

Fodor'sTravel

10 GREAT WALKS IN OUR FAVORITE CITIES





THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO EXPLORE A CITY than wandering its streets and alleys, from terracotta-hued palaces, picturesque squares, and baroque architectural showstoppers in Rome, to the modern glass towers, 19th-century limestone mansions, and secret, pocket-size parks of Manhattan. We've gathered 10 fabulous walks in our favorite cities in the United States and Europe, so put on your comfy shoes and hit the streets.



CHICAGO DOWNTOWN SKYLINE

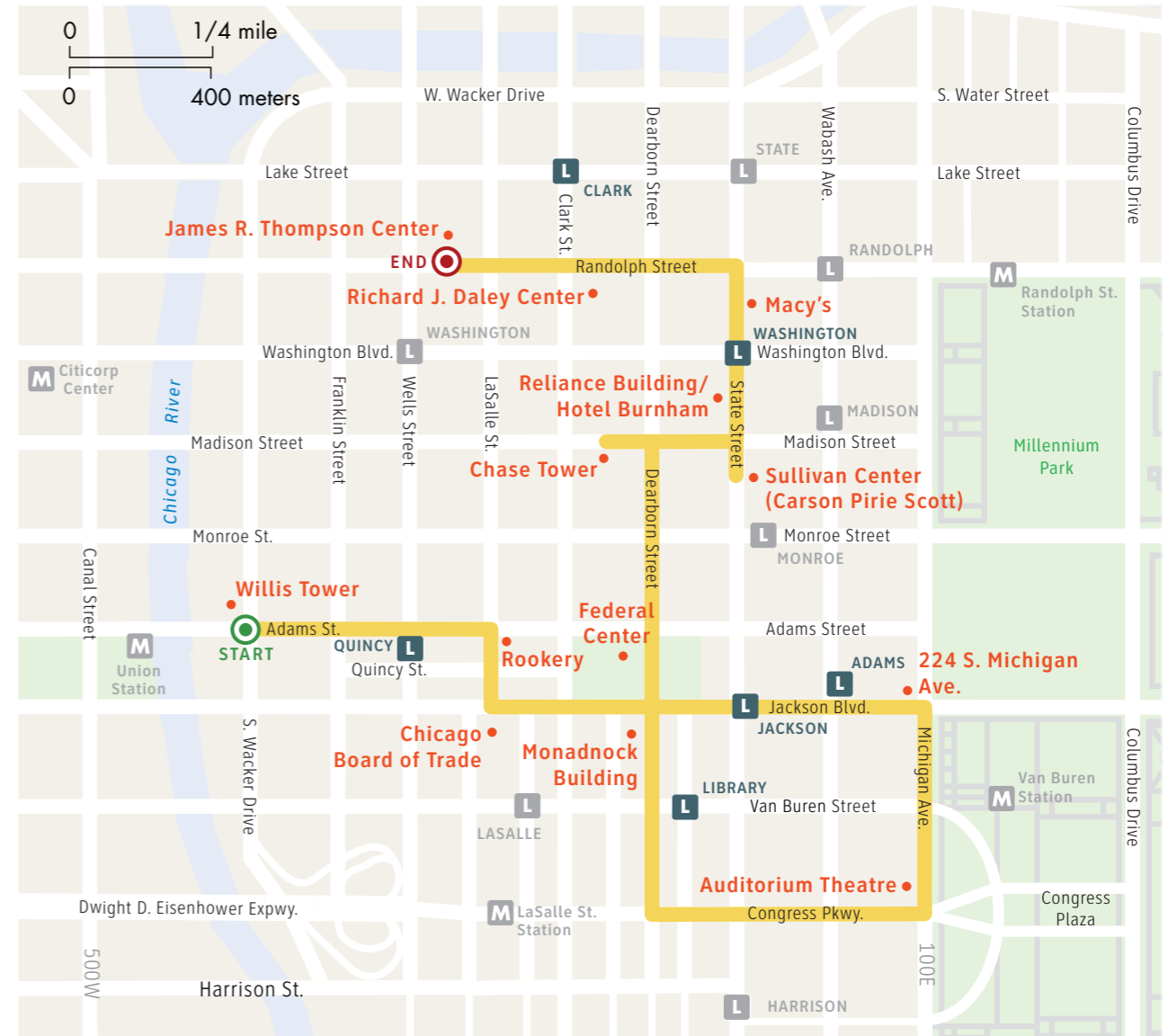
START: Wacker Dr. and Adams St.

END: 100 W. Randolph St.

TIMING: 2 to 4 hours, depending on stops

The Great Fire of 1871 could have been the death of Chicago, but instead it proved to be a grand rebirth, as renowned architects rebuilt the city's skyline. Today it's Chicago's most awe-inspiring attribute. Start with the **Willis Tower**, a 1,454-foot giant that was the world's tallest building when completed in 1973. Next, head to South LaSalle St. and the **Rookery Building**. This 12-story stunner, completed in 1888

by Daniel Burnham and John Welborn Root, is the oldest standing high-rise in town. On Jackson, check out the 45-story Art Deco **Chicago Board of Trade**, designed by Holabird and Root in 1930. Also on Jackson Blvd. is Burnham and Root's 17-story **Monadnock Building**. Built in 1891, it's the last and tallest skyscraper built with masonry load-bearing walls. The nearby **224 S. Michigan Ave.** was also built by Burnham in 1904. On Congress Parkway see Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler's **Auditorium Theatre**, a grand theater completed



in 1889 that still hosts performances. Double back to Jackson and Dearborn to see the geometric, 4.6-acre **Federal Center**, completed in the early 1970s by Mies van der Rohe. Don't miss the graceful slopes of **Chase Tower**, built in 1969 as the First National Bank of Chicago Building. The **Sullivan Center**, at State and Madison streets, has elaborate cast-iron ornamentation over its entryway and a vertical, three-part "Chicago Window." The **Reliance Building** (now the Hotel Burnham) on

State St. is the first-ever glass-and-steel skyscraper. On the northeast corner of State and Washington is **Macy's**, designed by Burnham in 1907 and most famous for the multistory atriums inside, one domed with a Tiffany mosaic.

