

MONITORING SENTIMENT FOR DOMESTIC AND INTRA-EUROPEAN TRAVEL

WAVE 14 | 02/23





WAVE 14 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

This report monitors sentiment and short-term intentions for domestic and intra-European travel and is the **14**th wave of a market research¹ initiated in September 2020. Results are based on data collected in December 2022 from Europeans in 10 high-volume source markets.

- 77% of Europeans plan to travel between January June 2023, representing a 16% surge over the same period last year. Furthermore, 58% of respondents intend to take multiple trips in the next 6 months (+6% over the previous wave in September 2022).
- Visiting another European country is the preferred choice for 63% of Europeans (+13% compared to a year ago): 35% plan to visit a neighbouring destination, and 28% will travel to a non-neighbouring one. Interest in domestic tourism dropped to its lowest level (25%) since August 2020.
- Sun & Beach is once again Europeans' preferred type of leisure trip (17%), followed by City Breaks (16%) and Culture & Heritage (15%). Enjoying natural landscapes (19%), tasting the local cuisine (17%) and immersing in the local culture (15%) are now travellers' most sought-after experiences.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **72% of Europeans will travel for leisure purposes**, 15% will visit friends or relatives, 7% will attend an event, and 5% will take a business trip.
- The top three criteria for choosing the next travel destination are pleasant weather (18%), travel bargains and deals (17%) and friendly locals (12%). For travellers aged 25-44, attractive offers are the most important decision factor. Only 6% of respondents consider destinations' actions to preserve natural and cultural heritage as a primary choice factor.
- The number of travellers planning to fly to their destination (54%) is the highest since 2020 and up 10% from the same period in 2021. 29% of Europeans plan to drive their car and another 10% will take the train for their next trip.
- 44% of Europeans have fully/partly booked their upcoming trip, a 7% year-on-year increase. Among examined markets, the Austrians (27%) and the British (25%) have fully booked to a higher extent, along with the Dutch and the Belgians (24% each).
- Despite current economic concerns, Europeans will spend **similar time and budget on holidays**, as per one year ago: **39% are planning trips of 4-6 nights** (+6% compared to a year ago), while **500-1,500 euros** is still the most common allocated budget (29%)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- 23% of Europeans mention increased trip costs, and 18% their personal finances as a major travel concern.
- On the positive side, 59% of Europeans plan to spend the same budget on holidays as they would normally do, demonstrating a strong resilience compared to other spending categories. For instance, around 40% of respondents intend to reduce their budget for retail shopping (clothes, electronics, etc.), leisure activities, sport and self care.
- While travel desire remains strong, Europeans are adapting their in-destination behaviour due to increased costs: 18% will reduce their shopping activities, 16% will select cheaper accommodation and 15% will be settling for less expensive restaurants/self-catering. Affordable all-inclusive packages (12%) and fewer activities with admission fees are also considered (10%).
- Concerns over the war in Ukraine (11%) increase slightly compared to September 2022, causing 31% of respondents to make changes to their next trip (+5%).



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESTINATIONS



- 80% of Europeans over the age of 55 plan to travel by June 2023; destinations can attract this segment by addressing their interest for culture & heritage attractions (38%), and outdoor experiences to explore the natural landscape (19%), and by promoting travel itineraries for trips longer than 7 nights (50%).
- Considering the importance of bargains and deals in choosing a destination, DMOs can bring local businesses together to create affordable travel packages, promote free-entrance attractions and the inexpensive accommodations and eateries at the destination.
- Friendly and welcoming locals are now the 3rd most important factor in choosing a destination. Thus, DMOs could promote the human aspects of the destination (e.g., by involving locals in campaigns) and create local experiences that allow travellers to engage with residents.
- As the preference for air travel grows (+10% compared to a year ago), CO2 emissions increase accordingly.
 To support the sector in its critical journey to reduce carbon emissions, destinations are encouraged to
 promote train travel further and create holiday packages based on train transportation, which are
 currently favoured by only 10% of European travellers.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUSINESSES



- 58% of Europeans have either partly booked their next trip or have chosen a destination but have not yet booked. To encourage these consumers to take a step further and complete their booking, **businesses could employ re-marketing and lead-nurturing tactics** to re-engage with audiences who have already interacted with the brand, (e.g., by displaying ads to prospective customers who visited a site without checking out).
- 32% of Europeans planning to travel in May-June have already fully/partially booked their trip. In response to the high level of interest in travel bargains and deals and in order to capitalise on this momentum, businesses can promote affordable packages for this period and reward early-bookers.
- As Europeans consider less expensive accommodation, hotels can offer room-only stays, cheaper accommodation that excludes hotel amenities and daily housekeeping, and discounts for booking multiple nights. They can also offer all-inclusive packages that allow visitors to have better control over their spending.
- 32% of Europeans over the age of 55 plan a domestic trip by June 2023, and businesses targeting local travellers can promote culture and heritage attractions (38%) and experiences that focus on enjoying nature (19%), tasting the local cuisine (18%) and exploring the local culture (17%) the preferred activities of this age group.

CONTENTS

01.

02.

03.

04.

