

IT'S TIME TO SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY TO EUROPE [GET GOING](#)

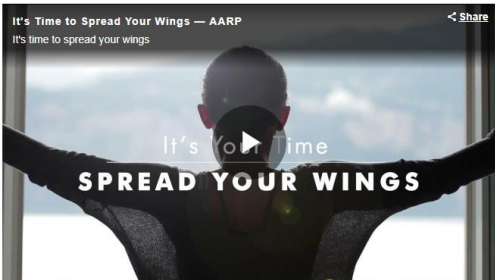
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## Thinking of Traveling to Europe? 3 Trips That Will Change Your Life

Spread your wings and live out your dreams  
by **British Airways** (Paid Content)



Whether you're marking a big milestone (perhaps with a number ending in 0?) or ready to fly the now-empty nest, now's the time to satisfy your wanderlust. From London to Italy to nearly every other major European city in between, spread your wings to the destination of your dreams.

You've waited a lifetime for this trip - choose your own adventure and make every moment count.




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Park Guell - Barcelona, Spain

### 1. Architecture Tour in Spain


From Roman aqueducts to 20th century Catalan Modernism, Spain is a design buff's dream.

- Seville's great Cathedral is a towering monument to ambition and vision that took over a century to build. Finished in 1507, it's now the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. While you're there, don't miss the 10th century Royal Alcazar Palace complex, and the 21st century Las Setas, the largest wooden monument in the world, a modernist fantasy whose shape calls to mind a giant mushroom.
- Barcelona's native son Antoni Gaudi concentrated most of his creative output on this city by the sea. His surreal spires and impossibly curved and expressive surfaces create a new language in form.
- No trip to Spain is complete without a visit to the Alhambra, Europe's love letter to Moorish architecture and culture. This hulking fortress and palace complex in Granada draws crowds, so be sure to book ahead.



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Amalfi Coast - Southern Italy



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## 2. Following Ancient Footsteps in Southern Italy

Find a dreamy spot amongst the lemon groves of the Amalfi Coast or the rugged volcanic landscape of the Isle of Sicily and make it your home base for exploring ancient Greek and Roman ruins, with stops for a lazy dip in the bright blue waters of the Mediterranean along the way.

- Near Bari, you'll find the ancient ruins of Egnazia, a once-thriving coastal town of the Messapii people. With ruins dating all the way back to the 13th century BC, its foundations and weathered columns allow a glimpse of life in the Bronze Age.
- Pompeii gets all the good press, but don't miss out on Herculaneum, in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius. This ancient Roman town was lost in the volcanic eruption of AD 79, and can be seen in all its marble-clad and frescoed splendor.
- From the ancient Greek Theatre of Taormina to Agrigento's Valle dei Templi, some of the best Greek ruins are found on the Island of Sicily. From Palermo, you can visit these sites, as well as the ruins of Syracuse and the Temples of Selinunte, whose twelve lonely, monolithic columns still stand from a grand 6th-century building.



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Castle of Saumur - Loire's Valley, France

## 3. Biking the Loire Valley in France

What could be better than a day of relaxed cycling, interspersed with castles, wineries, and fine dining? The Loire Valley boasts over 500 miles of networked bike paths over relatively flat terrain - no matter where you jump on and off, don't miss these highlights.

- The Château de Chambord is all about grandeur. Complete with a moat, 440 rooms, 365 fireplaces and 84 staircases, you'll find plenty of wow-factor in this 16th century hunting lodge. Want to stay awhile? Book a night or two in one of the guest houses on the estate.
- It won't be easy to narrow down your choices when it comes to wineries to visit along the way in this diverse region, but nearly all of them specialize in wines with refreshing acidity and minerality, making them perfect easy-drinking varieties that pair well with picnic food and long bike rides.
- Armchair historians should take a detour to Orleans, where there's lots to see, including the House of Joan of Arc on the spot where she stayed during the Battle of Orleans.

When I travel, I seek out:

Adventure

New experiences

History and architecture

None of the above

**TIP: Make lasting memories without breaking the bank. See how you can save on your European vacation.**

- Use your AARP exclusive member discounts for airfare to over 130 destinations worldwide.
- If you know you want to hit all the high points, buy city passes that get you into all the major sites - and you'll usually get to skip the lines!
- Seek out shops and restaurants off the beaten track, where prices are usually lower than in the tourist center.

