

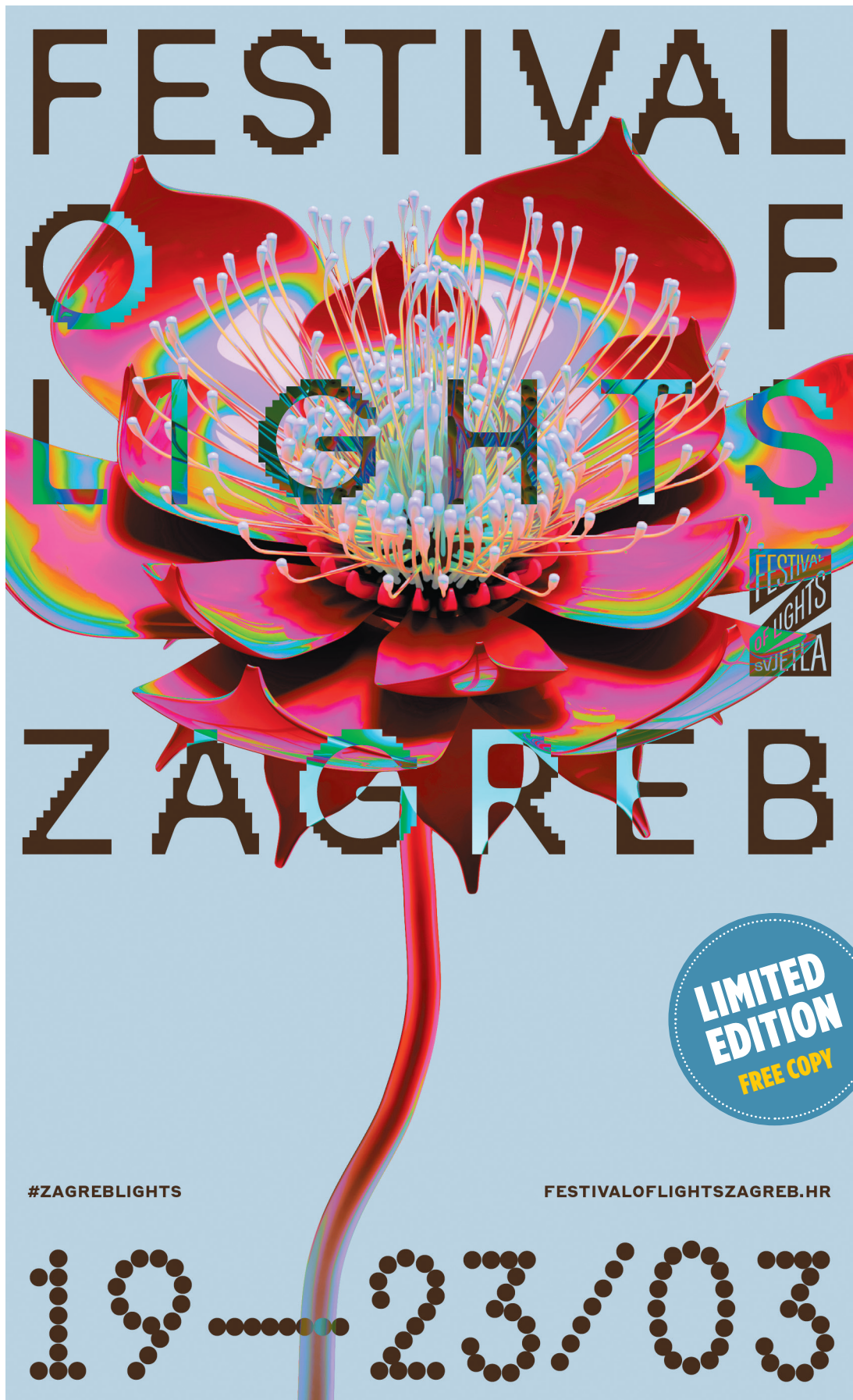
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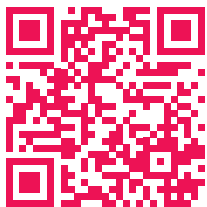


#ZAGREBLIGHTS

FESTIVALOFLIGHTSZAGREB.HR

19-23/03

March 19–23



1. LIGHTHOUSE

To mark the beginning of another Festival of Lights, a symbol of Zagreb, Lotrščak tower, becomes the lighthouse that guides the way to the illuminated city.

2. LOTRŠČAK TOWER

The light installation *The Flow of Life* portrays the continuous flow of life's energy. Its unpredictable dynamics drive us to consider the ephemeral nature of all things – light, spring and time.

