

Eye On Entertainment

Travel on a Dime:

Backpacking through Europe Part I

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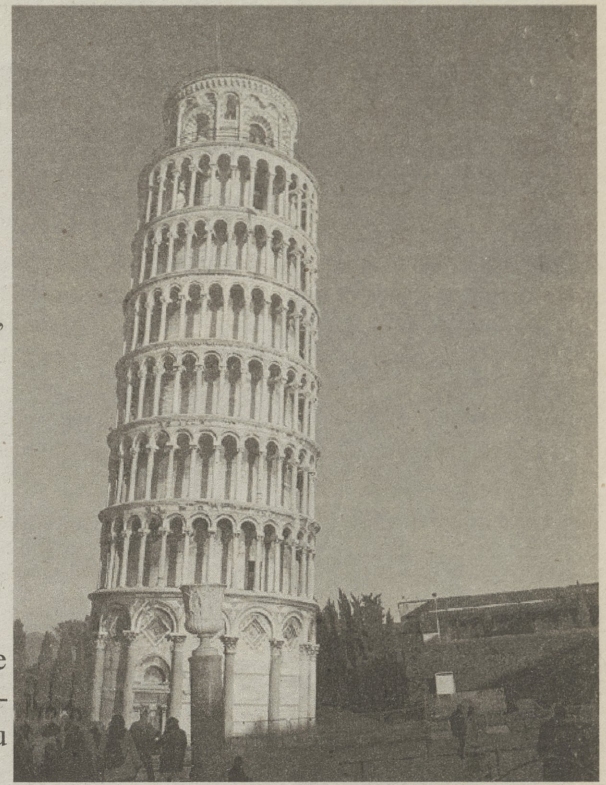
Many people have the idea that traveling to Europe is only for certain types of people, such as the ones with reservations at five star hotels or that knows the language. In some cases that's absolutely true, but for the most part it's an exaggeration. If you have some money and the street smarts, traveling to Europe will be another amazing experience. The most fun and affordable way to travel is backpacking. Backpacking Europe is life changing and the perfect way to see Europe in an honest, raw light.

Before planning your trip, I must say as a backpacker myself, find someone you can trust to go with. If you think Europe will be fun by yourself, rethink eight hour train rides and getting lost in a new city by yourself.

Once you find your travel companion, discuss the direction you want your trip to go in. Have an idea of when you would want to go, what countries you would like to visit or anything in particular you would like to see. However, planning in too much detail ruins the thrill of discovering new towns, languages, and foods all by accident.

The key component to making a trip to Europe affordable is knowing where to stay. Hostels are the best way to save money and to stay local. Make sure the hostel has a secure safe for your bags; otherwise you will have to use a safe at the local metro. Hostels work a few ways, so understand what you are getting before you pay. The most common are dormitories segregated by male and female. This will usually cost between \$10-20 a night. You sleep in bunk beds with a group others and share a bathroom. In some hostels the bathrooms are segregated, in others they are not. The bathrooms do have separate showers and toilets so there is some sense of privacy. Some hostels offer private rooms with bathrooms. These rooms will cost you triple or more the amount you would pay for a dorm, although they are still much less expensive than standard hostels.

On your way to Europe, you will most likely have a layover at Heathrow airport in London. If you have the time, roam the nearby streets and eat lunch at a café. Airport food is rarely authentic. From London, it's really a matter of where you want to start your trip. I say start at the most enjoyable and inexpensive city you can find. No matter where you go you will experience adventure, challenges, and something new everywhere you look.



The Leaning Tower of Pisa
(image courtesy of google.com)

Local Music, Local Music Guy

Jowder Jams

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The Sermon!, considered a rock, funk, and blues band, also turned the crowd on to jazz fusion on the 8th of March. Hailing from West Chester, they returned to play a packed show at Vincent's Jazz and Blues bar located on E. Gay Street. Although the bar is very expensive, music that is played in there is phenomenal.

The Sermon! should not be confused with the San Francisco band of the same name, as this band has an exclamation point at the end. The band consists of six members, which includes a saxophone player, lead guitar, bass, drums, organ, and sometimes a lead singer. They mostly play their own music, but their influences range from all different genres and they will do some covers.

On the night I was there they covered Beck, Nirvana, and Santana and turned the songs into their own jam. It was very interesting to watch The Sermon! play, and not only were they good at improvisation, they were having a lot of fun doing it as well.

They will be playing at Vincent's on April 12, 2008, and if you are into jazz and funk music go to Myspace and check them out. They were very impressive and I recommend them to anybody who likes an array of music.

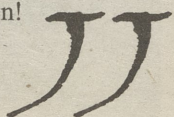
LeCompt, a classic rock cover band that has been around for over 25 years, plays



Local band The Sermon! (image courtesy of myspace.com)

at Tom and Jerry's in Ridley Township once a month. They are very talented musicians and put on one hell of a show. They cover bands from ACDC to ZZ Top. Some of their encores include "Free Bird," by Lynyrd Skynyrd and "Funeral for a Friend, Love Lies Bleeding," by Elton John. This group of guys has a lot of fun playing together and usually the owners of the bar will let them play till after 2:30am.

I enjoy seeing LeCompt because they are classic rock and they keep the crowd on their feet. They take requests and pretty much know every classic rock song that you can think of. They cover some Metal as well; bands like Metallica, Dio, Mega Death, and Ozzy. There is a five dollar cover at Tom and Jerry's, but it is much more affordable for drinks than Vincent's. Tom and Jerry's is located at 1006 McDade Boulevard in Milmont Park, which is also considered Ridley Township. They are a must-see band and are also found on www.myspace.com. Take a listen!



EQUUS COMES TO BROADWAY

Special to The Lion's Eye

Those of you who love theatre should be examining the Great White Way, just 2 hours from here in New York City, to see the array of shows, new and old, available for your entertainment. A trip to The Big Apple can cost as much or as little as you want to spend if you plan accordingly.

All the buzz in the past few weeks has been about Peter Shaffer's *Equus*, which will be coming to Broadway this fall. Richard Griffiths and Daniel Radcliffe, stars of the popular *Harry Potter* films, now come to Broadway in the acclaimed London production of the Peter Shaffer stage classic. The casting of seventeen year-old Radcliffe caused some controversy, since the role of Alan Strang required him to appear naked on stage. Radcliffe insisted that the nude scene was not "gratuitous" and that he should portray the character and the scene as called for by the script.

Equus is a story of one boy's undeniable passion and unspeakable crime. The play quickly became The West End's most-talked about theatrical sensation. Hailed as "an electrifying evening of theatre" by the *London Sunday Times* and "one of the most emotive pieces of theatre ever written" by the *London Daily Express*, *EQUUS* now comes to NYC for a strictly limited engagement at the Broadhurst Theatre on 235 West 44th St. Previews will begin on September 5, 2008, and opening night will be September 25, 2008.

