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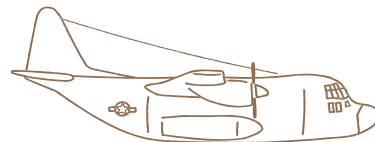
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August Events

EDITOR'S

PICKS

By Tamala Malerk

It is the last full month of the summer season and Germany is filled with events to help you celebrate that fact. Whether you want to soak up the fun in the sun or cool down inside, there is something for everyone. As always, make sure you are up-to-date on the local area's regulations before traveling.

Open Air Filmfest August 11 to 15, Weiterstadt



This film festival began in 1977 with only three spectators and has grown to a five-day event where audiences can marvel at films that have been submitted from dozens of countries around the world.

Culinary World Tour: American BBQ August 19, Cologne



If you are craving some of the great BBQ foods from America, this is the event for you. Sail down the Rhine for this four-hour event, and savor the flavors of "genuine American specialties" such as steaks, burgers, spareribs, chicken, grilled corn on the cob and baked beans. For the full "American" experience, the DJ will play "made in America" country western, rock and pop music.

Potsdam Palace Night August 19 & 20, Potsdam



© SPSG/HANS BACH

Enjoy music, dancing, theater performances and spectacular lights as you relive the "bygone pomp and glory" of former Prussian kings in the parks and palaces of Sanssouci. The night ends with a fireworks show at midnight on both Saturday and Sunday.

Heimat und Weinfest / Homeland and Wine Festival August 25 to 29, Cochem



Take in the beauty of the Moselle Promenade as you sip Rieslings and sparkling wines. There will be two stages of music for your listening pleasure and a grand parade taking place through the alleys and streets of Cochem on Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Beethovenfest / Beethoven Festival August 25 to September 17, Bonn



Since 1845, Bonn has celebrated one of its most famous sons, Ludwig van Beethoven, through this world-renowned music festival. Revel in over 60 concerts taking place at 25 venues celebrating both classical and contemporary music.

Nürnberger Volkfest / Nuremberg Fall Folk Festival August 26 to September 11, Nuremberg



Come enjoy one of the 10 largest folk festivals in all of Germany that has been around since 1826. There will be attractions, shops, sweet and savory foods, games and raffles at this family-friendly event.

Lange Nacht Der Museen / Long Night of Museums August 27, Berlin



©IBIFEN84/123RF.COM

Sip a cocktail under a dinosaur, gaze in amazement at acrobatics and watch "courtly dances" in a castle. Between 70 and 80 museums across Berlin participate in this event, with some offering events for children and English-language tours.

Saar Riesling Summer August 27 to 28, Trier



Eighteen top wineries from the Saar region present their best wines in beautiful locations across this weekend. Each station also features guest winemakers from other parts of Germany and abroad. Everyone from novice to sommelier is welcome.

PLAN AHEAD

Ed Sheeran – Live in Concert September 10 to 12, Munich

If you love pop music and live events, there are three chances for "Thinking Out Loud" and seeing this popular crooner play some of his greatest hits and newer music. ■

PHOTO of the month

This photo was taken in the Spanish city of Ronda, located in the Malaga province of southern Spain. The Puente Nuevo bridge crosses the dramatic El Tajo gorge, separating the new town and the old town, which dates back to Moorish rule. The city of Ronda is also known as the birthplace of bullfighting.

Photo by Laura Welsh.

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AUGUST TRAVEL

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- 6 • Rhine River Cruise • \$69
- 6 • Scuba 101 • \$129/\$119
- 7 • Canoe The Mosel • \$65

Week 2

- 13 • Swiss Chocolate Train • \$169/ \$189
- 13 • Trout Fishing • \$69/ \$49/ \$29
- 14 • UTV Tour • \$125/\$175
- 15 • Fishing in France • \$65

Week 3

- 20 • Copenhagen Express • \$199
- 20 • Europa Park • \$89/ \$79/ \$39
- 20 • Paintball Play Day • CALL
- 21 • Stuttgart Zoo • \$69/ \$49
- 21 • Trout Fishing • \$69/ \$49/ \$29
- 21 • UTV Tour • \$125/\$175

