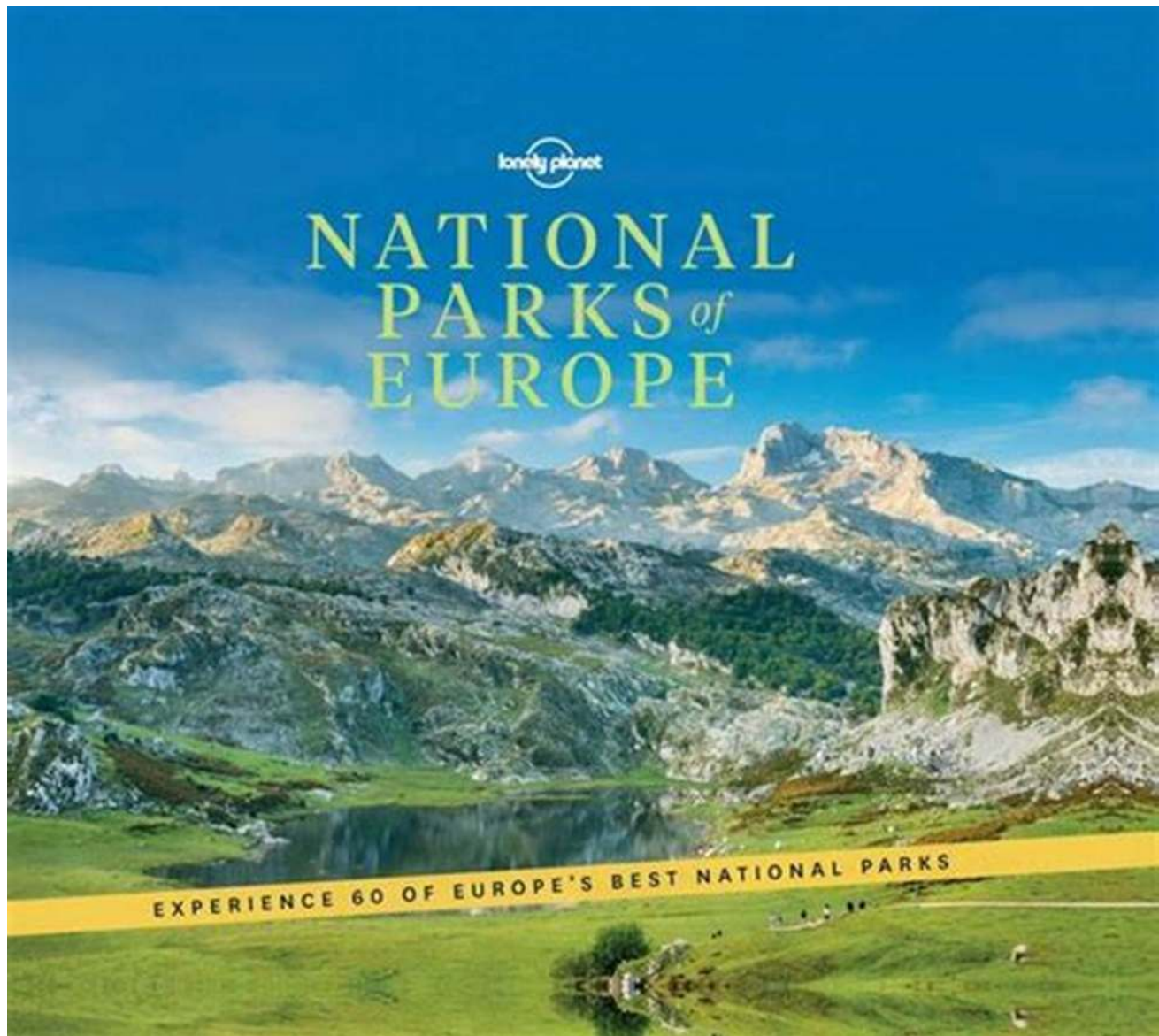


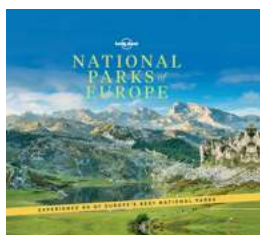
# The Hidden Gems of Europe: Explore the National Parks that Lonely Planet Recommends



Europe is known for its rich cultural heritage, iconic landmarks, and bustling cities. However, beyond the crowded streets and tourist hotspots, lie some of the most breathtaking natural landscapes the continent has to offer. Whether you're an avid hiker, nature lover, or simply seeking solace in the tranquility of the great

outdoors, Lonely Planet has curated a list of Europe's best national parks to help you uncover these hidden gems. Get ready to embark on an unforgettable journey through the unspoiled beauty of nature that awaits you.

