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JANUARY 2023

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Editor's Picks

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around Germany

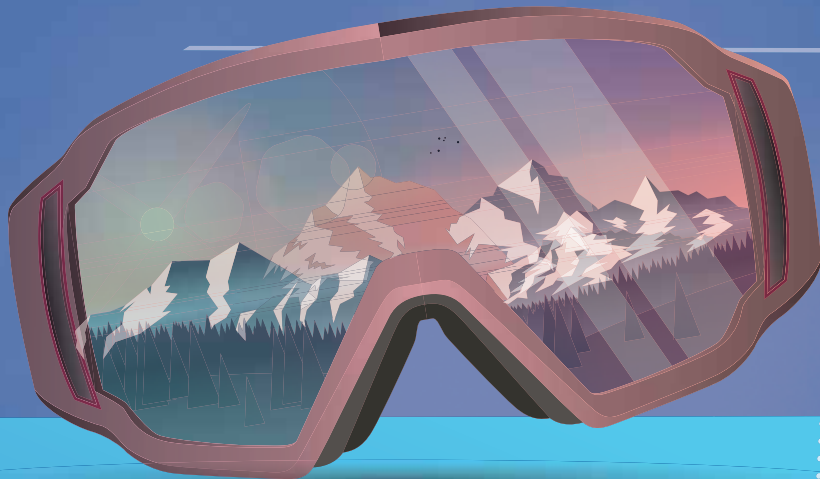
The Mediterranean Sea

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& Much More



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WHAT'S UP

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By Tamala Malerk

The holidays are over, and everyone is settling back into their regularly scheduled lives. After a season of markets, presents, and glühwein, it's time to find out that the rest of the winter can be filled with just as much fun as the holidays. Always check with the event's website before traveling.

SIXDAYS Bremen Jan. 12 - 17, Bremen



Enjoy professional cycling, food, music, kids' day and more at this multi-day event for cycling enthusiasts.

Cocktail Tasting at Le Petit Coq Jan. 13, Stuttgart



Learn all about the differences between classic and modern cocktail recipes and the histories and flavors of five different cocktails at this tasting. For more tasting events, go to www.lepetitcoq.de.

Handmade, Design und Kreativmarkt Jan. 21 - 22, Erfurt



Make your way to this craft fair for everything you need to DIY, sew, scrapbook, recycle, glue, decorate and even bake.

Yamato—The Drummers of Japan Jan. 24 - 29, Hamburg



Enjoy the “world’s most successful taiko ensemble” where drummers put on a show that causes them to lose 2 to 3 kilograms per show. Over 35 drums dot the stage, with some that are over 400 years old. For more German dates, go to www.yamato-show.de.

Fisch & Angel and Jagd & Hund, Fishing and Hunting Fairs Jan. 24 - 29, Dortmund



Europe’s largest hunting fair and the angling sports’ exhibition are held under the same roof to the delight of all outdoor adventurers. Bring the dog and come enjoy merchants, forums and food.

CTM Festival Jan. 27 - Feb. 5, Berlin



Celebrate 23 years of electronic music and experimental music and art across various venues across Berlin. The 2023 theme of “portals” allows participants to “communicate” with different experiences, communities, histories and reflection.

Ukrainian Classical Ballet presents Swan Lake Jan. 28, München



Watch as the tragic love story of Odette and Prince Siegfried unfolds before your eyes in this classic story after Odette is cursed to live her days as a swan by the evil Von Rothbart. For more German dates and shows such as Nutcracker go to www.coloss-art.com.

Hot-Air Balloon Festival Jan. 29 - Feb. 5, Lake Tegernsee



Book a balloon ride for yourself, or for those who wish to have their feet firmly planted on the ground, watch the spectacular view of the hot-air balloons in the sky.

PLAN AHEAD

Editor’s Pick Call Out:

Have you attended previous Editor’s Picks events? We want to hear all about it! Please share something memorable about your experience in 50–70 words and you could be featured here. Send your submissions to contentteam@stripes.com.

PHOTO of the month

Along one of the feathered edges of Norway, Osterfjorden is one of the many fjords tucked into steep juts of mountains. Foggy topped mountains and ice crusted waterfronts are common in its coldest temperatures, and hiking trails wind upward while fishing vessels sail the waters below, catching cod and king crab. For both acclimated Norwegians and the unacquainted guest looking for serene viewpoints here, an escape from the norm is the goal.

