



December



# TRAVEL THROUGH DIVERSITY

travel the world in an enjoyable way

Eco-tourism  
in the spotlight

Exploring  
Fort LeBurg

Off the  
beaten path







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# Travel Through Diversity



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# LETTER

*From the*

# EDITOR

A Christmas Journey of Wishes and Dreams

As the winter chill sets in and the festive lights twinkle, there's a magical feeling that surrounds us during Christmas. It's a time when dreams take flight, and wishes feel just within our grasp. As an Erasmus coordinator and an avid traveler, I have witnessed the power of exploration and learning. This Christmas, my wish is for students to experience the transformative journey of travel and education.

Imagine a world where borders are crossed not just on maps, but through the heartwarming connections we make. Travel is more than just visiting new places; it's about embracing new cultures, languages, and perspectives. Each destination holds a story, waiting to be unfolded by curious minds. I wish for every student to hold these stories, to let them shape their understanding and appreciation of the world's magnificent tapestry.

This Christmas, I dream of journeys that inspire and educate. May each trip be a chapter in the grand book of life, teaching lessons of resilience, empathy, and joy. Whether it's the historical streets of Rome, the vibrant markets of Istanbul, or the serene landscapes of the Norwegian fjords, every corner of the world has something unique to offer. These experiences are not just trips; they are the building





My wish is also for safety and sustainability in our travels. Let's tread lightly on the paths we explore, leaving only footprints and taking only memories. In a world where our environmental footprint is as important as our cultural experiences, I hope for travel that respects and preserves the natural beauty and heritage of our destinations.

In this season of giving, let's gift the joy of learning through travel. Let's encourage students to step out of their comfort zones, to immerse themselves in the unknown, and to return enriched with knowledge and memories. This Christmas, my wish is for every journey to be a beacon of hope, a bridge of understanding, and a path to a more connected and compassionate world.

May your holidays be filled with the spirit of adventure and the warmth of new experiences. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with exciting travels and enlightening journeys!



Editor-in-Chief

*Gonca Tarhan*





# MAGNIFICENT CITY BETWEEN TWO BLUES

Antalya is a very beautiful city in  
Turkey

Photo by Gonca Tarhan



## Antalya: A Symphony of Sun, Sea, and History

Nestled on the picturesque southwestern coast of Turkey, Antalya is a city where history and modernity dance under the Mediterranean sun. Known as the “Turquoise Coast” for its stunning blue waters, Antalya is a paradise for travelers seeking both adventure and tranquility. As we explore this magnificent city, we find ourselves wandering through a canvas of vibrant colors and rich history.

## A Journey through Time

The heart of Antalya is its charming old town, Kaleiçi, where narrow, cobbled streets are flanked by Ottoman-era houses, now transformed into quaint shops and cafés. Walking through Kaleiçi is like traveling back in time. The ancient Hadrian’s Gate, dating back to the Roman era, stands as a majestic entrance to this historical wonderland. Beyond it, the Clock Tower and the Yivli Minare Mosque, with its distinctive fluted minaret, remind us of the city’s rich past.



Antalya castle





# BEST

# New Places

# TO VISIT

## Imagined Description of Crystalshore for Travelers

### Pristine Beaches

- **Sparkling Sands:** As the name suggests, Crystalshore could be famed for its crystal-clear waters and pristine sandy beaches, perfect for sunbathing and relaxing.
- **Water Activities:** Opportunities for snorkeling, swimming, and scuba diving might be abundant, with vibrant marine life and coral reefs nearby.

### Scenic Beauty

- **Coastal Walks:** The shoreline could be lined with scenic walking paths offering breathtaking views of the ocean.
- **Sunset Views:** Crystalshore might be an ideal spot for watching stunning sunsets, where the sky meets the shimmering sea.

### Local Culture

- **Seafood Cuisine:** A destination like this would likely boast an array of seafood restaurants serving fresh, local catches.
- **Art and Craft:** Local markets and galleries might display crafts and artwork inspired by the sea and coastal life.




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By Theodore Lewitz  
Photography by Hannah Morales







Here, you can place a caption for the photo. It can be a short description or it can credit the production team.

### Accommodations

- **Beachfront Resorts:** Luxurious resorts with beachfront views, providing amenities for a comfortable and relaxing stay.
- **Eco-Friendly Lodging:** Options for environmentally conscious travelers, like eco-lodges or sustainable hotels..

### AfAdventure and Exploration

- **Boat Tours:** Crystalshore might offer boat tours along the coast or to nearby islands.
- **Water Sports:** Activities like kayaking, paddleboarding, and jet skiing could be popular.