Finally, walk west on Randolph St. to reach the 648-foot **Richard J. Daley Center** at Clark St.. Across Randolph is Helmut Jahn's dome-shape **James R. Thompson Center**.



NEW ORLEANS GARDEN DISTRICT HOUSES

START: Washington Ave. and Prytania St.

END: 1416-1498 Washington Ave.

TIMING: 45 minutes (without stops inside)

A walk through the Garden District, just a 20-minute streetcar ride from the French Quarter, provides a unique look at life in New Orleans, past and present. Start at **The Rink**, a small shopping complex, and walk east on Prytania to see **Colonel Short's Villa** (1448 Fourth St.) with its ornate cornstalk fence. The **Briggs-Staub House** (2605 Prytania St.) is one of the few Gothic Revival houses in the city.

The **Lonsdale House** (2521 Prytania St.) was a Catholic chapel for more than 70 years. The **Maddox House** (2507 Prytania St.) is an example of the five-bay Greek Revival expansion. The **Women's Guild of the New Orleans Opera Association House** (2504 Prytania St.) has a distinctive octagonal turret. The **Bradish-Johnson House** (2343 Prytania St.) is regal, while the relatively modest raised **Toby-Westfeldt House** (2340 Prytania St.), is an example of a Creole colonial home. **Morris House** (1331 First St.) and the **Carroll House** (1315 First



St.) are decorated with “iron lace,” exemplifying the romantic Italianate style. **Brevard House** (1239 First St.) has an ornate cast-iron gate that extends the length of the block. A block farther on the right is the **Payne House** (1134 First St.), where Confederate president Jefferson Davis died.

Actor John Goodman lives in the **Italianate Mansion** at 2425 Coliseum St.. The white-columned **Robinson House** (1413 Third St.) was the first

house in New Orleans with indoor plumbing. Check out the intricate ironwork at **Musson House** (1415 Third St.). The white-columned **Nolan House**, at 2707 Coliseum is where the film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* was set. The **Commander's Palace** (1403 Washington Ave.), is a great stop for lunch. End the tour with a visit to the white-walled **Lafayette Cemetery No. 1**, arguably the most beautiful cemetery in New Orleans.



NEW YORK MIDTOWN ARCHITECTURE

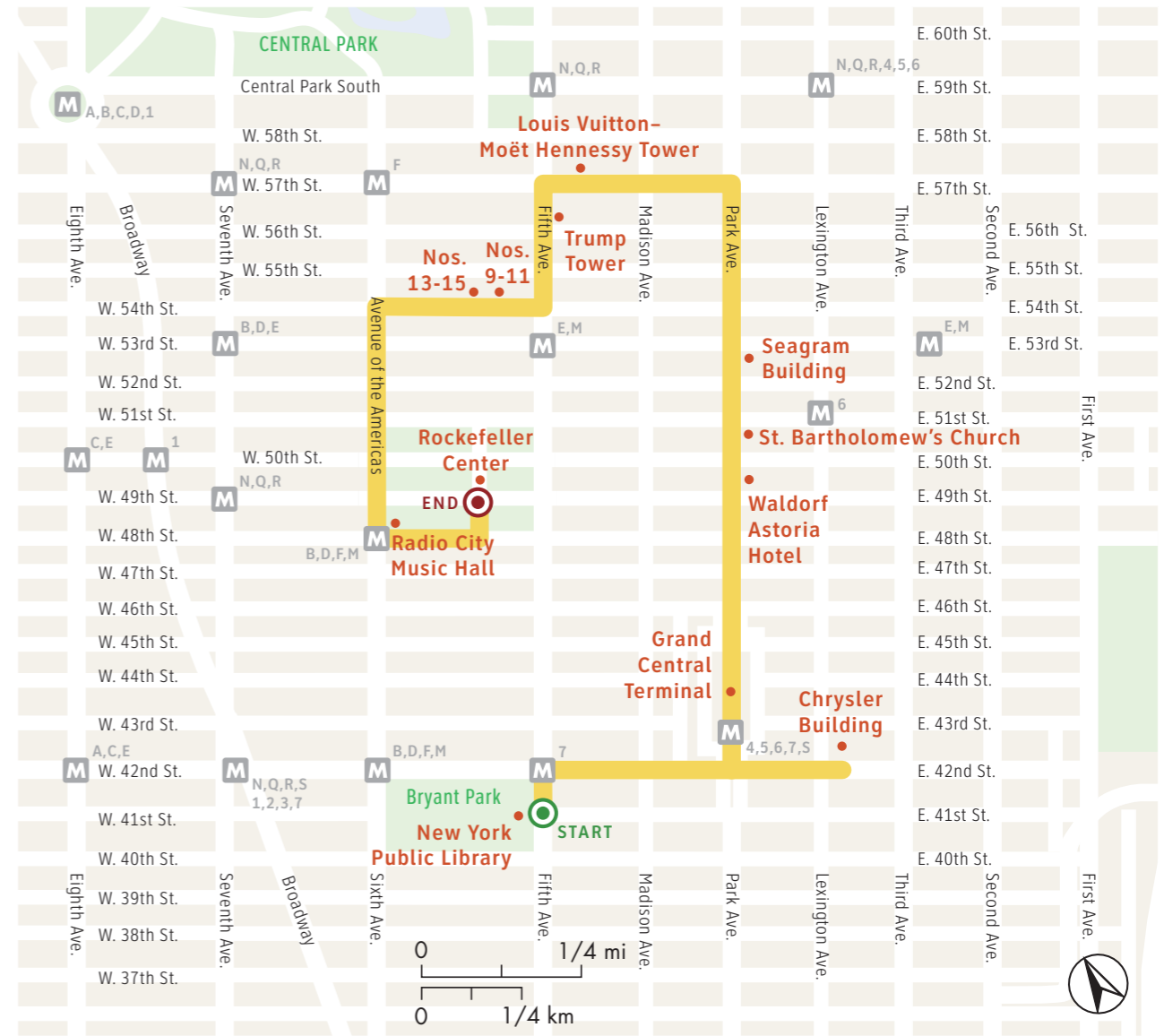
START: 5th Ave. at 42nd St.