3. STROSSMAYER PROMENADE – EAST

Strolling around the Upper Town, stop by the monument to Antun Gustav Matoš to listen to the voices of Croatian actors reciting his lines. Indulge in poetry with the city as the backdrop.

4. KLOVIĆEVI DVORI GALLERY ATRIUM

Powered by the magic of disco balls, the ambiance pairs sparkly lights, motion and music. The goal is to feel alive and have a good time sprinkled by all this magic.

5. STROSSMAYER PROMENADE – EAST

The association *The Light of Lanterns* presents a tribute to the symbols of the time before electricity – lanterns. Learn about these prequels to modern lightbulbs and experience their old-school charm.

6. ZAKMARDI STEPS

Each ball carries its own source of light, creating a harmonious and balanced visual. Set at different heights, they set up a truly special scene.

7. OPATOVINA PARK

When was the last time you saw fireflies? In the installation *Firefly Field*, dots of light simulate the movement of these tiny insects, creating a spectacular scene.

8. KAPTOL 5

A 3D mapping where the building's architecture becomes a canvas for the transformation of hellebores through the seasons. Light and projection highlight the delicate beauty of flowers.

9. DOLAC MARKET

British artist duo Matt and Rob Vale make over Dolac into an ode to the pioneering work of the Zagreb Film. *Their Wheel of Life* shows animated elements from the studio's early days.



Croatian National Theatre

Festival of Lights Zagreb

Festival of Lights kickstarts the spring in Zagreb. From March 19 through 23, light artists take over the city squares, streets, parks and promenades to create spectacular panoramas and bring positive vibes for the start of springtime. www.festivalsvjetlazagreb.hr

10. BAN JOSIP JELAČIĆ SQUARE

After Lyon, Shanghai and Doha, the playful Anookis arrive to Zagreb. Turning their spots into fun playgrounds, these sculptures are just perfect for selfies.



S. CERIĆ KOVAČEVIĆ

11. BAN JOSIP JELAČIĆ SQUARE - EAST

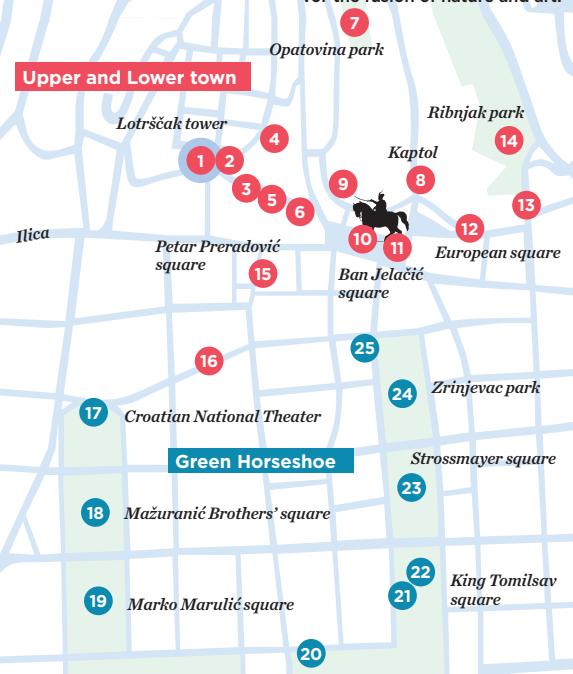
In this space where artificial intelligence and creative inspiration come together, enjoy an interactive multimedia experience by WAVE. Each movement you make sparks the synergy of light, sound and motion.

12. EUROPEAN SQUARE

The installation *AI Parasite* illustrates the enormous quantities of data we consume every day. Traversed by light impulses, this huge cube takes you to the heart of the matrix.

13. DRAŠKOVIĆEVA STREET

Turned into a pedestrian zone, Draškovićeve brings light and nature together. The passers-by are invited to enjoy a stroll underneath the lit-up trees, take in the soothing ambiance, and savor the fusion of nature and art.



14. RIBNJAK PARK

Succumb your senses to the light and admire solar particles of water as they lead you into another world, the one beyond reality.

15. PETAR PRERADOVIĆ SQUARE

The visualization by Czech artist Benedikt Tolar uses old-school socialist bathtubs to represent the preciousness of water. Bathtubs, once common in every apartment, are now, through upcycling, becoming an artistic call to reflect on whether future generations will have what we take for granted today.

16. MASARYKOVA STREET

Stroll down Masarykova street to admire an open-air art gallery. The installation *Lightscape* presents the city in a new way.