### Relaxation and Wellness

- **Spa Services:** Many coastal destinations offer spa treatments, especially those utilizing marine elements like seaweed or salt.

### Environmental Conservation

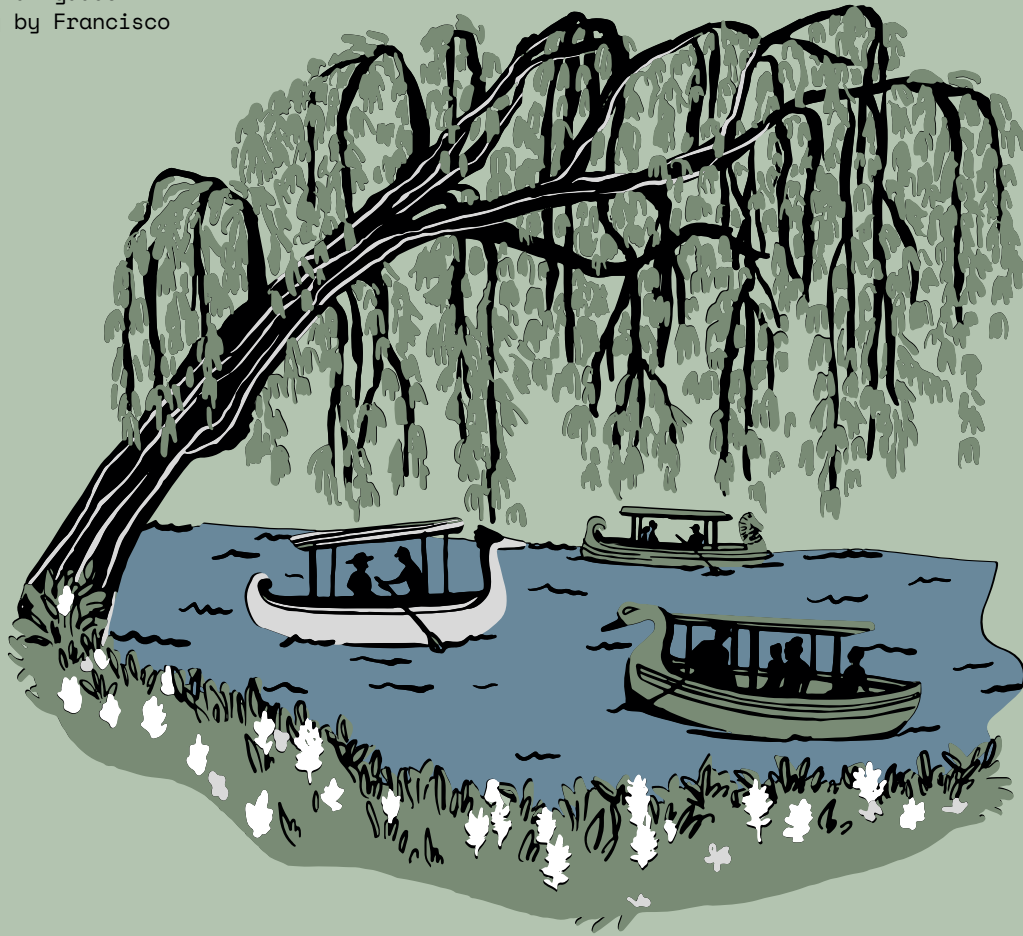
- **Protected Areas:** There might be efforts to preserve the natural beauty of the area, with protected marine zones or wildlife sanctuaries.

### Travel Tips

- **Sun Protection:** Don't forget sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses for protection against the su



By Rosa Maria Aguado  
Photography by Francisco  
Andrade



# ECO-TOURISM *in the* SPOTLIGHT

Eco-tourism is a form of sustainable travel that focuses on experiencing natural areas in a way that promotes environmental conservation and respects the well-being of local people. It's an ethical approach to travel, emphasizing minimal impact on the environment and positive contributions to local communities.

## Key Principles of Eco-Tourism:

1. Conservation of Natural Resources: Travelers engage in activities that support the protection of natural areas. This includes respecting wildlife, contributing to conservation efforts, and minimizing pollution.
2. Support for Local Communities: Eco-tourism often involves interaction with local communities. Visitors can contribute to the local economy by staying in locally-owned lodgings, buying local products, and using local services.
3. Cultural Respect and Awareness: Understanding and respecting the cultures and traditions of local communities is a crucial aspect. This involves engaging with local customs in a respectful manner and learning from them.
4. Educational Component: Eco-tourism often includes an educational aspect where travelers learn about the local environment, wildlife, and cultural heritage. This knowledge fosters a greater appreciation and responsibility towards conservation efforts.
5. Sustainable Travel Practices: This involves minimizing carbon footprints, such as choosing low-impact transportation, reducing waste, and being energy efficient.







eco-tourism can be a powerful tool for achieving sustainable development goals, benefiting both the environment and local communities.