END: 45 Rockefeller Plaza

TIMING: 1½ to 2 hours

Midtown is a mind-boggling patchwork of styles that coalesce into one of the world's great urban landscapes. Begin with a taste of early 20th-century neoclassicism at the **New York Public Library**, and walk along East 42nd St. to the Beaux-Arts **Grand Central Terminal**, two brilliantly designed public spaces as beautiful as they are functional. Art Deco is perhaps Midtown's most distinctive style, with

the **Chrysler Building** considered one of the great masterpieces. Double back and head north on Park Ave. to check out such Jazz Age landmarks as the **Waldorf-Astoria Hotel**. Just past that is the Byzantine dome of **St. Bartholomew's Church** and two blocks north of that is the bronze-and-glass **Seagram Building**, designed by modernist innovator Mies van der Rohe. Pop into the flagship **Louis Vuitton—Moët Hennessy Tower**, an arched glass skyscraper that's both conspicuous and elegant. The **Trump Tower's** ostentatious atrium flaunts



unbridled luxury, with expensive boutiques and brass accents.

When you reach 54th St., turn right. The two remaining 19th-century mansions at Nos. 9–11 and Nos. 13–15 West 54th St. are in sharp contrast to Midtown architecture. Nos. 9–11 are inspired by Colonial American architecture; note the small iron balconies, splayed lintels, and paneled keystones. Nos. 13–15 are a grand, Renaissance-inspired structure

with oriel windows, heavy carvings, and sweeping, paired staircases.

Finally, head south on 6th Ave. for a landmark piece of Art Deco architecture, **Radio City Music Hall**, with its distinctive pink-and-blue neon sign. Loop around through **Rockefeller Center**, and finish by taking in the plaza there with its stark lines and the crowning statue of Prometheus.



WASHINGTON, D.C.

