

# Frommer's Europe



# Frommer's<sup>®</sup> Europe, 12th Edition

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# *Frommer's<sup>®</sup> Europe*

## *12th Edition*



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Denmark

Copenhagen

England

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France

Paris Attractions

Paris Hotels

The Loire Valley

Provence

The French Riviera

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Germany

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## Note About Maps

This guide contains dozens of maps of varying sizes and complexity. If you find it hard to read a map on your device, use the zoom function to enlarge. You can also download and/or printout PDFs of all of the maps in this guide. Go to [www.frommers.com/go/ebookmaps](http://www.frommers.com/go/ebookmaps) and click on the title of your guide.

## About the Authors

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**Stephen Keeling** is a journalist and writer who lives in New York but returns to his native England several times a year. He has authored or co-authored several books on European destinations including *Frommer's Tuscany, Umbria & Florence With Your Family* and *Frommer's Italy*. He is co-author of the Florence, and Tuscany & Umbria sections of the Italy chapter, and contributed to the England chapter.

**Roger Norum**, an award-winning writer and photographer, studied Norwegian literature at the University of Tromsø before reading a PhD in Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford. He

currently makes London his home, from where he covers travel and food for a range of publications. Roger wrote the Norway chapter.

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**Lesley Anne Rose** is a travel and script writer who has lived in and explored Scotland for many years. She has written guidebooks, articles, and travel columns for various publishers and organizations on worldwide destinations, including Malta, Florida, and Canada, and her U.K. specialisms are the Lake District and Scotland. Lesley Anne is the author of the Scotland chapter.

**Patricia Harris** and **David Lyon** have journeyed the world for American, British, Swiss, and Asian publishers to write about food, culture, art, and design. Wherever their assignments take them, they are drawn back to Spain for the flamenco nightlife, the Moorish architecture of Andalucía, the world-weary and lust-ridden saints of Zurbarán, and the phantasmagoric visions of El Greco. They make their online home at HungryTravelers.com. Together, they are the authors of the Spain chapter.

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## How to Contact Us

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that too. Please write to:

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## Advisory & Disclaimer

Travel information can change quickly and unexpectedly, and we strongly advise you to confirm important details locally before traveling, including information on visas, health and safety, traffic and transport, accommodation, shopping and eating out. We also encourage you to stay alert while traveling and to remain aware of your surroundings. Avoid civil disturbances, and keep a close eye on cameras, purses, wallets and other valuables.

While we have endeavored to ensure that the information contained within this guide is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication, we make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this work and specifically disclaim all warranties, including without








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### **Frommer's Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations**

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a **star-rating system**. In country, state, and regional guides, we also rate towns and regions to help you narrow down your choices and budget your time accordingly. Hotels and restaurants are rated on a scale of zero (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). Attractions, shopping, nightlife, towns, and regions are rated according to the following scale: zero stars (recommended), one star (highly recommended), two stars (very highly recommended), and three stars (must-see).

In addition to the star-rating system, we also use **seven feature icons** that point you to the great deals in-the-know advice, and unique experiences that separate travelers from tourists. Throughout the book, look for:

-  **special finds**—those places only insiders know about
-  **fun facts**—details that make travelers more informed and their trips more fun
-  **kids**—best bets for kids, and advice for the whole family
-  **special moments**—those experiences that memories are made of
-  **overrated**—places or experiences not worth your time or money
-  **insider tips**—great ways to save time and money
-  **great values**—where to get the best deals

The following abbreviations are used for credit cards:

AE American Express DISC Discover V Visa

DC Diners Club MC MasterCard

### **Travel Resources at Frommers.com**

Frommer's travel resources don't end with this guide. Frommer's website, [www.frommers.com](http://www.frommers.com), has travel information on more than 4,000 destinations. We update features regularly, giving you access to the most current trip-planning information and the best airfare, lodging, and car-rental bargains. You can also listen to podcasts, connect with other Frommers.com members through our active-reader forums, share your travel photos, read blogs from guidebook editors and fellow travelers, and much more.

# Chapter 1: Planning Your Trip to Europe

*by Donald Strachan*

## **Note About Maps**

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# Europe



A little planning goes a long way, especially when you are traveling to an through a continent with several different languages, transport systems, airline festivals, and sights to see. This chapter provides a variety of invaluable aid including information on how to get there from the U.S. and Canada, the U.K., an Australia or New Zealand; the most efficient and budget-friendly ways of getting around; tips on where to stay; and quick, on-the-ground resources for savv

## Getting There

### By Plane

Pretty much every major world airline offers competitive fares to a variety of European cities. Price wars break out regularly, deals come on- and offstream, and tariffs can change overnight. The key factor determining what you'll pay is **season**: Tickets tend to be cheaper if you fly off season. **High season** on most routes is usually from June to mid-September and around Christmas and New Year—the most expensive and most crowded time to travel. **Shoulder season** is from April to May and mid-September to October. **Low season**—usually with the cheapest fares and regular aggressive offers—is from November to mid-December and January to March. You can sometimes save money by flying midweek, too, or at least spending a Saturday night in your destination.

Begin thinking about flying plans at least 6 months ahead of time. Consider exchange rate movements: Fares may be calculated in U.S. dollars, British pounds, or euros, depending on the airline. The key window for finding a **deal** is usually between 3 months and 4 weeks ahead of your departure for long-haul flights. (Short-haul deals tend to go live a little further ahead of time, between 6 and 2 months before departure.) The glory days of generous **frequent-flyer programs** and bucketloads of free miles are no more, but it's still worth checking for offers, upgrades, and rewards from airlines and alliances (and also hotel chains). The forum **Flyertalk.com** is a handy resource for this.

Remember that the cheapest way between two points may not always be a straight line. Flying into a major European hub such as London, Frankfurt, or Paris might be cheaper than flying direct to your final destination. If you're heading to the U.K., consider entering via Dublin, Ireland, to save on Air Passenger Duty (APD, the British flight tax). Run searches through the regular online agents such as Expedia, as well as metasearch engines like **Kayak.com**, **Skyscanner.net**, and **Momondo.com**. For complex journeys, with multiple departures, a specialist flight agent such as **RoundtheWorldFlights.com** or **AirTreks.com** will likely save you money. And don't forget the travel agent around the corner from your home. He or she may have been digging out cheap fares to Europe for decades.

**Major North American Airlines** North American carriers with frequent service and flights to Europe include **Air Canada** ([www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca); ☎ 888/247-2262 in the U.S. and Canada), **American Airlines** ([www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com); ☎ 800/433-7300 in the U.S. and Canada), **Delta Airline** ([www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com); ☎ 800/241-4141 in the U.S. and Canada), **United Airlines** ([www.united.com](http://www.united.com); ☎ 800/864-8331 in the U.S. and Canada), and **US Airways** ([www.usairways.com](http://www.usairways.com); ☎ 800/428-4322 in the U.S. and Canada).

**European Airlines** Not only will the major carriers of European countries offer the greatest number of direct flights from the United States (and can easily book you through to cities beyond the major hubs), but because their entire market outside Europe is to fly you to (or via) their home country, they sometimes run more competitive deals than other global carriers—sometimes, via codeshare agreements, for the same flights. Major national and country-affiliated European airlines include the following:



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