17. CROATIAN NATIONAL THEATER

A multi-layered collage of light and color that inspires positive vibes. Some of the patterns and structures are reminiscent of a colorful surreal journey.

18. MAŽURANIĆ SQUARE

Adorned with ten installations, Mažuranić square adopts a new skyline. One of them is called *In the Clouds*, and it recreates an illuminated cloud above a swing. Experience the joy, nostalgia, and tranquility as you revisit the days of your childhood.

19. TRG MARKA MARULIĆA

A surreal 3D mapping show traces a single water droplet as it flows through rivers, the Adriatic and beyond. Shifting forms transform the façade into fluid.

20. HOTEL ESPLANADE

A poetic 3D mapping show transforms Hotel Esplanade into a dreamlike journey.



Echoes of 1925 emerge and the spirit of the Orient Express drifts through shifting illusions of time and travel.

21. KING TOMISLAV SQUARE

The tale of King Tomislav, Croatia's first monarch. The journey ends with powerful imagery of Croatian symbols and sculptures, celebrating the nation's rich history.

22. IMPULSE

At an illuminated playground, stop to discover gigantic seesaw sculptures. Moving any one of them will turn the king Tomislav square into an oasis of intense experiences.

23. STROSSMAYER SQUARE

The Les Nuees scenography fills the space with butterfly-shaped flying sculptures. Moving them, the wind creates a visual symphony of motion and light.

24. ZRINJEVAC PARK

This encounter of sound and light symbolizes modern-day society strained between two opposing aspects: mental disease and healthy living. The installation *Under Pressure* is comprised of eight figures.

25. ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The video mapping on the museum's façade recalls personal stories of its first female curators; the pioneers of the museum collections that they created, organized and interpreted.



MARIN TOMAS

* Zagreb Tourist Board is not responsible for changes in schedule, performers, program, prices or the cancellation of the event by the organizers.

MONOVIEW

A homegrown museum of global game



Roko Živković, co-founder of the Museum of Illusions

From a small offbeat museum in Zagreb, you expanded to almost 60 cities on 4 continents. What originally inspired this big idea?

It all started with the idea of creating a space where people of all ages could have fun while exploring the incredible ways in which illusions trick our minds. Seeing the excitement and curiosity on visitors' faces in Zagreb made it clear that this was an experience worth sharing with the world. The goal was simple: to create a place where education and entertainment come together.

What do you love about Zagreb in springtime?

I love how the city seems to wake up after the long, gray winter months. The sun finally shows up, and the streets

start buzzing with life again. It's the start of barbecue season, and there's nothing quite like gathering with friends and enjoying good food outdoors.

What is for you the quirkiest place in the city, apart from the Museum of Illusions?

There are so many little gems that capture the city's spirit — places that have their own stories. One thing to mention, Zagreb has great hidden courtyards and narrow streets in the Upper Town. You never know what you might find — whether it's a tiny café, vibrant street art or a stunning viewpoint.

Fun things to do on a weekend in Zagreb...

For families, I'd recommend visiting one of the 14 private museums scattered around the city. They're fascinating, and there's something for everyone's curiosity. And if you're in the mood for a night out, you can always find a live band or a great DJ playing somewhere.

Your top three secret Zagreb spots where you take your favorite people.

My top three secret spots in Zagreb are: Boogie Lab for breakfast and coffee — it's the perfect place to start the day. For lunch, Carpaccio is my go-to. And when it's time for a night out, I would recommend Mr. Fogg. It's a place full of good energy, making it the ideal spot to wrap up an evening with friends.

QUIZG

Questions

1 The Zagreb Zoo first opened exactly one century ago. Who were its first residents?

- a) wolf and fox
- b) fox and owl
- c) bear and rabbit

2 If Zrinjevac park sits at an altitude of 122 meters, how high is the Upper Town?

- a) 146 m
- b) 158 m
- c) 164 m

3 *The Man Who Could Not Remain Silent*, the short film nominated for an Oscar, was filmed at:

- a) Shunting yard
- b) West train station
- c) Main train station

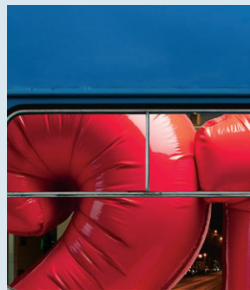
Answers

1 b, The Zoo's first animals were three foxes and two owls. Today, Maksimir houses almost 400 wild animal species.

2 b, The altitude difference between the Lower and Upper towns is 36 meters, as measured between Grič and Zrinjevac.

3 c, The film by Nebojša Slijepčević, which won the Golden Palm at Cannes, was filmed at the Zagreb's main train station.