Photo by Geoffrey Chung.

For a chance for your photo to be featured, email contentteam@stripes.com.



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Berchtesgaden

By Tamala Malerk



In the Bavarian Alps, along the Austrian border, sits the German area of Berchtesgaden. Enjoy quaint villages, Lake Königssee, hiking, skiing and so much more.

Begin your day with a family-friendly adventure at the Salt Mines, which were founded back in 1517. Put on your protective overalls and travel through time as the salt miners whisk you away to their world (constantly kept at 12 degrees Celsius) for an hour of sliding and learning. After your hour-long tour, get a bite to eat and get all your salt-related products at the restaurant and shop onsite. It is advised that you purchase your tickets in advance on their website. If you want to learn more about salt's history in the area, head over to the Old Salt Works in Bad Reichenhall. There, you can take a guided tour of the salt museum and the spring construction as well as visit the brand museum and Saline Chapel.

Once you've had your fill of all things sodium chloride, burn some calories with some outdoor adventures. Go skating or curling

at the indoor ice rink (or, weather permitting, on the lakes). Berchtesgaden has six ski areas that can be accessed by car or with the RVO busses so you can ski or snowboard your way down a mountain. For those looking for something to do besides skiing and snowboarding, you can bobsled and luge along the artificially frozen ice track at Lake Königssee. If you want to try your hand at snow hiking or snowshoeing, there is a trail network of over 200 kilometers!

If relaxation is on your agenda, make your way to the Watzmann Thermal Spa, which has activities for adults and children alike. Features include an 80-meter waterslide, underwater recliners, numerous saunas, an infrared cabin and a small bistro.

Live out your royal fantasies at Schloss Berchtesgaden. Explore thirty rooms where you can view historical hunting rifles in the armories, see the various Baroque and Rococo inspirations from over the centuries, and over three thousand exhibits and works of art as you are guided around the castle. Note, you must book a guided tour to see the castle. The tour ends in the rose garden, weather permitting. For hunting enthusiasts, for an extra five euros, you can view the Deer Museum located in the stables of the castle which contains the collection of Duke Albrecht of Bavaria (1905-1996) of the skulls of 1,290 bucks, does and fawns and 3,425 antlers.

Quench your thirst at Grassl's Genian Schnapps Distillery where

you can not only enjoy schnapps distilled in the area since the 1600s, but also around thirty different fruit and herbal spirits and liquors produced at the distillery. Take a guided tour and taste some delicious shots while admiring centuries-old machinery. You can also pick up much-needed wooden goods and souvenirs at the shop.

End your day in Old Town Berchtesgaden where you will find a royal palace, monastery, townhouses and plenty of cafes. You can also accompany the night watchman on a guided tour of the area. With so much to do in the area, fun is practically guaranteed for a day in Berchtesgaden. ■





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Coastal Croatia

By Erica Fowler

Half of this country is defined by what the Adriatic Sea gives it. Croatia has vast beaches and harbors to linger on, ancient cities to explore and a Mediterranean culinary spread to crack into. A fantastic sense of the history you never knew is a fixture of everyday life here. It is all present and thriving among bright blue waters. Celebratory Carnival kicks off the new year here and it is thrilling to find yourself as part of the crowd. Could this be your next favorite destination?



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Stroll along the Molo Longo



Trsat Castle



Carnival Season in Rijeka

Rijeka / HISTORIC PORT CITY ALONG CROATIA'S COAST

As the third largest city in Croatia, there is plenty to do and see in this historic port city. If you can't miss a party, visit Rijeka during its Carnival season from Jan. 17 to Feb. 22. Rooted in Slavic pagan tradition and layered with Christian celebratory traditions prior to Lent, this event is full of hope for the spring of the new year. It is full of costumed parades, food, and dancing! If you plan on visiting around Carnival, be sure to book advance accommodation, as hotels, hostels and rentals in the city fill up fast. This month-long event attracts more than 150,000 spectators and 10,000 masked participants, according to carnivaland.net. With all the festivities, it is a fantastic way to glide from the cold of winter and into spring.

