Monitoring Sentiment for Intra-European Travel

Autumn & Winter 2024/2025



Contents

Highlights & Recommendations Page 03

Travel Intentions
Page 08

Planning Details Page 30

Travel Considerations
Page 40

Methodology Page 45

Research highlights

WAVE 20

This report tracks intentions and shortterm plans for domestic and intra-European travel. It represents the 20th update of an ETC research project initiated in September 2020.

The findings are based on data collected in September 2024 from respondents in ten key European markets, focusing on travel plans from October 2024 to March 2025.

EUROPEAN TRAVEL COMMISSION



TRAVEL INTENTIONS

- European **travel intentions remain high**, with 73% of respondents planning to travel between October 2024 and March 2025, an **increase of 6% compared to last year**.
- Travel intention is strong across all generations; the most notable yearly increase is among Europeans aged under 45, with **those aged 35-44 being the most likely to travel (78%).**
- 39% of Europeans plan to travel between October and November 2024, and 33% consider visiting a neighbouring country. October (23%) and December (23%) are the most popular travel months.
- Half of Europeans (51%) plan to explore less-touristic destinations in the countries they will visit.
- Among those planning to travel in the next six months, **68% intend to take a leisure trip**, 15% will visit friends or relatives, and 8% will travel for business.
- As autumn arrives, Culture & Heritage (18%) and City Break (17%) trips take the lead, while Sun & Beach trips (14%) have dropped to the third place.

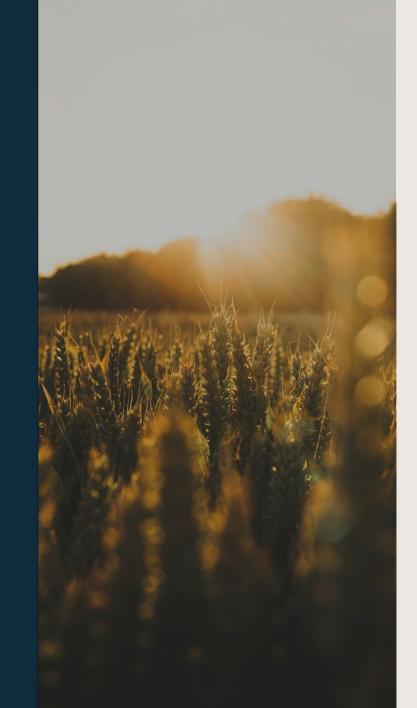
TRIP PLANNING

- In the upcoming months, 38% of Europeans will take a single trip, while a significant **56% plan to travel multiple times**.
- Younger Europeans (18-24 years old) are most likely to embark on several journeys (60% vs. 42% for those 55+).

Research highlights

WAVE 20





TRIP PLANNING

- **44% of Europeans have fully or partially booked their next trip**, same as last autumn and 12% below the pre-summer booking rush recorded in May 2024 (56%).
- Trips lasting 4-6 nights remain the most popular choice of Europeans (43%, up by 3% compared to last year) while travel budgets increase, with 39% of travellers planning on spending over 1,500 euros (+5%).
- Air travel remains in high demand (53%), while car travel has dropped to its lowest recorded level (26%) since September 2020.
- Hotels are the top choice for 54% of Europeans, and short-term rentals steadily hold the second place (17%).
- The leading digital touchpoints for planning trips are travel websites (21%), search engines (21%), and online maps (15%). Meanwhile, the share of travellers using Al tools and platforms has grown to 7%, since spring 2024 (+3%).

TRAVEL CONCERNS

- **Destination safety is the top consideration** for Europeans when choosing a travel destination **(18%)**, followed by stable weather and attractive bargains or deals (12% for both).
- The cost of travel remains the leading concern for European travellers (19%), although decreased for three consecutive research waves (-3% compared to last year).
- Almost 4 out of 5 Europeans (79%) reported making some adjustments to their travel habits due to the changing climate. The most common habit is checking weather forecasts before finalising the travel plans (18%).



WAVE 20

Recommendations for destinations

- Travel intention has increased among travellers aged 18-24 (+8%), along with the interest in taking multiple trips. This should encourage Sun & Beach and City Break destinations to target this demographic segment, attracting 17% and 16%, respectively. Despite being labelled as the "TikTok Generation", focus should be placed on their preferred digital platforms: search engines (40%), travel websites (33%), and online maps (29%).
- The high level of interest in lesser-known destinations (51%) and concerns about overtourism (9%) brings a great opportunity for **'off-the-beaten-path' locations to highlight (and use as key marketing assets) both their welcoming local community and cultural uniqueness.**
- Car travel is particularly popular for Nature & Outdoor holidays (41%). To reduce the need for personal vehicles, destinations could offer efficient shuttle services that run between key locations, popular nature sites, and trailheads.
- Safety is a key factor for travelers when choosing a destination (18%), and destinations should improve safety by implementing and reinforcing health regulations, training employees on safety measures well as developing crisis management plans. Equally important is communicating these measures through the destination's website and social media, ensuring travelers are informed and feel reassured when deciding to visit.



WAVE 20

Recommendations for businesses

- Two out of five Europeans have chosen their destination but have not yet booked it (+3% compared to a year ago). Travel businesses should target this segment by offering limited-time attractive deals, exclusive benefits that require advance registration, and other incentives for early-bird bookings.
- As Europeans increase their travel budgets, businesses can further **develop premium sustainable experiences**, such as **buy-local luxury shopping**, **farm-to-table fine dining**, **upscale eco-lodges**, or **glamping in remote natural reserves**.
- In response to unpredictable climate events and travellers' sensitivity to such conditions, businesses can implement **flexible cancellation policies, offering full or partial refunds** in the event of extreme weather.
- Among Europeans who prefer LGBTQ+ friendly destinations, 53% have a travel budget exceeding 1,500 euros. Businesses catering for these high-value travellers can strengthen their LGBTQ+ profile by **fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment**, offering LGBTQ+ **sensitivity training for staff**, and **partnering with LGBTQ+ organizations and travel influencers**.



WAVE 20

Reading the data

Data collection periods

Wav	e 17	8 May- 4 June 2023				
Wav	e 18	2-17 April 2024				
Wav	e 19	25 May -7 June 2024				
Wav	e 20	7-23 September 2024				

Travel timings for Wave 20

The following time periods should be used as a reference when interpreting the desired travel period

In 1-2 months:	October-November 2024				
In 3-4 months:	December 2024-January 2025				
In 5-6 months:	February-March 2025				

Analysed samples

- Total respondents: 6,001
- Respondents most likely to travel in the next six months: 4,399
- Respondents planning to travel internationally within Europe (not necessarily in the next six months): 4,901

Significant changes

Changes are assessed with a 2.5% threshold for significance and marked with the following symbols:

Increase



All data and insights refer to domestic and intra-European travel unless otherwise stated.

