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JANUARY 2020

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WHAT'S UP

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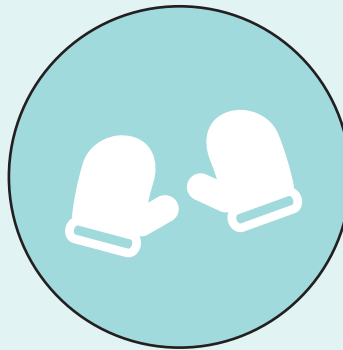
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HELLO *january*

EVENTS AROUND GERMANY

With the holiday hustle now behind us, it could be tempting to just stay put for the entire month of January. While the weather outside may be frightful, outings in winter have charms of their own. The crowds are thin on the ground, and there's a less rushed feel to things. To tempt you off your sofa, we've compiled this mix of both inside and outdoor activities. Many of our January picks, from traipsing through a frosty vineyard to seeking out vacation inspiration at a trade fair, are easily experienced in the form of a day trip.

By Karen Bradbury



Editor's Picks

january



CHRISTMAS CIRCUS

Through Jan. 5 in Wiesbaden

Acrobats, clowns, dogs, tigers and ponies are among those set to entertain with their heart-stopping acts. The action unfolds in a heated big-top tent.



IRISH CELTIC

Jan. 3 - 6 in Stuttgart

A talented tap dance ensemble reveals the magic of Irish dance through intricate choreography set to traditional folk songs and thundering dance music.



HORN SLEDGE RACES

Jan. 6 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Teams of four racers on old-fashioned wooden sleds compete for the fastest time down a run. As the sleds have no brakes, hair-raising spills are common.



INTERNATIONAL DOG SLED RACES

Jan. 11 - 12 in Unterjoch

Over 100 mushers and 500 dogs from throughout Europe converge on this village to compete in races over various distances.



THE HOLIDAY EXHIBITION

Jan. 11 - 19 in Stuttgart

More than 2,000 exhibitors offer holiday inspiration with information about countries, destinations and all types of vacations from cycling to cruising.



WINTER LIGHTS

Jan. 18 - Feb. 23 in Mannheim

As dusk falls, the pretty Luisenpark is transformed into a sparkling winter wonderland through the clever illumination of its trees, bushes and water features.



RED WINE HIKE

Jan. 24 in Freinsheim

The now-bare vineyards surrounding a small Pfalz village set the scene for a four-mile walk punctuated by stops for food and drink at 16 stands en route.



MOSEL WINE FORUM

Jan. 24 - 26 in Trier

Tickets go fast to this event at which wines of the Mosel region are the stars of the show. Tastings take place within the walls of the old Roman baths.

**PLAN
AHEAD**

HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

Feb. 5 - 9 at Bad Wiessee

Hot air balloons in all shapes, colors and sizes take to Bavaria's winter skies. The event's high point comes on Feb. 8, when illuminated balloons pierce through the darkness and huts along a lakeside promenade serve warming drinks and tasty treats.





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Kaffee und Kuchen

By Amanda Palumbo

When a German friend first explained the “Kaffee und Kuchen” tradition, my eyes lit up like a child who first spots their birthday cake. He explained some of his fondest memories were having cake and coffee in a cafe with family every Sunday after church.

He laughed as I suspiciously questioned him, like any good journalist, to confirm it was common practice to frequently gobble delicious sugary carbs while sipping on strong German coffee. I also assumed not partaking would greatly offend the locals. I was assured the latter was not true but I was trying to validate to my metabolism why we were about to carb load on cake. “When in Germany,” I said.

It should be noted coffee and cake, or “Kaffee und Kuchen,” is much different than having cake and coffee in America. German cakes tend to be less sweet and slightly drier, a refreshing change.

Here’s what to expect when you partake in this tasty tradition.

