

# BREAKING THE ICE

## 5 REASONS TO TRAVEL ACROSS EUROPE IN THE AUTUMN OR WINTER

### 1. WINTER MARKETS

Winter markets have been a staple of the festive season across Europe for hundreds of years. If you travel in December, you could take in the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of this European tradition.

Be sure to look out for the markets in Strasbourg, France (dating back to 1570), Poznan, Poland (which includes an ice sculpture festival), and Leipzig, Germany (with over 250 stalls!)

### 2. AURORA BOREALIS

Seeing the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, is an activity on many people's bucket lists. First documented by Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, you can witness the phenomenon from a number of countries, including Sweden and Finland, between September and February. Be on the lookout between 6pm and 4am for the best chance of seeing them.

### 3. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

There's nothing quite like spending New Year's Eve in a city to get a flavour of its culture and traditions. Why not use your DiscoverEU pass to welcome the New Year?

You could experience Réveillon in Porto, Portugal with celebrations on the Avenida dos Aliados, or say 'Head Uut Aastat' in Tallinn, Estonia, while watching the fireworks in the old town.

Pack a warm jumper, grab a hot chocolate, and find out what Europe has to offer during the autumn or winter!

### 5. GRAB THE POPCORN

Perhaps exploring the outdoors isn't quite your thing, and you're looking for somewhere warmer to spend the autumn and winter months? Europe has some of the best film festivals in the world, including:

- OCTOBER: Film Fest Ghent and Innsbruck Nature Film Festival
- NOVEMBER: The International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam
- DECEMBER: The International Filmmaker Festival of World Cinema Milan and the Prague Short Film Festival

### 4. A NEW PERSPECTIVE

When summer comes to a close, many European landscapes are totally transformed by the autumn and winter seasons. Why not see the beautiful autumnal colours of the trees in Retezat National Park, Romania, or the wintery frozen waterfalls of Plitvice National Park in Croatia?

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