CAPITOL HILL MONUMENTS

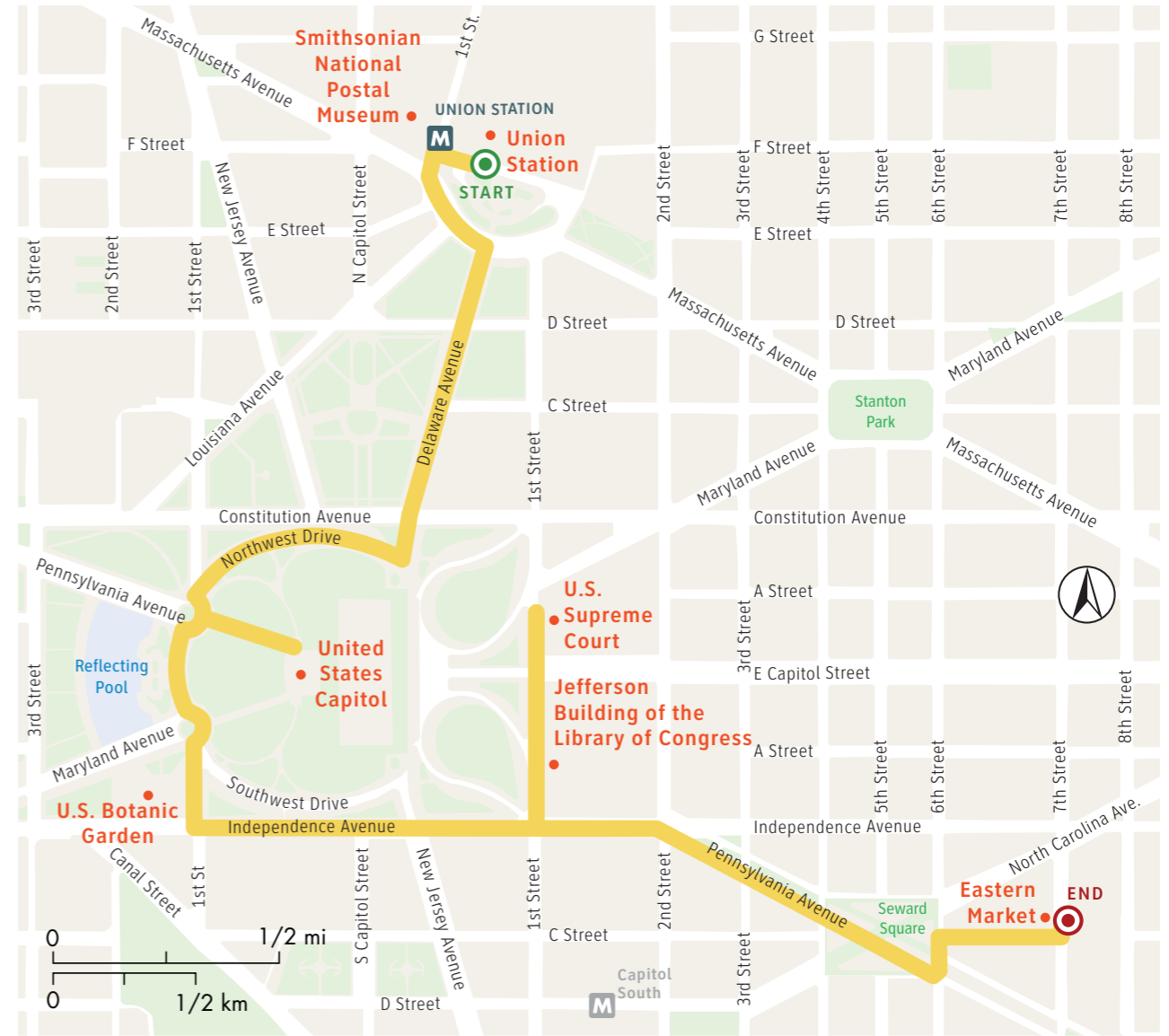
START: Union Station

END: Eastern Market

TIMING: 1 hour if you skip the Capitol Tour

Washington, D.C., is a walking city, especially around the Mall, where America's most famous monuments are clustered. Start at **Union Station**, a Beaux-Arts building modeled after a Roman bath; it dominates the northwest corner of Capitol Hill and is easily accessible on the Metro Red Line. Next door, the **Smithsonian National Postal Museum** will delight philatelists.

Following Delaware Ave. south, you come right up to the massive **U.S. Capitol**, which sits majestically at the east end of the Mall. Tours leave from the Capitol Visitor Center, which is located underneath the building. In front of the Capitol, on the south side, is the **United States Botanic Garden**, the oldest botanic garden in North America. Walk east on Independence Ave., then north on 1st St., where the **Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress** and the **U.S. Supreme Court** sit side by side. The Library of Congress



has so many books, recordings, maps, manuscripts, and photographs that it actually takes three buildings to get the job done. Inside the Jefferson Building, you can view the Great Hall, peek into the Main Reading Room, and wander through changing exhibitions related to the library's holdings. Follow Pennsylvania Ave. south between 2nd and 6th streets. Take a break with the locals at any of the cozy restaurants, bars, and coffee shops that line this

block. The **Eastern Market** on the corner of 7th and C streets is the perfect ending for this walk; it's the city's oldest market and a community fixture since 1873. Grab your picnic supplies here or a handmade keepsake from a local artist. The market is open from Tuesday to Sunday and really buzzes on weekends.



SAN FRANCISCO NORTH BEACH BEATNIK WALK

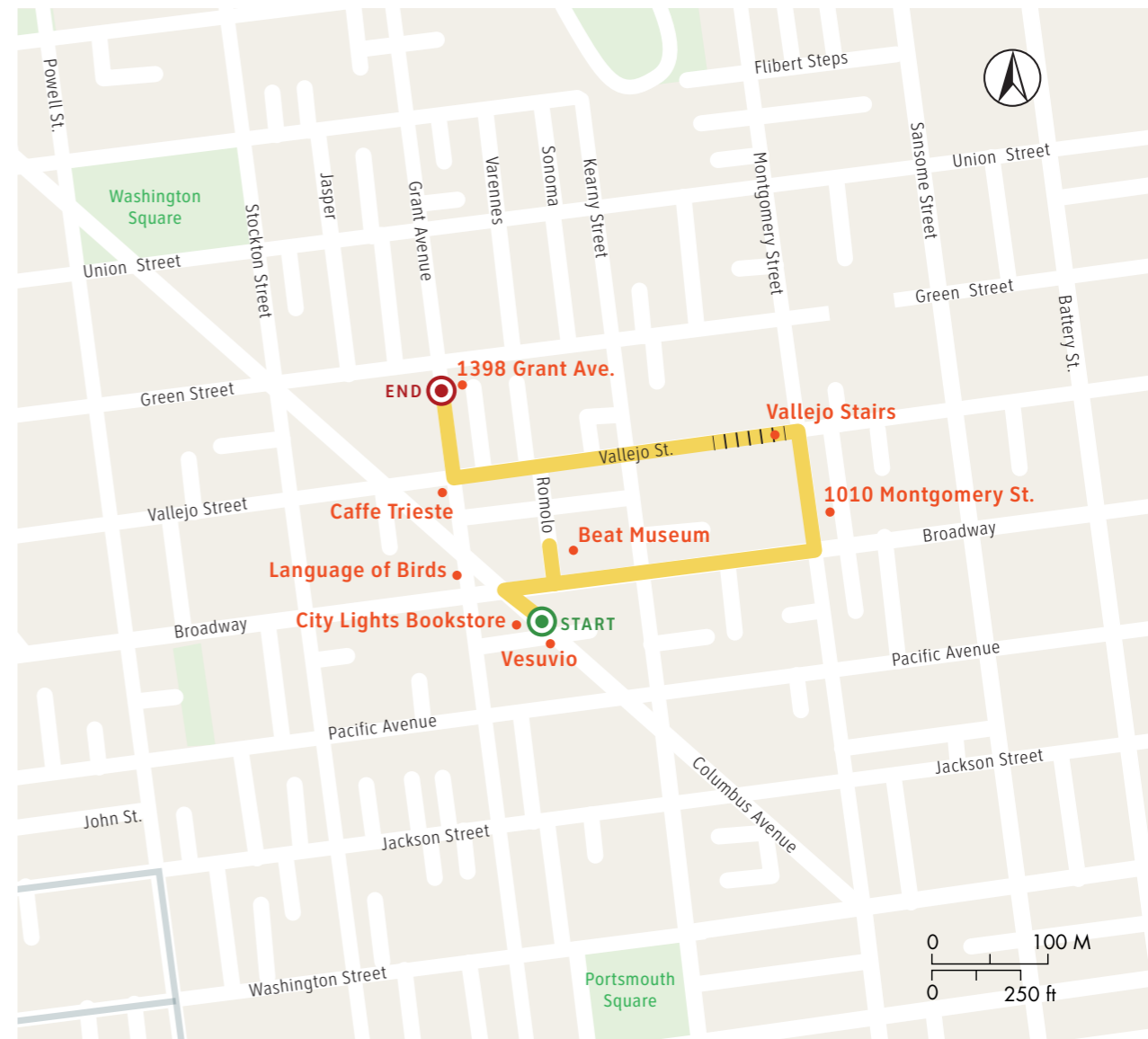
START: 261 Columbus Ave.