#### Tips for Eco-Tourists:

- **Research:** Before traveling, research the destination to understand its environmental challenges and cultural norms. Choose eco-friendly accommodations and tour operators.
- **Leave No Trace:** Always follow the principle of leaving no trace behind in natural areas to preserve them for future generations.
- **Participate in Conservation Activities:** If available, participate in conservation activities or volunteer programs.
- **Respect Wildlife:** Observe wildlife from a distance, and do not feed or disturb them.
- **Support Local:** Buy local products and use local services to help boost the local economy.
- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** Practice these principles diligently while traveling.

#### Benefits of Eco-Tourism:

- **Environmental Protection:** Direct contribution to the conservation of biodiversity and natural habitats.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Supports the preservation of local cultures and traditions.
- **Economic Benefits for Local Communities:** Provides economic opportunities for local people.
- **Enhanced Travel Experience:** Offers a more authentic and meaningful travel experience.

Eco-tourism is not just a way to travel

#### 1. Environmental Conservation:

- In Costa Rica, eco-tourism has played a crucial role in preserving its rainforests. The revenue generated from eco-tourists helps fund national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- In the Galápagos Islands, eco-tourism fees contribute to the conservation of unique wildlife and ecosystems.

#### 2. Community Development and Empowerment:

- In Kenya, the Maasai community benefits from eco-tourism through community-owned lodges and tours. This provides a sustainable income while preserving their cultural heritage.
- In Nepal, eco-tourism initiatives in the Annapurna region support local projects, like schools and health clinics, improving the quality of life for residents.

#### 3. Preservation of Cultural Heritage:

- In Bhutan, eco-tourism includes cultural tours that respect and celebrate local Buddhist traditions. This helps preserve their unique culture while educating visitors.
- In Aboriginal Australia, eco-tourism provides a platform for Indigenous Australians to share their ancient cultures and knowledge of the land.

# EXPLORING



# PALERMO



By Eros CalCara  
Phd student in university of  
Cordoba

**Palermo, the capital city of the Italian island of Sicily, is a destination rich in history, culture, and architectural marvels, making it a fascinating place for tourists. Its history is a tapestry of various cultures and civilizations, including the Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, and Spanish, each leaving a distinct mark on the city's character.**





#### 1. Ancient and Medieval History:

Founded by the Phoenicians, Palermo later became a significant part of the Roman and Byzantine Empires. The city truly flourished under Arab rule, becoming a center of learning and culture.

2. Norman Conquest: The Normans left a remarkable architectural legacy in Palermo, including the Palermo Cathedral and the Palazzo dei Normanni (Norman Palace), known for its stunning mosaics and the Palatine Chapel.

3. Spanish Rule: The Spanish influence is evident in many of Palermo's baroque churches and palaces, contributing to the city's unique cultural blend. Tourist Attractions:

1. Palazzo dei Normanni and Palatine Chapel: A UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its exquisite Byzantine mosaics.