Week 4

- 27 • Black Forest Tour • \$69/ \$49
- 27 • Mosel River Tour • \$69
- 28 • River Tubing • \$65



a day at



By Anna Leigh Bagiackas

THE GEIERLAY SUSPENSION B r i d g e

Depending on your affinity for heights, this destination might send your heart racing or may simply suggest a pleasant summer outing. Less than two hours from Kaiserslautern and just over an hour from the Wiesbaden area, you can make an afternoon, day trip or full weekend adventure to visit one of Germany's more unique hiking experiences: the Geierlay Suspension Bridge. Experience the thrill—or a little terror—of suspending high above the treetops while exploring this mountainous region of Rheinland-Pfalz.





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mountainous region of
Rheinland-Pfalz*



Inspired and modeled after Nepalese suspension bridges, the Geierlay is located within the Hunsrück mountain range of the Rheinland-Pfalz. The bridge ends connect the cities of Mörsdorf and Sosberg and has been a popular destination for hikers since it opened in 2015. It is 360 meters long and 100 meters high, and it can hold 50 tons of weight, which is about 600 people weighing approximately 175 pounds. While hiking through this area is enough reason for a trip, the bridge provides a unique vantage point that you can't experience elsewhere.

The bridge is only accessible by foot or bike (but bikes need to be walked across the bridge, not ridden), although there are a couple different options for getting there: a longer hike or a shorter footpath. These paths are also perfect options

for individuals who may choose not to venture across the bridge, preferring to remain on more solid ground. The longer route, Geierlayschleife, begins and ends at the Mörsdorf Visitor Center, covering about 6.4 kilometers and taking about 2 hours and 30 minutes.

This is one of many hikes in the region that crosses over the Geierlay, and many routes begin and end at the visitor center, making it easy to choose your preferred distance and hit the trail. The region is also home to three "Traumschleifen" or dream loops—day or half day hiking tours. In addition to hiking, the Mörsdorf Visitor Center makes e-bikes available to rent and explore the region more extensively.

FUN FACT:

According to calculations, the Geierlay bridge can withstand winds up to 200 kilometers per hour or 125 miles per hour—but let's leave that calculation with the mathematicians and not test that theory ourselves!

After checking out the suspension bridge, you can spend some time in the town of Mörsdorf. Grab a bite to eat at one of the local restaurants or try out the interactive village tour, which presents short films via QR code to learn about different parts of the area. After a few hours here, you'll be ready to be a tour guide yourself.

THINGS TO KNOW

Parking information can be found at the bridge's website, as it is easy to mistake residential parking areas for public lots. The bridge is accessible to wheelchairs and strollers, as long as they are narrow enough to let other pedestrians pass. Be sure to review the website's updated guidelines, opening times and instructions for which direction to hike the bridge, as things continue to evolve. At the time of writing, access to the bridge is only available via the Mörsdorf entrance. ■



