

Summer in the city

Städteurlaub? Dann, wenn alle am Strand liegen? Unsere Korrespondenten haben London, Dublin, Toronto und Washington besucht. Sie berichten darüber, was sich dort im Sommer besonders lohnt und wie Sie mit Kind und Kegel für wenig Geld viel Spaß haben können.

medium www.plus



Take a walk on
the south side:
the view of
Westminster
across the Thames

Cooling off:
the National
Gallery
in LondonGeorgian doors:
Baggot Street
shows Dublin's style

So many activities in London cost nothing, such as visiting its great museums

Summertime means hot streets, melting ice cream, parks full of sunbathers, and concerts under the stars. It's a time of year when you spend a lot of money on having fun. That's why we've chosen to tell you about four cities you can visit for less. Sure, travelling in Europe is expensive, but our London and Dublin correspondents give you tips for getting the most out of every hard-earned euro — even when you've got the kids with you. And if you didn't already know, North America is up for sale. The exchange rates make travelling to places like Toronto and Washington, DC, a super deal. Book your flight for a summer break that won't break the bank!

Legendary London

Every fairy tale begins the same way: once upon a time, a boy grew up in London. Having conquered faraway kingdoms and married a beautiful princess, he decided it was time to take his son on a visit to his homeland. Since I am more **pauper** than prince, however, the idea is to spend a long weekend seeing a very expensive city for as little money as possible.

So many activities in London cost nothing, such as visiting the Science and Natural History Museums in South Kensington, the famous British Museum and the spectacular new Tate Modern. The changing of the guard (every day at 11 a.m.) outside Buckingham Palace is still free; and close by, you can take a look through the iron gates into Downing Street, where the prime minister works and lives. At Trafalgar Square, you

A CLOSER LOOK

A **pauper** is a very poor person. *The Prince and the Pauper* is a novel by Mark Twain about two identical-looking boys — one rich and the other poor — who decide to trade places.

can feed hungry pigeons the leftovers from your lunch. Sandwiches and sushi on chains like Pret à Manger are a cheap alternative to restaurants.

Getting around on Transport for London is easy enough with an Oyster Card for the grown-ups. Read the rules: in many cases, young children can travel free of charge. Sitting on the top deck of a red bus at the front is one of the city's great experiences; and on route 15 from Trafalgar Square to the Tower of London, you can still often use the old-fashioned "hop-on, hop-off" Routemaster buses.

Sooner or later, you are going to have to start spending money. A family ticket for the Tower of London? That will be £46, please. The same for Madame Tussaud's? That'll be £74 to see the wax figures. My son, Lewis, and I talked about our priorities long before we left for London. We decided that the Tower was a must, and we threw in Tower Bridge for good luck (only £6 for adults). We decided to climb up the 530 steps to the top of St Paul's Cathedral (£10 for adults; £3.50 for children) for the unusual acoustics of the Whispering Gallery and the view across London. We thought it was better value than the London Eye, which costs £15 for adults and £7.50 for kids.

For a quick and original introduction to the sights, we rode the London Duck (£19 for adults; less for kids). This 75-minute tour of the West End uses amphibious vehicles from the Second World War. The highlight is when the Duck drives right into the River Thames and cruises up to the Houses of Parliament.

Every Englishman's home is his castle, so we took a trip out to the suburbs to see where I grew up. Disappointingly, the house was much smaller than I remembered it. Or maybe I've grown up. But for Lewis, London was as magical as a fairy tale.

David Marsh



Ha'penny Bridge: a famous sight on Dublin's River Liffey

Dynamic Dublin

The Irish are among the friendliest people on the planet (see *Spotlight* 3/08). In Dublin, you're likely to spend time in the pubs drinking and chatting with new-found friends; but keep in mind that if you're paying more than €4.50 for a pint of Guinness, you're in tourist country.

