

Europe's Best-Smelling Travel Destinations

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. sightseeing (noun) /'saɪt,si:ɪŋ/ - The activity of visiting places of interest in a particular location.
Example: Sightseeing in Rome includes visiting the Colosseum and the Vatican.
2. sightsmelling (noun) /'saɪt,smɛlɪŋ/ - Imaginary word referring to choosing a place to visit based on its smell.
Example: Sightsmelling could be a unique way to plan a vacation.
3. environmental (adjective) /ɪnˌvaɪ.rən'men.təl/ - Relating to the natural world and the impact of human activity on its condition.
Example: The environmental performance index measures the cleanliness of air and water.
4. florists (noun) /'flɔ:r.ɪsts/ - Shops or people that sell and arrange flowers.
Example: Florists play a significant role in adding pleasant scents to a city.
5. refuse (noun) /'ref.ju:s/ - Waste or garbage that is discarded.
Example: The city's refuse was not collected during the strike, causing a bad smell.
6. perfume (noun) /'pɜ:.fju:m/ - A fragrant liquid typically made from essential oils extracted from flowers and spices, used to give a pleasant smell.
Example: The perfume shop in the city center is very popular with tourists.
7. kilometers (noun) /kɪ'lɒm.i.tərz/ - Units of measurement equal to 1,000 meters.
Example: The city spans 50 square kilometers and is known for its beautiful architecture.



When we go on holiday, we may like to go sightseeing, which means visiting — or seeing — famous and interesting places. But would you be interested in "sightsmelling"? That's not a real word, but perhaps it should be! It could mean choosing a place to visit based on the way it smells. If that sounds — or, um, "smells" — like something you might like to do, a company from the UK has made a list of what it says are Europe's best-smelling cities.

This wasn't a scientific study, but there was a method used to decide which places smelled best. First, the company looked at how clean each city is. This measure is called the "environmental performance index," and it includes things like cleanliness of air and water. Cities were also ranked based on how many bakeries, perfume shops, and flower shops they have for every 10 square kilometers!

So if you like the smells of fresh bread, flowers, and perfume, then, according to the report, Athens is the place to go. The Greek capital was at the top of the list, with more than 30 bakeries and 30 florists for every 10 square kilometers. The report added that Athens also has great street markets full of fresh food, which help make it a sweet-smelling city.

However, visitors who have been in the famous old city during one of its refuse worker strikes will know that Athens doesn't always smell so good! Paris, known for its baguettes, was second on the list, while Zurich, Dublin, and the city of Luxembourg came next.

In ninth place was Valletta, the small but busy capital of Malta, where there are 196 bakeries for every 10 square kilometers! But don't expect to find hundreds of bakeries there — the city is less than 1 square kilometer in size!

DISCUSSION

1. If you could choose a holiday destination based on smell, where would you go and why?
2. How do you think the smells of a city contribute to the overall travel experience?
3. What are some smells that remind you of your hometown?
4. How would you design a "sightsmelling" tour for your city?
5. Why do you think fresh bread, flowers, and perfume are popular smells in cities?
6. How can cities improve their environmental performance index?
7. Have you ever visited a city that had a memorable smell? Describe it.