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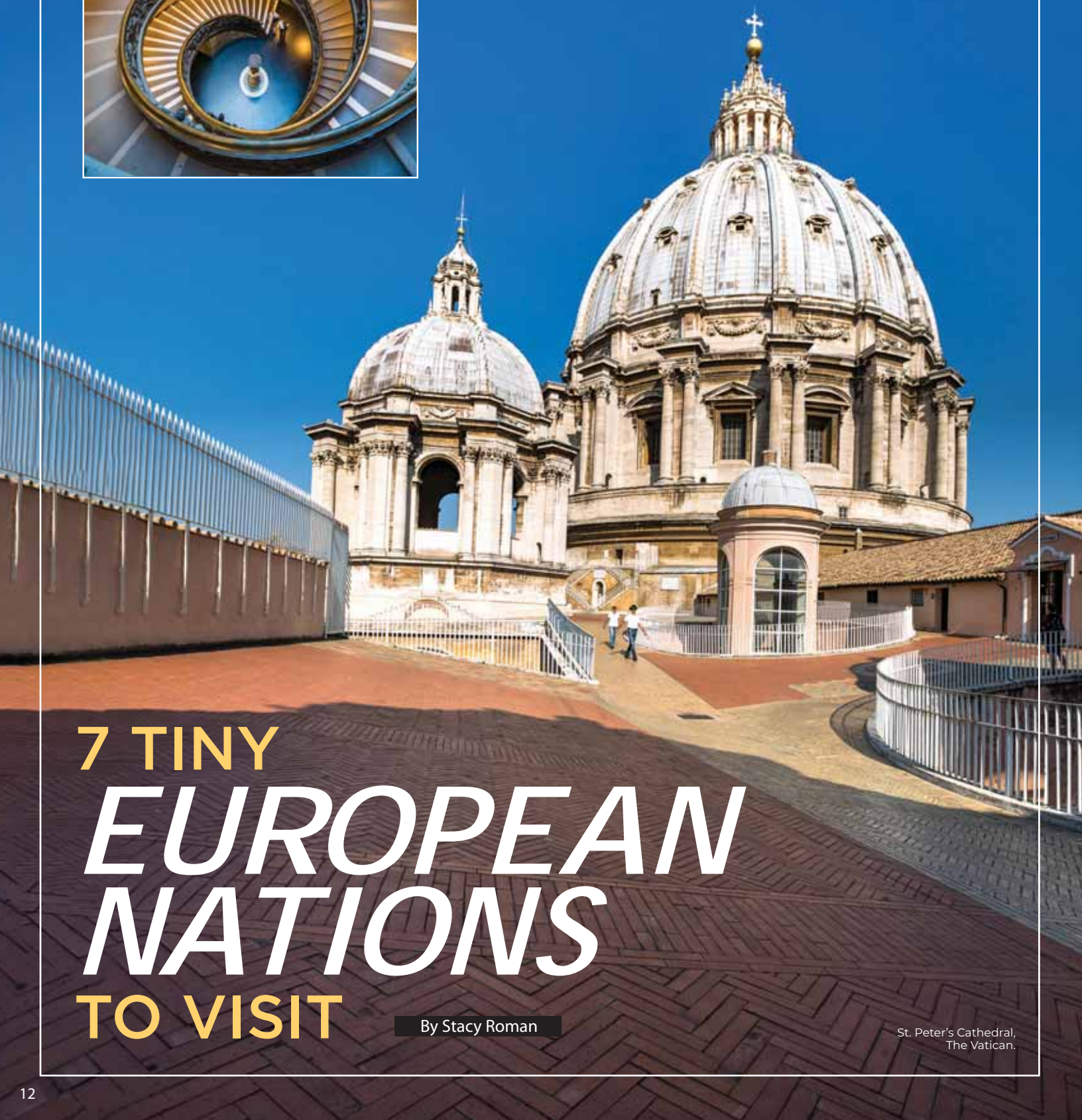
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During rather brief geography lessons as young students, we learned where the “big” European countries were—England, France, Italy, Germany, Spain and maybe a handful of others. However, hiding among the bigger nations are smaller, almost minute locales filled with spectacular scenery, glamour and fascinating stories just waiting to be discovered. Here are seven tiny countries worth putting on your bucket list.



7 TINY *EUROPEAN* NATIONS TO VISIT

By Stacy Roman

St. Peter's Cathedral,
The Vatican.

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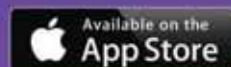
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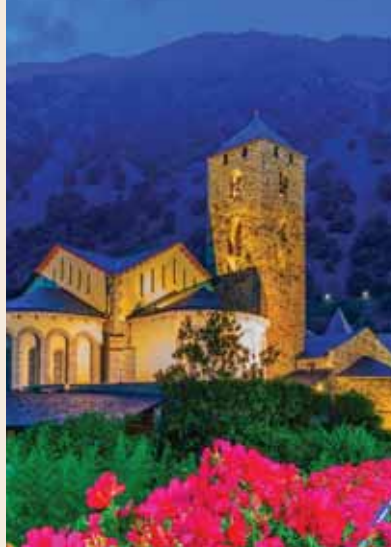
TOP RIGHT:
St. Stephen
Cathedral,
Andorra.

