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#6639 Contemplating Eternity in the Catacombs of Paris [\[edit\]](#)

Beneath the “City of Lights” lies another city...one of darkness, decrepitude and despair. The sign above the entrance warns “Abandon all hope ye who enter here,” and you can’t help but shiver. You muster the sense of adventure that led you here, and enter the [Catacombs of Paris](#), the final resting place of more than six million souls, moved from nearby cemeteries nearly three centuries ago. As you pick your way along the dim path, surrounded by walls made of bones and skull-formed crosses, you imagine what it would be like to be trapped down here... forever. Fortunately, the exit is just up ahead. You nod to the nearest skull and head for the light.

By [Deb Jennings](#) | Photo: [Deb Jennings](#)

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[by djennfree: Visiting the Ghosts of Alcatraz in San Francisco](#) [\[edit\]](#)

In a city full of tourist attractions, one of the quirkiest has to be the former prison/military base/Native American encampment of Alcatraz. Just three miles off the coast of San Francisco, CA, the “rock” used to house such die-hard criminals as Al Capone. Now it’s a national park that hosts tourists who probably can’t imagine what it would be like to spend 23 hours a day in a five-by-nine foot cell, especially after stepping inside one for a few minutes. Think that’s a trip? Try squatting in a pitch black solitary cell and see how long you last. Still think you’re tough? Diehards can catch the last tour of the day for a glimpse of the prison after dark.

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by djennfree: [Falling Downhill at Winter Park Ski Resort in Colorado](#) [\[edit\]](#)

Who was it that said skiing is simply controlled falling? Although it's an unnatural sensation, once you become coordinated enough to break your fall with your skis instead of your face, the fun begins. A great place to learn is Winter Park Resort in Colorado. With nearly 50% of the trails marked beginner or intermediate, recreational skiers can learn to carve while aspiring athletes tackle the more challenging terrain in the park or ski "Mary Jane" next door.

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[by djennfree: Strolling the Peaceful Paseo del Morro in San Juan, Puerto Rico](#) [\[edit\]](#)

If you find yourself wandering Old San Juan, pass through the San Juan Gate and take a stroll on the Paseo del Morro. This half-mile path runs between the ocean and the old city walls, offering both scenic and historic vistas. Along the way, you're likely to encounter a bevy of stray cats sunning themselves on the path and the occasional pelican perched atop a fortress turret. You might even meet a friendly local, who warns you there's no access to the looming fort (San Felipe del Morro) at the trail's end. No matter, you're happy to retrace your steps.

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