

Europe in Autumn

Paris in springtime is lovely, but autumn shines brightly throughout Europe, when oppressively hot temperatures in the Mediterranean have all but disappeared and crisp nights greet the northern and alpine regions. Unlike those April showers, fall is often quite dry, perfect for one more bike ride through a series of Belgian villages, paddling across a lake beneath the Alps or joining a fall wine crush in the south of Spain. However you intend to spend your autumn holiday abroad, these European destinations will add plenty of color to your experience.

Text by Crai S. Bower | Photo editing by Mike Hipple

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Lake District National Park, U.K.

The footpaths of Cumbria demand to be trodden, a tangle of lanes revealing villages, lakes and more than a few pubs. Perching upon Crag's Helm and peering out at the oaken mosaic that frames Lake Windermere brings the musings of resident William Wordsworth to mind, where they linger like the spicy flavor of the Grasmere Gingerbread that is baked within 30 feet of the poet's final resting place is St. Oswald Cemetery. This is a land of literary fantasy, a Tolkien landscape far from Middle Earth, where we expect to see Beatrix Potter's Jeremy Fisher as we cast our own rods (and subsequent tales) upon the very same Estwaite Water where the waistcoated frog issues his fly.

Bing: [Lake District National Park in photos](#)

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