COFFEE

There won’t be an expansive coffee menu like Starbucks. Do not walk in and order a venti half-caff, four-pump, sugar-free cinnamon dolce soy skinny latte. The barista will be confused, annoyed and walk off. German cafes stick to the caffeinated basics but do those basics very well. A typical coffee menu will have the following:

- Kaffee
- Espresso
- Cappuccino



IT SHOULD BE NOTED COFFEE AND CAKE, OR “KAFFEE UND KUCHEN” IS MUCH DIFFERENT THAN HAVING CAKE AND COFFEE IN AMERICA.



- Latte
(sometimes referred to as “Milchkaffee”)

- Latte macchiato

For sizes, “groß” means large (sometimes referred to XXL on a menu) and “klein” is small. There will also be a nearby stand for “Milch und Zucker” or milk and sugar. To order in German say, “Einen Kaffee, bitte” or “one coffee, please.” If they ask you if it’s “mitnehmen” that means “to-go.”

CAKE

Now let’s talk about the real reason you’re reading this: cake or “Kuchen,” pronounced “coo-ken.” In most bakeries or “bäckerei,” cakes will be on display at the main counter. There are some consistent sweet staples along with seasonal cakes. In the summer, you’ll see berry and plum cakes and in the winter, apple cakes. If you’re having trouble deciding, ask the baker their favorite. They’ll enthusiastically tell you which is their specialty. Here are some classics:

“Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte” - Chocolate sponge cake layered with thick whip cream,



along with cherries and chocolate shavings. A.K.A ‘Black Forest cake’ and is by far my favorite.

“Obsttorte” - Vanilla cake with a lip along the outside to hold a mild pudding with seasonal fresh fruit and gelatin.

“Biskuitrolle” - Sort of like those Swiss Rolls you ate as a kid but life-changing. A thin layer of cake rolled with a filling of cream or jelly, along with fruit. These come in a variety of flavors with strawberry being the most popular.

Apfelstrudel - Flaky croissant-like crust stuffed with apple cinnamon goodness topped with either powdered sugar or ice cream.

To order a slice of cake say, “ein Stück Apfelstrudel,” if you’re ordering apple strudel. If you’re unsure of the cake’s name just say, “ein Stück vom Kuchen” and point to whatever you want.

While I’m a big fan of both coffee and cake, “Kaffee und Kuchen” is about so much more. It’s about catching up with friends and family, smiles and laughter and making new memories. ■

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GERMANY'S HIGHLIGHT

Winterberg

By Shereece Spain & Amanda Palumbo



The cold, dark and bleak days of Germany's winter are upon us. The cheerful magic of the Christmas markets made December burn bright. But, this is January, where body and brain have decided hiding under the covers and binging "Cheers" reruns until the sun returns from its four-month vacation is the only option. But, is it? For a fun-filled snow day, we ride North to Winterberg.



IF YOU'RE THINKING, "GERMANY IN JANUARY GIVES ME A WHOPPING EIGHT HOURS OF DAYLIGHT," DO NOT DESPAIR. YOU CAN HIT THE SLOPES WITH THE MOON IN YOUR VIEW.

"Snowboard" with winter?

Located in a village named "Winterberg," Skiliftkarussell Winterberg has a lot to live up to and doesn't disappoint. Between 34 slopes across seven mountains, you'll find varying degrees of difficulty to accommodate all skill levels of skiers and snowboarders. This includes our younger generation of snow athletes as well. You will ascend the slopes in either a chair, t-bar or conveyor lift. For you, borderline professionals, put your skills to the test on the slalom slope or St. Georg Sky Jump.

If you're thinking, "Germany in January gives me a whopping eight hours of daylight," do not despair. You can hit the slopes with the moon in your view thanks to its awesome floodlit courses. Plus, how many of your friends back home can say they've gone night-skiing?

The cost to enjoy the slopes is reasonable. They offer half-day passes starting at 25 euros for adults and 17 euros for children. Keep the party going all day starting at 34 euros for adults and 23 euros for children. The floodlight skiing and snowboarding passes are sold separately.

