

When job hunting, it's important that my search stay local.

- I'd relocate
 Depends on the job
 Definitely agree

Vote

Could Your Burg Become a Little Venice?

Escape to old-world Europe without leaving the U.S. by visiting these five Euro-centric theme towns.

By Christine Champ for MSN City Guides

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Donned in traditional garb, folks celebrate Swedish cultural dances at a local festival in Little Sweden (Lindsborg), Kansas.

Towns can hit hard times, just like people do. When corporations collapse and industries teeter towards extinction, once-thriving communities can lose their livelihoods.

But when the going gets tough, the tough sometimes go Dutch. Or German. Or any other international theme-town direction that inspires inhabitants and brings in tourists -- whether it's a real expression of a town's founding or pure invention.

When wallets are thin, people still crave escape from the everyday grind. Though they might not be able to afford a two-week excursion to Stockholm, there's a good chance U.S. residents can swing a road trip or day-holiday to Little Sweden.

The one in Kansas ...

Little Sweden (Lindsborg), Kansas

With an estimated population of 3,300 and an annual tourist trade in the tens of thousands, Lindsborg has a Swedish heritage that traces back to 1869. That year, a Lutheran minister led followers fleeing famine and seeking religious freedom to a nook of the New World now known as Little Sweden.

Cheerfully colored, flower-patterned Dala horses, the town's welcome symbols, declare its ancestral ties. First crafted in the 1800s, the traditionally wooden toys and family heirlooms owe their name and origin to the province of Dalarna in central Sweden. The ubiquitous animal adorns city letterhead, police cars, storefronts and residences. A herd of fiberglass-cast wild Dala horses, decorated by local artists, also roams Lindsborg. Public unveilings fete new foals with street theater and musical parodies.

The Hemslojd ("handicraft") workshop is a one-stop-shop for all things Dala horse and beyond. With 60 working artists, Lindsborg's smorgasbord of Swedish culture spans the old and new, from the folksy Svensk Hyllingsfest and Midsummer's Day merrymaking, to contemporary iron-work, to tile and loom galleries. Pickled herring and more universally palatable Swede treats like pancakes with lingonberries abound at eateries. Shops brim with imported and locally hewn clocks, chiming door-harps and other Scandinavian knickknacks. Though the spot's Old World appeal aims more to preserve rather than to peddle its history, with farming and Bethany College as its other primary income sources, Visitor's Bureau representative Donna Nelson admits that Lindsborg "probably would not survive" without its lucrative Little Sweden charm.

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#1

Friday, July 24, 2009 11:48:35 AM

Tell us about a favorite theme town you've visited.

[Reply](#) [Report Abuse](#)**MellisaBibISN**

#2

Sunday, July 26, 2009 10:08:34 PM

My friend recommended me a very interesting place **** [AffluentMeet.com](#) 🌹 **** It's where wealthy singles looking for someone to enjoy their wealthy lifestyle with:)

[Reply](#) [Report Abuse](#)**pingfan**

#3

Sunday, July 26, 2009 10:19:38 PM

How To Lose Belly Fat With A 10 Minute Workout

With this 10 minute exercise routine you can burn up to 150 calories every single day.

The first two minutes of this fat burning routine is: Jump Rope - Begin by performing two jumps for each turn of the rope. Safety: Use the correct size jump rope and always land softly on the balls of your feet (that is the upper part of the bottom of your foot). Keep thinking I am losing weight.

Minutes two to three:

Minutes three to four: Jump Rope with only one jump per turn. Keep thinking, The fat is melting away.

Minutes four to five:

Minutes five and six: Jump Rope. Same as minutes three and four. Keep thinking, I am losing body fat.

Minutes six and seven:

Minutes seven and eight: Jump Rope. Same as minutes three and four. Keep thinking, my belly is getting smaller.