END: Corner of Grant Ave. and Green St.

TIMING: 45 minutes, depending on how long you linger

Home to American bohemia and birthplace of the Beat Movement, North Beach still crackles with the energy of the revolutionary artists who electrified a generation here in the sixties. Start at **City Lights**, the era's epicenter of progressive thought and the country's most daring publisher. Outside, neighboring Jack

Kerouac Alley is inlaid with the words of Kerouac, Maya Angelou, and Confucius. At **Vesuvio**, an art-splashed saloon, order a drink and soak up the neighborhood's vibe. Walk up to Broadway and take in the public art on the corner: *Language of Birds* is a flock of illuminated books that appear to have just taken flight. Notice the words and phrases embedded in the plaza floor that could have just fallen from the pages. The **Beat Museum** on Broadway is a quirky collection of photos, books, music, and artifacts.



It firmly places the Beat Generation in history; their rejection of the status quo was an artistic reaction against 1950s Cold War conformism. They were deeply influential in the anti-establishment counterculture of the '60s as well. Head around the corner to No. 1010 Montgomery; this is where Allen Ginsberg wrote *Howl*.

Continue up Montgomery, turn left, and walk up the **Vallejo stairs** and

onward to the venerable **Caffe Trieste**, a favorite perch of Kerouac, Ginsberg, and Charles Bukowski. Head north up Grant to **No. 1398**, where the Co-Existence Bagel Shop (now long closed) served as the living room of the Beat Generation in the days when cops arrested kids for wearing sandals. End the walk by browsing Grant Ave.'s excellent boutiques, and pick up some edgy couture or vintage botanical prints.



PARIS

STROLL THE LEFT BANK

START: Pont Neuf

END: 49 rue Monge

TIMING: 1½ hours

Experience the counterculture and creativity of the Left Bank, along with stunning architecture, 2nd-century Gallo-Roman ruins, and the city's oldest street. Start at the **Pont Neuf** for excellent views off the western tip of the **Ile de la Cité**, and then explore the island's magnificent architectural heritage, including the **Conciergerie**, **Sainte-Chapelle**, and **Notre-Dame**. There's much to see at

this awe-inspiring cathedral, like the rose window above the main portal, which dates from the 13th century. The three windows below it contain some of France's finest examples of 12th-century stained-glass artistry. The brave can climb the spiral staircase to the towers for a gargoyle's-eye view of the city. Detour through neighboring **Ile St-Louis** and explore the boutiques, cafés, and restaurants before heading into the medieval labyrinth of the **Quartier Latin**. Its most valuable treasures are preserved in the **Musée de Cluny**, including the



reconstructed ruins of 2nd-century Gallo-Roman steam baths. At the summit of the hill above the **Sorbonne** university is the imposing **Panthéon**, a monument to (and mausoleum of) French heroes. Don't miss the exquisite **Eglise St-Etienne-du-Mont** next door, where the relics of the city's patron Saint Geneviève are displayed. Follow the Rue Descartes to the Rue Mouffetard, a winding cobblestone street that is one of the city's oldest and was once a Roman road leading

south from Lutetia (the Roman name for Paris) to Italy. The upper half is dotted with restaurants and bars that cater to tourists and students; the lower half is a lively morning market Tuesday through Sunday. If the sun's shining, finish the walk by visiting the Gallo-Roman **Arènes de Lutèce**, a Roman amphitheater that was almost completely destroyed by barbarians in AD 280.



LONDON WESTMINSTER'S ROYAL HERITAGE

START: Westminster Abbey

END: Houses of Parliament

TIMING: A full day of exploring

This regal runaround packs more into a day than most cities can offer in a week. Hit **Westminster Abbey** early to avoid the crowds, then cut through **St. James's Park** to catch the Changing of the Guard at 11:30 am at **Buckingham Palace**. (If the palace doors are open, enjoy a peek at royal life.) Take a quick detour to the Tudor delights of **St. James's Palace**, old

haunt of Charles I, before a promenade down the Mall past the Regency glory of **Carlton House Terrace** and through **Admiralty Arch** to **Trafalgar Square**. This is the official center of London, dominated by the 170-foot Nelson's Column and its enormous bronze lions. The lampposts on the south side, heading down Whitehall, are topped with ships—they all face Portsmouth, home of the British navy. Check out the statue of George Washington, a gift from the state of Virginia in 1921, on the lawn at the north side by the



National Gallery. At the southern point of the square is a statue of Charles I on a horse. Charles II had it placed here in 1667, near the spot where his father was executed in 1649.

After lunch, choose from the canvases of the **National Gallery** (there are more than 2,300 works, from Michelangelo, Leonardo, Turner, Monet, van Gogh, Picasso, and more). Or check out who's who at

the **National Portrait Gallery**. If your energy is starting to flag, head over to the crypt of **St. Martin-in-the-Fields** for a little brass rubbing; it's a fun way to create your own keepsake. Finish with a stately stroll down Whitehall—past Downing St., Horse Guards Parade, and Banqueting House—to the **Houses of Parliament**, where you have the option of pre-booking a tour or trying to get in to see a debate.