For those of you wanting to take up the winter sport, you have the opportunity to take lessons from professional instructors at one of two ski schools. You'll learn proper safety and technique no matter how old you are. Either group or private lessons are available. Group lessons take place on a specific schedule, but the private lessons allow for more flexibility.

Live like there's "snow" tomorrow.

When you've hit your snow bunny limit, grab a hot meal, quick snack or hot and cold beverages at any one of the 10 huts scattered throughout. No matter where you dine, the traditional food and spectacular views will not disappoint.

It's all downhill from here.

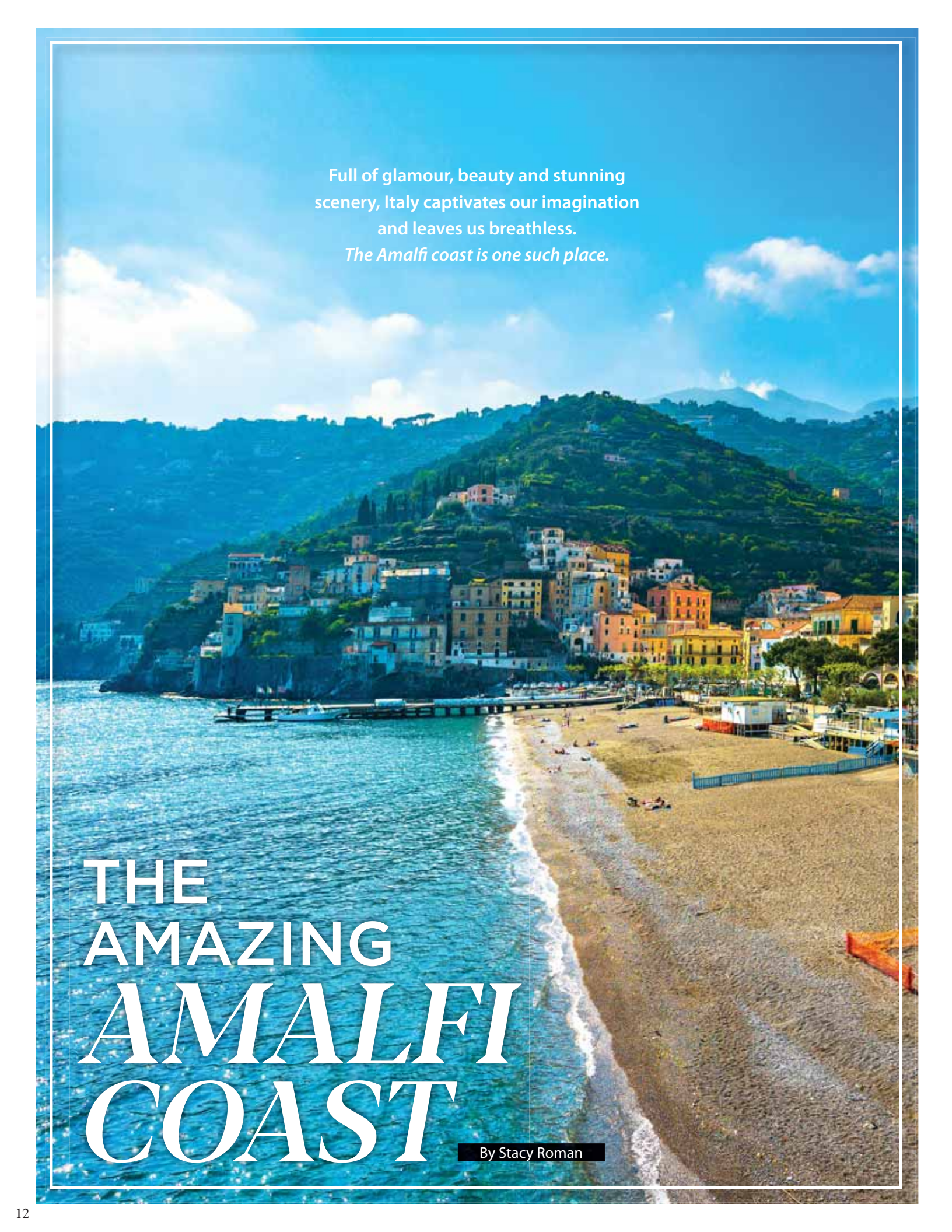
Winterberg offers a variety of overnight accommodations if you decide one day just isn't enough. Need to relax after a fun but exhausting downhill day? In town, you can meander through the Old Town, including St. Jacob's Church, Cenotaph (a prisoner of war memorial) and the Upper Gate. You also have the option to enjoy an incredible hike through Waldpark Helletal and Kurpark Winterberg.

