

Research highlights

WAVE 21

This report monitors intentions and short-term plans for domestic and intra-European travel. It is the 21st update since the series began in September 2020.

The findings are based on data collected in March 2025 from respondents in 10 key European markets, focusing on their travel plans between April and September 2025.

EUROPEAN
TRAVEL
COMMISSION



TRAVEL INTENTIONS

- 72% of Europeans plan to travel by September 2025, down by 3% from the same period last year. The 55+ age group is the most eager (80%), whereas Gen Z's travel intentions have dropped to 54% (-10%).
- 66% of Europeans are planning leisure trips over the next six months (-8%), while a notable 11% intend to travel for an event (+3%).
- Intra-regional travel remains Europeans' top choice: **32%** plan to visit a neighbouring country, and **28%** prefer a non-neighbouring European destination.
- **61% of Europeans plan to take multiple** trips from April to September, up 4% from last year.
- Over half (52%) of Europeans intend to spend their next holiday in just one city, while 37% plan to explore multiple places within the country they will visit.
- Well-established tourist destinations attract 53% of travellers ahead of the peak travel season. 35% will opt for less popular tourist destinations, and 13% plan to escape to off-the-beaten-path locations.
- Southern/Mediterranean Europe is still the most popular region (41%), though interest has dropped by 8%, possibly due to rising temperatures.

Research highlights

WAVE 21



EUROPEAN Travel Commission

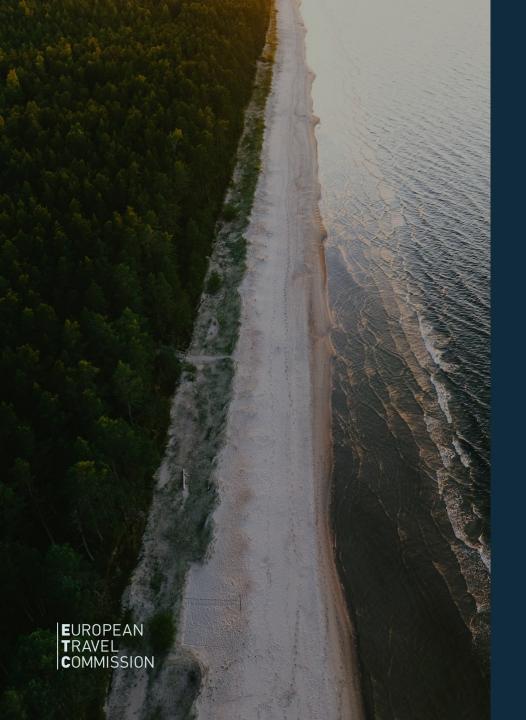
TRIP PLANNING

- Half of Europeans (50%) have already booked their next holiday.
- This spring and summer, **Europeans plan for longer stays and higher budgets**: 42% intend to stay at the destination for 7–12 nights (+11%), and 47% plan to allocate budgets of over €1,500 (+13%).
- Accommodation is the top expense for 27%, followed by food & drinks (20%) and activities (16%).

TRAVEL CONCERNS

- Affordable prices (22%), destination safety (18%), and pleasant and stable weather (14%) are the main factors influencing Europeans' choice of destination over the next six months.
- The most pressing travel-related concerns include **travel** price inflation (17%), the economic situation and personal finances (14%), the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine (14%) and the tension in the Middle East (9%).
- 28% of travellers now prefer destinations with milder climates and less extreme temperatures, driven by climate change concerns.

Comparisons vs a year ago (April 2024)