TRAVEL INTENTIONS

P. 9

TRIP PLANNING

P. 27

TRAVEL CONCERNS

P. 37

METHODOLOGICAL

ANNEX

P. 42

How to read

Wave 14

1. Dates on the graphs refer to the following data collection periods for each research wave:

	<u>Wave 10</u>	<u>Wave 11</u>	<u>Wave 12</u>	<u>Wave 13</u>	<u>Wave 14</u>
Survey dates	23-31 Dec '21	1-9 March '22	9-12 May '22	13-23 Sept '22	15-29 Dec '22

2. To present Wave 14 timings in which respondents are 'most likely to take their next trip', the following time periods should be used as a reference:

In 1-2 months: January - February 2023

In 3-4 months: March - April 2023

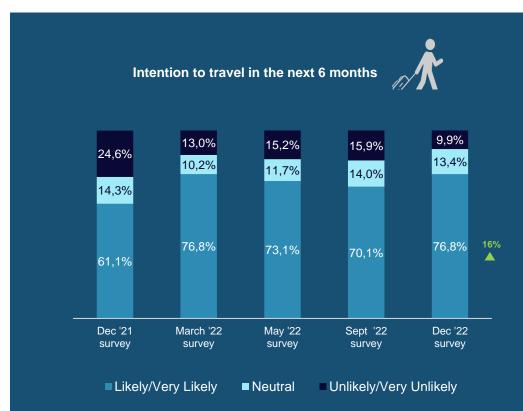
In 5-6 months: May - June 2023

- 3. To present data and insights, the following distinct groups have been analysed:
 - Total respondents: 6,000
 - Respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months: 4,606
 - Respondents planning to travel internationally within Europe (not necessarily in the next 6 months): 4,655
- 4. Significant changes between current and previous waves are calculated on a 2.5% significance level. Statistically significant differences are marked using the following symbols:
 - Increasing ▲ , decreasing ▼
 - Numbers next to the arrows reflect the actual <u>change in the share of respondents</u> selecting a specific response between current and previous waves
- All data and insights refer to domestic and intra-European travel, unless otherwise stated.



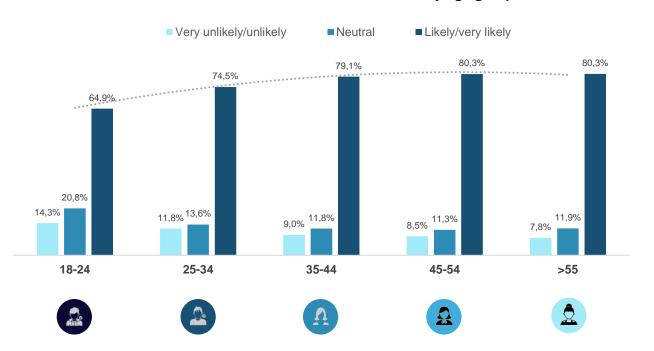
Steady travel enthusiasm among Europeans: 77% plan to take a trip by June 2023





Europeans aged 35 or older have a stronger desire to travel in the next months than their younger counterparts, who demonstrate higher levels of travel uncertainty

Intention to travel in the next 6 months by age group



Top travel experiences by age group:

18-24

16% enjoy natural landscapes

15% sightseeing

13% dive into local culture

25-34

17% enjoy natural landscapes

16% sightseeing

16% taste local cuisine

35-44

19% enjoy natural landscapes

17% taste local cuisine

14% dive into local culture

45-54

20% enjoy natural landscapes

17% taste local cuisine

15% the dive into local culture

55+

19% enjoy natural landscapes

18% taste local cuisine

17% dive into local culture

The majority of Europeans (66%) plan trips from March onwards. Interest in visiting non-neighbouring destinations grows significantly compared to a year ago



Q11. When are you most likely to go on your next trip either in your country or within Europe?

Q12. Where do you plan to travel in the next 6 months?

Dec '22 survey

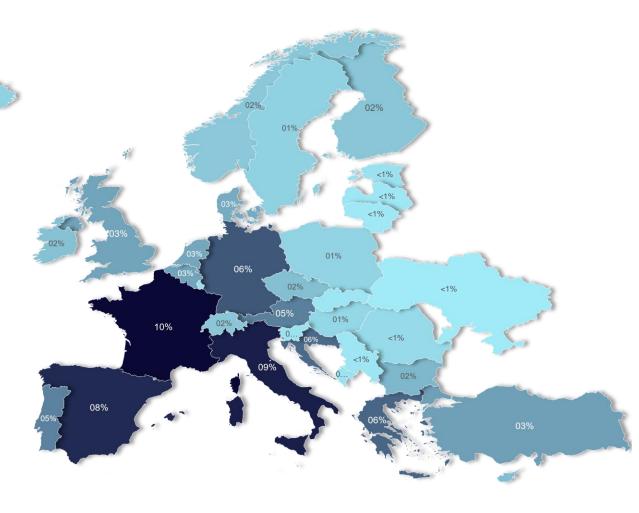
PREFERRED COUNTRIES FOR EUROPEANS' NEXT **INTERNATIONAL TRIP**

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

9.9%
8.9%
8.4%
6.4%
5.8%
5.6%
4.8%
4.7%
3.4%
3.2%

^{*}Please use this map as a reference only

No. of respondents: 4,655



The vast majority (72%) of Europeans plan to travel for leisure purposes in the short-term



Top 3 markets to take a leisure trip



Top 3 markets to take a business trip



France 79.1%



Switzerland

9.2%



Belgium

78.9%



Austria

7.7%



Poland

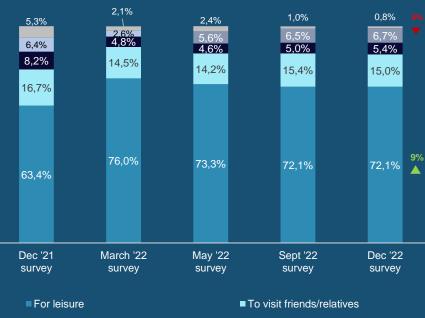
76.9%



Netherlands

7.3%

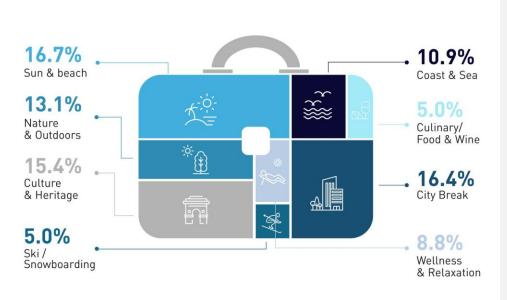
Purpose of travel for respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months



- For business
- For an event (sports, festival, etc.)
- For conference or event
- Other

Sun & Beach, City Break and Culture & Heritage trips are Europeans' leading choices for January-June 2023. Travellers look forward to enjoy nature or explore the culture and gastronomy of European destinations.