Have you ever seen bobsledding or luge runs in person? If not, head on over to Veltins EisArena. Call ahead to register for a tour. There is a minimum requirement of four people and the cost starts at 17 euros per person. Save even more if you can tag onto a group of 10 to 15 people.

If you think we're done with these snow puns, not "snow" fast. "Snow" matter what, there is "snow" way out of winter. Experience love at "frost" sight with Winterberg and boldly go where "snowman" has gone before. "Ski" you later! ■



IF YOU THINK WE'RE DONE WITH THESE SNOW PUNS, NOT "SNOW" FAST. "SNOW" MATTER WHAT, THERE IS "SNOW" WAY OUT OF WINTER. EXPERIENCE LOVE AT "FROST" SIGHT WITH WINTERBERG AND BOLDLY GO WHERE "SNOWMAN" HAS GONE BEFORE. "SKI" YOU LATER!



Full of glamour, beauty and stunning
scenery, Italy captivates our imagination
and leaves us breathless.

The Amalfi coast is one such place.

THE AMAZING AMALFI COAST

By Stacy Roman

continued on page 16



Plan the Perfect Getaway

Want to travel to an off-the-beaten path destination, or want to see if iconic cities such as Paris lives up to the hype?

Simply head to **StripesEurope.com** and peruse through our awesome travel section! While there, be sure to check out our other noteworthy categories such as community news and our informative PCS section.

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continued from page 12

TUCKED ALONG a 50-kilometer-long stretch of rugged coastline, lemon and olive groves flourish in the rocky and jagged hills above the crystalline waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea. While visitors often flock to the busier and more well-known cities of Positano, Salerno and Sorrento (and rightfully so), there are plenty of tiny villages dotting the landscape of this UNESCO World Heritage site yearning to be discovered.

PRAIANO

A mere 25-minute drive from larger Positano, it's easy to see why the ancient fishing village of Praiano was a favorite summer residence for the Amalfi royalty. Sun-bleached houses line the craggy hillside above the idyllic beaches below. Take a hike to the ruins of Torre a Mare, a tower which once protected the town from pirates. During the summer, catch the time-honored festival Luminaria di San Domenico in the Piazza San Gennaro. More than 2,000 lights and candles illuminate the square, with locals performing heart-stopping fire dances.

CONCA DEI MARINI

Nestled into the rocks of the "Valley by the Sea," this charming village is a fantastic spot to eat, drink and be merry. Visitors can take a short boat trip to Grotto dello Smeraldo, a cave with stalactites jutting from the ceiling and stalagmites piercing through the floor. Filled

with turquoise water, the light emanating from fissures in the grotto give it an ethereal glow. Once you've got your land legs back, head to one of the quaint cafes for the local delicacy "sfogliatella Santa Rosa." This mouth-watering flaky pastry was invented by local nuns and has become so popular, a weeklong festival is held in its honor every August.

Filled with turquoise water, the light emanating from fissures in the grotto give it an ethereal glow.

ATRANI

Escape the hustle, bustle and mass tourism of neighboring city Amalfi and head approximately 10 minutes east to the quiet village of Atrani. This peaceful hamlet is one of the best preserved ancient fishing villages in this part of Italy. With less than 1,000 people, visitors get a more genuine Italian experience and gorgeous vistas of Amalfi minus the crowds. There are plenty of medieval churches and castle ruins to explore, as well as a golden, warm beach to relax on.