ROME HISTORIC CHURCHES & PIAZZAS

START: Il Gesù

END: Santa Maria della Pace

TIMING: Around 1½ hours

The Navona and Campo districts are the Rome of your dreams, full of terracotta-hued palaces, picturesque squares, and one architectural showstopper after another. Begin at the super-opulent **Il Gesù**, the church that introduced the Baroque style to 17th-century Rome. Head toward Piazza della Minerva and **Santa Maria sopra Minerva**, home to Michelangelo's marble *Risen Christ* statue. The lioncloth

was added later, sometime during the Baroque period. Outside is another remarkable sculpture, the *Elephant and Obelisk* by Bernini, father of the Baroque. The Egyptian obelisk sitting atop the elephant was discovered during nearby excavations in the mid-1600s and the final work was unveiled in 1667. Straight ahead lies the **Pantheon**, one of the wonders of the ancient Roman world. The building's dome remains the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome, and the oculus, at its apex, is the only source of light besides the entrance.



From Piazza della Rotonda take Via Giustiniani to **San Luigi dei Francesi** to see Caravaggio's moving cycle of paintings depicting the life of Saint Matthew. These include the three most famous canvases, *The Calling of Saint Matthew*, *The Inspiration of Saint Matthew*, and *The Martyrdom of Saint Matthew*. Next, head to the Baroque **Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza**. Be sure to look up at the lantern of Sant'Ivo: a swirling spiral shape like whipped cream that is said to have

been inspired by a bee's stinger. Follow the crowds to **Piazza Navona**, Rome's most celebrated 17th-century example of Baroque exuberance, with Bernini's *Fountain of the Four Rivers* dead center. Either grab a caffè table and watch the world go by here, in front of 17th-century **Sant'Agnese in Agone**, or head on to the enchanting Piazza della Pace, where **Santa Maria della Pace** sits on a tiny piazzina; the scene is one of Rome's most attractive streetscapes.



BARCELONA

EIXAMPLE'S ART NOUVEAU

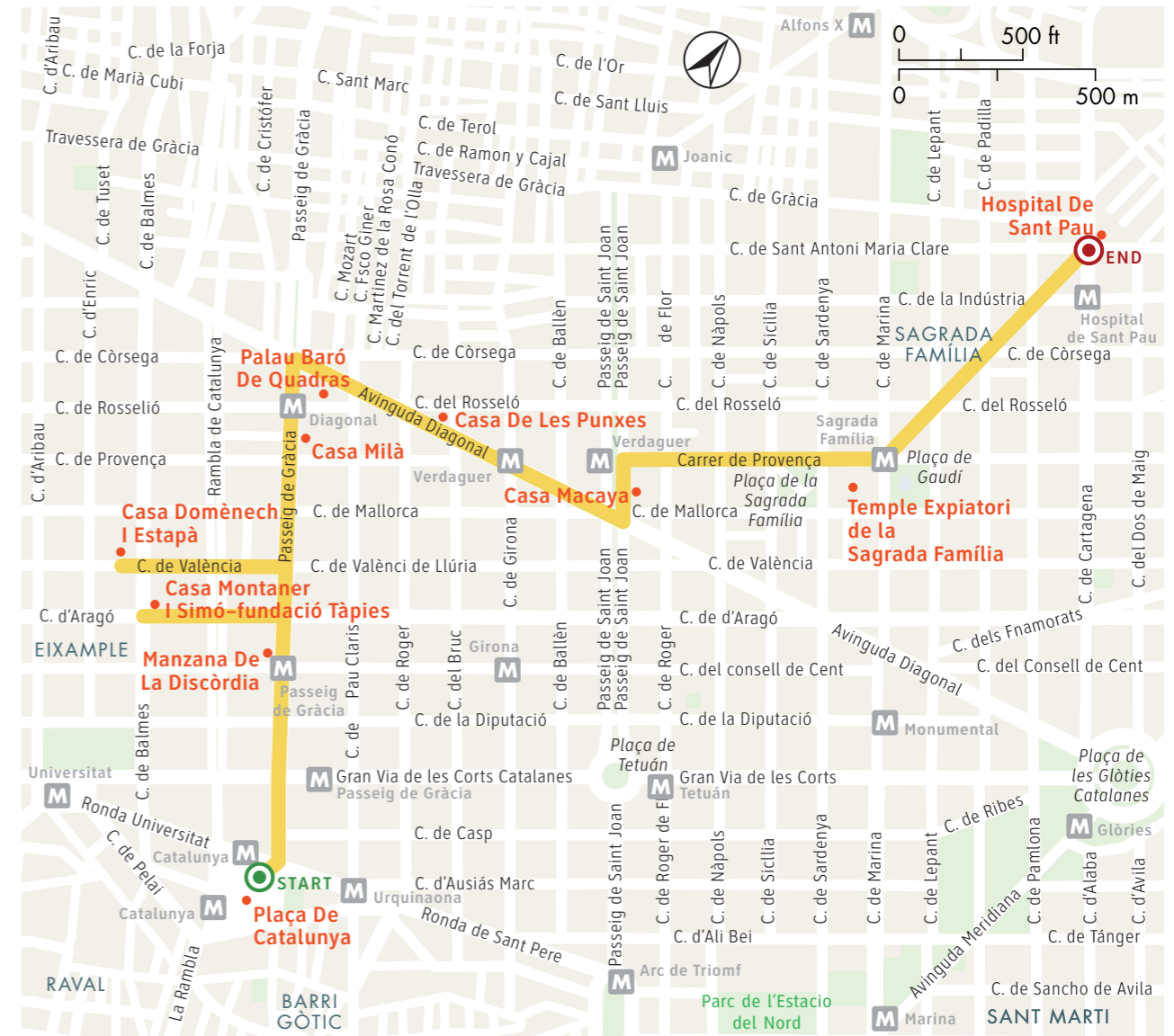
START: Plaça de Catalunya

END: Hospital de Sant Pau

TIMING: All day with a tour of Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família

The Eixample district is packed with Barcelona's best architectural examples of the Catalan Art Nouveau. Starting in the **Plaça de Catalunya**, walk up Passeig de Gràcia until you reach the corner of Consell de Cent. Here is the **Manzana de la Discòrdia** (the Block of Discord), where the three great figures of Barcelona's late-19th-century

