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The 30 best things to do on your holiday in Europe this summer – according to our experts

From museums and hikes to water slides, the continent offers plenty of fun for the whole family



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Make holiday planning simple with our guide to the best activities in favourite destinations across Europe Credit: Susanne Kremer/4Corners Images

We like to think of the ideal holiday as effortless. In reality, there are the countless hours debating destinations, cross-checking calendars and inspecting [passports' expiration dates](#) like they're sacred scrolls. By the time you've made it through the gauntlet of [security queues](#), seat selections and sunscreen leaks, you've no doubt earned that sun bed. You lie back, take a deep breath and then the realisation hits: you've arrived, but now what?

We are often so focused on the where and the how to get there of our high-season escapes that we neglect to consider what to do once we arrive. Of course, there is nothing wrong with a holiday that worships at the feet of that great and seductive god Indolence; a week where your only exercise is your thumb flicking fast through the page-turner you at last have time to read, or a walk to the bar for a new drink.

Cyprus

Find pause, paws and purpose in Paphos

Brought over by St Helen of Constantinople way back in the 4th century AD, cats have called the island home for centuries since; and well today, they number many thousands. Animal sanctuaries care for those cats (talacats.com) – and dogs (00 357 269 46461; animalrescuecyprus.com) and donkeys (00 357 998 92713; thedonkeysanctuary.org/cyprus) – who, sadly, don't have a home. Volunteers are welcome to help in their care, which can be a rewarding experience while on holiday.

Price: Free

Hotel: Few hotels in Paphos can boast a location quite as good as the Annabelle (00 357 268 85000; annabelle.com.cy). Doubles from £268. [Read more about the best things to do in Cyprus in our guide.](#)

Lend a hand at lacemaking in Lefkara

Embroidered lacemaking, known as lefkaritika, has been handed down from mother to daughter for centuries. It is said the artist Leonardo da Vinci visited the village of Lefkara (where the UNesco-listed art is said to have originated in 1481) and took back a lace tablecloth to decorate the Florence Duomo Cathedral. Today, you can explore the delightful, traditional village and not only are you likely to see a group of womenfolk making the lace, they may even let you join in.

Price: Free

Hotel: The adults-only The Agora Hotel (00 357 2472 6000; theagorahotel.com) is a delightfully glitzy and glam boutique in the centre of the charming Lefkara. Doubles from £262.