RAVELLO

With jaw-dropping vistas of the rocky cliff sides and the Tyrrhenian Sea, Ravello is one of the few villages along the Amalfi coast which isn't directly on the water. Tucked three kilometers above the shoreline, this bustling town is known for its beautiful, locally hand-made pottery and the stunning white-washed Duomo di Ravello. Built in the 11th century, the cathedral features an ornate pulpit and colorful mosaics. Need a breather from sight-seeing? Why not try your hand at Italian cooking? The famous Mamma Agata Cooking School offers delicious, family-friendly culinary classes in authentic cuisine.

MAIORI

A summer paradise since the Roman Empire, Maiori is a fantastic place to unwind. Boasting the longest stretch of sandy beach along the coast, there are plenty of spots to soak up the sun. As you walk through the village, you'll notice the architecture may be more modern than expected. In 1954, a devastating flood ravaged much of the original historical center. Luckily, the exquisite Santa Maria a Mare cathedral was spared. With a uniquely tiled dome, colorful artwork and panoramic vistas, it's well worth the 200 steps to get to the top.



ERCHIE

Vibrant lemon groves, winding vineyards and olive trees abound in the sleepy fishing village of Erchie. Less than 100 people call this tiny locale home, which lends to an old-world feel and charm. Take a boat through the crystal clear waters of the nearby grotto to reach the secluded Spiaggetta degli Inamorati, or lovers' beach. Don't worry too much about traffic and congestion in town – the seaside area is inaccessible to cars and motorcycles.

VIETRI SUL MARE

Only 15 minutes west of Salerno, the dividing line between the two cities is literally a concrete harbor wall jutting out in the azure waters. Vietri sul Mare is more industrious and less reliant on tourist dollars than its neighboring villages. Dating back to the Roman Empire, they've perfected the art of ceramics and porcelain-making. With distinctive hues of greens, blues and yellow, the quintessential pottery is sold in storefronts along the steep, narrow alleys and streets. You can't miss the distinguished tiled dome and bell tower of the Church of St. John the Baptist, which dates back to the 1730s. Sip on locally made limoncello cocktails while watching the sun fade into gorgeous hues of pink and purple.

Whether you're looking for regional specialties, one-of-a-kind adventures, dazzling sandy beaches to relax on, or just an authentic Italian experience, you won't want to miss the amazing Amalfi coast. ■



VIETRI SUL MARE

*With distinctive
hues of greens,
blues and yellow,
they've perfected
the art of ceramics.*



Let MWR help with your New Year's resolutions

Take off with BOSS

Wiesbaden's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Program has several fun outings planned for January. On Jan. 4, join BOSS for a trip to a local **ice skating** rink. On Jan. 11 BOSS heads to a local **Go-Cart** track. **Laser Tag** is on the schedule for Jan. 25. BOSS also hosts free **Movie Nights**, **Video Game Nights** and **Board Game Nights** at the Warrior Zone. Stop by the Warrior Zone in Building 1214 on Clay Kaserne or call civ (0611) 143-548-9816 for details.

Fishing Course

Learn what you need to know to purchase your German Fishing License during Outdoor Recreation's U.S. Forces German Fishing Course Jan. 9-12. Cost is \$75 for adults and \$25 for ages 10-15. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9830 or 9801.

Toddler Playgroup

A Toddler Playgroup meets Jan. 10 and 24 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Army Community Service Cafeteria. The free playgroup is for children ages 1-4. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9201 for more information.

Biggest Loser

Change your life during this eight-week fitness and nutrition program that starts Jan. 13, 2020, and runs through March 3, 2020. Workout sessions are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$199 per person. Sign up at the fitness center or call civ (0611) 143-548-9801.

Ski/snowboard trips

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation holds trips to **Engelberg, Switzerland**, on Jan. 25, Feb. 29 and March 28; and to the **Black Forest** on Jan. 11 and Feb. 1. Register at the Wiesbaden Sports, Fitness and Outdoor Recreation Center.

