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By Tamala Malerk



As we inch closer to summer, we can spend more time outdoors and enjoy the sunshine. With Mother's Day and Military Spouse Appreciation Day this month, you've got plenty of excuses to spend some extra money for one of these picks. From tattoos to Tokio Hotel, tango, tasty treats and tons more, we've got something for everyone this month.

Stuttgarter Frühlingsfest April 22-May 14, Stuttgart



©TICHR/123RF.COM

Ride some rides, play games, shop the traders' market, eat delicious fair food, meet Wasenhasi (the official mascot) and watch fireworks at the last few weeks of this festival.

art KARLSRUHE May 4-7, Karlsruhe



©ALIZADASTUDIOS/123RF.COM

Enjoy art as far as the eye can see. Featuring classic styles, contemporary designs, photography, sculptures, graphics, paintings and more, all kinds of art lovers will appreciate something at this fair.

Tattoo Convention May 6, Erfurt



©NIKONLAMP/123RF.COM

Get new ink, shop clothing and accessories, take the kids to the children's magic land and admire the artistry of the talented ink masters surrounding you all weekend long.

Nighttime Flea Market May 13, Mainz



©CLEM ONOJEGHUO/UNSPLASH.COM

Get in some late-night shopping at this indoor market and find your next favorite outfit or house decoration.

Tokio Hotel—Beyond the World Tour May 17, Leipzig



©BJOERND/123RF.COM

Tokio Hotel introduced America to German pop-rock with their English-language album in 2007. Whether you "schrei" or "scream," this is the concert for you. More dates can be found at tokiohotel.com.

Hamburg Harley Days 2023 May 19-21, Hamburg



©SIEGFRIEDKOPP123RF.COM

Ride in a bike show, rock out to live music, watch the bike parade, participate in demo rides and take a guided tour at this large motorcycle-centric event.

Van Gogh Alive 2023 May 20-23, Düsseldorf



©WJAREK/123RF.COM

Tour this exhibit of over 3,000 images and illustrations "with" Van Gogh through Arles, Saint Rémy and Auvers-sur-Oise, where he created so many of his iconic pieces.

Blue Man Group May 24-28, Bremen



©BLUE MAN GROUP

BLUEEVOLUTION is the new show by these famous blue men. You will be introduced to the new character of "the Musician" in this show that blends art, drumming and percussion.

Tell Your Story!

Editor's Pick Call Out:

Did you attend a previous Editor's Picks event? We want to hear all about it! Please share something memorable about your experience in about 50-70 words and you could be featured here. Send your submissions to contentteam@stripes.com. ■

PHOTO of the month

Iconic Venice looks so unusual to those who have not grown up on the water, but imagine what it would be like to accomplish your errands via boat! This spectacular city built on a marshy archipelago is not without its issues, as it is very slowly sinking into the water, and beautiful historic architecture is sometimes at risk of flooding. The grand white dome of the Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute was built in 17th century after a major plague outbreak that killed a third of the city's population in 1630 and 1631. Each year, a festival of thanksgiving, the Festa della Madonna della Salute, is held to commemorate the end of the epidemic.

Photo by Terry Cramer.

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A DAY IN PREHISTORIC CAVES

By Kat Nickola

© Günther Bayerl

Imagine an Ice Age family returning to their toasty cave after a day of hunting woolly mammoths. During their long evening around a fire, one plays music on their flute while another carves a mammoth tusk.

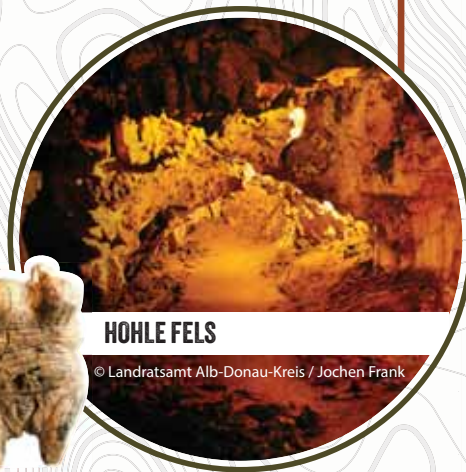
This scene may have really played out in one of the caves southeast of Stuttgart and you can feel like a time traveler visiting them. Two valleys contain six caves designated as the "Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura" UNESCO heritage site, where numerous prehistoric items have been found. The caves also lie within the UNESCO geopark Schwäbische Alb, an area distinguished by scenic limestone cliffs that are full of caves, fossils and Ice Age artifacts.