TOP LEFT:
Aerial view
of hillside in
Liechtenstein.

RIGHT:
Moselle River in
Luxembourg.



*Hiding among the
bigger European
nations are smaller,
almost minute
locales filled with
spectacular scenery,
glamour and
fascinating stories
just waiting to be
discovered.*



ANDORRA

Perched in the valleys of the Pyrenees between France and Spain is the alpine nation of Andorra. This small but mighty country is home to the highest capital city in Europe, Andorra la Vella. Ruled jointly by France and Spain for more than 700 years, the official language is Catalan (and also French and Spanish). The jagged peaks lend themselves to excellent winter sports with more than 180 miles of ski slopes. Dense forests are home to fantastic hiking trails in the summer. Only accessible by land, walk across the serene landscape via the Gran Recorrido País trail, or slide your way through three miles of the La Rabassa forest on an alpine coaster.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Doubly landlocked (meaning it's landlocked and its neighbors are as well) between Austria and Switzerland, Liechtenstein is the fourth smallest country in Europe—measuring 160 square kilometers and having 40,000 inhabitants. With awe-inspiring mountains, it's no wonder Liechtensteiners excel in skiing. Earning 10 Winter Olympic medals, the country has never medaled in the summer games. They share a strong customs union and alliance with Switzerland; however, because of the unmarked border, Swiss troops accidentally invaded the country in 2007. The Liechtenstein government had no idea until it received an apology for the incident. At one point, rapper Snoop Dogg tried to rent the entire country for a music video, whose request was politely declined by the government.

LUXEMBOURG

Coming in at a whopping 999 square miles, Luxembourg is the largest country on this list. The only Grand Duchy in the world, this regal nation is landlocked by France, Germany and Belgium. Home to many European Union (EU) functions, the capital of Luxembourg City sits atop stunning cliffs cut from the Alzette and Pétrusse rivers. 17 kilometers of underground tunnels stretch beneath the city.



Originally built in 1644, the tunnels were used as air raid shelters during World War I and World War II. Venture to the Mullerthal region, also known as Little Switzerland, where visitors can hike through lush forests, view tumbling waterfalls and explore castle ruins.

MALTA

Once an important trading post dating back to the Phoenicians, Malta is a mere 316 square miles. Just south of Sicily in the Mediterranean, this impressive nation was unfortunately occupied throughout much of its storied history. The former British colony gained independence in 1964, after rebuilding much of its infrastructure that was destroyed by the Germans and Italians during WWII. The country is actually an archipelago comprised of seven islands—Malta, Gozo, Comino and four uninhabited islands. Sunken WWII ships dotting the pristine coastline provide great for adventures for divers. Dating back to 3600 BC, Malta boasts Megalithic Temples, which are some of the oldest man-made structures in the world.

MONACO

Full of glitz, glamour and plenty of vacationing celebrities, the second-smallest country in the world is situated along the crystalline waters of the Mediterranean. Bordered by France, Monaco is ruled by Prince Albert II, whose mother was Hollywood starlet Grace Kelly. The elegant Place du Casino beckons high-stakes gamblers from around the globe. Adrenaline and racecar enthusiasts revel in the pageantry and excitement of the Monaco Grand Prix each May.



SAN MARINO

Completely landlocked by Italy and founded on the craggy slopes of Monte Titano is the world's oldest surviving republic. Founded in 310 AD, San Marino is the fifth smallest in the world. During WWII, San Marino stayed neutral despite being surrounded by Italy. Although occupied and invaded several times over, three medieval towers perched on cliffs watch over the nation. Interestingly enough, President Abraham Lincoln was an honorary citizen.

VATICAN CITY

Last, but certainly not least, is Vatican City. The smallest country in the world in population and size is also one the most visited places in the world. Just a mere .44 square kilometers, the Vatican's population consists of Roman Catholic clergy from around the world. Home to St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel, the entire country is the only one in the world to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Beneath the foundation of the basilica is a complex of catacombs, including what is believed to be the tomb of St. Peter. ■



CLOCKWISE:
Blue Lagoon,
Malta; Cliffside
view, Monaco;
Crenellated tower,
San Marino; St.
Peter's Square,
Vatican City.