WAVE 21

Recommendations for destinations

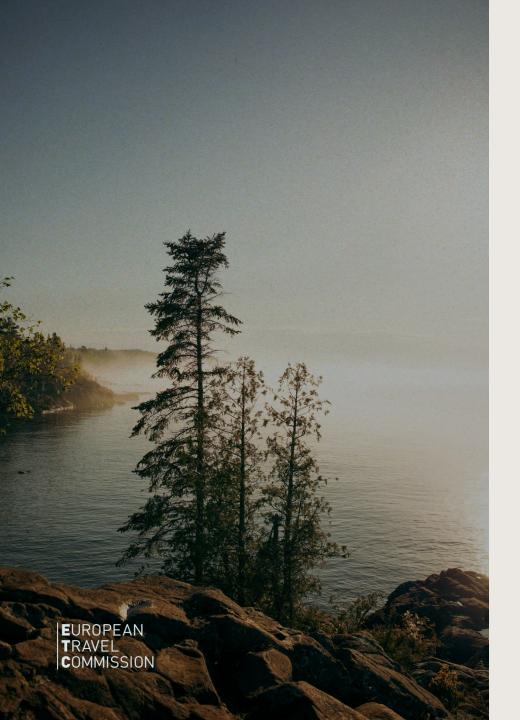
- As 37% of travellers wish to explore multiple locations within the same country, destinations should **collaborate with nearby cities and regions** to offer multi-stop itineraries, promote regional travel routes, and improve transportation links.
- With a growing number of Europeans travelling for events, destinations can use music, culinary, or sports events as a strategic tool to disperse travellers across seasons and locations—helping to balance visitor flows and extend tourism beyond peak periods.
- As 25% of Sun & Beach travellers intend to spend most of their budget on food and beverages, beach destinations should promote the local culinary scene, restaurants beyond city centers, and food producers in nearby regions—to better attract these visitors and encourage broader spending beyond beach-front businesses.
- With more travellers using generative AI to plan cultural and heritage trips, destinations can improve their offer and expand their traveller reach by leveraging AI-powered itinerary planning tools, booking, and in-destination guidance.



WAVE 21

Recommendations for businesses

- 53% of older Millennials (aged 35–44) plan to stay at the destination for over 7 nights, and businesses can target this segment with special offers for longer stays and immersive experiences designed for travellers seeking more than just quick tours.
- Around a third (34%) of Europeans planning domestic holidays in the coming months are over 55 years old. Businesses that target this segment can boost early bookings, which are lower for domestic trips, by offering limited-time deals for early reservations and focusing on promotions to locals over the age of 55.
- 17% of travellers check the weather before finalising their travel plans, so hotels, tourist activities, and even cities could highlight their flexibility by offering cancellation possibilities during extreme weather periods to build trust and confidence and achieve higher booking rates.
- With climate change impacting travel decisions and patterns, tourism businesses in warmer areas should **promote indoor activities** during warmer hours and focus their marketing and sales plans on **milder shoulder seasons**.



WAVE 21

Reading the data

Data collection periods

Wave 21	3-17 March 2025
Wave 20	7-23 September 2024
Wave 19	25 May -7 June 2024
Wave 18	2-17 April 2024
Wave 17	8 May- 4 June 2023

Travel timings for Wave 21

Use these time periods as a reference for the desired travel period:

In 1-2 months:	April-May 2025
In 3-4 months:	June-July 2025
In 5-6 months:	August-September 2025

Analysed samples

- Total respondents: 5,874
- Respondents most likely to travel in the next six months: 4,313
- Respondents planning to travel internationally within Europe (not necessarily in the next six months): 4,925

Significant changes

Changes are considered significant with a 2.5% threshold and marked with these symbols:

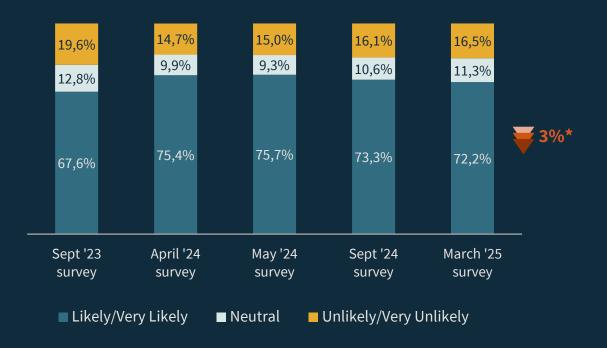


All data and insights refer to domestic and intra-European travel unless otherwise stated.



