

72-HOURS IN EUROPE

From glorious historical monuments and rich artistic culture to deliciously authentic cuisine and five-star hotels, get ready to call in sick on Monday morning because setting up permanent residence in these locations is pretty much inevitable



BARCELONA, FOR A BIT OF EVERYTHING

The best way we suggest spending your 72-hours in Barcelona is to abide by the rule of the three g's: Gucci, Gaudí and gastronomy. Dedicate your first day to high-end retail therapy on Passieg de Gracia, a museum of designer store fronts that are exactly what credit cards were invented for. The next 24-hours simply have to be spent indulging in the glorious Spanish tapas and seafood paella at the Boqueria market where fresh produce is also available to purchase. But, it's not time to say goodbye to Barcelona just yet. Marvel at the stunning - despite unfinished - Sagrada Familia, a Roman Catholic Basilica church by Spanish architect Gaudí and squeeze in a visit to some of his other marvellous creations such as Park Güell, Casa Milà, Casa Vicens and La Pedrera.



Where to stay: W Barcelona is the place to be.

A sail-shaped hotel that's located directly on the water's edge and nearby to the city centre, it offers a collection of 473 sophisticated rooms and the first Bliss Spa in Spain.

Number-one must see: Align your travel dates to watch a football match at the famous Camp Nou Stadium. No games on? Enjoy a stadium tour instead.

SUITCASE ESSENTIALS



OPI 'Barefoot in Barcelona', £13.50, OPI (opiuk.com)



Erika Classic Polarized Sunglasses Brown Gradient, £145, Ray Ban (ray-ban.com)



Oakland Black Mesh and Suede Trainers, £375, Jimmy Choo (jimmychoo.com)

← Must Have!



SUITCASE ESSENTIALS

Canon PowerShot G9 X Mark II Silver, £379.99, Canon (store.canon.co.uk)



Riccardo Guasco by Heys 30" Paris, €139.99 (international shipping), Heys (eu.heys.com)



YSL Mon Paris perfume 50ml, £52, and YSL Rouge Pur Couture Gold Attraction Edition, £28, YSL Beauty (yslbeauty.co.uk)

PARIS, WHERE ROMANCE COMES ALIVE

Where do we begin with Paris? A city that truly has it all and is world-famous for its art scene, the first stop on your long weekend is The Louvre to smile back at Da Vinci's Mona Lisa followed by a stop-off at the Eiffel Tower. Climb to the top or simply take a selfie in front of it but end your evening with a late-night dinner cruise along the Seine River that truly puts the romance in the City of Love. Other notable attractions include Champs-Élysées, France's most famous retail avenue, and admiring the city's skyline from Notre-Dame de Paris. Oh, and how can we forget about Disneyland? We told you Paris has it all.

Where to stay: Hôtel de Crillon, A Rosewood Hotel effortlessly embodies the spirit of Paris; the dynamic dining options, the signature suites kitted out with endless amenities and the neutral décor that is far from simplistic, it has everything you could possibly need, and more.

Best foodie hangout: Anywhere where French baguettes, red wine and cheese platters are on the menu.

Turn to page 99
for our top pick of
Europe hotels

ROME, AN ANCIENT RETREAT

Regal, enchanting and utterly historic, the beauty of the Italian capital will give your skin goose bumps, your sore eyes a sight and, of course, your taste buds a treat. It goes without saying that Rome is a foodie's dream come true. Those with a sweet tooth will adore the gelato parlours on every corner and whether you're on the hunt for an authentic family-run taverna or a fine dining experience, going hungry in Rome isn't an option.

Being a typical tourist in Rome is unavoidable – throw in loose change and make a wish at the Trevi Fountain, admire the majestic artwork on the ceiling of the Vatican and ride a Vespa to explore the fairytale-like streets. Don't forget to spend a good portion of your getaway wandering on foot – after all, you have to burn off the gelato somehow!

Where to stay: Hotel de Russie, A Rocco Forte Hotel sits at the heart of historic Rome. Here, every guest is treated like one of the family from the impeccable 24-hour room service to the babysitting services and children's entertainment.

Best foodie hangout: De Francesco ticks all the boxes. Traditional dishes, an electric ambiance and Italian hospitality.