'Beauty and the Beast'

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" with performances on Jan. 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 7 p.m.; Jan. 12 and 19 at 2 p.m.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Fitness Resolution

Take part in a range of free workout sessions during the Wiesbaden Sports, Fitness and Outdoor Recreation Center's Fitness Resolution on Jan. 11, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. Pick up tips from the Wellness Center, try a protein shake, sample a chair massage or speak to a personal trainer.

Follow the adventures of Belle, Gaston and the quirky servants of an enchanted castle in this fairy tale turned musical. Purchase tickets at the playhouse or Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center.

Guided Meditation

This Guided Meditation Class will help you reduce stress, control anxiety, lengthen attention span and improve emotional health. The class meets on Jan. 15, 2020, from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Sports, Fitness and Outdoor Recreation Center. Cost is \$10. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9830.

Hunting Course

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation offers a U.S. Forces German Hunting Course Jan. 28 to April 18, 2020. Learn what you need to hunt while in Germany. Cost is \$250. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9801 for details.

'Blue Door'

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse invites play-goers to this dramatic exploration of the male African-American experience. "Blue Door" is about a college professor coming to terms with his personal and cultural identity. Performances are Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 2, 16 and 23 at 2 p.m. Purchase tickets at the Playhouse or Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center.

Hunting and Fishing Exhibition

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation offers a trip to Germany's largest Hunting, Dog and Fishing Exhibition on Jan. 30, 2020. Cost for the trip to the Dortmund exhibition is \$45 for adults, \$39 for children up to age 16. That includes round-trip transportation and entrance to the exhibition. Call civ (0611)

143-548-9830 or 9801 for registration information.

Basic Car Care Class

Learn Basic Car Maintenance during this class at the Wiesbaden Automotive Skills Center on Jan. 12, 2020, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Topics include checking fluids, jump starting your vehicle, changing a tire, proper tire pressure and oil changes. Cost is \$15. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9817.

Budgeting for Baby

Get some tips from the financial professionals during this Army Community Service Financial Readiness class — Budgeting for Baby: Financial Planning for New Parents — on Jan. 21, 2020, from 10:30 a.m. to noon in Building 1023 West, Room 007, on Clay Kaserne. Sign up by calling civ (0611) 143-548-9201.

Youth Rock Climbing

Middle School and High School age students are invited to get in some rock climbing on Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. (weather permitting). All skill levels are welcome. Participants must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9341 to confirm attendance.





Located in the bay of Naples is the dazzling island of Capri. From the jagged landscapes too beautiful to put into words to the swanky restaurants housing delicious Italian cuisine, these reasons will entice you to book your ticket to a getaway you never knew you needed.



10 Reasons to Love Capri

By Mary Del Rosario

1. Any dish you eat will be finger-licking good, from pasta to seafood.
2. The views you capture from Mount Solaro will be the star of your Instagram feed.
3. Piazza Umberto, the main square in Capri, is always buzzing and is peppered with bars and restaurants.
4. It's the perfect backdrop to enjoy a nice limoncello after dinner.
5. You can feel glamorous by taking a boat tour to see the breathtaking Faraglioni Cliffs.
6. The Grotta Azzura, or the Blue Grotto, is any adventure seeker's dream.
7. Though pebbly, the Marina Grande Beach provides crystal-clear water.
8. Via Krupp, a paved footpath, should not be missed to see gorgeous views of the island.
9. Villa Jovis, a Roman palace, is rich in history.
10. Gelato. That is all.

Biarritz, France



WHY GO THERE

Keep Biarritz on your radar for an unforgettable adventure in a stunningly beautiful cliffside town. The beaches are the perfect location for soaking up the sun or hitting the waves. The casino will take you back in time and there are numerous spots to admire the gorgeous landscape. Tucked away in the south of France, there is no better spot to spend your holiday. This trendy resort town is sure to make you fall in love and want to visit over and over again.

