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JANUARY 2023

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# January Events

By Tamala Malerk

# EDITOR'S PICKS

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.



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.



SIXDAYS Bremen

**Jan. 12 - 17, Bremen**

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



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.



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](http://www.lepetitcoq.de).



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](http://www.coloss-art.com).



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**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.



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.



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](http://www.yamato-show.de).

## 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](mailto:contentteam@stripes.com).



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# 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 crisped 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.

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# Speyer

By Tamala Malerk

**About 45 minutes from the KMC area is the historically notable city of Speyer. Speyer began as a Roman military and trading town around 100 BCE. It was destroyed and rebuilt in the medieval era. These days, Speyer is home to plenty of retail, food, historical and tourist destinations that are sure to delight people of all ages.**

**F**or those who love science and technology, the Technik Museum Speyer should be your first stop. Here you can walk around the largest space exhibition in Europe, look at vintage cars and every era's iteration of the fire engine, or any type of vehicle for that matter. You can see an original moonstone, cozy up in their IMAX theatre showings on a drizzly day and attend one of their many exhibitions, lectures or themed days that cater to STEM and science fiction alike. There is a restaurant onsite if you get hungry after seeing so much. If you want more on the fascinating preserved history of transportation, you can drive thirty minutes down the road to their joint Technik Museum in Sinsheim where you can see hundreds of vintage cars, Formula One vehicles,

locomotives and a huge military history exhibition.

For those looking to get some shopping in, the Postgalerie contains over a dozen shops and a hotel so you can drop off your shopping bags in the rooms. You will want your arms free to go and explore the viewing and shopping opportunities of Maximilianstrasse (only a 400 short meters away).

Maximilianstrasse is filled with recently renovated, beautiful Baroque architecture that is flagged by the imperial cathedral and the Altpörtel city gate tower. It is also one of the most frequented shopping areas of Speyer and contains several big chain stores as well as one of the oldest pharmacies in Germany.

For more indoor family fun, Sea Life Speyer has all you need for the

marine creature-loving members of your home. Sea Life has eleven different stations where you can learn about coral, the Amazon and lake living, as well as containing a touch basin, tropical tunnel and a shipwreck area. (At the time of writing, you can only be guaranteed entrance by purchasing your tickets online in advance).

For the history buffs in your bunch, the Medieval Jewish Courts and the Historical Museum of the Palatinate Speyer will be where you want to go. During the medieval era, "one of the most important Jewish communities" north of the Alps, lived in Speyer. Today, you can visit the Courts, which are the remains of a synagogue and bath, that tell the stories of 1,000 years of Jewish history in Speyer.

The Historical Museum of the Palatinate Speyer contains several exhibits, such as the Wine Museum where visitors can learn about 2,000 years of wine culture and Luther, the exhibit about the Evangelical church of the Palatinate over the past 500 years. There is also a constantly shifting list of special exhibitions so patrons can see something new every time they visit. Until April 2023, visitors can enjoy exhibits about the Hapsburg empire in the Middle Ages and book lovers old and young will appreciate the return of the Gruffalo until June 2023.

No matter if you love technology, history, architecture or shopping, Speyer has something for you. ■



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# Coastal Croatia

By Erica Fowler

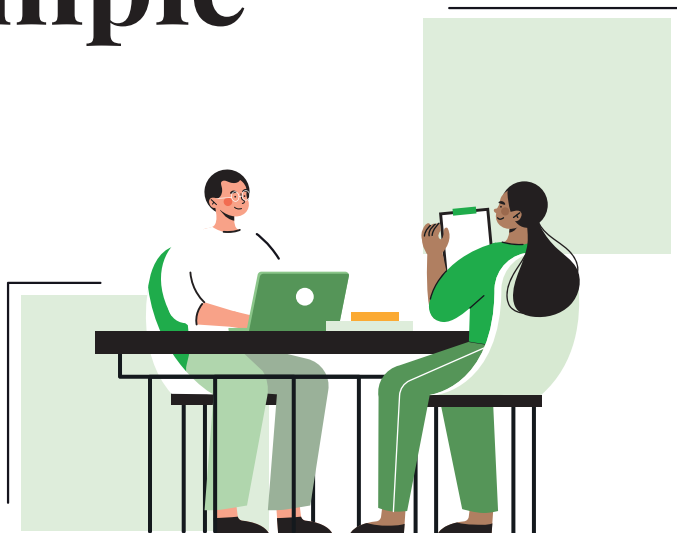
Half of this country is defined by what the Adriatic Sea gives it. Croatia has vast beaches and harbors to linger on, ancient cities to explore and a Mediterranean culinary spread to crack into. A fantastic sense of the history you never knew is a fixture of everyday life here. It is all present and 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?