AMSTERDAM, A SPRING TIME FANTASY

If you're on the hunt for a modern long weekend in a city that's more than 1,000 years old, Amsterdam is the place to be. A visit in the springtime means the vibrant traditional red tulips are in full bloom, the endless canals are basked in luminosity, and there's nothing like a bike ride tour of the city in the warm sunshine. Spend your 72-hours in the Dutch capital exploring the likes of the Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum, eating sweet treats and traditional pancakes, and of course, having a nosy around the coffee shops and quirky boutiques.

Where to stay: Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam simply can't be beaten. Located alongside a sparkling canal and within walking distance to the city centre, the hotel also boasts an on-site Michelin-starred restaurant and a spa that will send you dizzy with pleasure

After-dark destination: At night, head to Rembrandtplein Square. Originally a butter and dairy market the destination has long left its farm days behind and is now home to a dazzling array of clubs, cafes and bars.



VENICE, AN ITALIAN ALTERNATIVE

Often overshadowed by its sisters Rome and Milan, Venice can only be described as a little slice of Italian heaven. A city that wears its cultural heart on its sleeve, Venice is a floating masterpiece built on 100 small islands intertwined by lagoons so expect your 72-hours here to be spent cruising the winding canals on striped shirt-sailed gondolas (no, it's not just in the movies). Explore the marble palaces, gaze in awe at the art galleries and roam around the show-stopping Piazza San Marco to work up an appetite for a Venetian feast. Tuck into lavish spreads of cichetti, Venetian tapas, or opt for a sit-down meal of canal-fished seafood at a picturesque bistro and toast to your long weekend with several glasses of prosecco, the Venetian signature drink.

Where to stay: Being spoilt for choice in Venice is somewhat of an understatement. On the hunt for canal-side luxury and accommodation fit for royalty? It's a hard-pressed toss-up between The Gritti Palace, A Luxury Collection and Aman Venice Hotel – Grand Canal, Venice. Or, for something a little more secluded to revel in Venetian romance, Belmond Hotel Cipriani takes top billing.

Instagram opportunity: A selfie during your gondola ride, of course! The challenge is getting the gondolier in too.



DUBLIN, A TOAST TO IRISH HISTORY

A small capital city that packs a mighty punch, what Dublin lacks in size is made-up for in character and personality. There's no such thing as an official tour of this Irish beauty and the best places to go are often at inspiration from social interaction with the locals. Chatting away to the barmaid, shop assistant or hotel concierge isn't just being friendly, it's the tried-and-tested way to get to know the Irish capital. However, those that always make the list include sampling the well-known black elixir at the Guinness Storehouse, admiring the architectural craftsmanship of the medieval 18th-century Dublin castle, and indulging in some hearty Irish grub at one of the many pubs, brasseries and bistros found on every corner of the quaint cobbled streets.

Where to stay: Conrad Dublin is the perfect spot to unwind after a day of sightseeing. From the plush beds in the spacious rooms to the on-site fitness centre and afternoon tea service, your 72-hours in Dublin become more magical with every passing minute.

After-dark destination: You can't go wrong with Teac Na Ceibe in Temple Bar Square for an ol' fashioned pint and authentic Dublin cheer



SUITCASE ESSENTIALS



George Ocean Suede Loafers,
£525, George Cleverley
(mrporter.com)



Men's Leather Wash
Bag Smooth Cognac,
£160, Aspinal of London
(aspinaloflondon.com)



ClarinsMen
UV Plus SPF
50 UVA/
UVB, £24,
Clarins,
(clarins.co.uk)



Prévu Knitted Fedora Natural &
Black, £42, Prévu (prevustudio.com)

← We Love!

MONACO, A BLACK-TIE EVENT

Slick back your hair, put on your swankiest outfit and order a martini at the bar because if there was ever a destination where you could live out your James Bond fantasies, Monaco would certainly take the crown. A quintessentially luxurious holiday for both couples and families, by day Monaco offers a stunning landscape of emerald greens and striking blues as well as breath-taking colonial architecture that will send chills down your spine. By night, this French province truly comes alive. From dining at delicious Michelin-starred restaurants to striking your luck at the casino, even though you only have three days here, you'll fall in love in under three minutes. Don't believe us? Well, you know what to do!

Where to stay: The iconic Hotel Monte-Carlo Bay will leave you shaken, not stirred. A destination unto itself, this hotel is home to the Monte-Carlo casino which has been used as a backdrop in the likes of *Goldeneye*, *Never Say Never Again* and *Casino Royale* - impressive, right?

Packing essential: A valid driving licence. If you're a lover of high-speed car chases, give our personal travel managers a call and they'll promise to put you behind the wheel of a classic sports car for a driving experience you won't forget.