72% of Europeans plan to travel by September 2025, down by 3% from last year

Intention to travel in the next six months

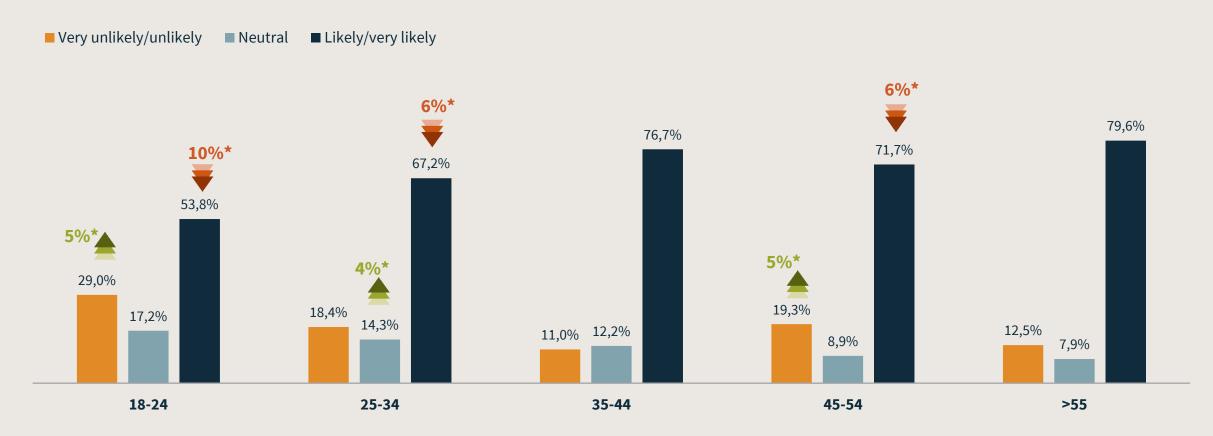


Top three markets most likely to travel in the next six months **POLAND** 80% UK **SPAIN** * Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (April 2024) No. of respondents: 5,974

Q5. Do you plan to take an overnight trip domestically or within Europe in the next six months, either for personal or professional purposes?

Europeans over the age of 55 are the most eager to travel, whereas intentions of Gen Z travellers drop by 10%

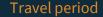
Intention to travel in the next six months by age group



^{*} Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (April 2024)
Q5. Do you plan to take an overnight trip domestically or within Europe in the next six months, either for personal or professional purposes?

May and June are the most popular travel months (40%), while 29% of Europeans will wait until July or August to take their next trip

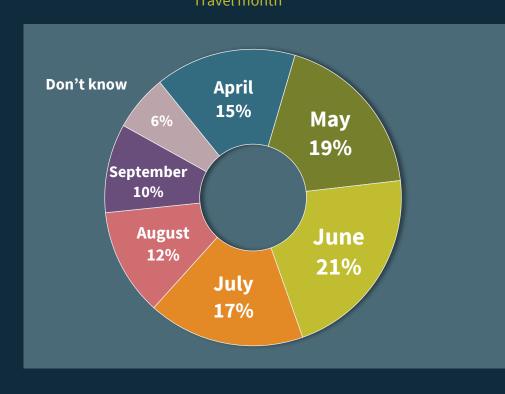
When will Europeans travel next?





When will Europeans travel next?

Travel month



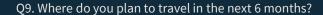
Q9. When are you most likely to go on your next trip either in your country or within Europe?

^{*} Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (April 2024)

Most Europeans plan to take intra-regional trips rather than travel domestically or head overseas

Where will Europeans travel within the next 6 months?

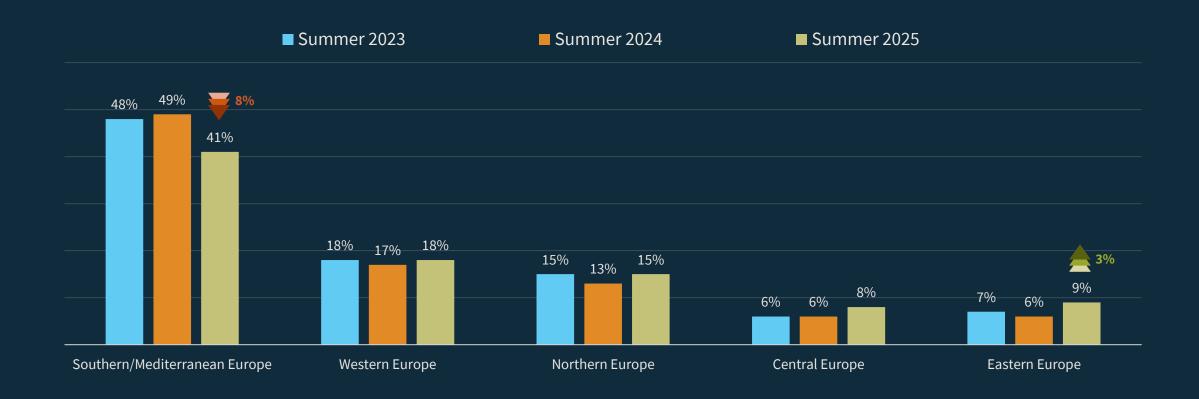




^{*} Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (April 2024)