Many great ancient cities leave their mark in the form of castles or cathedrals, but Trsat Castle leaves a unique architectural impression. Have you ever heard of the Illyrians? I had not before learning about this structure which has a beautiful overlook on Rijeka. While the history of this regional grouping of tribes is blurred by the succes-

sive empires of Greeks and Romans, they once dominated the Balkan and coastal Mediterranean region. One of their hill forts became the site of a Roman fortress that oversaw trade routes. Following the collapse of that empire, a Croatian noble family built the existing Trsat Castle on the same site. It's a good thing it has been partially restored, because with a complete dungeon and café, it is worth the trek up the hillside steps. It's not every day that a defensive castle gives off classical vibes with Doric columns. Nestled in the center of the castle is actually a mausoleum reminiscent of a Grecian temple, which was added in the 19th century in dedication to an Austrian military general.

Stroll along the Molo Longo, or the Long Pier, which will take you past lit-up harbor cranes, fishermen with their catch, and fellow walkers out seeking a blue water view. Several reminders of Rijeka's industrial past are dotted along the harbor, including the remnants of the first torpedo factory, first designed in the 1860s.

The terracotta tiled roofs give way to the sea, and waterfronts will likely be your best hangout after a long day of exploring.



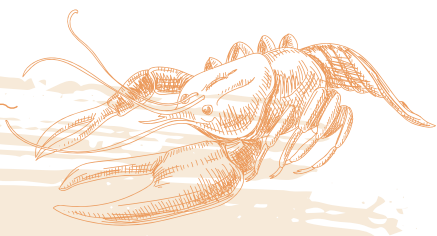
*The monument,
Greeting to the Sun*

Zadar / ONE OF THE OLDEST CITIES IN CROATIA

Zadar is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Croatia. Romans left behind their network of forum buildings in bustling Old Town, the Byzantines their church structures, and the Venetians, beautifully sculpted gates, which are riddled throughout the city.

The terracotta tiled roofs give way to the sea, and waterfronts will likely be your best hangout after a long day of exploring. Restaurants and bars will be thriving at any time of year, and in the warmer months, beaches are filled with sun and sand seekers. At sunset, light up your dancing feet at The Greeting to the Sun monument, which plays a lightshow powered by solar panels. Don't worry about not having music because the sea organ will play a tune for you powered by the waves and wind lapping up into pipes under the stone pavilion. It may not be a typical dancing beat, but it is something unique to experience.

Be sure to try seafood dishes, such as lobster in buzara sauce atop a tomato-filled rosy pasta, which incorporates the Mediterranean staples of olive oil, wine and garlic. Pašticada is a sweet-sour beef dish traditionally served up here, with hours of slow cooking put into its preparation, and often paired with gnocchi. When you find yourself at a market, grabbing a wheel of famous Pag Island sheep's cheese would not hurt.



Diocletian's Palace

Split / A PHOTOGRAPHER'S PARADISE

At its beginning, Split was founded as one of the many Greek colonies positioned around the sea in the 2nd century. This city's Old Town is home to Diocletian's Palace, a Roman emperor in the 4th century. It was not only his residence, but a military barracks as well, so it takes up a broad space. The Riva boardwalk runs along this extravagant palace, full of market stalls and local street food. Pull some Croatian Kuna out of an ATM and head out for a day of new sights, sounds and smells.

Photographer will want to shoot some panoramic views of this storied city, so head to Marjan, a recreational mountain area full of paved walking paths with stairs upward to the summit. Surrounded by beaches and dotted with cafés and snack bars, you will even find obvious piles of ruins out here where Diocletian and his descendants used it as a leisure space a walkable distance from the city center.

A 28-minute drive from Split's city center, the Fortress of Klis lies roped around the summit of a steep mountain. Uber is an active ride service in Croatia if you don't wish to drive there yourself. The location and vantage point of Klis was highly sought after amongst various invaders and owners who claimed it, including the Illyrians, Romans, Croats, the Knights Templar, Mongols, Ottomans and more. Because of this turnstile of various cultures taking over this strategic location, there is a mishmash of different architecture built into the stonework at various times, meant to beautify, intimidate invaders or pay homage to multiple gods. This fortress was even featured in the Game of Thrones, and it's no wonder it was chosen due to its dramatic appearance. ■



