

HOLIDAY GETAWAY GUIDE: 10 LAST-MINUTE DEALS

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Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

DECEMBER 2006

THE FABULOUS 50



The grand Edinburgh Castle by twilight.

SCOTLAND

King of the Castle Take a private tour of Edinburgh Castle after it closes to the public (one million visitors file through annually). The castle was the seat of Scottish kings for nearly a millennium, suffered sieges and wars, and houses a twelfth-century chapel, and your guide will regale you with anecdotes from its storied history. Have dinner in one of the rooms, with a stunning view overlooking the city from the castle's rocky aerie atop an extinct volcano. Cost: \$1,500. Source: Susie Worthy (see England).

EUROPE ENGLAND

The Royal Treatment View the crown jewels in the Tower of London before it opens to the public, avoiding the usual crowds at the United Kingdom's most popular attraction. Highlights include the world's largest cut diamond as well as coronation crowns, scepters, orbs, and swords. The collection has been kept in the tower since the fourteenth century, although most of it was sold or melted in 1649 after King Charles I's execution. Cost: \$2,800. Source: Susie Worthy, Noteworthy Events, London (44-20-7824-8995; susie@noteworthy.co.uk; noteworthyevents.com).

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