Preferred type of leisure trip in the next 6 months



Preferred type of experiences in the next 6 months Enjoy natural landscapes 18,7% Gastronomic experiences 16,7% Dive into local culture 15,2% Sightseeing 14,6% Learn about history and culture 12,3% Active experiences 8.8% SPA & Wellness 5.9% Acquire new skills 3,3% A spiritual experience 2.1%

1,9%

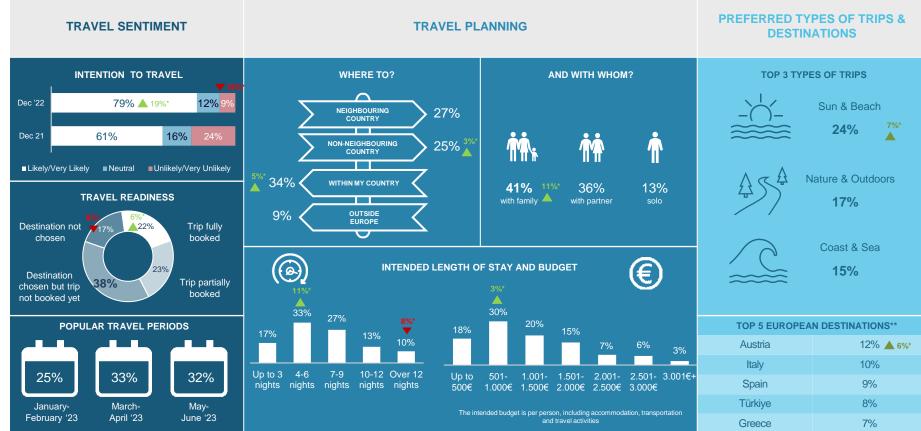
Luxury shopping

EUROPEANS' PREFERENCES FOR TRIP TYPES AND EXPERIENCES

	Sun & Beach		City Break		Culture & Heritage		Nature & Outdoors	
AGE GROUPS MOST INTERESTED IN THIS TYPE OF TRIP	25% >55	23% 35-44	26% 25-34	22% 35-44	38% >55	21% 45-54	26% >55	23% 35-44
MOST COMMON LENGTH OF STAY & BUDGET	37% 7-9 nights 26% 4-6 nights	29% 500-1000 € 24% 1001-1500 €	45% 4-6 nights 37% Up to 3 nights	33% 500-1000 € 27% s Up to 500 €	48% 4-6 nights 22% 7-9 nights	32% 500-1000 € 23% 1001-1500 €	41% 4-6 nights 23% 7-9 nights	29% 500-1000 € 21% Up to 500 €
TOP 4 EXPERIENCES TO TRY	19% Enjoy natural landscapes 18% Gastronomic experiences 14% Dive into local culture 14% Sightseeing		21% Sightseeing17% Dive into local culture16% Enjoy natural landscapes15% Gastronomic experiences		22% Learn about history19% Dive into local culture17% Sightseeing15% Gastronomic experiences		28% Enjoy natural landscapes 16% Gastronomic experiences 15% Dive into local culture 12% Active holiday experiences	

A SNAPSHOT OF GERMAN TRAVEL PLANS

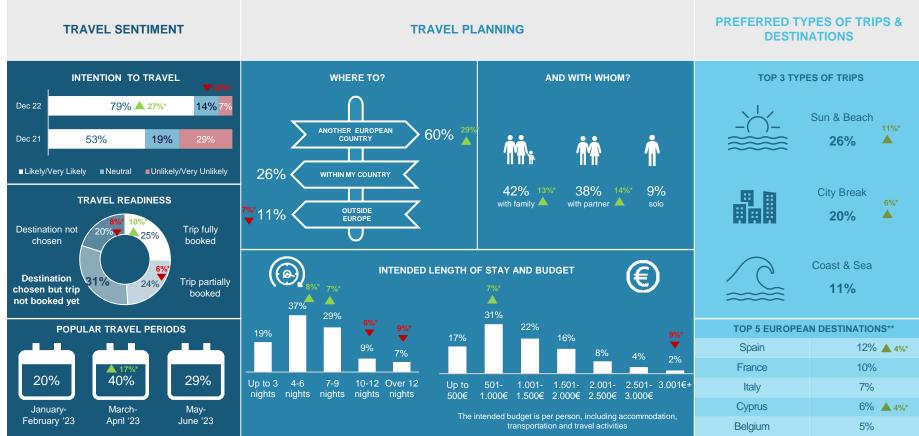




A SNAPSHOT OF BRITISH TRAVEL PLANS

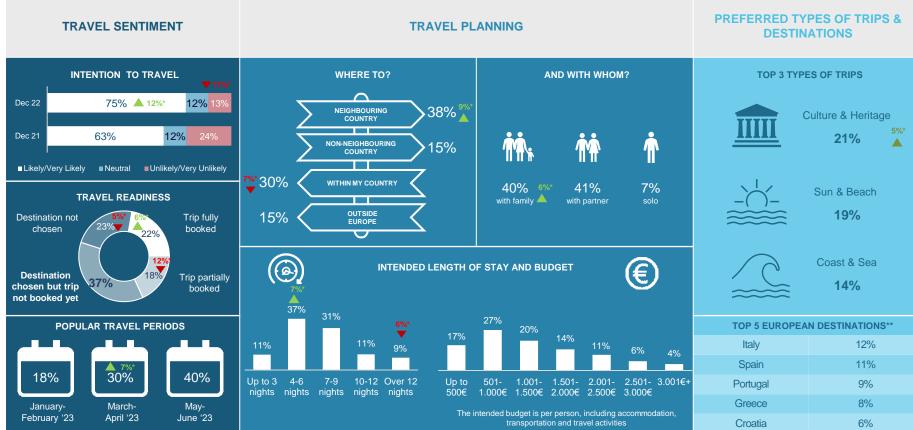
Travel Travel horizon: January-June 2023