Travel intentions

01

Europeans' travel intention is up by 6% over September 2023

Intention to travel in the next six months

4%* 14.7% 15.0% 16.1% 19.8% 19.6% 9.9% 9.3% 10.6% 10.8% 12.8% 6%* 75.7% 73.3% 75.4% 69.4% 67.6% May '23 Sept '23 April '24 May '24 Sept '24 survey survey survey survey survey Likely/Very Likely Unlikely/Very Unlikely Neutral



UK

Top three markets most likely

to travel in the next six months

GERMANY



15%*

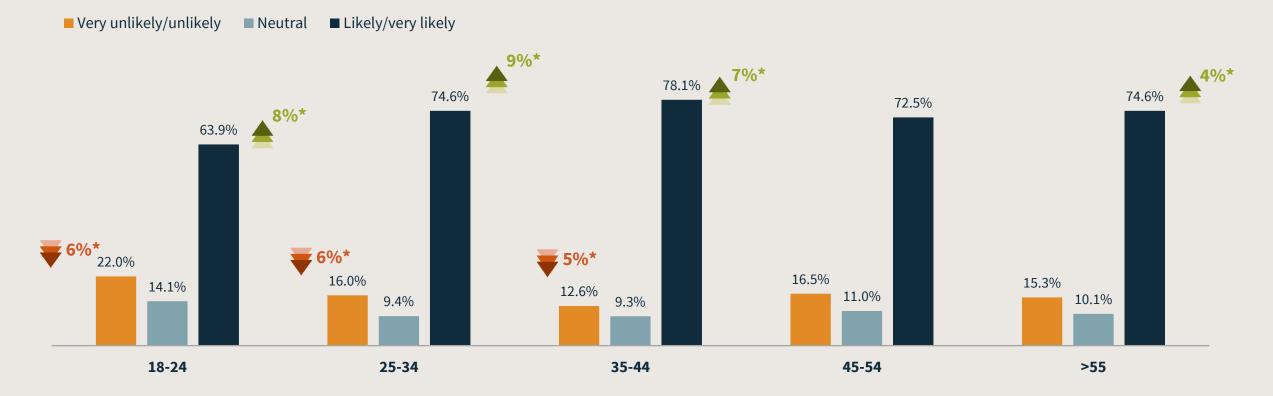
FRANCE **78%** (15%*

Q6. Do you plan to take an overnight trip domestically or within Europe in the next six months, either for personal or professional purposes?

* Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023) No. of respondents: 6,001

Travel sentiment is strong across all generations, with the most notable yearly increase among Europeans aged below 45

Intention to travel in the next six months by age group



* Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)

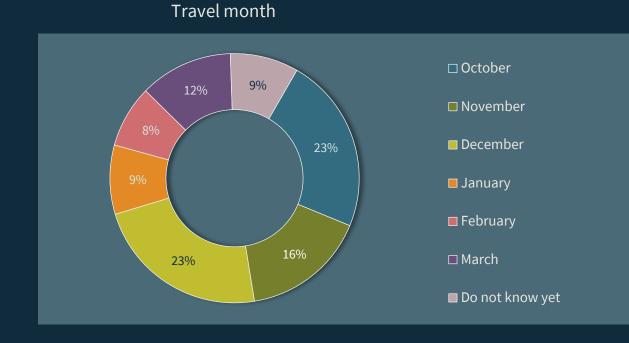
Q6. Do you plan to take an overnight trip domestically or within Europe in the next six months, either for personal or professional purposes?

71% of Europeans will travel by the end of the year



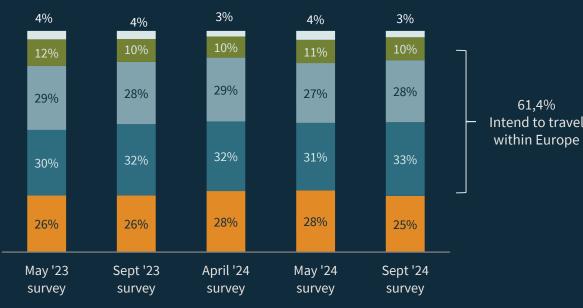
Travel period





Visiting a neighbouring country is the most popular choice (33%)

Where will Europeans travel within the next 6 months?



Within my country
 To a non-neighbouring European country
 Do not know yet

To a neighbouring countryTo destinations outside Europe

Q10. Where do you plan to travel in the next 6 months?

* Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)



Intentions to visit the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe this autumn and winter slightly drop



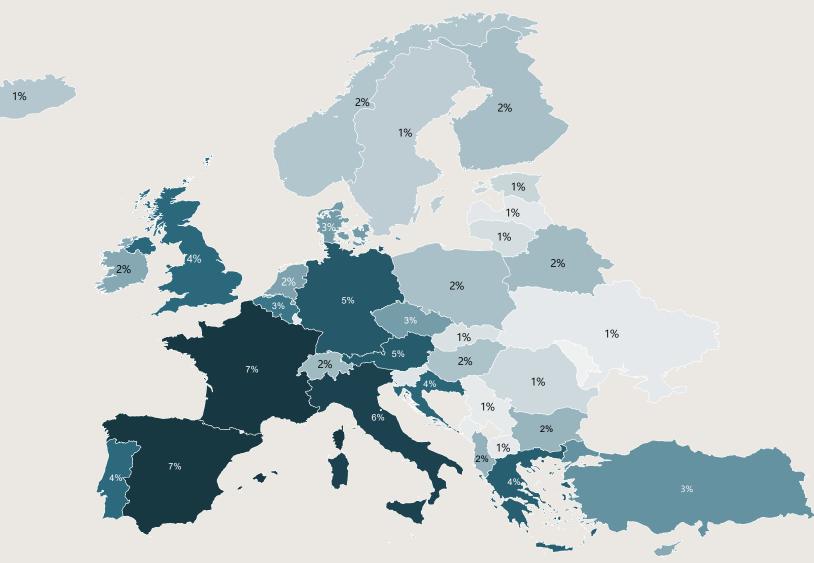
Statistically significant difference vs the previous year Definitions of the regions can be seen in the Methodology

Preferred countries for the next intra-European trip

Horizon October '24-March '25

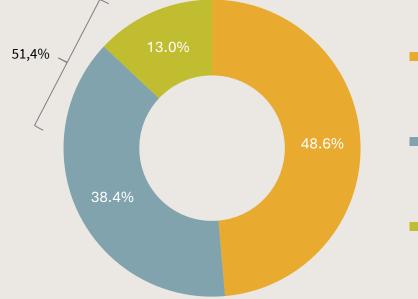
TOP 10 COUNTRIES

6.9%
6.8%
6.2%
4.8%
4.7%
4.5%
4.1%
3.9%
3.8%
3.4%



Over half of Europeans plan to explore lesser-known destinations within the countries they will visit

Type of destination for the coming trip



A major tourist destination with well-known attractions

A destination which is less popular among tourists

A remote or 'off-the-beatenpath' destination Top 5 markets favouring tourism favo hotspots Italy **59%**

Top 5 markets favouring lesser-known or remote locations



Austria 57%

Netherlands 56%

France 48%

Switzerland 48%

ик 56%

Germany 54%

Belgium **48%**

Spain **53%**

Q12. Thinking of the next country you intend to visit, in what type of destination, within it, do you plan to spend most of your time?

No. of respondents: 4,399

Croatia, Portugal, and Greece draw new travellers, while Spain, France, and Austria maintain interest among the repeat visitors

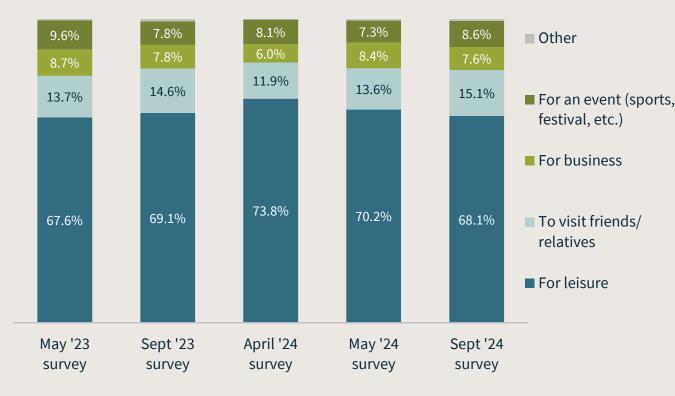
Past and future visitors per destination -Top 10 most popular destinations



Q1. Which European countries have you visited in the past three years (2022-2023-24)? Q11. To which country(ies) do you plan to travel next?