*The city of Rijeka*



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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](http://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.*



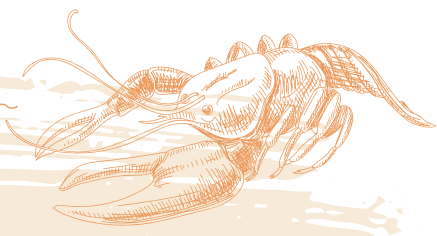
*The monument,  
Greeting to the Sun*

## *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

*No. 1*

The name "Mediterranean" is Latin for "center of the Earth."

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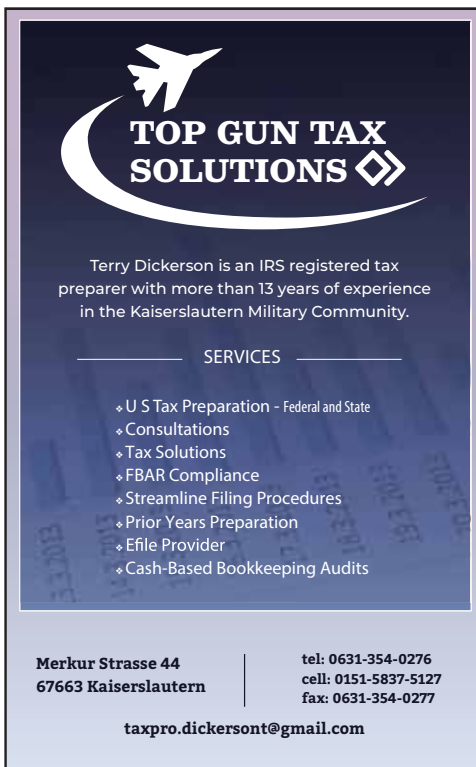
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# 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE *Mediterranean Sea*

2

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 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!

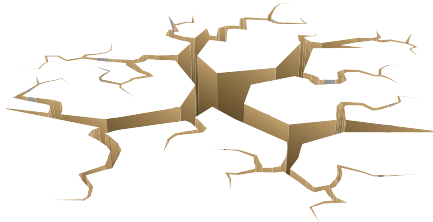
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The climate is made possible partially by the existence of a West Coast of Europe and Africa, which sustains this agricultural hub with moisture from the Pacific during the colder rainy season. It makes sense that much of California has a similar climate.