Historic Dublin is best seen on foot. Most visitors pay €8 to see the Book of Kells, the famous 9th-century manuscript of the Gospels. It's in Trinity College's Old Library, but wandering the scenic courtyards costs nothing. Ideas for

bank [bæŋk]	Ufer
break the bank [ˌbreɪk ðə 'bæŋk]	hier: das Konto leerräumen
changing of the guard [ˌtʃeɪndʒɪŋ əv ðə 'ɡɑːd]	Wachablösung
courtyard ['kɔːtjɑːd]	Innenhof
cruise [kruːz]	kreuzen, fahren
discount ['dɪskaʊnt]	Ermäßigung
exchange rate [ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ reɪt]	Wechselkurs
fairy tale ['feəri teɪl]	Märchen
grown-up ['grəʊn ʌp]	Erwachsene(r)
leave for ... ['liːv fə]	sich auf den Weg nach ... machen
leftovers ['left,əʊvəz]	(Essens)Reste
magician [mæ'dʒɪʃən]	Zauberer, Zauberin
midday [ˌmɪd'deɪ]	Mittag(szeit)
mock [mɒk]	nachgemacht, Pseudo-
pebble ['peɪbəl]	aus Kies
pigeon ['pɪdʒən]	Taube
pint [paɪnt]	ein großes Glas Bier (ca. 0,5 l)
quarter ['kwɔːtə]	Viertel
Routemaster ['ruːt,mɑːstə]	Typbezeichnung der alten Doppeldeckerbusse
scenic ['siːnɪk]	reizvoll
suburb ['sʌbɜːb]	Vorstadt, -ort
throw sth. in [ˌθrəʊ 'ɪn]	etw. gratis dazugeben; hier: etw. eben noch mitnehmen
trade places [ˌtreɪd 'pleɪsɪz]	Plätze/Rollen tauschen
treat [tri:t]	etwas Besonderes
vehicle ['viːɪkəl]	Fahrzeug
whisper ['wɪspə]	flüstern

a rainy day include the National Gallery, National Museum and Irish Museum of Modern Art. If you have an International Student Card, bring it along to get discounts. A special tourist card called a Dublin Pass also saves you money at many visitor attractions.

Dubliners make the most of any sunshine, so at midday, outdoor seats at cafes and bars fill fast. To escape the crowds, picnic in Phoenix Park; its 700 hectares include a zoo and the president's residence. The banks of the Grand Canal and the National Botanic Gardens are other great picnic spots. In the heart of **Georgian Dublin** is St Stephen's Green with its lake — also a good place to enjoy free daytime concerts in summer. On Saturday nights in July and August, go to the Temple Bar quarter. Tickets for movies

A CLOSER LOOK

Georgian Dublin is the part of town built in a clean, classical style between 1714 and 1830. During this period, the UK, which included Ireland, was ruled by four kings named George. The Georgian style that became popular in Britain, America and Ireland copies the work of Palladio, a 16th-century Italian architect.

under the stars in Meeting House Square cost nothing. From July 13 to 20, Temple Bar's public spaces also become an arena for acrobats and magicians. It's not only kids who enjoy Circus Week's free show. Greater Dublin's seaside villages are another summer-time treat. For dreamy views of Dublin Bay, a pebble beach, mock castles and celebrity villas (including that of Bono, the ▶

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Do some shopping: the euro buys a lot in Toronto's boutiques



Redmann/ist

Not always hard at work: on the grass at the Capitol in DC

Sidewalk cafes fill with laughter and loud talk on late summer afternoons

singer from the band U2), take the DART railway to Killiney and neighbouring Dalkey. For cliff-top walks and tasty fish and chips, go to Howth at the end of the line. Author James Joyce once lived at Sandycove, which has a DART stop, too. Next to the Martello tower, where he spent a few days, is “the Forty Foot”, a promontory where brave Dubliners take Christmas Day swims in the Irish Sea.

The seaside suburb of Dun Laoghaire is home to the Festival of World Cultures (22–24 August). More than 100,000 Polish, Lithuanian, Nigerian and Chinese people now live here — about half the local community. Celebrate modern Ireland through their music, dance and crafts.

The funniest souvenir? A T-shirt saying: “The Leprechaun Made Me Do It”. Do what? That’s up to you; but remember: it shouldn’t cost much.

Steenie Harvey

Trendy Toronto

A city of skyscrapers, world-class theatre and an important film festival (4–13 September) — it’s no wonder that people looking for a good time travel to Canada’s largest city. Toronto balances its world-class programme of entertainment with excellent shopping and the Canadian modesty that visitors find so attractive.

Take a ferry from Queens Quay on to Lake Ontario, and look back at the skyline. The CN Tower — until 2007 the tallest free-standing structure in the world — is just over 550 metres high; enjoy the view from the top. Next to it is Rogers Centre, a stadium that’s home to the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team and the Toronto Argonauts football team. Seeing either one play is a classic summer treat; tickets are usually available on the day of the game.