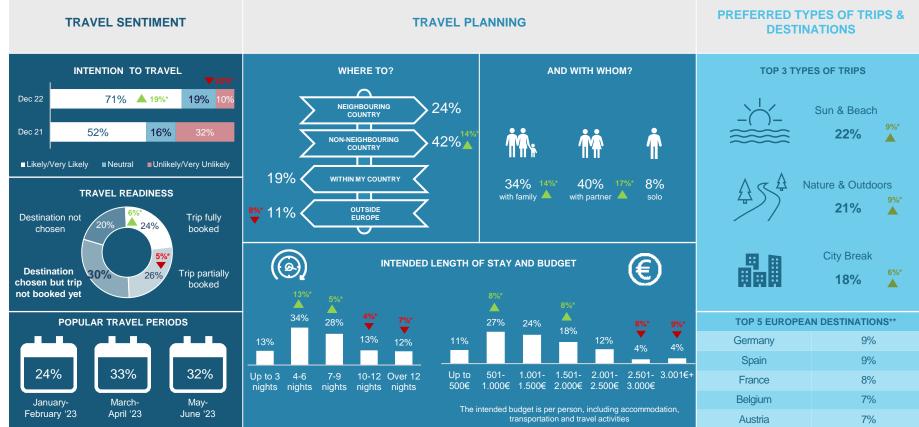
A SNAPSHOT OF FRENCH TRAVEL PLANS





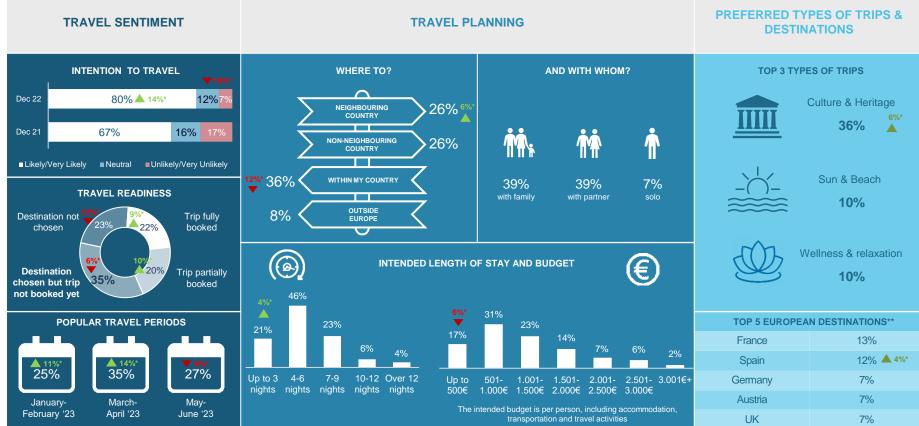
A SNAPSHOT OF DUTCH TRAVEL PLANS





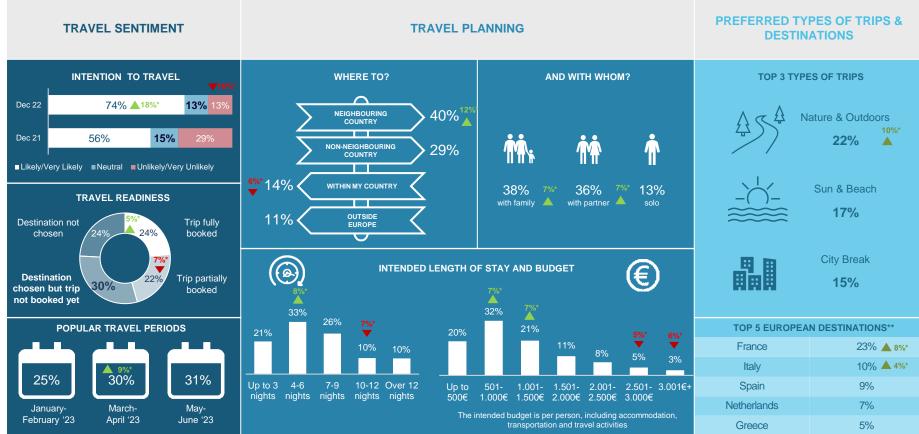
A SNAPSHOT OF ITALIAN TRAVEL PLANS





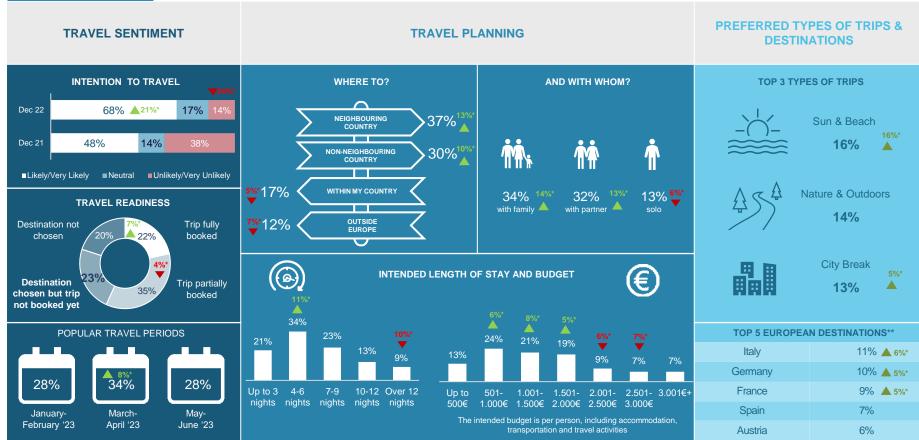
A SNAPSHOT OF BELGIAN TRAVEL PLANS





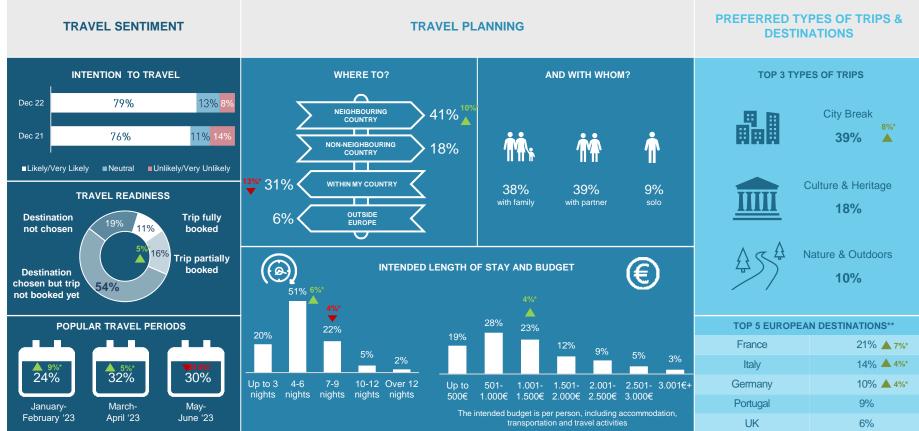
A SNAPSHOT OF SWISS TRAVEL PLANS