ACH VALLEY

Three caves lie along the scenic Ach Valley (Achtal) between the villages of Schelklingen and Blaubeuren. They can be visited on a pleasant 8.5km hike or bike on the paved Ice Age trail. Alternatively, you can drive and park at each cave.

HOHLE FELS is the first cave in the valley and contained the oldest carving of a human in the world: the 'Venus' figure. A bone flute, beads, and stone tools are among the other thousands of artifacts found. It is open from May to October and costs €1-€4.50 to enter.

SIRGENSTEINHÖHLE is on the opposite side of the valley and reachable across the street from the Ice Age trail. This cave was occupied by both Neanderthals and subsequent humans and is a rare example of prolonged continuous use. It is open to freely explore from May to September.



HOHLE FELS

© Landratsamt Alb-Donau-Kreis / Jochen Frank

© Urgeschichtliches Museum Blaubeuren



GEISSENKLÖSTERLE

© Landratsämter Alb-Donau und Heidenheim burkert gestaltung

GEISSENKLÖSTERLE is further down the valley. It yielded the oldest known instruments in the world: a collection of three flutes. The large fence across the entrance is usually locked, but it is interesting to see the grids used by current researchers. The cave is 60 meters above the valley on a rocky trail.

BONUS: The Urgeschichtliche Museum (URMU) is located in Blaubeuren and displays many of the prehistoric finds from the area including the Venus and a bone flute.

LONE VALLEY

The Lone valley (Lonetal) also has three cave areas. Only two of them are currently accessible on a 5km roundtrip hike via a multi-use trail: the Lonetal Wanderweg. Along the way are wooden play structures depicting animals found in local cave art.

// Two valleys southeast of Stuttgart contain six caves where numerous prehistoric items have been found. //



BOCKSTEINHÖHLE

© Landesamt für Denkmalpflege (LAD) im Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart

BOCKSTEINHÖHLE is a small complex of caves where ice age people lived and hunted. It is one of the oldest Neanderthal sites in Germany. Hike to the caves via a 1 km spur trail with information boards. It is free to explore anytime. Park nearby along Öllingerstrasse.

HOHLENSTEIN is in the middle of the Lone valley, and an easy 2 km hike from the parking area. This cliff face contains two caves. Stadel Cave yielded numerous tools and carvings including the 'Lion Man' statue housed at the British Museum. Bear Cave contained thousands of Ice Age cave bear bones. Both are partially open to freely explore.

VOGELHERD CAVE lies within the Archaeopark Vogelherd which was closed at the time of writing due to funding issues.

BONUS: Charlottenhöhle. While not a UNESCO heritage site, this tourist cave is worth a visit. An entry fee gets you a cave tour in German (with an English pamphlet), entry to the geology museum and access to the sizeable playground and beer garden.

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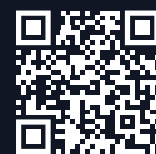


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The Italian metropolis of Milan packs so much punch into one city it's hard to know where to begin when planning a trip. There's just so much to see and do! Not only is Milan one of four fashion capitals of the world, but it is also home to 113 Michelin-starred restaurants. You're sure to enjoy some seriously good food here and the shopping will be nothing short of incredible. Add in the outstanding architecture, and Milan just might steal your heart. Even if you only have minimal time here, be sure to make it memorable!



A FEW MOMENTS IN
MILAN

By Jessica Zen

Duomo di Milano

Visiting the cathedral as a tourist requires a ticket starting at seven euros. The stairs or elevator to the roof is 20 euros. It is best to book ahead as they sell out quickly, especially in summer. See www.duomomilano.it/en for more information.

