











BEST FOR NIGHTLIFE

SIBIU, ROMANIA

Forget Dracula: Transylvania is anything but scary. Sitting at the foothills of the Cindrel Montains, Sibiu is a hidden gem that offers more than enough to fill a long weekend. Historically, the destination packs a punch with gothic churches and 17th-century tombs. You'll soon spot houses with the distinctive windows that earned the nickname 'The City With Eyes.' The so-called Small Square is a dining hub - snap up a table at Lili's for burgers, while Nod Pub is a haven for coffee and cocktails. Head to Imperium for live jazz, with weekend stand-up comedy. August sees the Sibiu International Theatre Festival, moved

from its usual June slot, putting on magical events in more than 60 venues across the city. If that wasn't enough to tempt you, one of the year's hottest hotel openings is taking place just outside Sibiu. Bethlen Estates - led by mother and son Gladys and Nikolaus Bethlen - has transformed ancient ruins into modern accommodation while supporting local communities.

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BEST FOR SHOPPING SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN

Tourists in Spain normally overlook Galicia, but the region's capital, Santiago de Compostela, is starting to turn heads. The jewel in its crown is the St James Cathedral, the end point of the Camino de Santiago, a Christian pilgrimage route that attracts millions of people each year. And you'll find a buzzing creative scene - check out the indie shops on the lanes of Rua Nova, Rua do Vilar and Rua do Franco, including Amboa & Maeloc for ceramics, Seco for edible gifts and Zamo for art. Spaniards love Galicia's seafood: try O Curro da Parra, A Curtidoria or La Tacita d'Juan. Hotel-wise, you can't beat Parador de Santiago de Compostela. Hosting pilgrims since 1499, rooms are dripping in antique grandeur.