

The Top 8 Accessible Tourist Destinations in Europe (and 4 of the Most Difficult)

By John Sage, President of Accessible Travel Solutions



General Criteria

Included	Excluded
Current accessibility	Most progress made
Popular destinations	Rarely visited destinations
From international tourists' perspective	From residents' perspective
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- My accessibility inspections- Internet search traffic- Tens of thousands of request- Client feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- TripAdvisor advice- "My friend told me"- Favoritism

*Ranking is helpful for disabled travelers who have limited time, money, or energy
(which is pretty much everyone)*

Accessibility Criteria

- Cobblestone abundance
- Cobblestone smoothness
- Flatness (lack of hills)
- Proximity of sights to each other
- Accessible public transportation
- English spoken
- Overall accessibility
- Quality of sights
- Quantity of sights



#8 Interlaken

Best Accessibility Features

- Spectacular scenery
- No cobblestones
- Accessible trains and gondolas

Biggest Challenge

- Figuring out routes and timing

<i>Interlaken</i>	<i>Sage Accessibility Rating</i>
Cobblestone abundance	5
Cobblestone smoothness	4
Flatness (lack of hills)	4
Proximity of sights to each other	1
Accessible Public Transportation	4
English spoken	4
Overall Accessibility	4
Quality of sights/town	5
Quantity of sights	3



#7 Amsterdam

Best Accessibility Features

- Flat city center
- Good building access features
- Unique city

Biggest Challenge

- Cobblestones and public transportation

<i>Amsterdam</i>	<i>Sage Accessibility Rating</i>
Cobblestone smoothness	3
Cobblestone abundance	3
Flatness (lack of hills)	5
Proximity of sights to each other	3
Accessible Public Transportation	3
English spoken	4
Overall Accessibility	4
Quality of sights/town	4
Quantity of sights	3

[View Rating Explanation](#)



#6 Venice

Best Accessibility Features

- Flat and few cobblestones
- Accessible vaporetto and water taxis

Biggest Challenge

- Figuring out the routes to avoid bridges
- Finding accessible toilets

<i>Venice</i>	<i>Sage Accessibility Rating</i>
Cobblestone smoothness	4
Cobblestone abundance	4
Flatness (lack of hills)	5
Proximity of sights to each other	3
Accessible Public Transportation	4
English spoken	4
Overall Accessibility	3
Quality of sights/town	5
Quantity of sights	3

[View Rating Explanation](#)



#5 Tuscany

Best Accessibility Features

- Walkable/rollable Florence
- Can drive between towns
- Can visit a big city, small cities, and the countryside in the same trip

Biggest Challenge

- Cobblestones and hills in small towns

<i>Florence</i>	<i>Sage Accessibility Rating</i>
Cobblestone smoothness	3
Cobblestone abundance	2
Flatness (lack of hills)	4
Proximity of sights to each other	4
Accessible Public Transportation	2
English spoken	3
Overall Accessibility	3
Quality of sights/town	5
Quantity of sights	3

[View Rating Explanation](#)



#4 Salzburg

Best Accessibility Features

- Small old town
- Excellent day trip options

Biggest Challenge

- Mild cobblestones in old town
- Few accessible hotels in old town

<i>Salz burg</i>	<i>Sage Accessibility Rating</i>
Cobblestone abundance	4
Cobblestone smoothness	4
Flatness (lack of hills)	4
Proximity of sights to each other	1
Accessible Public Transportation	2
English spoken	4
Overall Accessibility	4
Quality of sights/town	5
Quantity of sights	3

[View Rating Explanation](#)



#3 Berlin

Best Accessibility Features

- Flat and few cobblestones
- Good building access features
- Excellent accessible public transport

Biggest Challenge

- Sites are spread out



#2 Barcelona

Best Accessibility Features

- Flat and few cobblestones
- Good building access features
- Walkable/rollable city center

Biggest Challenge

- Long distance to reach some sites

<i>Barcelona</i>	<i>Sage Accessibility Rating</i>
Cobblestone smoothness	4
Cobblestone abundance	5
Flatness (lack of hills)	4
Proximity of sights to each other	3
Accessible Public Transportation	5
English spoken	4
Overall Accessibility	5
Quality of sights/town	4
Quantity of sights	3

[View Rating Explanation](#)



#1 London

Best Accessibility Features

- Excellent building access features
- Excellent accessible buses
- Accessible black cabs
- Flat and few cobblestones

Biggest Challenge

- Scheduling

<i>London</i>	<i>Sage Accessibility Rating</i>
Cobblestone smoothness	5
Cobblestone abundance	5
Flatness (lack of hills)	5
Proximity of sights to each other	2
Accessible Public Transportation	5
English spoken	5
Overall Accessibility	5
Quality of sights/town	5
Quantity of sights	5

[View Rating Explanation](#)



4 of the Most Difficult Destinations

Istanbul – Hills, cobblestones, and crowded trams

Athens – Hills and cobblestones

Cinque Terre – Hills and stairs

Edinburgh – Hills

