's a perfect place to stock up before picnicking. See p. 946.

#### **The Best Water Activities**

- Beach Excursions: Whether you decide to swim off the Amalfi Coast or to sun on the man-made Paris Plage, just be sure to check out one of Europe's beaches. You need to get some sun in between all the museum-seeing and clubbing, after all.
- Boat Rides: A boat offers the perfect vantage point to take in whatever city you're visiting on the continent. Our favorite journeys include a gondola ride in Venice, chugging down the Danube in Budapest, and rowing a boat down the Vltava River in Prague.
- River Strolls: Amble along the banks of certain European rivers, and an amazing cathedral or breathtaking building is sure to come into view. Europe's most

- romantic and scenic strolls are along the Seine in Paris, the Danube in Budapest, and the Thames in London.
- Surf Spots: From windsurfing along the Dalmatian Coast to plain old surfing off the French Riviera, Europe offers some incredible opportunities to break out your board. Even better are the lesser-known surfing spots, like the Galway Coast in Ireland, which boast great waves and no crowds.
- Water Workouts: You might want to try some of Europe's more unique ways to break a sweat: soaking in Iceland's thermal pools, ice climbing in London, biking on the water in Amsterdam, or skinny dipping in the Vltava.

#### The Best Outdoor Activities

- Parks: Berlin's Tiergarten, London's Hyde Park, Dublin's St. Stephen's Green, Rome's Villa Borghese, Zurich's Botanischer Garten, and Paris's Jardins du Luxembourg are some of the best green spaces on the continent, if not anywhere. Run, walk, or sit—just take the time to experience them.
- Urban Sports: If you're tired of sightseeing, try rock climbing in Paris; spelunking in the Buda Castle Labyrinth in Budapest, bungee jumping in Vienna, or biking outside Zurich.
- Spectator Sports: The best way to get to know a city is to root for its teams. Rally behind Wimbledon tennis matches in London, calcio (soccer) games in Italy, bullfighting in Spain, or curling in Glasgow.
- Winter Sports: Everyone knows that Switzerland, Austria, and northern Italy have amazing skiing and snowboarding trails. Less famous, but equally worthy, are London's Somerset House, which boasts a first-rate ice-skating rink, and Interlaken, Switzerland, where you can hike on a glacier.