GO NATIVE



GOURMET FEAST AT BUNDEK

Zdravo Je Pravo fair (Real Food Is Healthy Food) brings together small local farmers at Bundek lake and park (March 28–30). Head there to stock up on fresh organic produce and various pickles and preserves, all of which follow the farm-to-table concept.

MEND YOUR HEART WITH MUSIC
Museum of Broken Relationships and Music Biennale Zagreb are cooking a fabulous fusion of contemporary music themed around loss and breakups. Visit the pop-up exhibition at Brokenships (March 20–April 20) and catch the concerts (April 5–12). Program @mbz.hr

PICK A SOUVENIR AT SPRING FAIR

Artists and artisans have always been the soul of Zagreb. Admire their handcrafted souvenirs of the city at Spring Fair (April 16–19) at Petar Preradović square. If you want something unique, this is the place to stock up on knick-knacks and mementos.

SPICE UP YOUR MOVIE REPERTOIRE

Looking for something extraordinary when it comes to movies? Catch excellent documentaries during the Zagreb Dox Festival (March 30–April 6). Head to Kaptol Boutique Cinema and take your pick of film, from new entries and established classics.



ANJA MUTIĆ

writes for *BBC Travel*, the *Washington Post* and many more. Follow her at @everthenomad

The blooming of Zagreb

It's the vibrant colors and it's the heady scents of Zagreb in springtime that make the city such a lure this time of year. As nature awakens from long winter slumber, the parks and gardens become an enchanting spectacle of flowers abloom. Let's talk a walk down the flower lane together.

Popping up as early as March, crocuses are among the first harbingers of spring. Spot their delicate purple, white and yellow flowers as you roam the woods of Maksimir. Tree trunks around the city's verdant spaces get dressed in gorgeous garb of budding flowers. Look out for all the cherry blossoms and magnolias, such elegant standouts among the springtime flora.

Many streets of Zagreb get lined with blossoming lilacs and hyacinths, their aroma a sweet pairing to your city wanderings. You'll also spot tulips, iris, daffodils and primroses in the city's green grounds, like Zrinjevac and the other parks that make up Lenuci's Green Horseshoe, a U-shaped system of seven leafy city squares.

For a burst of floral joy, don't miss a stroll around the English-style arboretum in the Botanical Garden, covered with a dense colorful carpet of blooming flowers in springtime. It's a lovely way to witness nature coming alive, and Zagreb wearing its spring dress so beautifully.

Revive your childhood in a Bilogora village

N



Head to Veliki Grđevac, a village on the south slopes of Bilogora and the birthplace of Croatia's best-known children author Mato Lovrak. If you read *Train in the Snow* and *Pero Kvržica's Band*, you'll connect with your favorite fictional characters at the Mato Lovrak Cultural Center, including the train itself. Take a stroll along the educational nature trail and soak up the nostalgic charms of village life.



Tip: Round up your trip with a stop in nearby Bjelovar, with coffee and cake at Zagorje patisserie.



ANDREA PISAC

Global anthropologist and Zagreb writer with a twist. Follow her at @travelhonestly.com

Honestly it's time to fry some dough

When I think of carnival, I think of my grandma's doughnuts. As a kid, my priorities were different. In the week leading up to Shrove Tuesday, children got most excited about wearing costumes and painting their faces. We paraded around the neighborhood, singing and fooling around. And when we came home, there was a heap of doughnuts or other fried dough waiting to be munched.

Speaking about fried dough, there are as many variations across Croatia as there are names for Shrove Tuesday or carnival. It's *fašnik* in Zagreb and its surroundings. Then we have the words *poklade*, *mesopust*, *karneval*, as well as *maškare*. If we translate this diversity into the kitchen, we get the best known and most beloved fried dough: *krafna* (doughnut). Our *krafna* is usually filled with jam. And shape-wise, it's not a round tube with a hole in the middle; it's just round and full.

Other fried treats include *fritule* (mini doughnuts) all along the coast, *poderane gaće* (torn underpants) in Zagorje and Međimurje and *langoši* in Podravina, Slavonija and Baranja. Though different in size and shape, they share something more important: they are delightfully crispy and take us back to sweet childhood memories.

Tip: Take a trip to nearby Samobor, a town famous for its carnival feast and tasty doughnuts.

DAY TRIPS FROM ZAGREB THAT SUIT ALL TASTES

The surroundings of Zagreb beam with exciting places to visit. Even if your family has diverse interests, you'll find a spot to satisfy everyone's desires. From baroque castles of Zagorje for culture vultures, gourmet dishes and wines for foodies, to hiking and biking trails for adrenaline seekers. Boot up and start exploring.