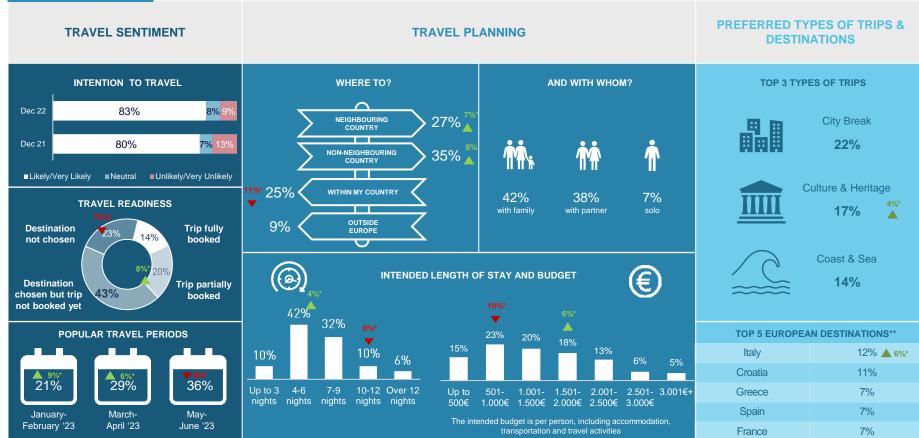
A SNAPSHOT OF SPANISH TRAVEL PLANS





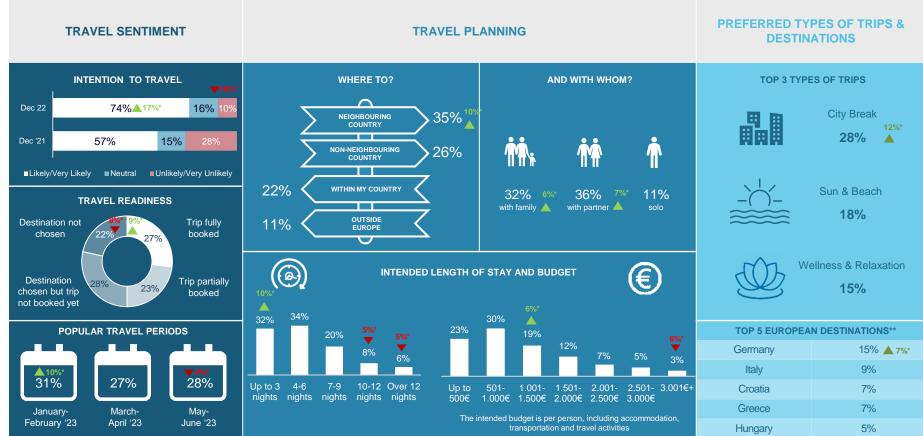
A SNAPSHOT OF POLISH TRAVEL PLANS





A SNAPSHOT OF AUSTRIAN TRAVEL PLANS

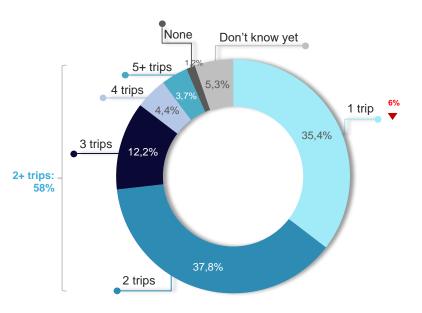






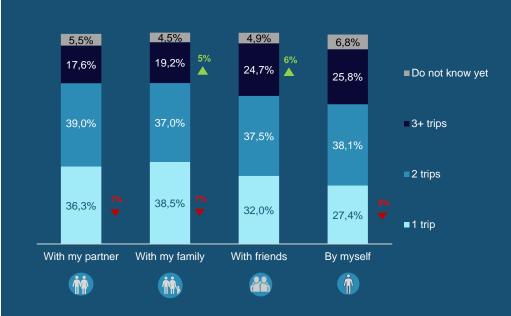
Most Europeans will take multiple trips in the first half of 2023; Solo travellers are the most likely to travel more frequently