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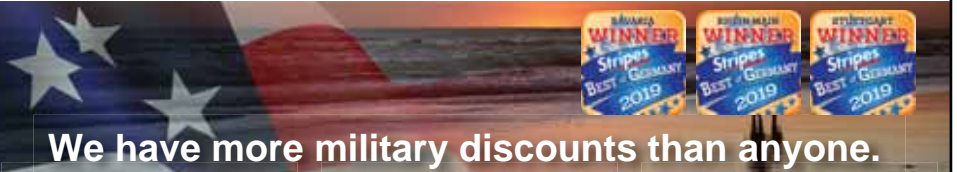


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— *Biarritz, France* — **ON YOUR RADAR**

By Jessica Zen

While the cliffside towns of Italy have made a prominent name for themselves, there is no lack of gorgeous beaches and steep coastal bluffs in Biarritz, France. Once a whaling town, Biarritz is now a glamorous holiday destination on the Basque Coast. Located in southwestern France, this cliffside town that was once the vacation spot of Napoléon III is a seaside gem with elegant villas, pristine beaches and a thriving surfing scene.

Rocher de la Vierge (Rock of the Virgin) is a symbol of Biarritz. This large rock formation was once used as a whale watching platform. Today, there is a bridge that connects the rock to the mainland. A statue of the Virgin Mary rests on top. This rock is a spectacular place to look out over Bay of Biarritz or down to the Côte des Basques. If you look off into the distance, you can just make out the Pyrenees mountains.

Another superb location for viewing the area is the Biarritz Lighthouse. Located at Pointe Saint-Martin, it has been guiding mariners to the shore since 1834. You're free to enter and go up the 248 steps to the top to look out over the water. If you would rather not make the climb, visit at sunset and watch the sun slowly sink behind the sparkling water.

At the height of Biarritz' popularity among aristocracy and nobility, there was a large Russian population. They created a demand for a place of worship. The Église Russe de Biarritz is a church that was built in Neo-Byzantine style. The interior is adorned with icons from St. Petersburg and the church is symbolic of the alliance between France and Russia.

Perched on the beach is a local jewel, the Casino Municipal. This 1929 art deco building brings guests back in time. Bust out the flapper dresses and fedoras and get ready to venture to the roaring 20s. Spend an evening trying your hand at the slot machines or in a game of blackjack.

While the stunning architecture is surely something to behold, the most fantastic part of Biarritz is by far the beaches. Grande Plage is

a postcard-perfect beach that features a golden bay with fine soft sand. Stroll up and down the promenade and enjoy the shops, cafes and restaurants or lounge under a striped beach tent.

Surfers will especially love La Côte des Basques. It is potentially the birthplace of surfing in Europe. The story goes that in 1957,



American Peter Viertel brought his surfboard from California while he was visiting France to film a movie. If surfing is your passion, this is the place to be! If you'd like to learn, there are also several surf schools that offer lessons. Stroll down the boardwalk and grab a drink or a bite to eat, and don't forget to "basque" in the beauty that surrounds you. ■

