



Opera is a popular type of performance in Europe for tourists. Antonio Gravante/Fotolia

Theaters, concert halls, and other large-seating-capacity facilities exist in almost all cities throughout the world and each, no matter how plain or impressive, serves as a draw for visitors. Some, such as the Sydney Opera House, are even renowned as landmarks. Many performing arts companies, whether a repertory acting group or symphony orchestra, have a season (a few months each year) when they stage productions and perform for the public. For example, the Desert Chorale is a classical choir that performs each summer in Santa Fe, adding to the entertainment options offered in that renowned arts city.

Think for a moment of all the performing arts productions you have enjoyed in the past year. Which were of the classical form and which would be considered contemporary? Maybe you even have experience as a participant in the performing arts? Band? Chorus? Local theater? If you traveled to enjoy any of these performances you can call yourself an arts tourist. We will discuss other cultural aspects of tourism in Chapter 12.

Summary

So many things to do and so little time sums up the delightful dilemma travelers face when selecting from the menu of attractions and entertainment options. How we choose to spend our leisure time while traveling can find us seeing and doing things ranging from the simple to the exotic. Sometimes we look for the comfort and convenience of the familiar, and at other times we seek new or unusual sights, sounds, and activities.

The list of leisure-time alternatives from which visitors can choose can be conveniently classified into three broad categories: heritage attractions, commercial attractions, and live entertainment. Each of these categories contains even more choices, ranging from muse-

ums and zoos to gaming and shopping, and the list goes on. Attraction and entertainment alternatives are limited only by our curiosity, imagination, ingenuity, and resources.

Heritage attractions provide a unique two-way window that allows us to peer into the past for a fleeting glimpse of what the future may hold. Whereas heritage attractions meet our needs for self-fulfillment and education, commercial attractions can transport us to lands of make-believe for excitement and enjoyment. When live entertainment is added to the mix of other attraction and entertainment opportunities, travelers are faced with a broad menu of choices for filling their leisure time.