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Architecture

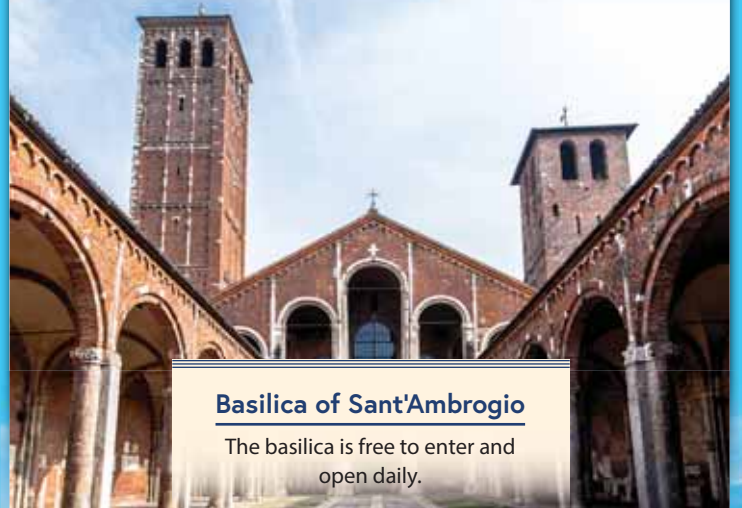
No trip to Milan is complete without visiting the cathedral. The Duomo di Milano is located in the heart of Milan, and construction started on this masterpiece in 1386. Surprisingly, it took until 1965 to complete! With its Italian Gothic style, the front of the cathedral is an elaborate work of art. It's almost impossible to take in all of the details, considering there are 3,400 statues, 135 gargoyles and 700 figures. Imagine being in charge of designing one of the biggest Catholic cathedrals in the world! Be sure to make the trek up to the top via the steps or an elevator for sweeping views of the city from this architectural giant.

As with almost any European city worth its salt, you must visit the resident castle. In Milan, that castle originated in the 15th century and is known as Castello Sforzesco. One of the most defining features of the castle is the massive brick fortification with towers that surround it. The design of the walls includes built-in perforations used for scaffolding to maintain the walls. You can also see where the moat would have been. The central and most dominating tower, Torre del Filarete, has undergone many renovations and is a modern reconstruction. If you venture inside, you'll be delighted to find seven museums that chronicle the city's culture and civic history. Don't miss out on seeing artwork by Michelangelo at the Museo della Pietà Rondanini and Leonardo da Vinci's work at Sala Delle Asse.

If you're looking for green space perfect for picnicking in this metropolis, the Parco Sempione is adjacent to the castle. Designed in the 1800s after the form of romantic English parks, it features tons of forested paths with monuments big and small, a lake, an arena and a museum.

Another incredible structure in the area is the Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio. This church is one of the oldest in Milan. It was built by St. Ambrose from 379 – 386 A.D. Over the years it has undergone several reconstructions and renovations. The current facade style is Romanesque and was completed in the 12th century. The structure is somewhat unusual and features two red-brick bell towers that are not the same height and were built 300 years apart. When you visit, you'll learn about monastic life and how the towers came to be built this way. This basilica is of particular importance because St. Ambrose is the patron saint of Milan. His body is on display inside the basilica's crypt.

Within certain walls, you'll find world-renowned artwork gracing the interior, such as Da Vinci's *The Last Supper* mural at the Santa Maria delle Grazie. It is a massive piece—almost nine meters wide and was painted from 1494 to 1498 with the goal of turning the old convent into a mausoleum for the Duke of Milan's family. A shift in plans came however, when a smaller mortuary chapel was built instead for the noble family.



Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio

The basilica is free to enter and open daily.



Castle Sforzesco

The castle is free to enter, but access to all the museums costs five euros for an adult ticket. It is closed on Mondays.



Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II

Fashion

Since Milan is one of Italy's most fashionable cities, don't pass up an opportunity to at least window-shop in the area. You'll see some incredible fashion pieces, especially at the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. Built in 1877, it is one of the world's oldest shopping malls and takes opulence to the next level. The mall is in the shape of a cross and features a glass ceiling. Inside you'll find only high-end designers.