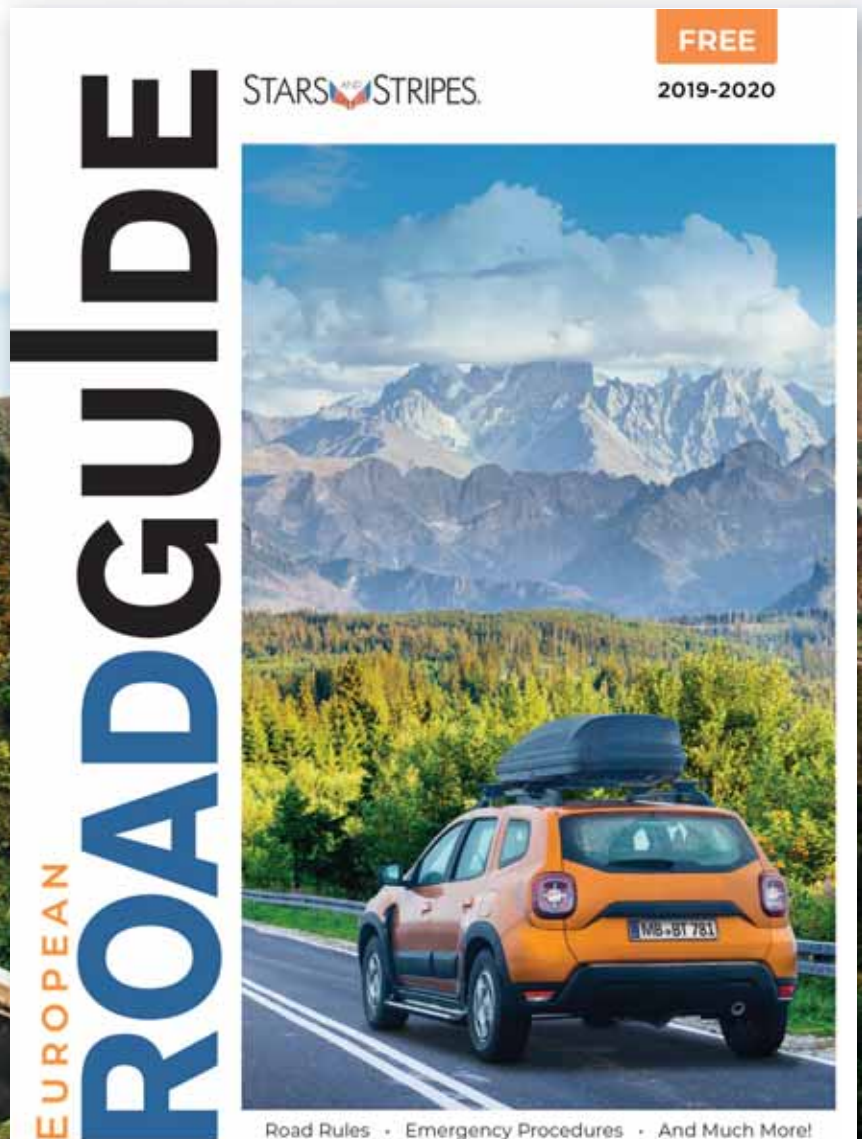
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ROADGUIDE

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The Stripes European Road Guide will be available at your installation's A&FRC and ACS!





BRUGES BEER FESTIVAL

Feb. 1-2 in Bruges, Belgium

Some 400 beers from 80 breweries await discovery in a heated tent set up on the stunning medieval market square and in the belfry's courtyard. Entry is free.



JOKKMOKK WINTER MARKET

Feb. 6-8 in Jokkmokk, Sweden

The culture of the Sámi, the indigenous people of northern Sweden, is on full display at a market of exquisite handicrafts and delicious locally sourced foods.



VENICE CARNIVAL

Feb. 8-25 in Venice, Italy

Carnival season is celebrated with street parties, sumptuous balls, boat parades, traditional foods and mysterious figures in elaborate masks and costumes.



JORVIK VIKING FESTIVAL

Feb. 15-23 in York, England

The legacy of those great traders and raiders known as the Vikings is brought to life through historical encampments, talks, a market and combat performances.

THINGS TO DO NEXT MONTH!

February

By Karen Bradbury



LEMON FESTIVAL

Feb. 15-March 3 in Menton, France

A city along the French Riviera celebrates its beloved fruit with parades and clever exhibits made of citrus. The theme chosen for 2020 is "Festivals of the World."



WINTER RUN

Feb. 22 in Prague, Czech Republic

Neither ice nor snow will prevent this running race held in Ladronka Park to take place. The brave runners who take it on can choose from a 4.2 or 8.4 km course.



ROSE MONDAY PARADE

Feb. 24 in Cologne, Germany

Costumed marchers, music groups and massive floats form a vibrant and noisy parade stretching four miles as spectators clamor for flowers and sweets.



FANTASPORTO

Feb. 25-March 8 in Porto, Portugal

This film festival screens films across many genres but has a special taste for fantasy, sci-fi and horror. The legendary Vampire's Ball closes its run for another year.

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