Moderniste movement—Lluís Domènech i Montaner, Josep Puig i Cadafalch, and Antoni Gaudí—went head to head with three radically different buildings: Casa Lleó Morera, Casa Amatller, and Casa Batlló. The **Casa Montaner i Simó—Fundació Tàpies**, with its wire sculpture *Núvol i cadira* (*Cloud and Chair*) by Antoni Tàpies, is just west, around the corner on Carrer d'Aragó. Swing by **Casa Domènech i Estapà** on Carrer de València for a more conservative take on the Art Nouveau movement. Gaudí's **Casa Milà** was controversial thanks



to the undulating stone façade and twisted iron balconies. Do take time to see the roof, the Gaudí museum, and the early-20th-century apartment. Just around the corner, on Avinguda Diagonal, is Puig i Cadafalch's **Palau Baró de Quadras**; it's just two minutes from the architect's Nordic castle fantasy, the **Casa de les Punxes**. From here it's only a 10-minute stroll to Passeig de Sant Joan and yet another Puig i Cadafalch masterpiece, **Casa**

Macaya. By this time you're only three blocks from Gaudí's **Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família** (set aside half the day for this masterpiece). Finish off the tour with a stroll over to Domènech i Montaner's **Hospital de Sant Pau**, another Moderniste monument and a World Heritage Site. Tours are offered in English daily.



BERLIN

CITY CENTER BERLIN WALL TRAIL

START: Potsdamer Platz

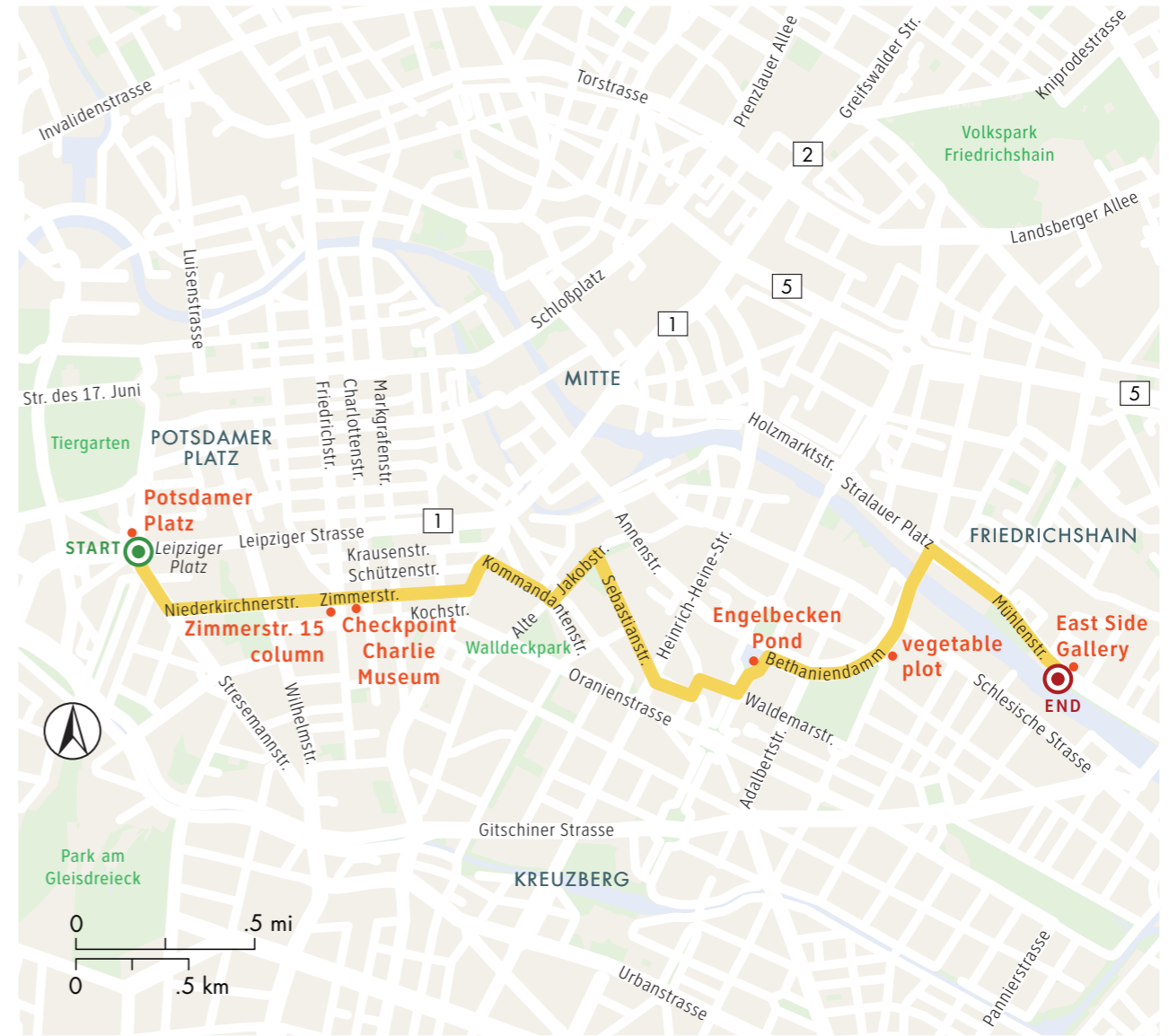
END: Mühlenstrasse

TIMING: Half a day

A cobblestone path traces the course of the former border between East and West Berlin and illuminates the effects the Wall had on the city: it cut through streets, neighborhoods, and even buildings. Start at **Potsdamer Platz**, the heart of New Berlin, where the two halves of the formerly divided city have grown together and where a tiny stretch of the Berlin Wall still stands. Walk south along Stresemannstrasse

from Potsdamer Platz, and then head east along Niederkirchnerstrasse two blocks to the **Checkpoint Charlie Museum**. Continue east to the modest column engraved “He only wanted freedom,” in German, at Zimmerstrasse 15, commemorating Peter Fechter, an 18-year-old who was shot and killed while trying to escape to the West. Next wander to Engelbecken Pond and take in the views.