Number of intended trips within Europe in the next 6 months



Dec '22 survey

Number of intended trips within Europe by preferred travel companion (top 4)

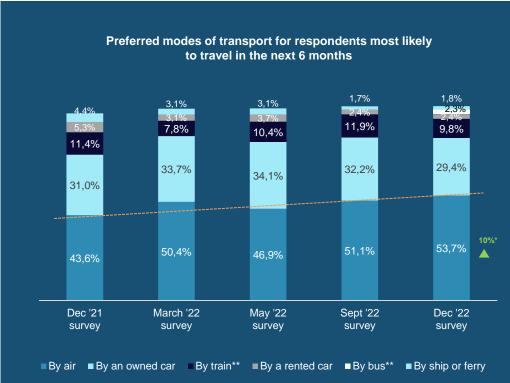


The share of Europeans planning to fly to their next destination increases gradually, reaching new heights



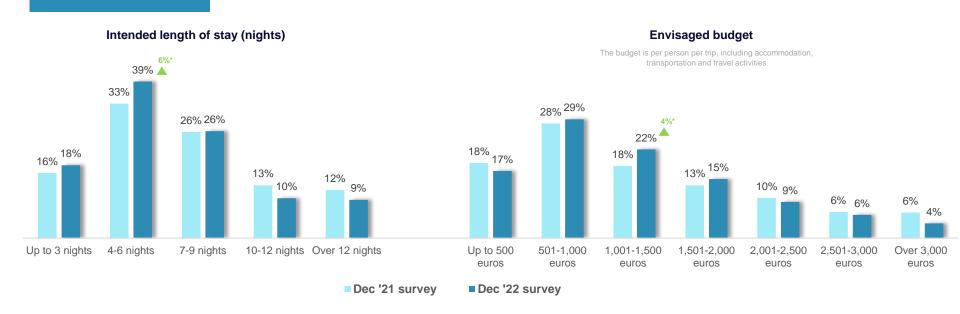
Q14. Which of the following modes of transport would you most

consider using during your next trip within Europe?



*Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (December 2021)

Despite economic concerns, Europeans expect to spend the same time and budget on holidays as last year



LOOKING FOR THE BIG SPENDERS?

35% of Sun & Beach travellers will spend over 1,500 euros on their next holiday, vs. 29% among Nature & Outdoors and 21% among City Break travellers

MORE NIGHTS AND HIGHER BUDGETS

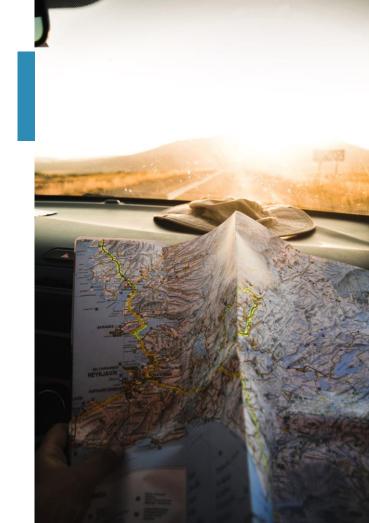
For Europeans who intend to take longer trips, the planned budget increases proportionally

Budget allocation by trip length

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

	< 3 nights	4-6 nights	7-9 nights
< 500 euros	43%	15%	8%
501 - 1,000 euros	36%	35%	26%
1,001 - 1,500 euros	12%	24%	25%
1,501 - 2,000 euros	5%	15%	18%
2,001 - 2,500 euros	1%	7%	14%

No. of respondents: 4,606

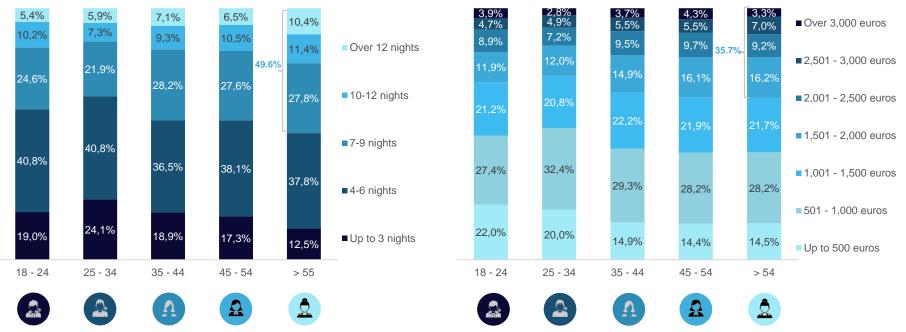


Among age groups, +54 year old Europeans are most likely to take longer holidays and to set aside a budget of over 2,000 euros

Intended length of stay (nights)

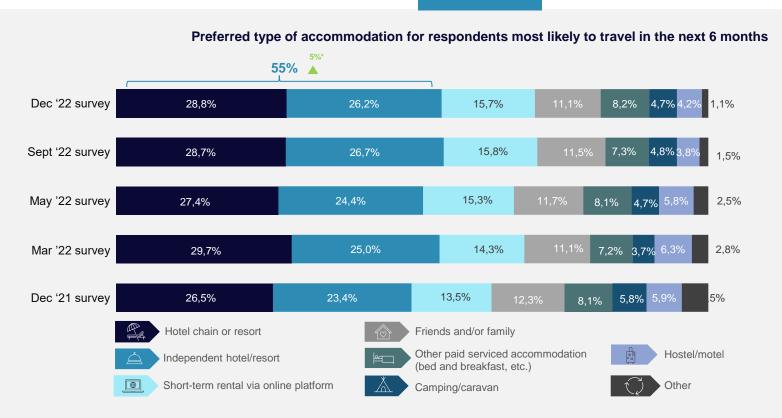
Envisaged budget





Q18. What would be the length of your next overnight trip?