NOTE: The sample includes respondents with past experience or future intentions to visit the destinations. It excludes domestic travellers. Total No. of cases: 7,428

68% of Europeans plan leisure trips in the next 6 months, while only 8% will travel for business



Purpose of travel



Q8. For what reason are you most likely to travel within Europe next? * Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)

Results for business trip per country are indicative due to small sample bases

As autumn arrives, culture & heritage and city break trips take the lead

Europeans' desire to enjoy nature, gastronomy and culture remains stable compared to September 2023







Q16. What type of leisure trip within Europe are you most likely to undertake next? Q5. Which of the following travel experiences will you look for during your next trip to Europe?

Popular types of trips and experiences

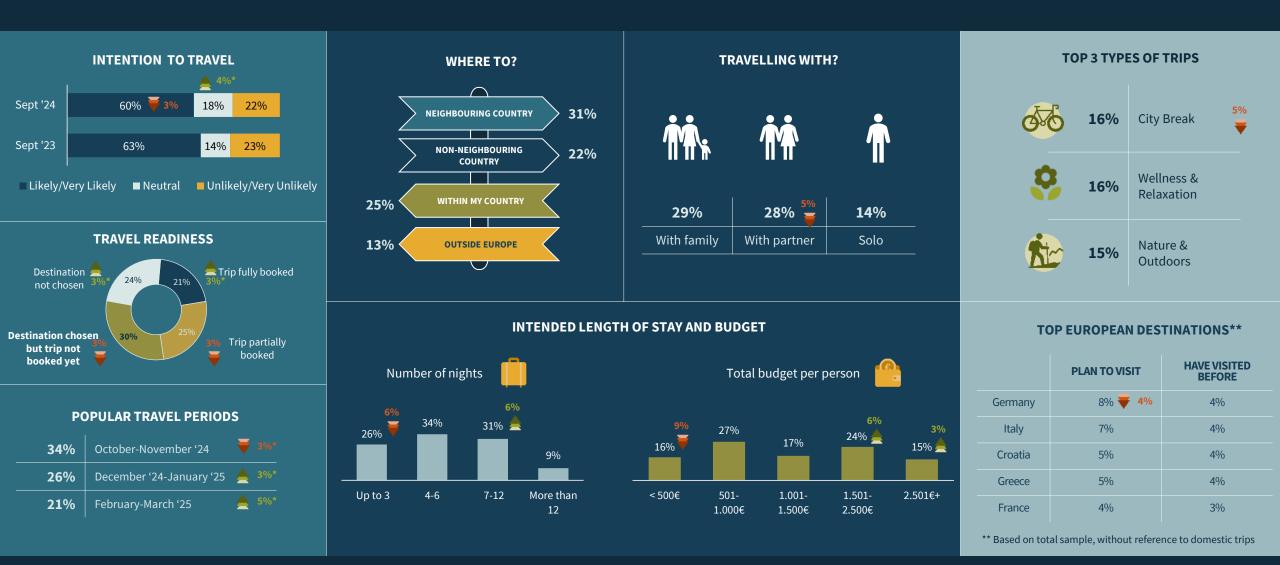
Analysis of preferred types of leisure trip by age, length of stay, budget, types of experiences and preferred destinations

	Culture & Heritage		City Break		Sun & Beach		Nature & Outdoors	
AGE GROUPS MOST INTERESTED IN THIS TYPE OF TRIP	31% >55	22% 35-44	23% >55	22% 25-34 & 35-44	27% >55	20% 25-34	30% >55	22% 35-44
MOST COMMON LENGTH OF STAY & BUDGET	51% 4-6 nights 20% up to 3 nights	28% 500-1000 € 20% 1001-1500 €	50% 4-6 nights 33% up to 3 nights	34% 500-1000 € 22% up to 500 €	35% 7-9 nights 34% 4-6 nights	26% 500-1000 € 24% 1001-1500 €	40% 4-6 nights 25% 7-9 nights	28% 500-1000 € 20% 1001-1500 €
TOP EXPERIENCES TO TRY	 21% Learn about history 18% Sightseeing 17% Dive into local culture 15% Gastronomic experiences 		 18% Sightseeing 16% Gastronomic experiences 16% Enjoy natural landscapes 16% Dive into local culture 		 18% Enjoy natural landscapes 16% Gastronomic experiences 14% Dive into local culture 14% Sightseeing 		 25% Enjoy natural landscapes 15% Gastronomic experiences 13% Dive into local culture 12% Learn about history 	
TOP DESTINATIONS	8% France 7% Italy 6% Spain 5% UK		11% France 8% Italy 8% Germany 5% Spain		15% Spain 9% Greece 6% Italy 6% Türkiye		6% Austria 5% France 5% Germany 5% Croatia	

No. of respondents: 4,399

Austrians' travel plans

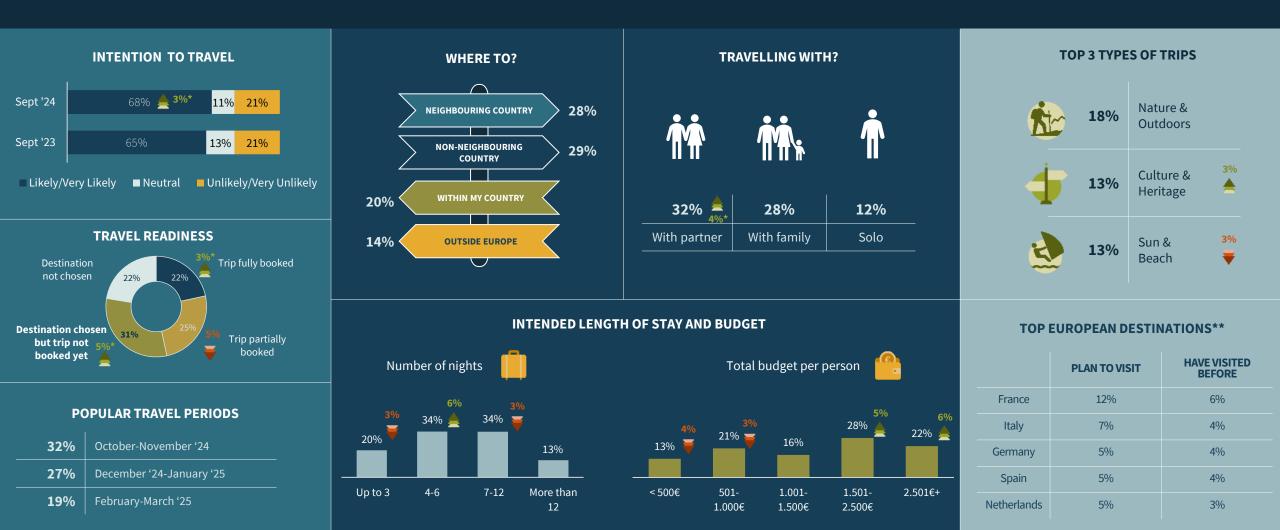
Travel horizon: October 2024-March 2025



* Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)