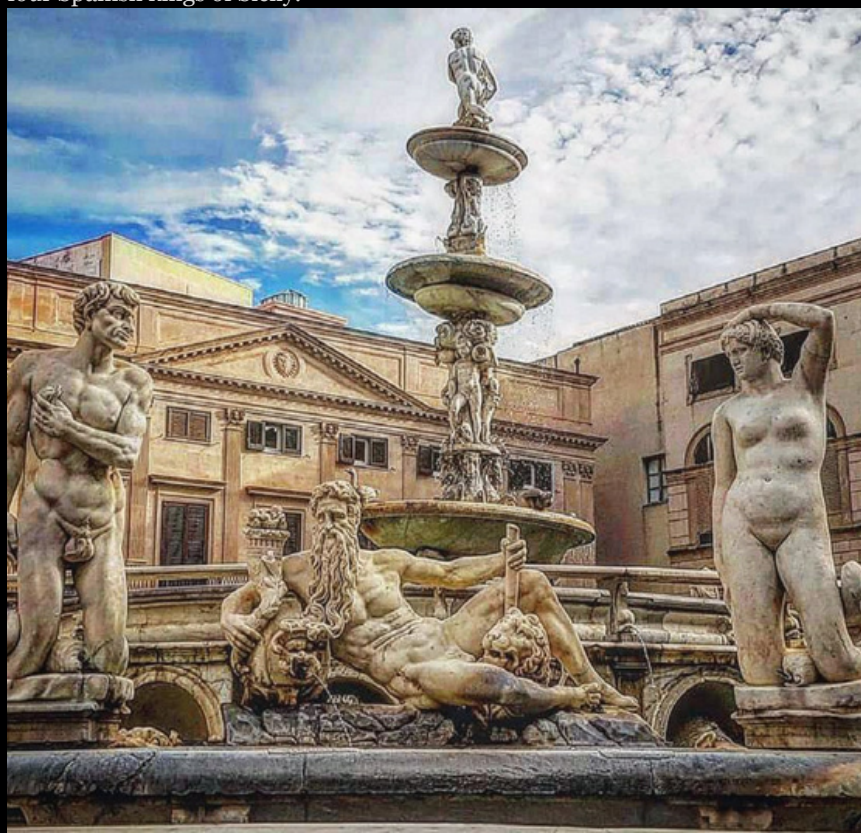
2. Palermo Cathedral: A testament to various architectural styles due to numerous modifications over centuries, showcasing Norman, Moorish, Gothic, Baroque, and Neoclassical elements.

3. Teatro Massimo: Italy's largest opera house, an architectural gem known for its perfect acoustics and impressive neoclassical design.

4. Capuchin Catacombs: Offering a unique, albeit macabre, glimpse into Palermo's past, these catacombs house thousands of mummified bodies.

5. Quattro Canti: A baroque square at the heart of Palermo, representing the four Spanish kings of Sicily.

6. Markets of Palermo: Bustling markets like Ballarò and Vucciria reflect the city's Arab heritage and are perfect for experiencing local life and cuisine.





# BEST NEW PLACES TO VISIT

By Phyllis  
Schwaiger  
Photography by  
Jin Ae Soo

New year .....

New roats are loading.....



## Venston Bay

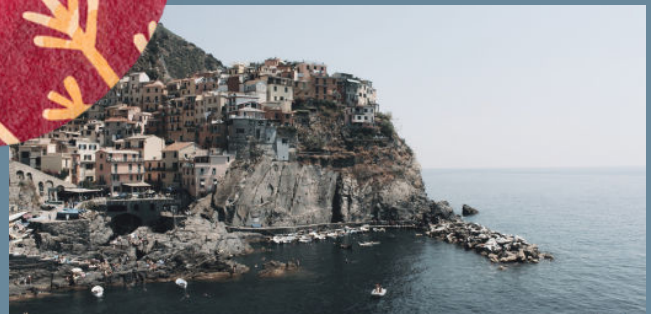
# 01

Venston Bay: A Hidden Gem for the Avid Traveler

Nestled along a pristine coastline, Venston Bay is a hidden jewel waiting to be discovered by travelers seeking a blend of tranquility and adventure. This charming bay, with its crystal-clear waters and unspoiled natural beauty, offers a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Natural Beauty and Serene Beaches

Venston Bay's main allure is its stunning beaches. The soft, golden sands are perfect for sunbathing and relaxation, while the clear, turquoise waters invite swimming and snorkeling. The bay's unique underwater ecosystem is a paradise for divers, offering a glimpse into a world of colorful coral reefs and diverse marine life.



## Halderperry National Park

# 02

Halderperry National Park: An Untouched Wilderness Awaiting Discovery

Halderperry National Park, a hidden gem nestled in the heart of a majestic mountain range, offers a breathtaking escape into the wild. This expansive park, known for its diverse ecosystems and stunning natural beauty, is a haven for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike.

Diverse Landscapes and Rich Biodiversity

Spanning thousands of acres, Halderperry National Park boasts a variety of landscapes, from dense forests and rolling hills to crystal-clear lakes and cascading waterfalls. It's a hotspot for biodiversity, home to a wide array of wildlife including rare bird species, elusive mountain lions, and herds of wild deer.







## Santa Solana Beach

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03

Santa Solana Beach: A Coastal Paradise for Every Traveler

Santa Solana Beach, a hidden gem along a stunning coastline, beckons travelers with its golden sands, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant local culture. This idyllic beach destination is the perfect blend of relaxation, adventure, and cultural exploration, offering something unique for every visitor.



## Fort LeBurg

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04

Historical Significance

- Time Capsules of History: Forts and burgs often date back centuries and are rich in history. They offer insights into the military, political, and social aspects of the periods they were built in.
- Cultural Importance: Many of these structures have played pivotal roles in historical events, making them significant cultural landmarks.