Between the tall buildings lies downtown’s famous entertainment district. Broadway musicals and plays fill the 2,000-seat theatres, and comedy clubs invite world-class talent. Warm temperatures bring with them a programme of

open-air concerts, too. Senegalese singer Youssou N’Dour will be appearing at the Harbourfront Centre on 6 July.

Near downtown, ethnic, historic and artists’ neighbourhoods spread out in all directions. The Bloor-Yorkville area is where trendy Torontonians shop. Here you’ll find local fashion designers selling clothing none of your friends will have. Feeling hungry after shopping? Go to Chinatown or any of Toronto’s many other ethnic neighbourhoods. Nearly half of the city’s inhabitants were born outside of Canada and have brought their music, food, and other cultural specialities to the city.

From mid-July until August, Toronto celebrates its Caribbean residents at Caribana, a festival with reggae and calypso music and dancing. More than a million people come to the city for a four-kilometre parade with flamboyant floats. What other cities on the continent have that? Well, New York is one: its West Indian Labor Day parade in Brooklyn takes place on 1 September. But don’t be surprised if you meet some of that city’s Caribbean community in Toronto — those smart people who’ve come to town to double their fun.

Julie Hawrishok

Wonderfully worldly Washington

When you fly into Washington, DC, you may think you’re in Paris. The broad streets and parks of the District of Columbia remind visitors of the Champs Elysées, maybe even the gardens of the Tuileries. This would have pleased Pierre L’Enfant: the Paris-born engineer wanted to give the US capital a French flair when he drew a plan for it in 1791.

A CLOSER LOOK

The District of Columbia, named after Christopher Columbus, who explored the Americas, was designed not to be part of any state. Originally, Georgetown and Anacostia were separate cities within the district. Today, they are part of Washington, now the only city in DC.

Standing near L'Enfant's famous outdoor Mall — a great place to be for Fourth of July fireworks — are the many museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the US government's official collection of objects. The buildings offer cool shelter from the hot outdoors — free of charge. The Air and Space Museum is a kids' favourite, as is the old red-brick castle, the Smithsonian's centrepiece. The National Gallery of Art is nearby, with special exhibitions like "Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul", which runs from 25 May to 7 September.

By now, the kids will be hungry. Forget the restaurants in the museums — they're too expensive. Instead, take the bus to Georgetown, the trendy university quarter on the Potomac River. Buy a picnic lunch at the Safeway supermarket on Wisconsin Avenue, and eat at the side of the C & O Canal, once an important waterway. Then walk over to Dumbarton Oaks at R and 31st Streets. Four hectares of terraced parks show how Americans with money once designed their gardens.

Midday is also a good time to ride the Metro to Pentagon City, a four-storey shopping centre in Arlington, Virginia, not far from the famous five-sided building. Inside are