Belgians' travel plans

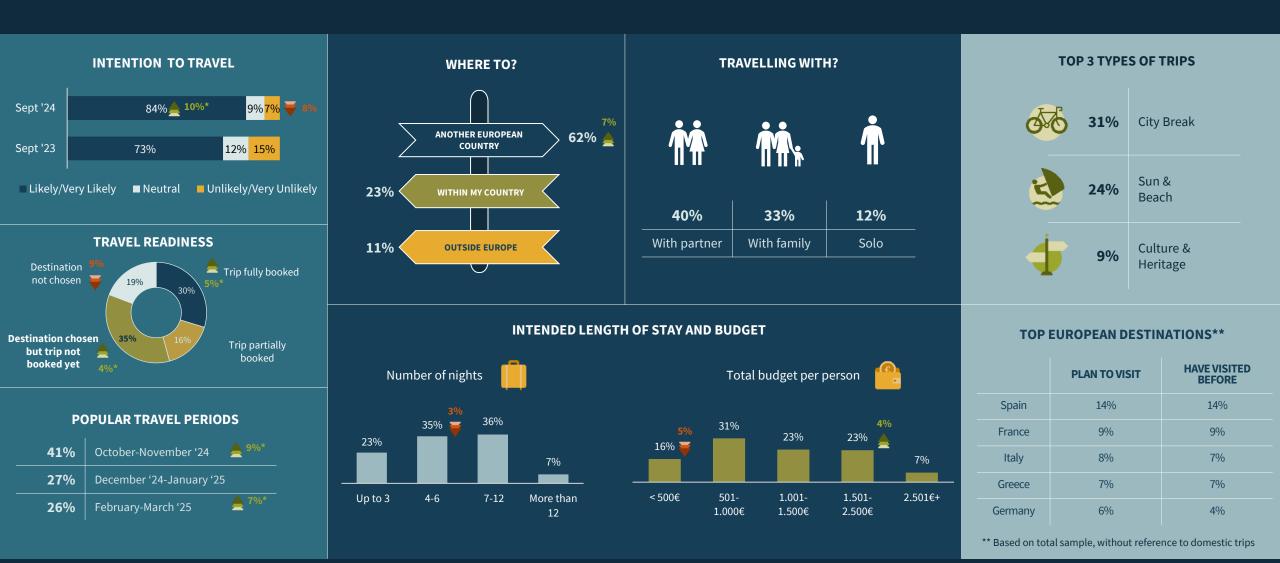
Travel horizon: October 2024-March 2025



** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

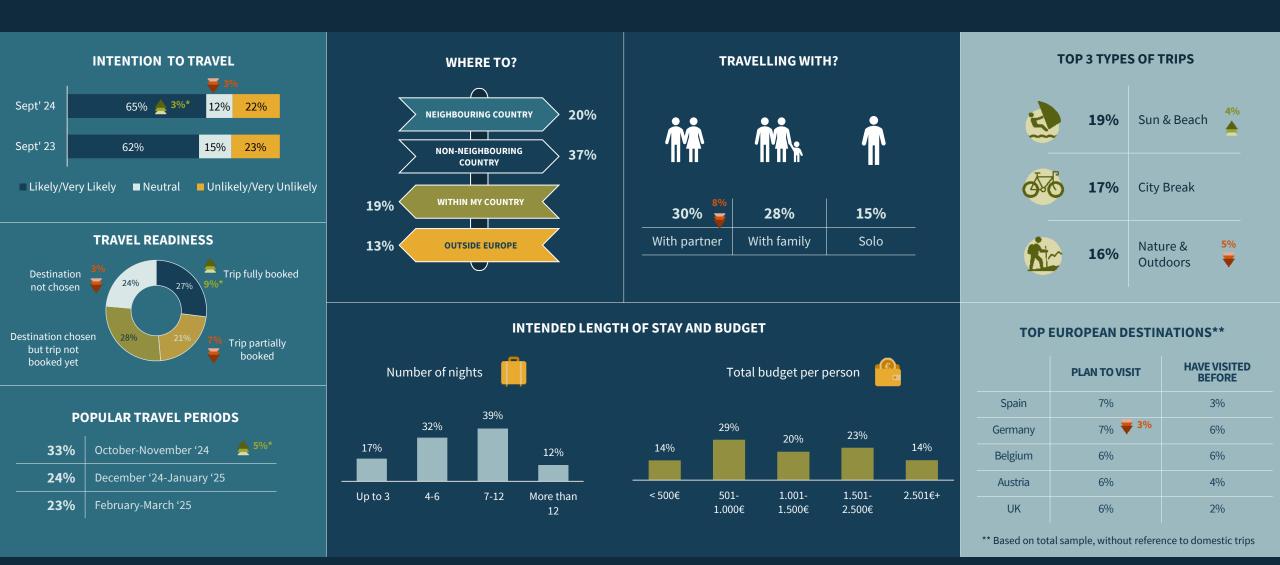
Britons' travel plans

Travel horizon: October 2024-March 2025

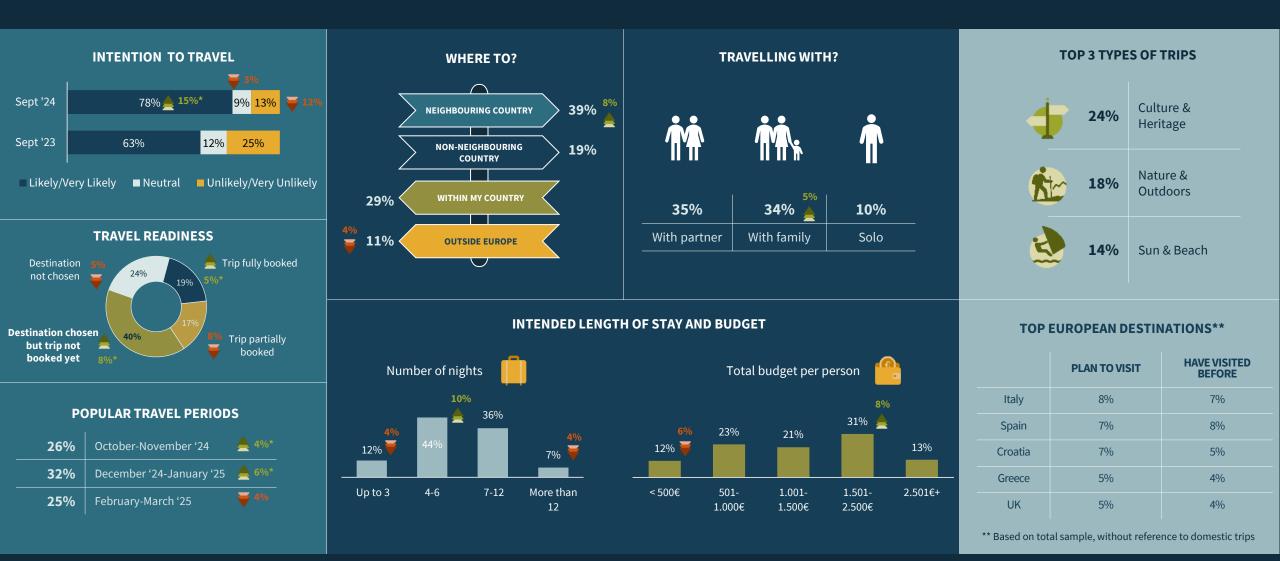


* Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)