Travel to Southern/Mediterranean Europe drops by 8%, likely due to the increased demand for more stable weather

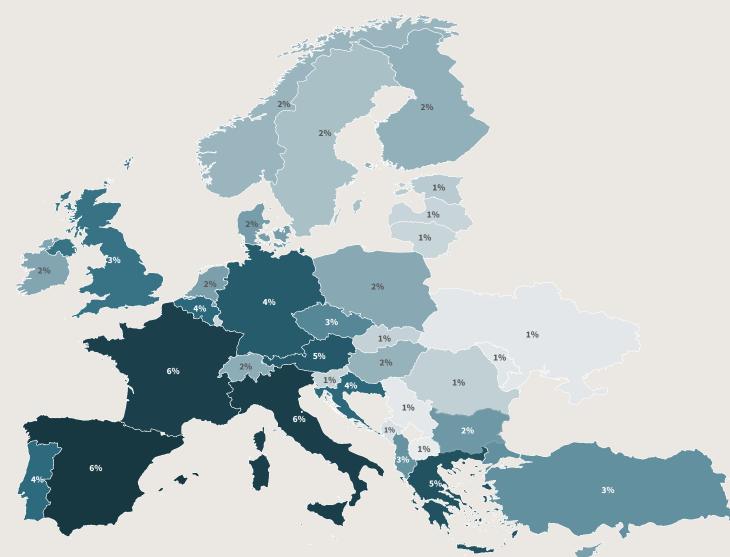


Preferred countries for the next intra-European trip

Horizon April-September '25

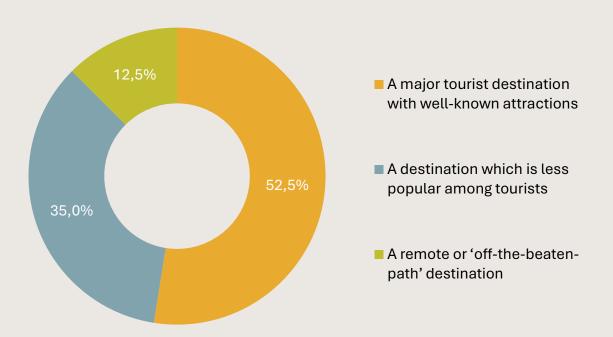
TOP 10 COUNTRIES

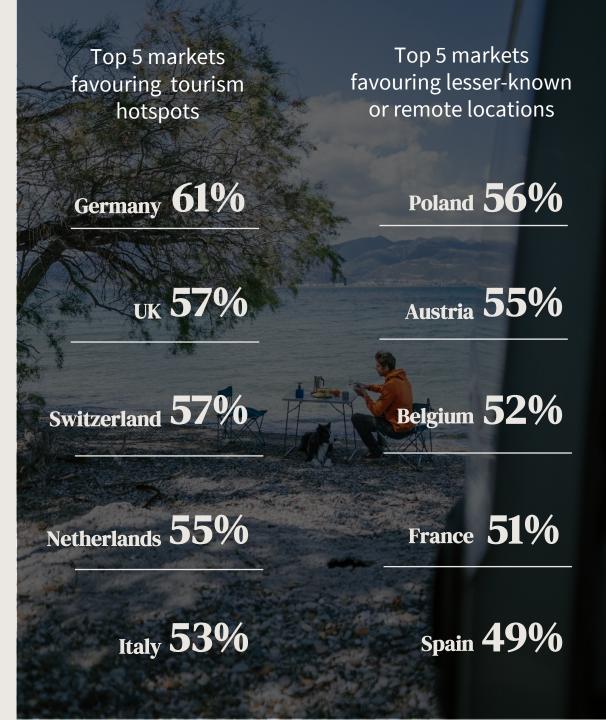
Spain	6.5%
Italy	6.0%
France	5.9%
Greece	4.9%
Austria	4.5%
Germany	4.4%
Croatia	3.7%
Belgium	3.7%
Portugal	3.5%
UK	3.3%



Well-established destinations attract 53% of travellers, compared to 13% aiming to travel off-the-beaten-path