## 1. Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia: Where Water Creates Art



### National Parks of Europe (Lonely Planet)

by Bernd Stiegler (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 164801 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 320 pages



Plitvice Lakes National Park in Croatia is a true masterpiece of nature. With its crystal clear turquoise lakes, cascading waterfalls, and lush greenery, this park resembles a canvas on which water has painted a breathtaking work of art. As you explore the park's network of wooden footbridges and walking trails, you'll be immersed in the ethereal beauty of its sixteen terraced lakes. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture the unmatched serenity and vibrant colors that change with the seasons.

## **2. Torres del Paine National Park, Chile: A Paradise for Adventurers**



Traveling to South America, you'll find Torres del Paine National Park, a true paradise for adventurers. Located in the Patagonian region of Chile, this park

boasts towering granite peaks, glaciers, and emerald-colored lakes. From hiking the famous "W" trail to conquering the challenging peaks like Cerro Paine Grande, this park offers endless opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Whether you're an experienced mountaineer or a beginner hiker, Torres del Paine will leave you awe-inspired by its grandeur and untouched wilderness.

### **3. Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia: The Beauty of the Balkans**



The Balkan Mountains are a haven for nature lovers seeking an off-the-beaten-path adventure. Stretching from Bulgaria to Serbia and beyond, this mountain range is home to diverse flora and fauna. Hiking enthusiasts can explore the numerous trails that wind through lush forests and open meadows, while wildlife enthusiasts can observe rare species. Witness breathtaking vistas from peaks like Botev and Vitosha, or delve into the region's rich cultural heritage by visiting

historic monasteries and traditional villages. The Balkan Mountains offer a unique blend of natural beauty and cultural richness, making it a must-visit destination.

#### **4. Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia: Land of Fire and Ice**



Vatnajökull National Park in Iceland is a land of fire and ice, where rugged glaciers meet active volcanoes. The largest national park in Europe, Vatnajökull is a nature lover's paradise. Explore massive glaciers, ice caves, and surreal landscapes that seem plucked from a fantasy novel. Witness the power and beauty of natural forces as you gaze at cascading waterfalls like Svartifoss or navigate through Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon. Vatnajökull National Park promises an otherworldly experience that will awaken your sense of adventure.

#### **5. Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia: An Alpine Wonderland**



Triglav National Park in Slovenia invites you to discover an alpine wonderland filled with pristine lakes, towering mountains, and picturesque valleys. Named after Mount Triglav, the park's highest peak, it offers countless opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, cycling, and mountaineering. Embark on the Seven Triglav Lakes Valley hike, marvel at the enchanting Lake Bled, or challenge yourself by climbing the iconic Triglav Mountain. As you explore this fairytale-like landscape, you'll be enchanted by its beauty and serenity.

These national parks are just a glimpse of the natural wonders waiting to be discovered in Europe. Whether you're an adventure seeker or someone who seeks solace in nature, these parks offer a chance to escape the bustling cities and immerse yourself in the tranquility of unspoiled beauty. Let Lonely Planet guide you through an unforgettable journey, where hidden gems are waiting to be explored. So pack your bags, put on your hiking boots, and prepare to embark on an adventure that will leave you with memories to last a lifetime.



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A celebration of and practical guide to Europe's areas of incredible natural beauty. Step into a world boasting hilltop coastal villages, frozen Arctic landscapes and sweeping mountain ranges - and discover the 60 most breathtaking national parks, as well as itineraries for experiencing their top sights and activities. The beautiful hardback includes:

- Suggested itineraries for long and short visits
- The essential activities for every season
- Awe-inspiring landscape photography
- How to get to each park and where to stay
- Illustrations of local wildlife to look out for

Europe's national parks are incredibly diverse - and that's what makes them so special. They protect areas of coast, high-altitude peaks in the Pyrenees and Alps, and even parts of the frozen Arctic, and include wildlife from Carpathian squirrels and fin whales, to peregrine falcons and polar bears. Setting out to choose Europe's top 60 national parks was no easy task, so we called on our

expert writers and well-travelled editors. We asked them to tell us which parks provide the best experiences and why. The final selections were those that offered something truly unique, often an enthralling mixture of stunning natural beauty, incredible wildlife, fulfilling activities, local culture and, occasionally, a compelling history too.