## Crystalshore

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05

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# Córdoba

# SPAIN

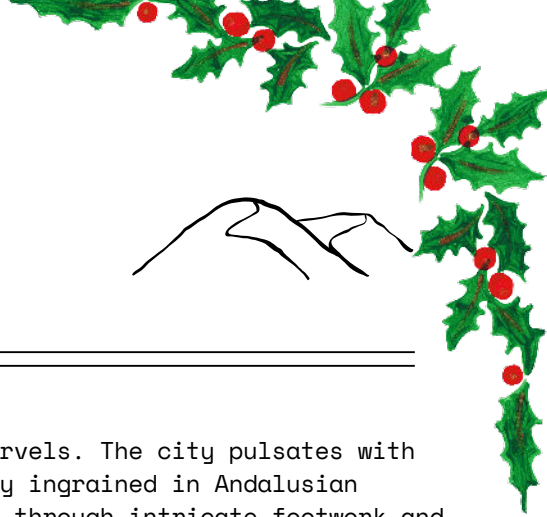
By Eros Calcara

.As I stepped onto the cobbled streets of Córdoba, Spain, I felt an immediate connection to a city that seemed to breathe history and culture. Córdoba, a jewel nestled in the heart of Andalusia, is not merely a destination; it is a journey through time, a testament to the diverse and vibrant tapestry of Spain's cultural heritage.

My exploration of Córdoba's cultural treasures began at the iconic Mezquita-Catedral, a masterpiece that encapsulates centuries of architectural evolution. Walking through the horseshoe arches and under the mesmerizing red-and-white striped archways, I marveled at the fusion of Islamic and Christian influences. This grand mosque-turned-cathedral is a symbol of the city's rich history, where each brick and column whispers tales of Moorish rulers and Christian conquerors. The Jewish Quarter, or Judería, beckoned me with its narrow, winding streets and charming courtyards adorned with colorful flowers. It felt like stepping into a different era, where the echoes of Sephardic culture lingered. The Synagogue of Córdoba, one of the few surviving medieval synagogues in Spain, stood as a poignant reminder of the city's multicultural past.







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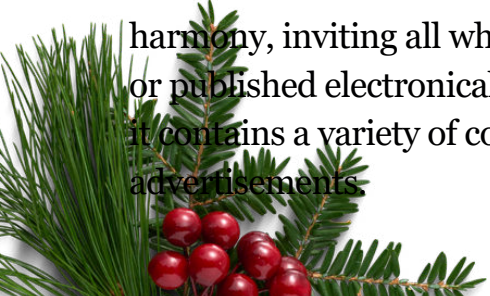
Córdoba's cultural essence extends beyond its architectural marvels. The city pulsates with the rhythm of flamenco, a passionate and soulful art form deeply ingrained in Andalusian culture. I found myself captivated by the raw emotion expressed through intricate footwork and soul-stirring melodies. The intimate tablao venues allowed me to experience the authenticity of flamenco, making it a highlight of my cultural immersion in Córdoba. A stroll along the Guadalquivir River opened vistas of the Calahorra Tower, a defensive structure that once guarded the Roman Bridge. The bridge itself, spanning the river with its 16 arches, is a testament to Roman engineering prowess. The juxtaposition of these ancient elements against the backdrop of Córdoba's modern life creates a captivating blend of old and new.

Córdoba's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage is evident in the numerous museums scattered throughout the city. The Archaeological Museum provides insights into the Roman era, while the Julio Romero de Torres Museum celebrates the works of the renowned Cordoban painter. Each museum serves as a portal, allowing visitors to delve deeper into the layers of Córdoba's history and artistic expression.

The allure of Córdoba's cultural tourism lies not only in its tangible heritage but also in the warmth and hospitality of its people. From the lively markets to the quaint cafes in the squares, I found myself welcomed into a community that takes pride in sharing its traditions and stories. In the heart of the city, I discovered that cultural tourism is not just about sightseeing; it's about immersing oneself in the soul of a city. It's about feeling the heartbeat of history, dancing to the rhythm of flamenco, and savoring the flavors of Andalusian cuisine.



Córdoba, with its kaleidoscope of cultural experiences, is a destination that leaves an indelible mark on the traveler's heart, a place where the past and present coexist in harmony, inviting all who visit to become a part of its timeless narrative. either be printed or published electronically. It is issued regularly, usually every week or every month, and <sup>16</sup> it contains a variety of content. This can include articles, stories, photographs, and advertisements.





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