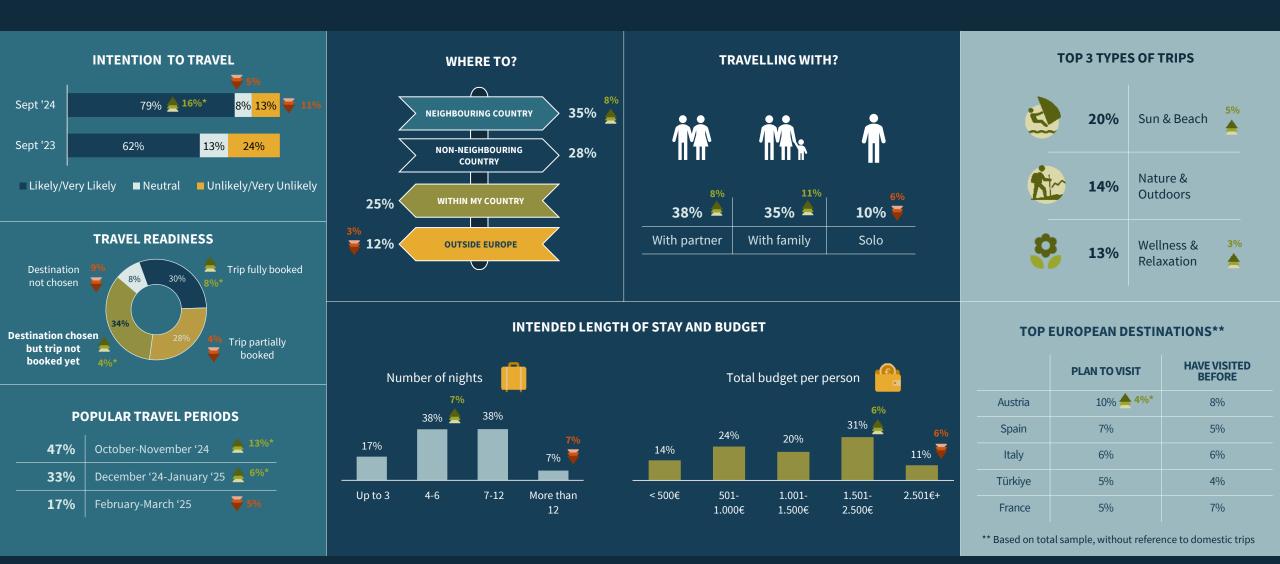
Dutch travel plans



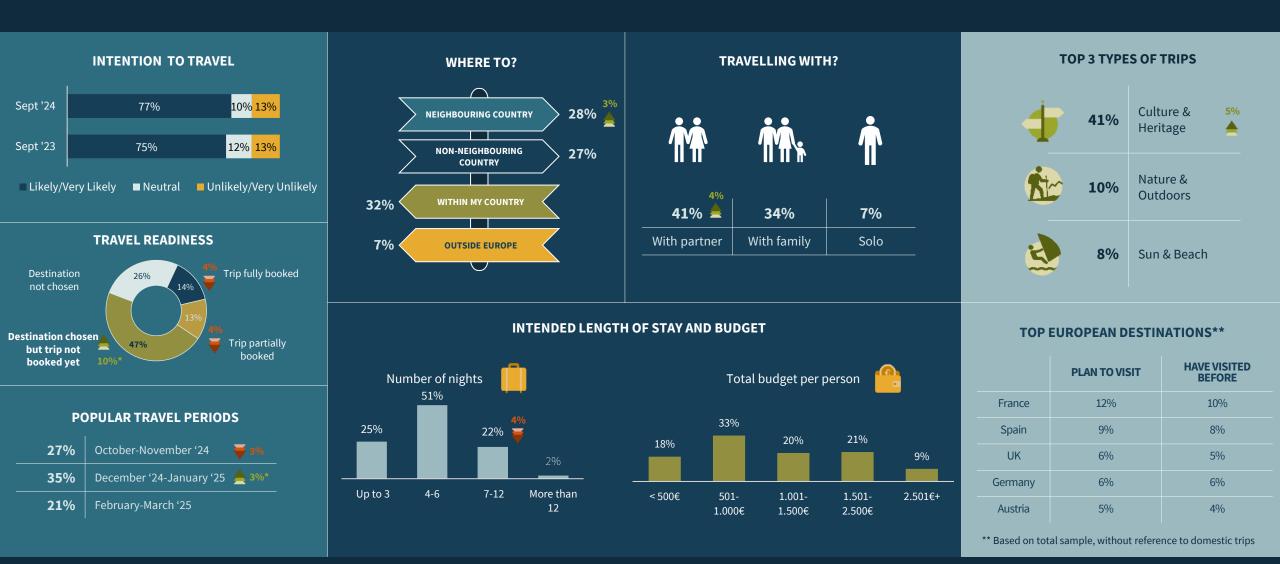
French travel plans



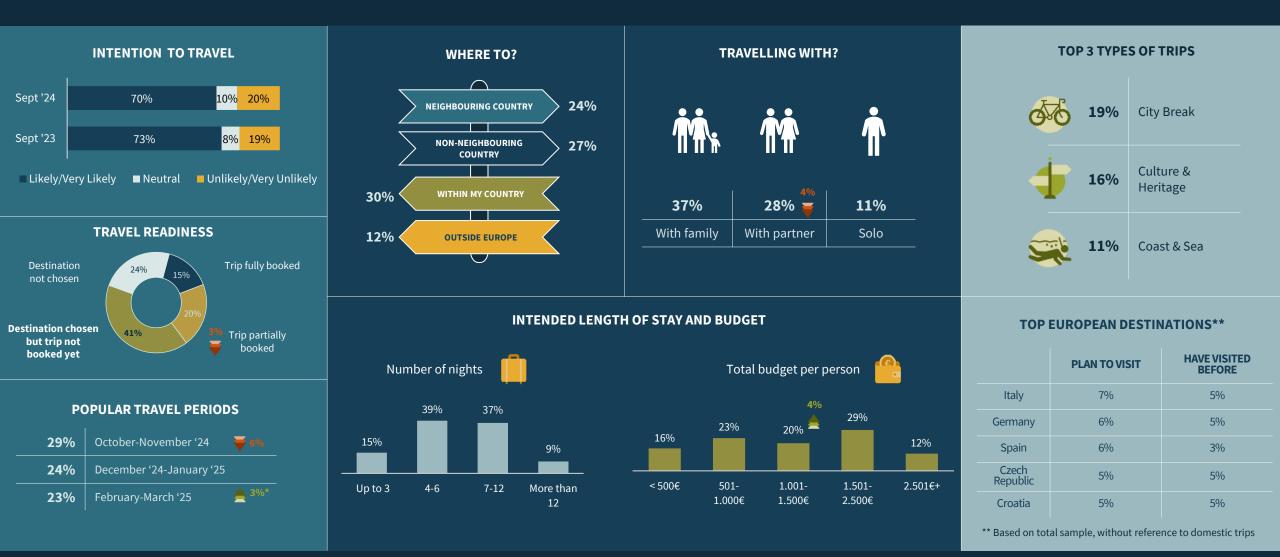
Germans' travel plans



Italians' travel plans

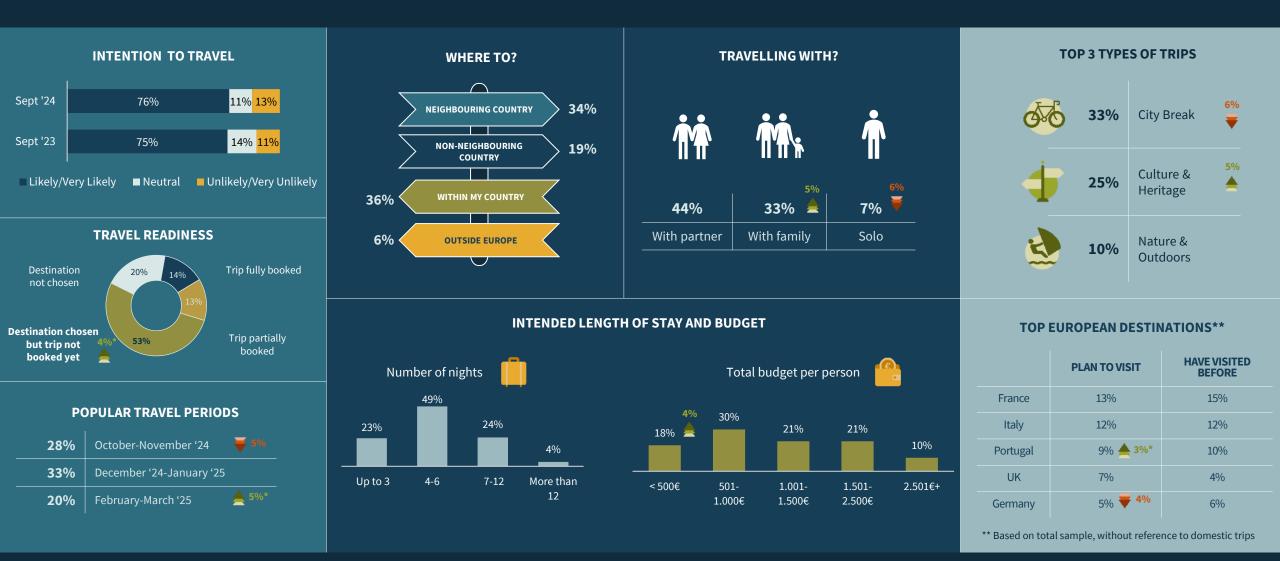


Poles' travel plans



Spaniards' travel plans

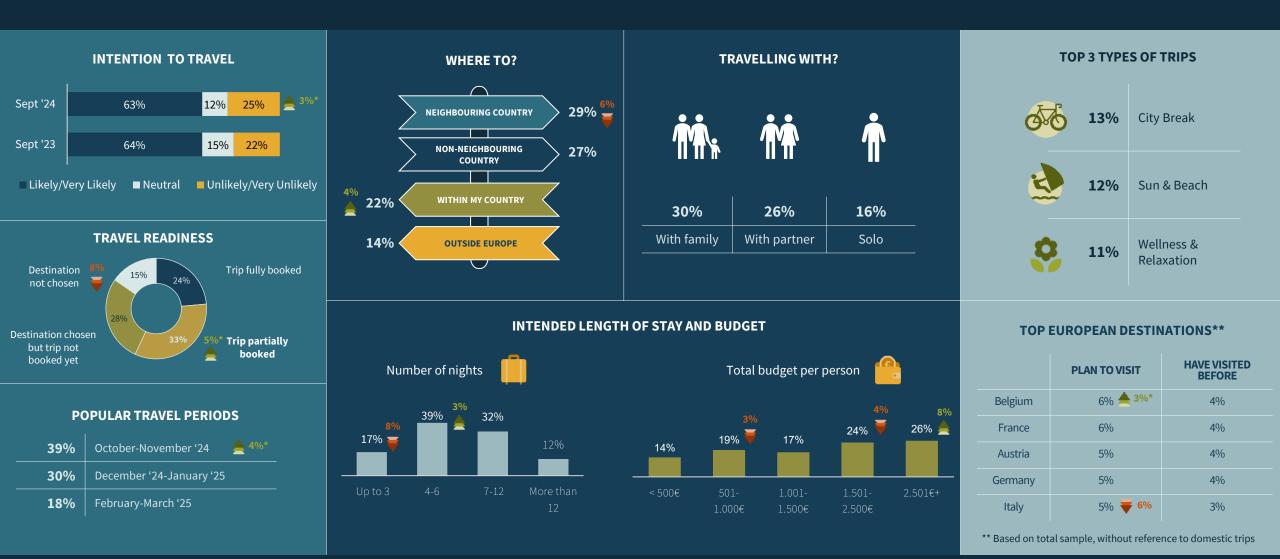
Travel horizon: October 2024-March 2025



* Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)

Swiss travel plans

Travel horizon: October 2024-March 2025



* Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)

Planning the details

02

56% of Europeans plan to take multiple trips in the coming 6 months



