

hidden charges. Some restaurants may bill you for bread — by the slice.

Government-subsidized cafeterias, known throughout Europe as *mensa*, offer illusory savings. The food tends to be as bland as it is bountiful — similar to cafeteria food, and you know what that's like.

Instead, put together fabulous meals out of street cuisine. Belgian *patats frites* and French *crepes* are a must, and in Norway boats pull up in front of Oslo's City Hall to hawk \$5 sacks of fresh-cooked shrimp. Improvise an exotic picnic from specialty shops and open-air markets. The bread and cheese lunch on the road is almost a tradition. Keep your eyes, ears and nostrils open at all times: You can get a first-class culinary education, not in some hushed four-star preserve, but by nosing your way across Europe.

Be a Culture Vulture

If Europeans generally seem more cultured than Americans, it might be because they can afford to be. Where else but in Vienna can you catch an opera for \$1.30? Admittedly, that's the standing-room rate, but what with student discounts and rush seats, Europe's performing arts are a steal. Even the London blockbusters — Andrew Lloyd Weber and the like — go for half the New York rate. Be sure to have your International Student Identity Card.

Museums — at least the great museums like the Louvre, the Prado, the Uffizi or the British Museum — are not usually cheap. But many European museums have free admission one day of the week (often Sunday). And most have special student rates; in fact, with your International Student Identity Card, you can get into some museums, including Madrid's Prado, without paying a cent. And many of Europe's priceless treasures — the Roman bridge at Salamanca, Chartres Cathedral and the canals of Venice, for example — are still too much in daily use to be stuck in some museum with an entrance fee.



Alex Potente breaks bread in Paris — a great way to save money on meals.

Working Europe to the Max

What? You have no money at all to spare on a European trip this summer? Absolutely the cheapest way to experience Europe is to get paid to be there — for a summer job. As a U.S. student, you are eligible to work in a number of European countries: Britain, Ireland, France and Germany. You can work a month or two, really experience what living in Europe is all about and make enough money to spend another month traveling. A few people not only cover their expenses but come home with more money than when they started. And if you're able to find the right job in Europe, it can add a lot of punch to your resume.

The process is surprisingly easy. Student temporary work permits can be arranged before you leave the United States through the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). After you arrive in Europe, CIEE also provides an orientation to job hunting in the country, job counseling and emergency support services. For more information and an application, see page 26.

Lack of money needn't be a reason to miss the chance to see and experience Europe. Timing is crucial. If you delay now, you may miss the chance to take advantage of student fares, student discounts and student work permits. Don't miss the boat. ☺

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