For even more shopping fun, head to the "Quadrilatero d'Oro," or Golden Rectangle, which includes Via della Spiga, Via Sant'Andrea and Via Montenapoleone. Admire luxury Italian brands like Prada, Versace, Armani and Dolce & Gabbana as you wander up and down the streets. You'll also find foreign luxury brands like Louis Vuitton, Chanel and so much more! Splurge on a statement piece or enjoy looking for free.



Parmigiana di Melanzane

Food

After admiring all the beautiful architecture and doing a little shopping, you should probably consider some refreshments. From Michelin-Star restaurants to local trattorias, Milan has something for everyone's tastes. Since there are so many Michelin-Star restaurants here, you might as well indulge. Enrico Bartolini al Mudec is the perfect place to experience haute cuisine. This three-star restaurant boasts a refined atmosphere, new flavors and food that is "perfectly encapsulating the Italian lifestyle."

If you want to enjoy an aperitivo, head to Fonderie Milanese. Relax outside as you enjoy your specialty cocktail and some light Milanese food. There are plenty of drink options as well as vegetarian options for the food. For a full sit-down meal, make reservations at Dongiò. Here you'll find Calabrian dishes like spaghetti alla tamarro, which is pasta, tomato sauce and nduja sausage. If you'd prefer to stay away from meat, try the parmigiana di melanzane, which is similar to the eggplant parmesan dish in America.

If you're only able to steal a few moments of bliss in Milan, be sure to use them to the fullest! Admire the incredible architecture, visit one of the largest cathedrals in the world and eat some of the most incredible food. Milan is full of incredible opportunities and just waiting for you to stop by. ■

10 THINGS

TO KNOW ABOUT

ROAD TRIPPING with Kids

By Tamala Malerk

School is letting out soon and if you are planning a summertime road trip with kids, we've got 10 tips that may make the ride smoother.

1

Start small: If all your kids are used to is a neighborhood trip to the store, try branching out on two- to three-hour trips and then maybe an overnight trip before venturing out on a long-distance trip.

2



Assign them tasks: Before you go, give each kid an age-appropriate checklist to get them more involved with the whole experience. Put one in charge of making sure everyone has socks and underwear. Put another in charge of ensuring electronic chargers are ready to go. (Also, double-check everyone's checklist before final takeoff).

No. 3

Snacks: Pack finger-friendly snacks that are a mix of healthy items and treats. Have the kids help you pick out their snacks so they feel more in control. Make a "road trip" trail mix with the kids that is a blend of healthy and sweet that will make even the pickiest eaters smile.

IV

Travel at night: If you have really young children, traveling after bedtime can help kids sleep along the way. Eat a nice hearty dinner and pack their favorite movie to watch before they fall asleep.



5



Change up the entertainment: Movies and shows can get old quickly for short attention spans. Bring along travel-friendly games and activities such as crossword puzzles, word searches or mess-free coloring books with markers that don't leave art where you don't want it. Have the kids pick out books from the library before you go.

6

Road trip bingo: Find or create road trip Bingo cards of things and places everyone might see on the drive (a dog in another vehicle, a McDonalds, etc.). Also, teach kids the license plate game (the international version is fun over here in Europe).



Hope for the best, prepare for the worst:

Pack plenty of sanitation wipes, rubber gloves, hand sanitizer, sickness bags and towels. Motion sickness is a thing, drinks spill, and accidents happen. Older kids (and adults unfamiliar with where the nearest rest stop is) might appreciate a portable potty kit like the one from GoGirl or even a small portable toilet.

Eight

Plan your stops: Is the world's largest twine ball five minutes off your route? Why not stop, stretch your legs, eat a sandwich and take a pic for the 'Gram (or Grandma)? Educate kids about the you'll be stopping at along the way to ramp up the excitement.



9

Vary up the accommodations:

Stay at a cabin in a campground one night and a hotel with a pool the next. Make the overnight just as exciting (if not more) than daytime travel stops.



Create a reward system: Did the kids go three hours without fighting? Did they behave at the rest stop without whining, tantrum-throwing or asking for something? Reward them with a pre-planned toy, a small activity of their choice or maybe a candy or popcorn snack to go with their next movie. ■

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