An increasing number of Europeans plan to stay in a hotel during their next trip; short-term rental accommodations are the second most preferred option



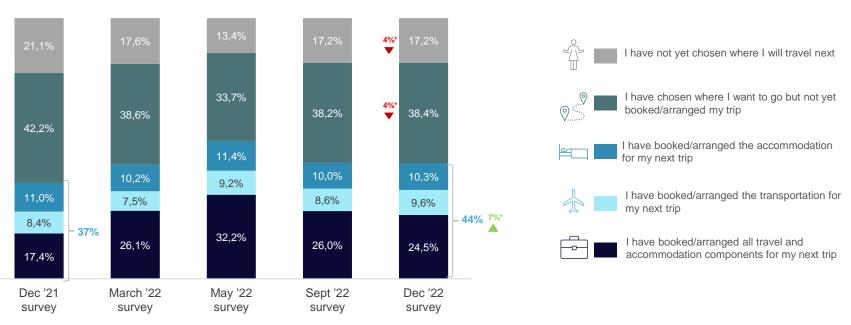


Gen Z Europeans (18-24 years old) are more likely to stay in short-term rentals (17%) and hostels (8%), and are less likely to favour hotels (47%)

The share of Europeans who have fully/partially booked their next trip (44%) has increased by 7% compared to a year ago

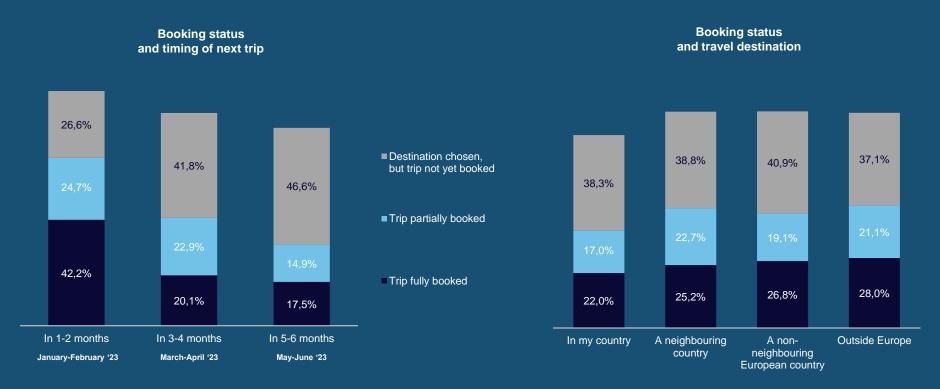
Results reflect improved travel confidence and a potential desire to reduce overall travel costs by purchasing early-bird deals.

Status of planning for the next trip



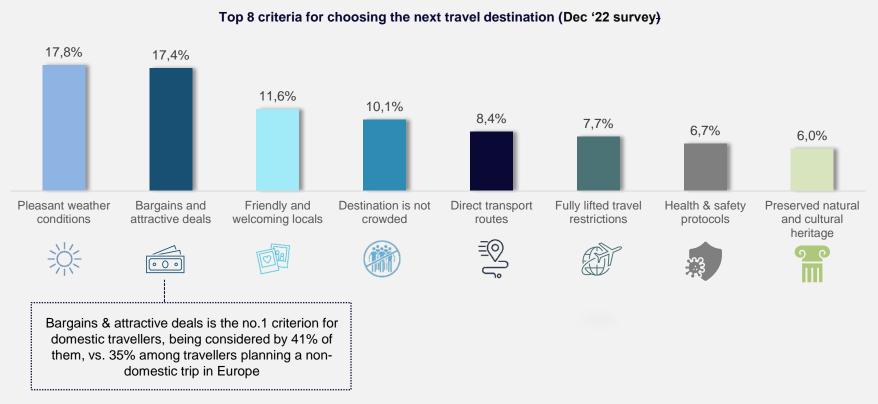
No. of respondents: 4,606

47% of Europeans have chosen their early summer destination but have not yet booked; The share of fully booked trips is the lowest among Europeans who plan domestic holidays



Dec '22 survey

Friendly and welcoming locals are now the third most important factor in choosing a destination, after the ever-popular good weather and attractive bargains & deals



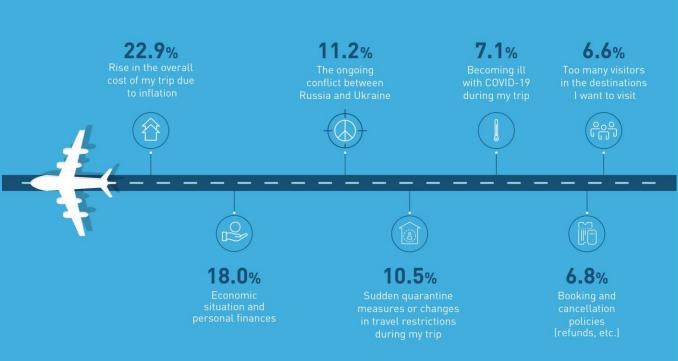
³⁶



EUROPEAN TRAVELLERS' CONCERNS

For 23% of Europeans, increased travel costs are a primary source of concern, while 18% are mainly worried about their financial situation