10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *Grindelwald*

By Mary Del Rosario

The picture-perfect, quintessential Swiss village of Grindelwald has captured the hearts of everyone who has set foot in this beauty. With nature greeting you at every corner and awe-inspiring views for days, Grindelwald makes the perfect outdoor destination. Here are a few things to know in order to make the most out of your trip.

1

Grindelwald-First is the mountaintop that dominates Grindelwald. It is one of the most popular mountains in the Jungfrau region, which is located in the Bernese Alps.

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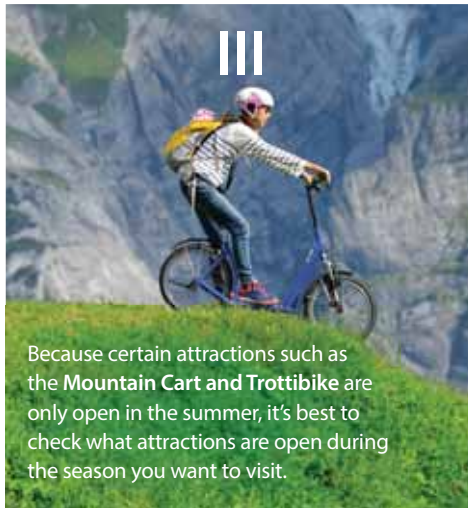

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *Grindelwald*

No. 2



Bring your best hiking boots, as the hike from the village itself to First is 11.1 kilometers, round trip.

III



Because certain attractions such as the Mountain Cart and Trottibike are only open in the summer, it's best to check what attractions are open during the season you want to visit.

[4]

Catching spectacular views from Grindelwald-First can be done via cable car. The ride up First will take 25 minutes and you have two options for your gondola ride — Bort or Schreckfeld.



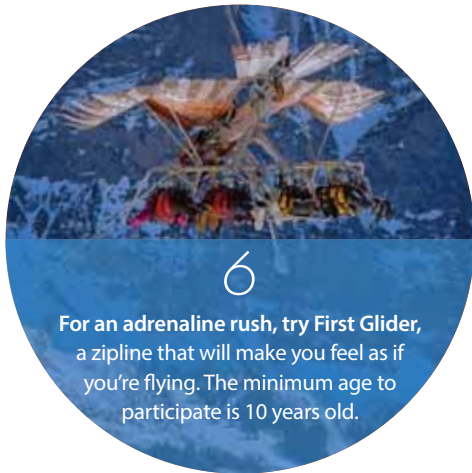
5

The Eiger Trail is also a popular hiking area and if you finish the 6-kilometer route, you will be greeted by the north face of the mountain.



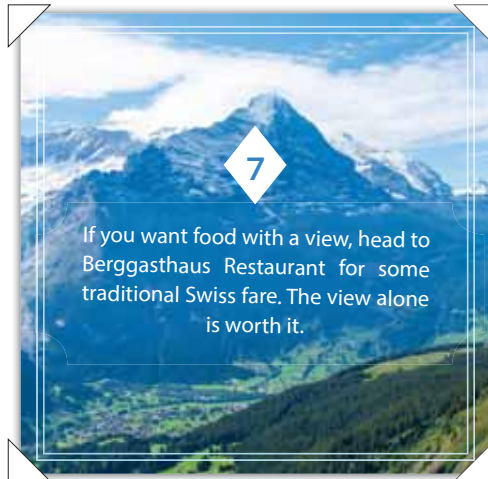
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For an adrenaline rush, try First Glider, a zipline that will make you feel as if you're flying. The minimum age to participate is 10 years old.



7

If you want food with a view, head to Berggasthaus Restaurant for some traditional Swiss fare. The view alone is worth it.