1. Samobor

Eye-catching baroque town, Samobor is a perfect destination for a Sunday trip. Walk its quaint streets, trudge to the old castle, then feast on hearty local food, such as pork cutlet and famous custard cake.



2. Zagorje

The gentle hills of Zagorje are best known for fairytale castles, such as Trakošćan, Veliki Tabor and Djalski. You'll have to reserve more than a day to explore them all. Go slow and relax with a glass of white wine spritzer.



3. Plešivica

Lovers of excellent white wine will love the arresting landscape of Plešivica. The slopes can be steep to hike but the views are amazing, and so is the locally produced sparkling wine.

4. Lonjsko Polje

One of Europe's best preserve marshlands, Lonjsko Polje is a dream come true for bird-watchers. Visit Čigoč, the first European stork village, and stick around to enjoy škrljet, a local white wine.



5. Turopolje

The region south of the Sava River is known as Turopolje. But the real charm of this area begins around Velika Gorica, where you'll see historic wooden churches. Saddle up your bike and explore miles of flat and easy trails.



NUMBERS

HELP

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28 is the maximum number of travelers
 30.5 meters is the altitude difference
 64 seconds to the Upper Town
 66 meters is the length of its tracks



THE FUNICULAR HAULED FOR AN OVERHAUL

It was a spectacle unseen for the last 50 years – the iconic funicular literally flew off, hauled away for a big overhaul. The cabins were dismantled by cranes near the Lotrščak tower and will only be returning from renovations next spring. You'll then be able to partake in the 134-years-long tradition of riding the world's shortest funicular to the Upper Town.

TASTE OF ZAGREB

powered by Taste of Croatia



Young cheese is a springtime joy

Dairy products are the backbone of offer at Zagreb markets. *Kumice*, the old ladies who sell cheese and cream from nearby farms, are the symbol of this tradition. Their stalls showcase cheeses of different flavors and textures, but their foundation is always the same – high-quality homemade cow milk. Young cheese can be creamy, clumpy, curdy or prepared in molds, but it is always a refreshing and light meal, and an excellent base for spreads and fillings. After a few days, it becomes more compact and easier



to slice but it remains of gentle taste and an ideal pairing for cold cuts, especially the Easter spread of ham, radish and spring onions. The local specialty is the cooked cow cheese, often elevated with chives or ground red pepper; it is soft, fresh and piquant all at once. The golden crust is a sign of smoking; smoked semi-hard cheese is a must on local platters. The assortment of cheeses from the market is a staple of Zagreb cuisine. *Trešnjevka market: a package of young cheese – 3 euro, a wheel of smoked cheese – 10 euro* *Bistro Točkica: Fresh cheese and cream, 7 euro*

PLAY FOODSIE

Think of spring food as an elixir for your body and soul. Load up on antioxidants in fresh fruit and veg, but don't just feed your eyes with rainbow-colored plants. Do some foraging or stock up on wild edibles at farmers' markets. Think asparagus, fennel and arugula made into an electric green pesto for your bowl of pasta. Come Easter, dial up on pungent and spicy notes with spring onions and radishes. Sure, pair them with juicy spring lamb roast.



FIRST THING

Fuel up before sightseeing

The people of Zagreb have a special relationship with bakeries. We love to get a small pastry – sweet or savory – and munch on it on the go. This ritual is often practised at breakfast but there is no reason you can't enjoy traditional comfort food any time you arrive to the city. After all, you'll need carbs to walk up and down those romantic Upper Town staircases.

LAST THING

Say goodbye from a tram

Exploring Zagreb on foot is the best way to get up close and personal with the city. And since our capital is so walkable, you might miss riding a tram. Now it's time to hop on tram #13 and stay on until the end of the line. You'll see many central sites, such as Jelačić and Kvaternik squares, as well as more remote blocks. Wave the city au revoir.

4am

House music pioneer kicks off the spring

On the first night of spring, the legend of house music brings the best NY vibes to the stage at Boogaloo club. A DJ since the 1980s, producer for the biggest stars and a Grammy winner, David Morales returns to Zagreb with his newest album, *Sunday Mass*.
[@boogaloozagreb](https://www.boogaloozagreb.com)

Zagreb continues breaking tourism records. With almost a million and a half arrivals, it was the top Croatian destination in 2024. The annual number of visitors rose by 9%, with guests from USA, Germany, Italy and Korea topping the charts, followed by guests from Croatia's neighboring countries.

This year started off in the same fashion, as the World Men's Handball Championship drew in fans from Scandinavia, France, Spain...

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