

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

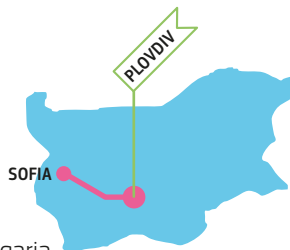
5 EUROPEAN TOWNS AND CITIES YOU HAVE TO VISIT



While Paris, Rome, Amsterdam and Budapest might be on the travel wishlist of many DiscoverEU travellers, did you know that the best parts of Europe can often be found outside of the capital cities?

By visiting a smaller town or city, you're more likely to encounter traditional European culture – from authentic (and tasty!) food to local dialects and regional art or dances.

Smaller towns and cities offer a true snapshot of what life is really like in a particular country. So if you're ready for an adventure, here are 5 European hidden gems too good to miss.



PLOVDIV

COUNTRY ▶ Bulgaria

POPULATION ▶ 346,900

HOW TO GET THERE ▶ Plovdiv is a 3-hour direct train journey from Bulgaria's capital, Sofia

WHY VISIT? ▶ Plovdiv is one of the 2019 European Capitals of Culture

SIGHT TO SEE ▶ Plovdiv's Ancient Theatre – one of the world's best-preserved Roman theatres



KOPER

COUNTRY ▶ Slovenia

POPULATION ▶ 25,400

HOW TO GET THERE ▶ Take a train from the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana – you'll arrive in under 2.5 hours

WHY VISIT? ▶ Koper is a European Destination of Excellence (EDEN)

SIGHT TO SEE ▶ The Praetorian Palace – a Venetian Gothic Palace built between 1452 and 1506



RIJEKA

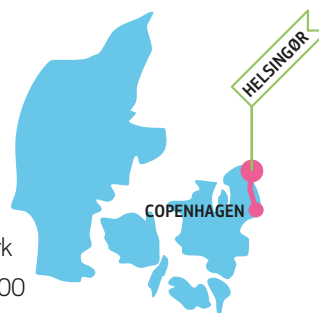
COUNTRY ▶ Croatia

POPULATION ▶ 128,700

HOW TO GET THERE ▶ Rijeka is 3 hours away from Ljubljana, or 4 hours from the Croatian capital of Zagreb

WHY VISIT? ▶ Rijeka is one of the 2020 European Capitals of Culture

SIGHT TO SEE ▶ The 561 steps of the Petar Kružić staircase are steeped in legend and history



HELINGØR

COUNTRY ▶ Denmark

POPULATION ▶ 47,400

HOW TO GET THERE ▶ Helsingør is just a 45-minute train ride away from Copenhagen!

WHY VISIT? ▶ Much of Helsingør has remained unchanged for over 200 years

SIGHT TO SEE ▶ Kronborg Castle – which is likely to be the inspiration for Shakespeare's Hamlet



GUIMARÃES

COUNTRY ▶ Portugal

POPULATION ▶ 158,200

HOW TO GET THERE ▶ By train, Guimarães is only an hour away from Porto

WHY VISIT? ▶ The town centre of Guimarães is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

SIGHT TO SEE ▶ Take a cable car to the top of Monte da Penha and enjoy the view



And this is just the beginning! There are hundreds of towns and cities across the EU and all of them are there to be explored. So prepare your DiscoverEU pass and jump on a train to somewhere you've never been – what you find is likely to surprise you.

#DiscoverEU

THERE'S MORE THAN YOU KNOW



EUROPEAN UNION