Fortress of Klis

10 THINGS

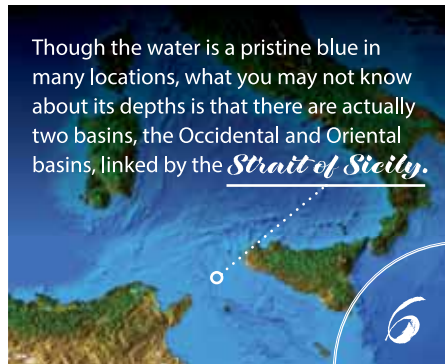
TO KNOW ABOUT THE

Mediterranean Sea

By Erica Fowler



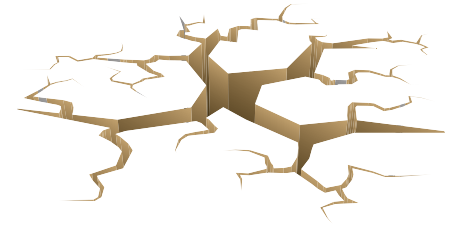
The climate is made possible partially by the existence of a West Coast of Europe and Africa, which sustains this agricultural hub with moisture from the Pacific during the colder rainy season. It makes sense that much of California has a similar climate.



Though the water is a pristine blue in many locations, what you may not know about its depths is that there are actually two basins, the Occidental and Oriental basins, linked by the *Strait of Sicily*.

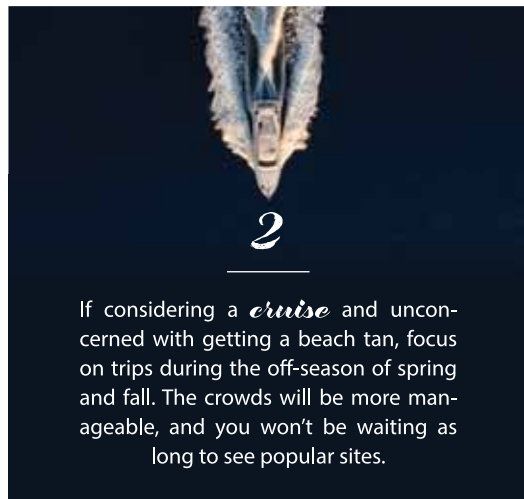
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The sea once nearly dried up, but about 5 million years ago, an estimated two-year flood refilled the basin and established access to the world's oceans via the Strait of Gibraltar.

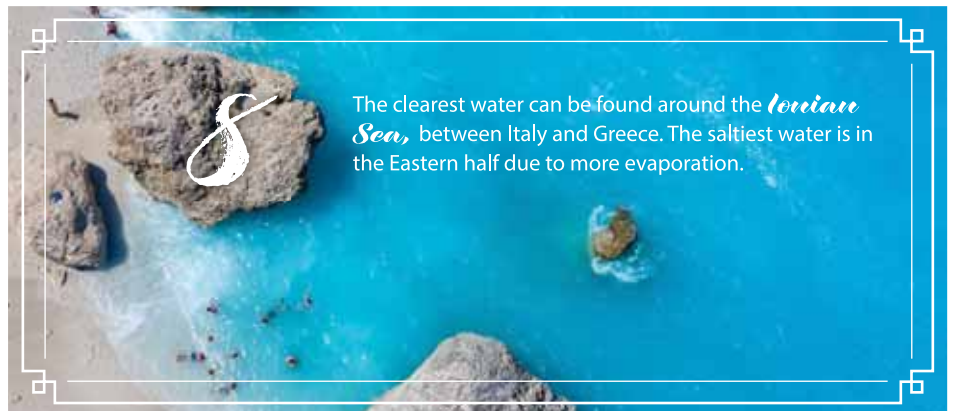


seven

The *Posidonia oceanica* meadows are considered the lung of the Mediterranean Sea, sustaining ocean life, food chains and preventing beach erosion by slowing down the tides.



If considering a *cruise* and unconcerned with getting a beach tan, focus on trips during the off-season of spring and fall. The crowds will be more manageable, and you won't be waiting as long to see popular sites.



The clearest water can be found around the *Ionian Sea*, between Italy and Greece. The saltiest water is in the Eastern half due to more evaporation.



If you have ancient sites on your mind, think about all of the new insights archeologists have when they discover the sunken cities around the Mediterranean, such as Egypt's Thonis-Heracleion or *Dolchiste* in Turkey.



One of the most active volcanic sites is in and around Italy, due to the African tectonic plate slipping under the European one. The sites of these once explosive forces are fascinating for *scuba trips* along the coast and for visiting previously ash-sealed town ruins. ■



The sea is surrounded by 22 countries, resulting in a constant fusion of different cultures over many centuries, the most appetizing of which is the food!

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