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Travelling to Neighboring Countries

Within a span on 5 months, I managed to travel to 15 cities in 6 countries outside of Paris under a budget. So I can, with confidence, tell you that it is possible! Here are a list of the places that I went to that I think you can also include on your destination bucket list:

Belgium – probably the easiest out-of-the-country trip you can make is to Brussels in Belgium. Along with friends, we took one of the earliest train leaving Paris at 5:30 and left Brussels at 19:00. A day trip was more than enough to see the most popular tourist sites because the city isn't that big and we knew exactly where to go and what to eat! Waffles, Belgian Chocolate, mussels from Chez Leon, the United Nations Office, the Mannekin Pis (overrated), the Grand Place and the René Magritte Museum were on top of our list. The biggest expense will probably be the train ticket so make sure to book yours weeks in advance.



Italy – *bellissimo*. It's amazing how every city in Italy had its own distinct vibe so travel to as many cities possible! Venice was a dream. The street food was great and there were a lot of interesting shops around every corner. Florence, Rome were definitely worth visiting for both the food at the sites. I had the best pizza and gelato in Florence (not in Naples). Spend at least 2 days to explore these cities and buy that metro ticket! Some tourist sites are far apart and if, like me, you prefer to walk slowly, the metro is worth it. Pisa and Capri are a bit out of the way but are just tourist destinations worth seeing. Milan and Naples were so-so; still quite beautiful but personally less interesting. Public transportation in Naples is also inconvenient. Nevertheless, food in Italy is a lot cheaper than in Paris and usually very good so *mangiare!*

Spain – Warmer than Paris so remember to bring lighter, thinner clothes. In Barcelona, there are sites to see all over the city so buy a metro ticket! Most of them will be close to the center but there are also major sites to see in the east and in the west so try to find a place in between to stay. In the west is Park Güell, one of Gaudi's major works. In the east is the La Barceloneta, the beach. In the middle are Sagrada Familia, Casa Mila, Casa Batllo and the gothic quarter. Hotels are cheap and the food was great. While there, don't forget to have paella, empanada and Spanish wine.

Germany – Beer and sausage. There's truth to the cliché but Germans make good beer and sausage. Another memorable moment was my visit to the Berlin wall which brought inexplicable emotions.

Greece – Athens and Santorini are both familiar tourist destinations and are so for a reason. Their well-preserved historical sites, unique cuisine, charming shops and fantastic views made the trip eye-opening

Switzerland – the most expensive amongst the countries I visited to, Switzerland is personally memorable for its efficient public transport, fresh air and stunning natural landscape. All the mountains, lakes and fields were so clean they seemed high definition – exactly as you see them on Google.