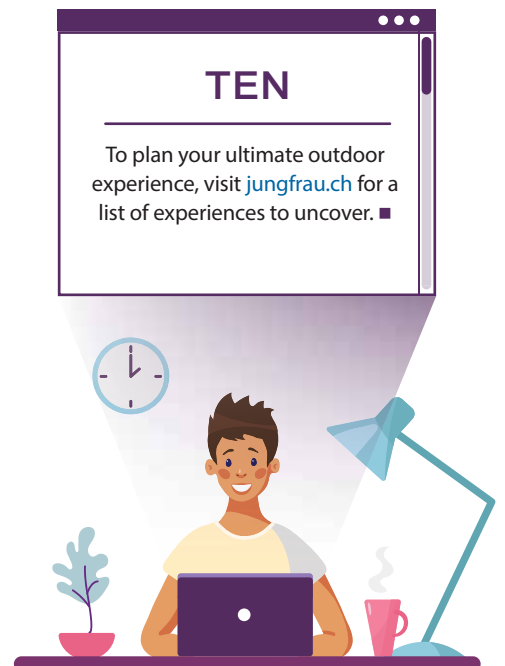
8

To remember your trip, buy a Swiss army knife, a cheese fondue set or Swiss chocolate.



TEN

To plan your ultimate outdoor experience, visit jungfrau.ch for a list of experiences to uncover. ■



9

If driving, you will need a vignette, which costs 40 Swiss francs. You can buy the vignette at any gas station or buy it on the Swiss Post website.



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SOUVENIRS TO GRAB

from Europe's Tiny Nations

By Anna Leigh Bagiackas

Since some of Europe's tiny countries like Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Monaco and Andorra are often associated with wealth and luxury shopping, it is safe to say that finding something to bring home will not be a difficult task when you visit one of them. However, deciding on what to buy and how much to spend are different, and maybe more difficult, questions to answer. Other than unique stamps in your passport, what should you think about bringing home from one of these lesser-known countries? From traditional foods and drinks to apparel and household goods, here are a few ideas to get your shopping started.



Andorra – With its unique mountainous environment and elevation, it's worth it to seek out some of their cured meats, cheeses, preserved jams and chocolate. To compliment these goods, find some Andorran wine, beer or a special liqueur called Ratassia de la Carmeta, made of nuts and hand-collected herbs from the mountains.

Luxembourg – Unique to Luxembourg are "Peckvillchen," ceramic or glass whistles shaped like birds that are most popular on Easter Monday. These beautifully decorated pieces were a popular tradition until World War I, when their production was stopped. Luckily for us, the whistles can be found around the country, especially if you head to the town of Nospelt for their annual bird festival.



Malta – Keep a look out for "ganutell," or intricately designed pieces, often flowers, made from wire and beads. These pieces became popular in Malta in the 18th century, but then fell out of favor after World War II caused the loss of many pieces. It has taken decades to reinvigorate the practice. Today, artists and historians are trying to bring the practice back of ganutell.



Liechtenstein – Situated between Austria and Switzerland and surrounded by beautiful alps, be sure to visit the capital city of Vaduz. Here you will find the tourist center and the shop Hoi Laden, full of Liechtenstein memorabilia and unique goods. Grab some local chocolate and wine, delicious products you may not be able to find anywhere else.



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SOUVENIRS TO GRAB from Europe's Tiny Nations



Monaco – Do you have any car lovers in your family? Home of the famous Grand Prix Formula One racing event, a trip to Monaco should include a piece of memorabilia from this historic event. This race has been happening annually in Monaco since 1929, and one of the coolest souvenirs might be the vintage race posters that can bring a little Monaco glamor back home.

San Marino – Beautiful ceramics are the thing to look for in this country within Italy. For its size, the number of pottery shops you will come across will surprise you and lead you to add to your own collection of dishware.



Vatican City – Being one of the most visited tiny countries, you will have no shortage of souvenir options. If you want to take home a piece of the religious culture of Vatican City, you could grab a holy-water bottle, in addition to the crosses, rosaries or Bibles. You could also snag a beautiful leather piece, since Italy is known for its high-quality leather, or Italian meats and cheeses, vacuumed-packed for safe transport. ■





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