We hope the following pages inspire you to explore more of Europe's wild and wonderful spaces.

Includes 60 national parks:

- Abisko
- Abruzzo
- Aiguestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici
- Arcipelago di La Maddalena
- Atlantic Islands of Galicia National Park
- Dolomiti Bellunesi
- Berchtesgaden
- Black Forest
- Brecon Beacons
- Cairngorms
- Carpathian
- Cinque Terre
- Connemara
- Curonian Spit



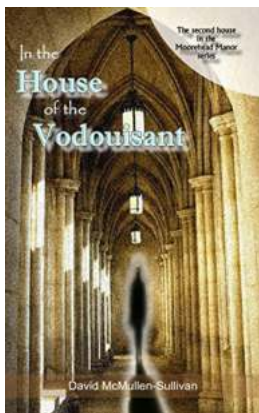
- Dartmoor
- Donana
- Durmitor
- Ecrins
- Etna
- Gauja
- Golfo di Orosei e del Gennargentu
- Hardangervidda
- Hohe Tauern
- Hortobagy
- Jostedalsbreen
- Jotunheimen
- Killarney
- Kornati
- Lahemaa
- Lake District
- Lake Skadar
- Lemmenjoki
- Loch Lomond and The Trossachs
- National Marine Park of Alonnisos Northern Sporades
- Nordvest-Spitsbergen

- Ordesa
- Oulanka
- Paklenica
- National Park
- Peak District
- Pembrokeshire Coast
- Peneda-Geres
- Picos de Europa
- Pirin
- Plitvice
- Port-Cros
- Pyrenees
- Retezat
- Sarek
- Saxon Switzerland
- Sierra Nevada
- Slovensky Raj
- Snafellsjokull
- National Park
- Snowdonia
- Swiss National Park

- Tatras
- Triglav
- Valbona Valley
- Vatnajökull
- Vikos-Aoos National Park
- Wadden Sea

About Lonely Planet: Since 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel media company with guidebooks to every destination, an award-winning website, mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet covers must-see spots but also enables curious travellers to get off beaten paths to understand more of the culture of the places in which they find themselves. The world awaits!

Important Notice: The digital edition of this book may not contain all of the images found in the physical edition.



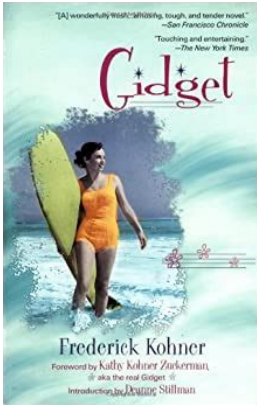
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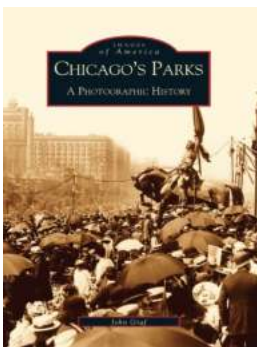
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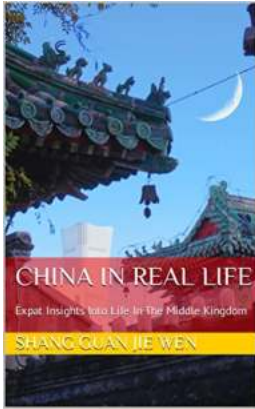
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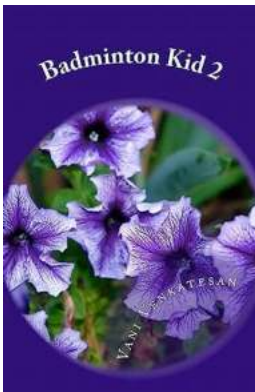
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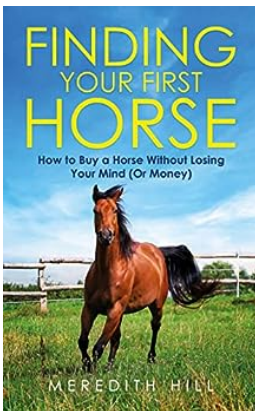
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