Q7. How many trips do you plan to take in the next 6 months, within Europe?

* Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)

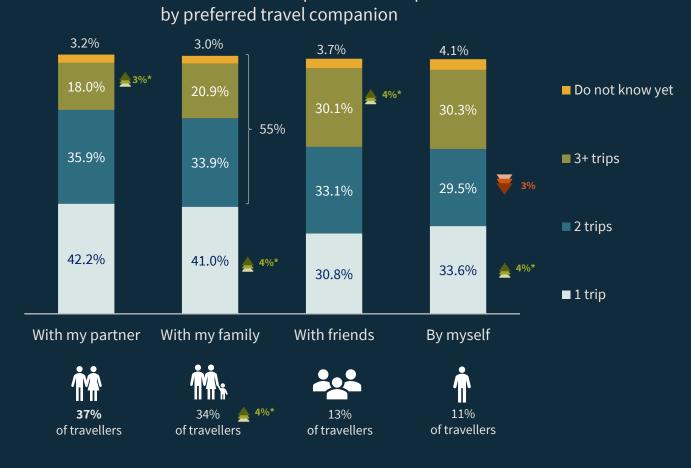
The younger generation plans to take trips more often than older travellers: 60% of travellers aged 18-24 plan to take multiple trips. This drops to 42% among Europeans over 55.



More Europeans plan to travel with family, and 55% of families are planning to take multiple trips

Number of intended trips within Europe

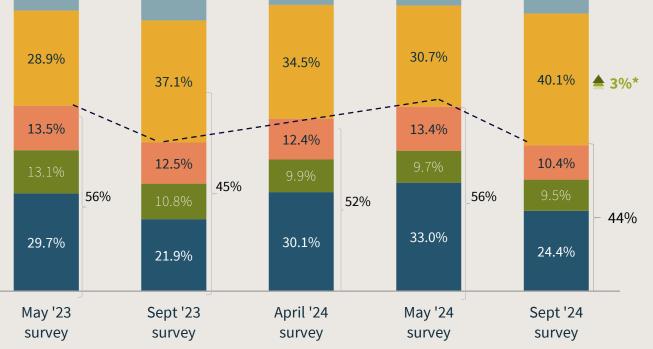
EUROPEAN TRAVEL COMMISSION

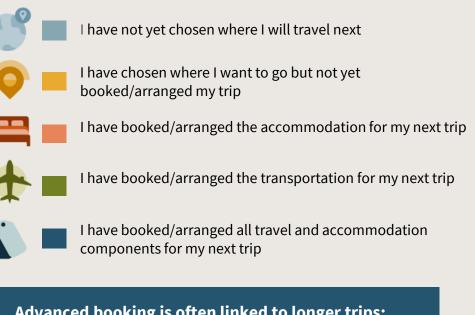


44% of Europeans have fully/ partially booked their trip – 12% below this year's pre-summer booking rush