Minutes eight and nine:***Minutes nine and ten:***

Try these 10 minutes ways of losing belly fat now

5 Minutes a Day to Build and See Your Six Pack Abs[Reply](#) [Report Abuse](#)**pingfan**

#4

Sunday, July 26, 2009 10:20:01 PM

America's Top 10 Alcohol-Drinking Cities—and 10 Most Sober Cities

The list below ranks the 10 U.S. metropolitan areas—defined as counties or groups of counties with a population of 10,000 or more—with the highest rates of heavy drinking. A second list identifies the 10 metro areas with the lowest rates. Is heavy drinking a problem in your community?

Heaviest Drinking Metro Areas % Who Drink Heavily

1. Reno, Nev. 9.4
2. Palm Bay-Melbourne, Fla. 9.1
3. Boulder, Colo. 9.0
4. Austin 8.8
5. Charleston, S.C. 8.7
6. McAllen, Texas 8.6
7. Naples-Marco Island, Fla. 8.5
8. Riverside, Calif. 8.4
9. Cape Coral, Fla. 8.1
10. Barnstable Town, Mass. 8.0

Find Here:Most Sober Metro Areas % Who Don't Drink Heavily[Reply](#) [Report Abuse](#)

Mary333

Sunday, July 26, 2009 10:33:14 PM

#5

This is Great!!!!

[Reply](#) [Report Abuse](#)**NederladsLady**

Sunday, July 26, 2009 10:49:14 PM

#6

FYI the quote {De Zwaan ("graceful bird")} is not correct!
De Zwaan = The Swan. A swan is a graceful bird but the translation of the words is wrong, the reporter of this must not speak Nederlands.

[Reply](#) [Report Abuse](#)**Tdaamn**

Sunday, July 26, 2009 11:23:42 PM

#7

I find European themed villages so boring and contrived. Kingsburg, CA looks bavarian but it is full of Mexicans (surprised?). Leavenworth is alright but I think more about the historic buildings that were destroyed to fit the theme than how quaint it is. blah

[Reply](#) [Report Abuse](#)**Trinas**

Sunday, July 26, 2009 11:25:55 PM

#8

When will people learn that the Sound of Music took place in Austria, not Germany?

[Reply](#) [Report Abuse](#)**bullworshipper**

Monday, July 27, 2009 12:29:27 AM

#9

The host 'smtp.mail.yahoo.com' could not be found. Please verify that you have entered the server name correctly.

Subject 'Important News!! msnbc.com: PETA wishes Obama hadn't swatted that fly',
Account: 'pop.mail.yahoo.com', Server: 'smtp.mail.yahoo.com', Protocol: SMTP, Port: 25,
Secure(SSL): No, Socket Error: 11001, Error Number: 0x800CC0D

[Reply](#) [Report Abuse](#)**Faerysquirrel**

Monday, July 27, 2009 12:32:52 AM

#10

I just had to comment when I saw this on Leavenworth, WA. The town itself is small, kind of quaint and very cool old style bavarian buildings, but that's where it ends. It was without a doubt, the worst attempt at an "oktoberfest" we've EVER wasted our time and gas and money at! They close down a section of street where the big buildings are that they have beer in, and you have to pay to get into that part of the street. It's the lamest thing! There's hardly any booths at all, and not even any wiener schnitzel ANYWHERE to be found! They purposely don't allow any food booths (no real ones) because it forces everyone to have to go to the towns restaurants and pay their ridiculous prices. One of the main ones that offers a platter of stuff for around \$34.00 was A JOKE! You don't get even remotely what you pay for, the food was cold, and bland and you LEAVE HUNGRY! It's just plain blah! And we are not pigs, not huge people that could eat out a place!

I guess if all you want to do is just drink, then the places are OK, but be prepared to be taken to the bank, literally. The Mt. Angel, Oregon Oktoberfest is still by far the absolute BEST one on the west coast by far. Don't waste your time and gas and money at any of the imitation ones. Go to the best. We are going back to Mt. Angel.

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