Leading concerns for those who are most likely to travel next (Dec' 22 survey)



Top 4 markets neerned with rising travel costs	Top 4 markets concerned with personal finance				
Austria	Belgium				
25%	22%				
Spain	Germany				
25%	20%				
Poland	Spain				
24.%	19%				
Belgium	Poland				
24%	19%				

cor

Top travel concerns are shared equally by Europeans of all age aroups

nces

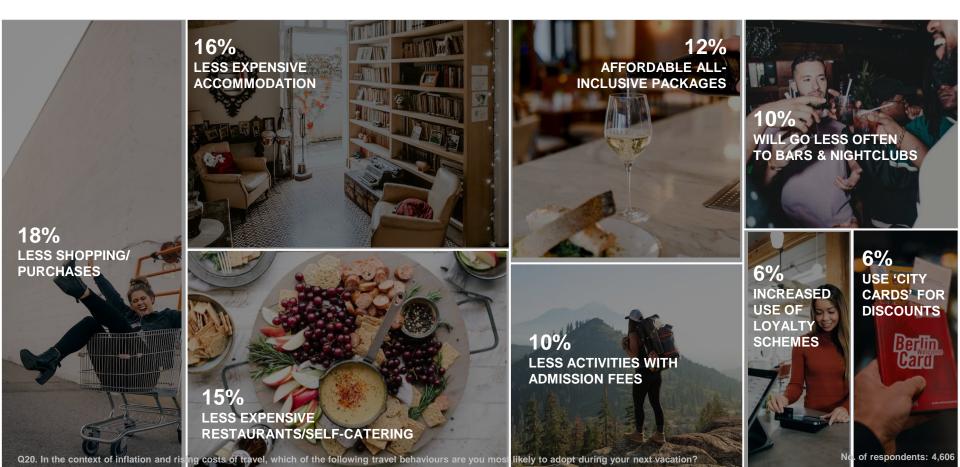
Europeans remain cautious about the war in Ukraine: 31% of respondents will make changes to their upcoming trip due to the conflict



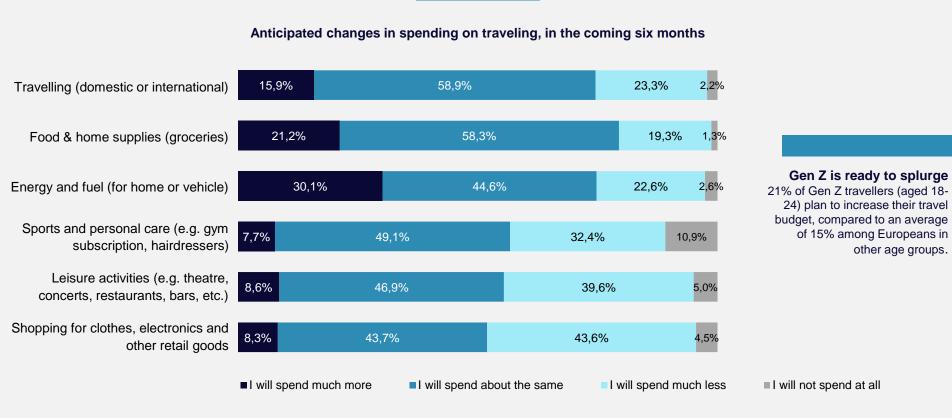
Top 5 markets their trip pl		Most often mentioned type of chan 'I changed my itinerary to avoid countries neighbouring the conflict zone'				
*	Italy	16%				
3%*	Poland 35.3%	10%				
9%*	UK 34.7%	11%				
5%*	Switzerland 34.7%	12%				
	Spain 32.1%	13%				

^{*} Statistically significant difference vs the previous wave (September 2022)

HOW WILL EUROPEANS ADAPT TO THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES WHILE TRAVELLING?



59% of Europeans plan to spend the same as usual on travel in the first half of 2023 - demonstrating a strong resilience compared to other spending categories



Q22. Thinking about the next six months, do you foresee any changes in your budget for each of the following categories?

* New guestion introduced in December 2022

* New question, introduced in December 2022 No. of respondents: 6,000



METHODOLOGICAL ANNEX

THE SURVEY

- The report is the result of online market research of Europeans who took at least 2 overnight trips during the last three years (2020-2022)
- Distribution/data collection period:
 - Wave 10: 23-31 December 2021; sample = 6,002 / Wave 11: 01-09 March 2022; sample = 5,998 / Wave 12: 09-12 May 2022; sample = 6,005 / Wave 13: 13-23 September 2022; sample = 5,988 / Wave 14: 15-29 December 2022; sample = 6,000
 - 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 (1 question), Travel concerns and impact of external shocks on travel (8 questions), and Travel intentions, preferences and trip planning (13 questions)
- 46% of the Wave 13 survey respondents are male and 54% are female. Sample size and age groups are listed below:

		Country							Total			
		UK	IT	ES	AT	FR	DE	PL	BE	СН	NL	
Age	18 - 24	88	70	44	100	96	92	56	120	62	99	827
	25 - 34	136	112	73	133	128	152	106	103	119	147	1,209
	35 - 44	126	134	103	1114	140	150	120	105	130	128	1,250
	45 - 54	138	168	105	87	146	168	92	91	111	74	1,180
	≥55	262	266	175	66	240	188	126	81	78	52	1,534
Total		750	750	500	500	750	750	500	500	500	500	6,000

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Study on Monitoring Sentiment for Intra-European Travel

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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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Cover photo: Black cheerful happy couple in love visiting Paris city centre and Eiffel Tower - African American tourists travelling in Europe and dating outdoors

Photo ID: 2173930499
Design: MINDHAUS

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