17.7% 13.0% 13.2%

Planning status for the next trip



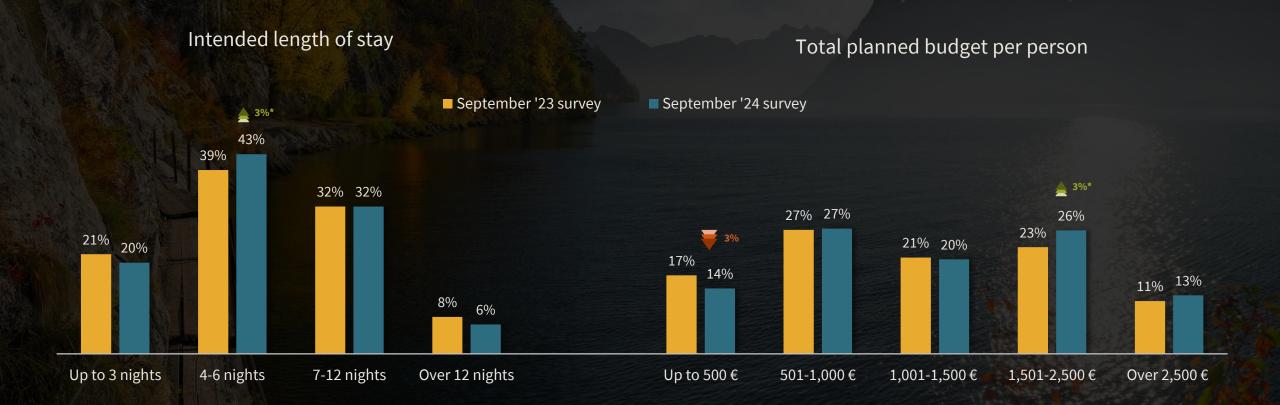


Advanced booking is often linked to longer trips: 38% of travellers planning a trip of up to 6 nights have fully/ partially booked their trip, compared to 56% among those planning a trip of over 12 nights

14.7%

15.6%

A growing number of Europeans are planning trips of 4-6 nights (+3%) and the share of travellers planning to spend over 1,500 euros rises by 5%



* Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)

No. of respondents: 4,399



Budget allocation by length of trip

The budget is per person, per trip, including accommodation, transportation and travel activities

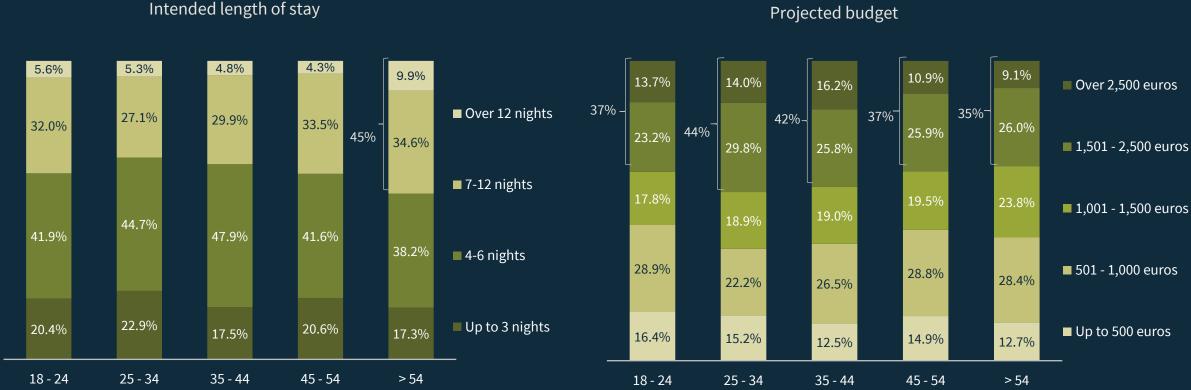
	< 3 nights	4-6 nights	7-12 nights		
< 500 €	40%	10%	10%		
501 - 1,000 €	35%	32%	33%		
1,001 - 1,500 €	11%	23%	43%		
1,501 - 2,500 €	10%	27%	71%		

No. of respondents: 4,399

Q17. What would be the length of your next overnight trip?

Q18. How much do you intend to spend on your next overnight trip (per person, including accommodation, transportation and travel activities)?

Mature travellers plan longer trips, while the younger ones intend to spend the most



Projected budget

The budget is per person per trip, including accommodation, transportation and travel activities

Q17. What would be the length of your next overnight trip?

Q18. How much do you intend to spend on your next overnight trip (per person, including accommodation, transportation and travel activities)?

Air travel remains in high demand, while car travel drops to its lowestrecorded level (26%)

3.9% 3.2% 3.6% 4.0% 4.4% 9.6% 10.6% 12.1% 13.0% 28.2% 27.9% 25.8% 28.6% 55.1% 53.5% 53.0% 50.3% Sept '23 April '24 May '24 Sept '24 survey survey survey survey

Preferred modes of transport for intra-European travel

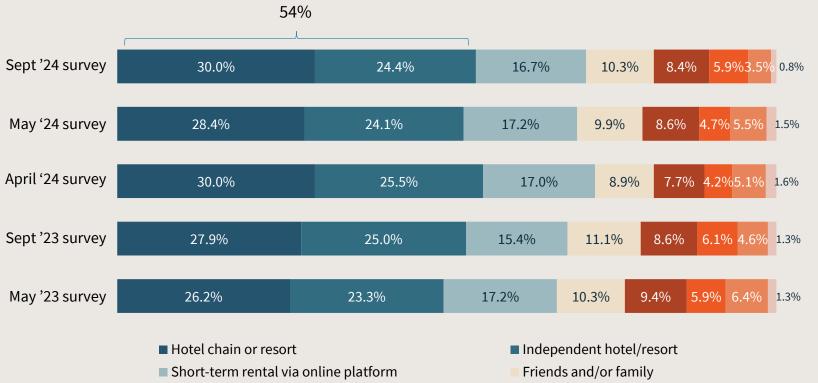
Top driving Top markets to take a plane markets UK Austria 74% 42%By ship or ferry Spain Germany By bus 71% 380 By train By car By air **Netherlands** Italy 65% 35%

Q13. Which of the following modes of transport would you most consider using during your next trip within Europe?

Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)

54% of Europeans prefer hotels, while shortterm rentals maintain steady demand at 17%

Preferred type of accommodation



Other paid serviced accommodation
 Camping/caravan

Hostel/motel
 Other

Q14. Which of the following types of accommodation would you most consider staying at during your next trip within Europe? * Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (September 2023)



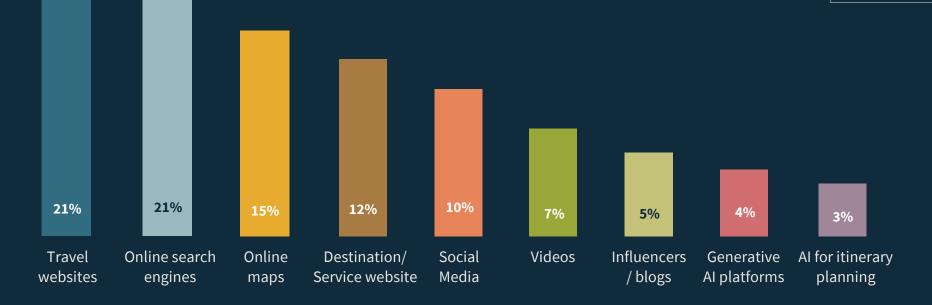
Of those travelling to visit friends and relatives, 55% will choose paid accommodation and 39% will stay with friends/ family.

No. of respondents: 4,508

Travel websites and search engines are top digital tools for Europeans planning trips

Preferred digital tools for planning the next trip

AI for trip planning appeals more to Millennials: 53% of travellers using AI tools for trip planning are aged 25-44.