**Spread your wings with British Airways, the only airline endorsed by AARP to provide you with exclusive member benefits**

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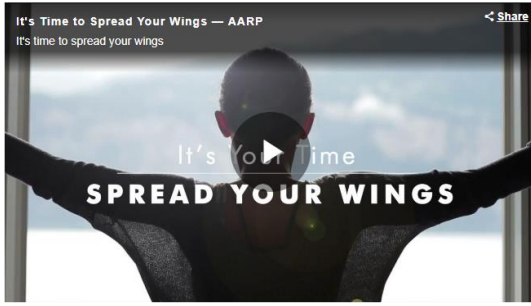
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## 5 Experiences That Prove London Is Britain's Beating Heart

Spread your wings and take it all in  
by **British Airways (Paid Content)**



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It's time to spread your wings

It's Time

SPREAD YOUR WINGS

Whether you're marking a big milestone (perhaps with a number ending in 07) or ready to fly the now-empty nest, now's the time to satisfy your wanderlust. From London to Italy to nearly every other major European city in between, spread your wings and discover all that London has to offer.

You've waited a lifetime for this trip - choose your own adventure and make every moment count.

**See How the Royals Live**

Your invite to the royal wedding might have gotten lost in the mail, so use your visit to see how the royals live - don't miss these royal residences in London.

- You can see the iconic changing of the guard at **Buckingham Palace** anytime, but in the summer months, the lavishly decorated State Rooms are open to the public. Don't miss a stroll through the royal St. James's Park while you're there.
- At **Kensington Palace**, discover details from Queen Victoria's life in the Victoria Revealed exhibition, see Diana's dresses, and try to catch a glimpse of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge or Prince Harry, who all call this royal, abode home.
- Henry VIII called **Hampton Court Palace** home, and you can retrace the footsteps of all six wives here too. Explore all the nooks and crannies from the Tudor kitchens to the magnificent state apartments, or get lost in the intricate maze of the palace's enchanting gardens.

**Embark on a Unique Excursion**

Don't miss an opportunity to really spread your wings and try something different. Add one of these unique destinations to your itinerary and you won't be disappointed.

- At the **Sir John Soane's Museum** you'll be greeted with treasures collected and shared by one of Britain's greatest architects in the late 18th and early 19th century. The museum filled with curiosities and the picture library full of walls of art is magical.
- Many of London's traditional East End cafés are disappearing; thankfully **E. Pellicci's** is still standing. The building features Italian stained glass and inlaid wooden panels, you'll immediately be transported back to the 1940s. This tiny family-run coffee shop on Bethnal Green Road is a perfect example of the "Great British caff."
- **The Photographers' Gallery** offers a unique collection of photographs by world-class artists spread out among the six floors. This gem is tucked behind Oxford Street and offers a café, sales gallery and impressive bookshop. Get there early - admission is free before noon every day.

**Gaze at the Crown Jewels**

At the Tower of London, all that glitters is not gold - some of it is platinum, silver - or sapphire-encrusted. Don't miss the highlights of this still-in-use, dazzling collection.

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THE EMPTY NEST



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- **St. Edward's Crown** is only used at the moment of coronation itself. Made from solid gold and set with semiprecious stones, this crown weighs almost 5 pounds.
- The jeweled, gold **Sovereign's Orb** is set in the king or queen's right hand at coronation before being set on the altar.
- The **Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross** has been used at every coronation since 1661. Prepare to be momentarily blinded by the Cullinan I diamond, which remains the largest top quality cut white diamond in the world, weighing in at 530.2 carats.

#### How to Do Proper Afternoon Tea

- Know your terminology: "Afternoon Tea" is a social affair between lunch and dinner that can include small bites, sweets, and champagne, while "High Tea" is a more substantial evening meal, taken by the working classes after a long day's labor.
- Dress the part: Brits might be more relaxed these days, but you won't see sneakers and sweatpants at Afternoon Tea.
- Don't be afraid to eat with your hands: finger sandwiches are so-named for a reason.

#### Spread Your Wings Outside of London

With breathtaking coastal roads and pretty country lanes there's no better way to explore the UK than by car.

- **Brighton.** Easily accessible from London, Brighton is the quintessential beach escape with reminders of the classic British seaside. Think penny slot machines and tempting vinegary whiffs of fish and chips in the sea air – for a nostalgia fix.
- **Stonehenge and Bath.** The ancient Stone Circle is one of the most famous sights in Britain. A trip to Stonehenge and its mysterious ancient mighty stones will leave you breathless. Bath is about an hour away and is a beautiful city to walk around. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the birthplace of Shakespeare and take in the Shakespeare Festival in July.
- **Oxford and the Cotswolds.** The Cotswolds, with its quaint cottages and thatched roofs, is about as English countryside as you can get outside of a Richard Curtis film. In Oxford, get your bearings in this beautiful city by taking a tour on the Hop-On-Hop-Off sightseeing bus – there's even a Harry Potter and Alice in Wonderland tour too.

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