Keep walking along Bethaniendamm and you’ll come to a colorful ramshackle wooden structure. This



is where a Turkish immigrant named Osman Kalin planted vegetables in the shadow of the Wall. Little did he know that this piece of land actually belonged to East Berlin but the Wall had missed it. His family still grows onions and cabbages on the plot. Even the most bizarre circumstances were normal in Cold War Berlin—and some of these oddities have survived the change of times. End the walk by crossing the Spree River at the Schilling Bridge. Turn right to walk

parallel to the river. Fast-forward on Mühlenstrasse to the famous **East Side Gallery**, where artists from all over the world decorated the 4,000-some-foot remaining stretch of wall with colorful murals. Unfortunately, a section was demolished to construct a riverside condo, and the future of this iconic piece of the wall remains unclear.

Fodor's Travel

Copyright © 2016 by Fodor's Travel, a division of Random House LLC

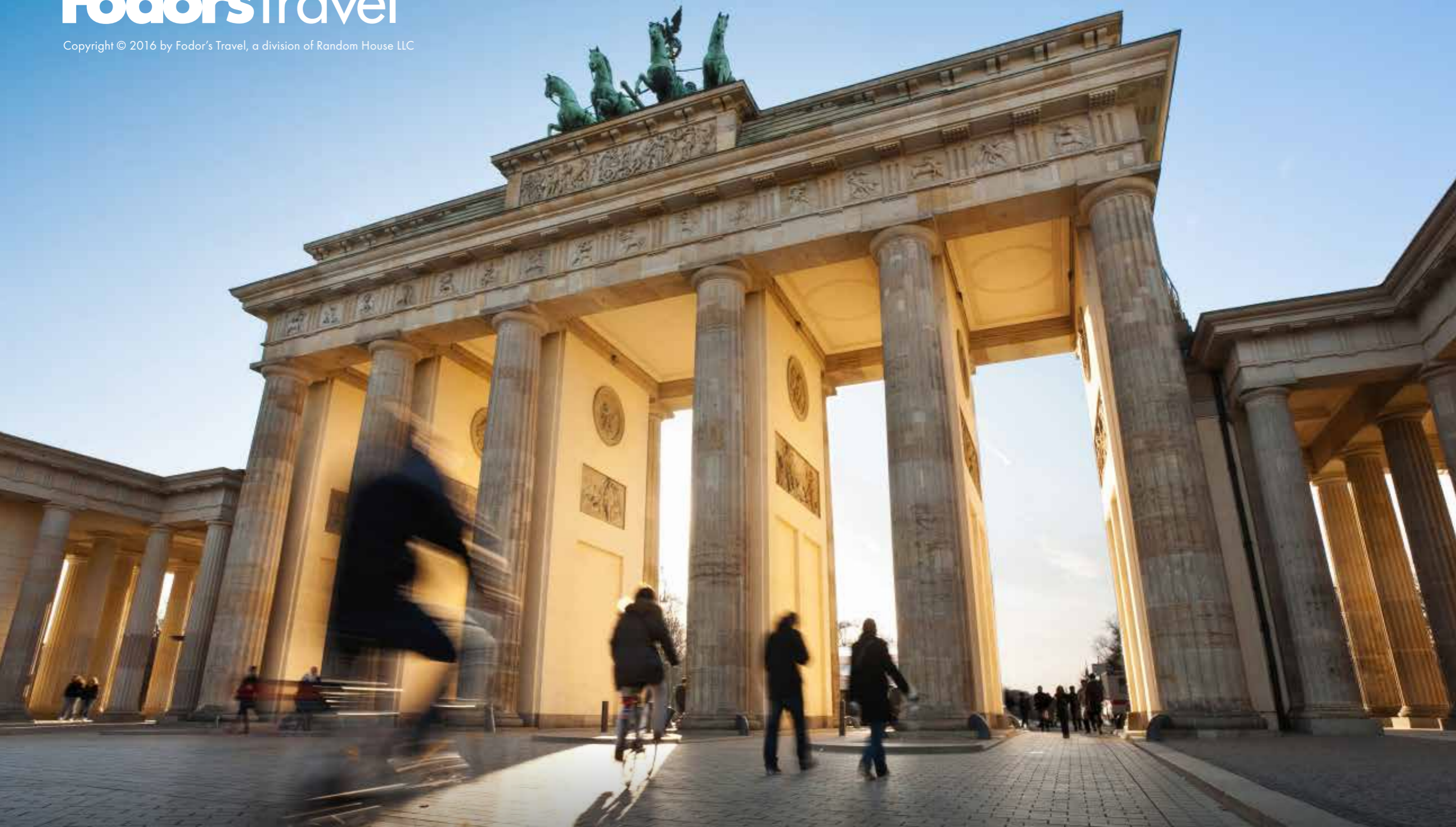


PHOTO CREDITS

Cover, Massimo Colombo/iStockphoto.

Intro, Alberto Marangoni/iStockphoto.

Chicago, Andrey Bayda/Shutterstock.

New Orleans, Ggoodrow/Dreamstime.com.

New York City, Marc Venema/iStockphoto.

Washington D.C., idesignimages/iStockphoto.

San Francisco, nito/Shutterstock.

Paris, S-F/Shutterstock.

London, Ronnybas/Dreamstime.com.

Rome, Ross Brinkerhoff/Fodor's Travel.

Barcelona, Ingenui/iStockphoto.

Berlin, Halie Cousineau/Fodor's Travel.

Back cover, kapitaen/iStockphoto.