Argonauts [ˈɑːɡəʊnɔːts]	Helden der griechischen Sage um Jason
beef-and-mushroom pie [ˌbiːf ənd ˌmʌʃrʊm ˈpaɪ]	Pastete mit Rindfleisch und Pilzen
blue jay [ˈbluː dʒeɪ]	Blauhäher
brave [breɪv]	mutig
Caribbean [ˌkærəˈbiːən]	karibisch
Chesapeake [ˈtʃesəpiːk]	
crab [kræb]	Krebs
crafts [krɑːfts]	(Kunst)Handwerk
crash about [ˌkræʃ əˈbaʊt]	herumfegen, hin und her rennen
Dun Laoghaire [ˌdʌn ˈlɔːrɪ]	
Dupont [djuːˈpɒnt]	
electric with: be ~ sth. [ɪˈlektɹɪk wɪð]	mit einer Sache geladen sein
engineer [ˌendʒɪˈnɪə]	Ingenieur(in)
exhibition [ˌeksɪˈbɪʃən]	Ausstellung
explore sth. [ɪkˈsplɔːr]	etw. erkunden
ferry [ˈferi]	Fähre
flamboyant [flæmˈbɔɪənt]	extravagant, ausgefallen
float [fləʊt]	Festwagen
free of charge [ˌfriː əv ˈtʃɑːdʒ]	kostenlos
inhabitant [ɪnˈhæbɪtənt]	Einwohner(in)
leprechaun [ˈleprəkəʊn]	irischer Kobold
Lithuanian [ˌlɪθjuːˈeɪniən]	litauisch; hier: aus Litauen stammend
make for sth. [ˈmeɪk fə]	zu etw. führen; hier: zu etw. werden
modesty [ˈmɒdəsti]	Bescheidenheit
neighbourhood [ˈneɪbəhʊd]	Viertel
outdoors [ˌaʊtˈdɔːz]	das Freie
outsmart sb. [ˌaʊtˈsmɑːt]	jmdn. austricksen
Potomac [pəˈtəʊmæk]	
promontory [ˈprɒməntəri]	Landspitze
quay [kiː]	Kai
ray [reɪ]	Rochen
red-brick [ˈred brɪk]	aus rotem Backstein
shared room [ʃeəd ˈruːm]	Mehrbettzimmer
shelter [ˈʃeltə]	Schutz
skyscraper [ˈskaɪ skreɪpə]	Wolkenkratzer
soak sth. up [səʊk ˈʌp]	etw. aufsaugen/in sich aufnehmen
storey [ˈstɔːri]	Stockwerk; hier: -stöckig
take pleasure in sth. [ˌteɪk ˈpleʒə ɪn]	sich an etw. freuen
tasty [ˈteɪsti]	lecker, schmackhaft
terraced park [ˌterəst ˈpɑːk]	Terrassengarten

170 shops. The dollar's weak, so what you buy here can save you money back home. Macy's has a big cosmetics counter, and Anne Taylor has excellent clothing collections. Visit Coach for stylish leather bags.

The kids may protest, so tell them that if they behave, you'll take them to the National Aquarium in nearby Baltimore. Manta rays and toothy sharks swim in gigantic tanks, while waves of children crash about at knee level. The MARC train from DC's Union Station gets you there in an hour. At \$20 per child and \$30 per adult, the visit isn't cheap, but it does make for a full day of fun.

As the day ends in DC, sidewalk cafes fill with laughter and loud talk from Capitol Hill along the river to Georgetown. Secretaries tell of outsmarting senators, and students soak up the atmosphere, which is electric with politics and possibility. But when work is done, Washingtonians take pleasure in a city that reminds us that life is also to be enjoyed — just like in Paris. *Claudine Weber-Hof* ●

IF YOU GO...

London

Stay: opposite the Houses of Parliament from £104 per night at weekends. Premier Inn County Hall, Belvedere Road; tel. (0044) 870-238 3300; www.premierinn.com

Eat: a good Chinese seafood meal in 1970s decor. Mandarin Kitchen, 14–16 Queensway; tel. (0044) 207-727 9012.

Tourist info: at 1 Lower Regent Street; www.visitlondon.com
For plenty of tips on saving money when visiting London, see *Spotlight* 7/06.

Dublin

Stay: at Acara House B. & B. Shared rooms cost about €40 per person, Irish breakfast included. 5 Upper Saint Columbus Road; tel. (00353) 1-830 0058; www.acarahouse.com

Eat: perfect beef-and-mushroom pies with a pint at South William, 52 South William Street; tel. (00353) 1-672 5946.

Tourist info: on Suffolk Street; tel. (00353) 1-605 7700; www.visitdublin.com

Toronto

Stay: where downtown's business, entertainment and shopping districts meet. Rooms from Can\$ 169 (€105) at The Suites, 1 King Street West; tel. (001) 416-548 8200; www.onekingwest.com

Eat: at 5th Elementt, an Indian-Italian restaurant in the heart of the film festival district. 1033 Bay Street; tel. (001) 416-923 8159; www.5thelementt.com

Tourist info: at 207 Queen's Quay West; tel. (001) 416-203 2600; www.torontotourism.com

Washington, DC

Stay: near lively Dupont Circle in a private-house atmosphere, but without a TV, from \$113. Tabard Inn, 1739 N Street NW; tel. (001) 202-785 1277; www.tabardinn.com

Eat: Chesapeake Bay crabs at this relaxed restaurant; easy to reach by Metro. Quarterdeck, 1200 Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, Virginia; tel. (001) 703-528 2722; www.qdrest.com

Tourist info: at 901 7th Street NW, 4th Floor; tel. (001) 202-789 7000; www.washington.org