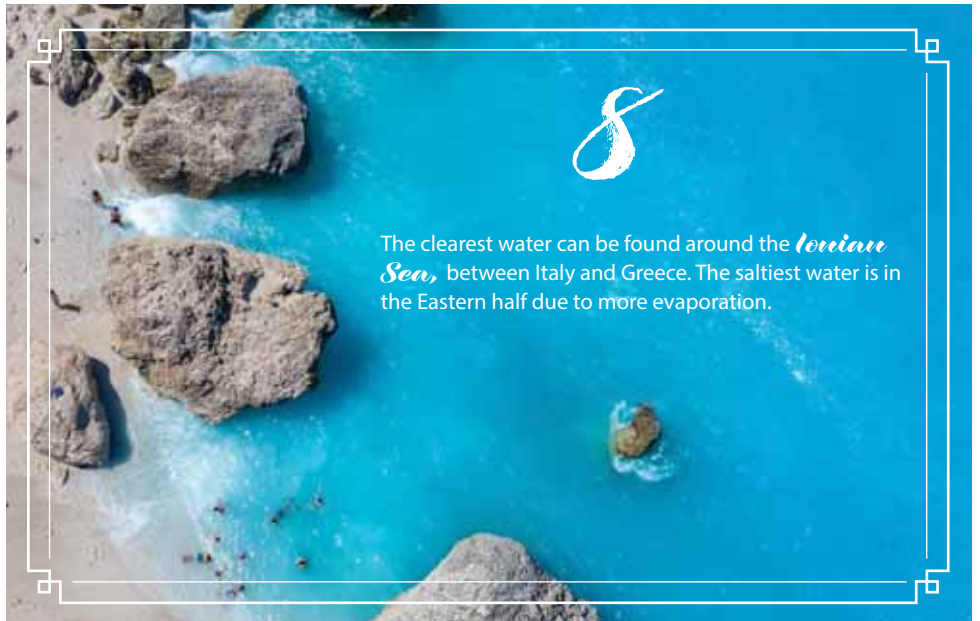
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The sea once nearly dried up, but about 5 million years ago, an estimated two-year flood refilled the basin and established access to the world's oceans via the Strait of Gibraltar.

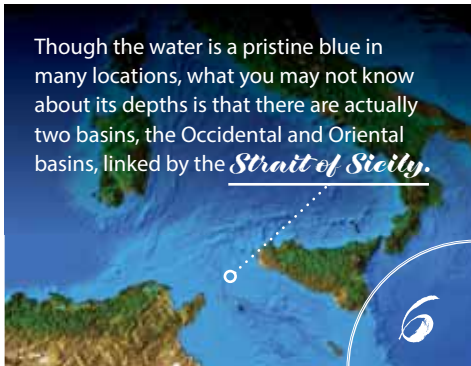


8

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.



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*.



9

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.



10



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. ■

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.



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# THE MEANING OF *Chalk Markings on Doors*

By Erica Fowler



A mysterious code is often found etched in white chalk over the tops of doors, and it makes people new to Europe curious to know the symbolism behind this phenomenon.

This is a symbolic blessing given by a priest to protect the home for the new year ahead and is either written in chalk or applied as a sticker, sometimes stacked one beside the other for several years. It can go hand-in-hand with a spiritual cleansing of the home, which can include burning Frankincense. In some regions with a larger Catholic population, including the Southern and Western German states of Saarland, Bavaria, Rhineland, and Westphalia, the "Sternsinger" or "star singers" will lead a procession through town. The participants are children adorably dressed up as the three wise men, collecting coins for local charities, singing hymns and often helping with the door chalking.

The figures are arranged in a certain order, so we can break down their meaning.

Imagine splitting the new year into two halves, "20" and "23" respectively, and in between placing little symbols. The asterisk that follows the 20 represents the Star of Bethlehem, and then "C+M+B". This stands for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" or "May Christ bless this house." People have also derived a dual meaning from the letters, saying it stands for the names of the three wise men in the Bible, whose names are Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The three plus symbols represent three crosses, which are typically found in Christianity as a symbol for the crucifixion.

This ceremony is not exclusive to Catholics, however, but to other Christian faiths, such as Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Presbyterians. Chalked doors are less common in the United States but can be found mostly in midwestern states. There are several variations to this blessing, but one is writing "IIIIK" at the top of a door, standing for the Three Kings. As another alternative, the Polish may write "K+M+B 2023" on their doors, using their adaptation of the name "Kaspar."

A family might also ask a priest to bless chalk and apply this blessing during Epiphany on January 6, a holiday that marks the end of the Christmas season. It goes by many names, such as Three Kings Day or the Twelfth Night of Christmas. Whatever it is called where you live, it is nice to have an explanation of those markings, plus an understanding as to why you might be treated to children's singing in your village! ■

*The participants are children adorably dressed up as the three wise men, collecting coins for local charities, singing hymns and often helping with the door chalking.*



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