Travel considerations

03

Destination safety is crucial for 18% of Europeans, while 21% prioritise bargains and costs at destinations

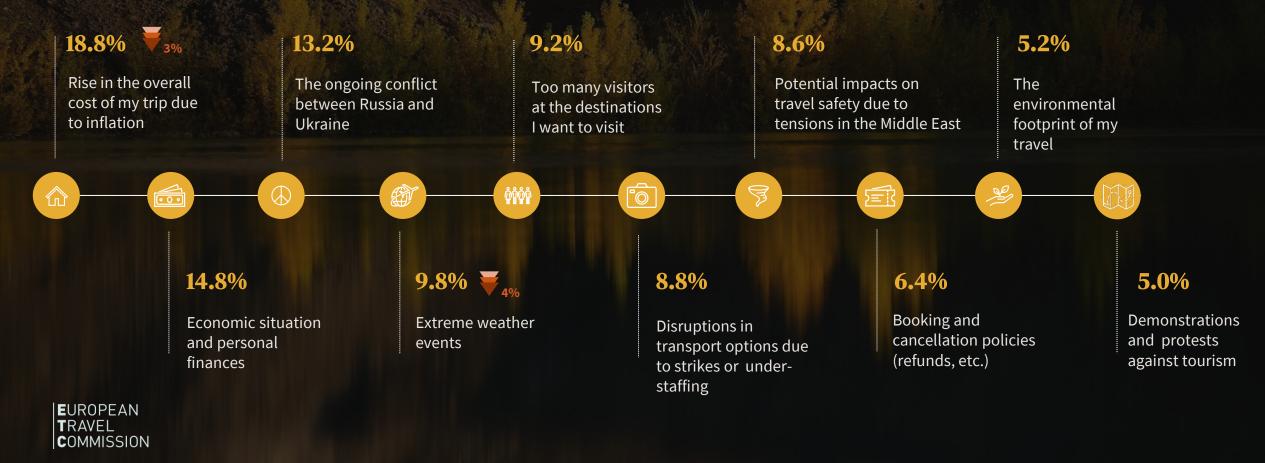
Low travel costs: 17.5% 21% 12.3% 12.3% 9.9% 8.9% 8.6% 8.2% 7.8% 7.2% 3.8% 2.6% The destination is Pleasant and Bargains and Friendly and The destination is Destinations with Infrastructure for Preserved natural Direct transport Possibility to The destination safe to visit stable weather attractive deals welcoming locals not crowded lower cost of living travellers with and cultural access by train promotes equal routes diverse needs and heritage rights for LGBTQ+ disabilities (£) •

Europeans' top criteria in choosing a travel destination

Q4 What criteria will play the most important role in choosing your next holiday destination? * This question was changed from W18 onwards

What do European travellers worry about?

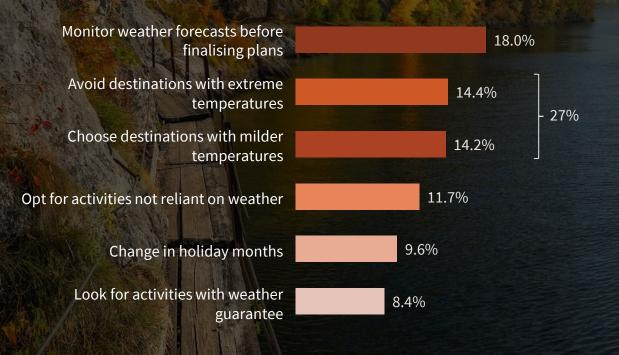
Concerns about travel price inflation decreased (-3%) for the third straight wave



Europeans are adjusting their travel habits according to climate change

As autumn arrives, concerns about extreme temperatures cool down, and travellers focus more on checking weather forecasts.

Most popular changes of habits due to climate change



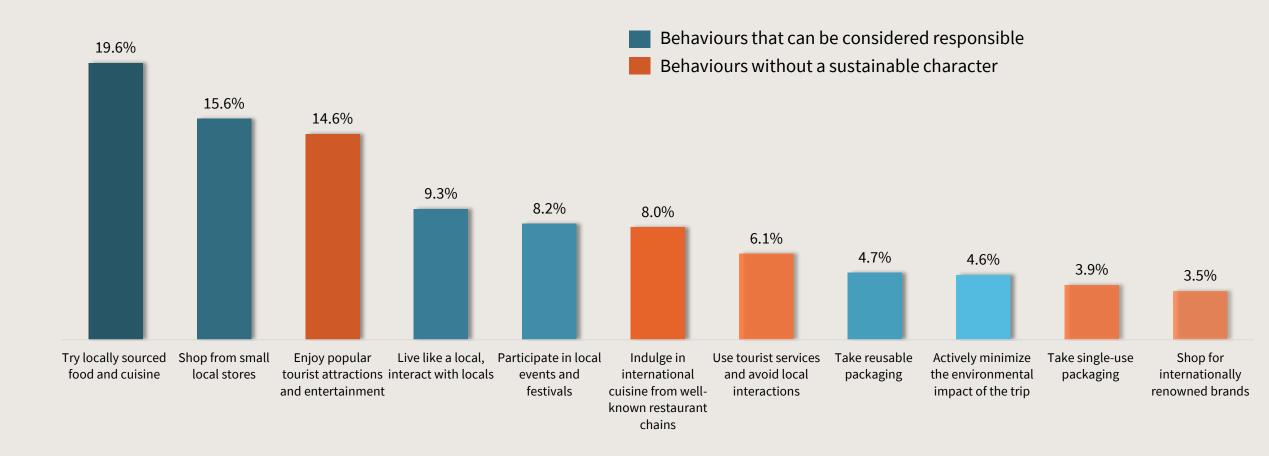
Europeans who changed their behaviours due to climate change



Travel habits of older Europeans tend to be less affected by the climate: 36% of Europeans aged over 55 have not changed their habits due to climate change, vs. 12% among travellers aged 18-24

Q21. How has the changing climate (heavy rains, heatwaves, wildfires, lack of snow, etc.) have been influencing your travel habits?

Projected travel behaviours of Europeans for their next holiday



Methodology

Methodology

- The report is the result of online market research of Europeans who took at least two overnight trips during the last three years (2021-2023/24)
- Distribution/data collection period:
 - Wave 16: 8 May-4 June 2023; sample = 6,002 / Wave 17: 11 -26 September 2023; sample = 5,993 / Wave 18: 2-17 April 2024; sample = 5,859 / Wave 19: 25 May-7 June 2024; sample = 5,955 / Wave 20: 07-23 September 2024, sample = 6,001
 - Countries: Germany, United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Poland and Austria
 - Languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish and Dutch
- Research themes examined: travel personas (one question), travel concerns and impact of external shocks on travel (eight questions), and travel intentions, preferences and trip planning (fourteen questions)

Age	Country									Total	
	UK	ІТ	ES	AT	FR	DE	PL	BE	СН	NL	ΙΟΙΔΙ
18 - 24	88	70	44	104	96	92	56	85	125	129	889
25 - 34	136	112	73	114	128	152	106	125	112	180	1,238
35 - 44	126	134	103	109	140	150	120	103	109	86	1,180
45 - 54	138	168	105	72	146	168	92	75	82	66	1,112
≥55	262	266	175	101	240	188	126	112	73	39	1,582
Total	750	750	500	500	750	750	500	500	501	500	6,001

• 48% of the Wave 20 survey respondents are male, and 52% are female. Sample size and age groups are listed below:

European regions:

• Southern/Mediterranean Europe: France, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Portugal, San-Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Türkiye.

- Western Europe: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland
- Northern Europe: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, the UK
- Central Europe: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Belarus and Moldova are excluded from the regional analysis for comparability reasons since they were introduced in 2024

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Study on Monitoring Sentiment for Intra-European Travel

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Data sources: This report is based on research conducted by MINDHAUS (www.mindhaus.gr) and should be interpreted by users according to their needs.

MNDHAUS

Tourism Marketing Strategy

Please note that while every possible effort has been made to ensure the data in this report is accurate, it is not possible to eliminate every margin of error.

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