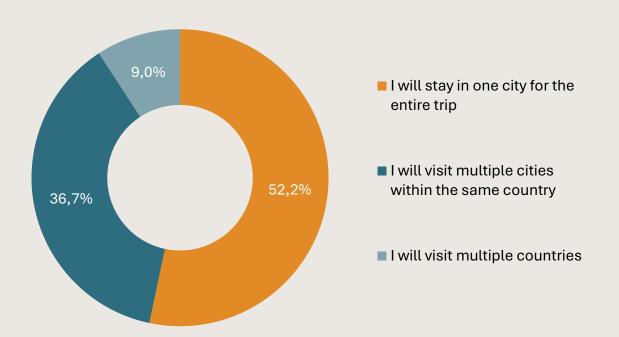
Type of destination for the coming trip

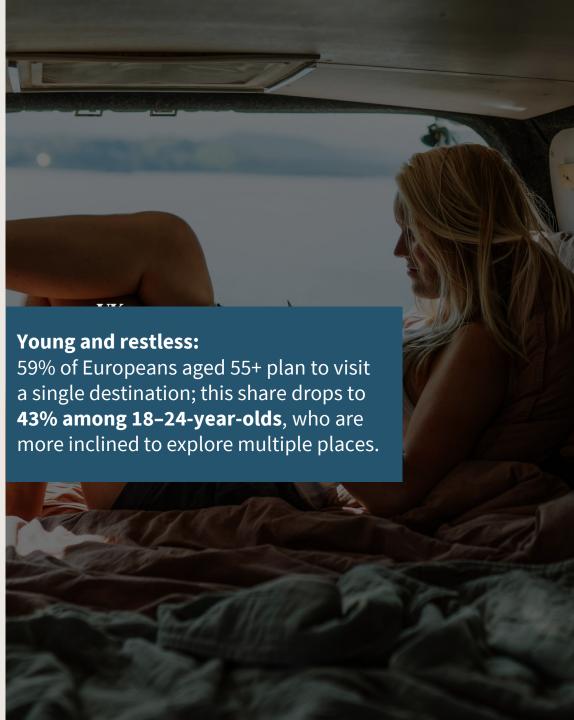




While one-city stays are the top choice for most Europeans, younger travellers prefer more dynamic journeys

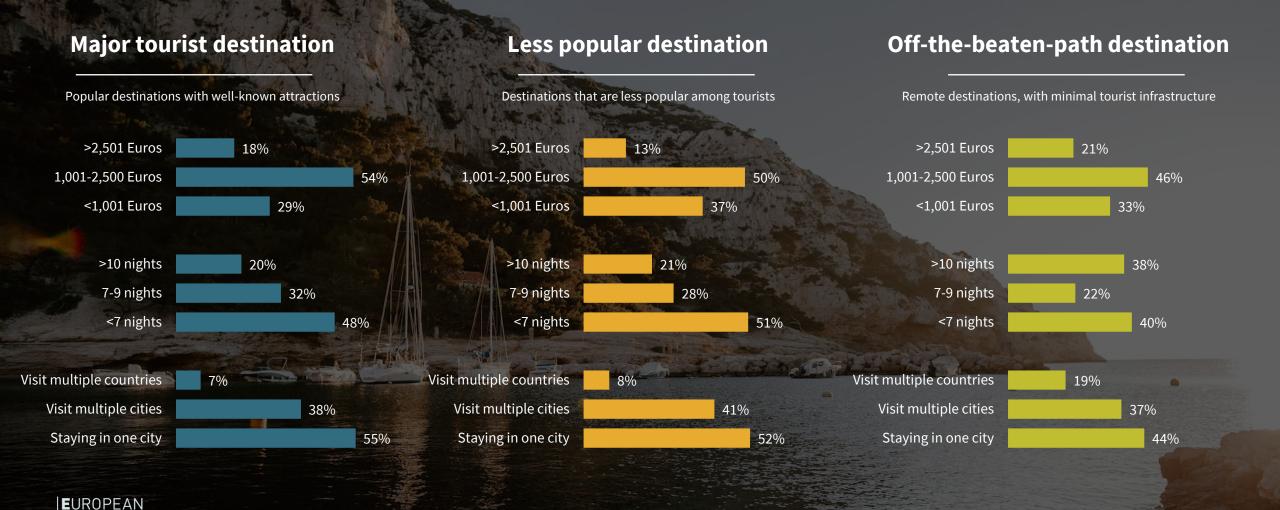
Planned itinerary for the next trip





Travellers' patterns by destination type

TRAVEL COMMISSION



France and Germany stand out as the destinations achieving a most balanced mix of new and repeat visitors, followed by Belgium

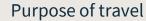
Past and future visitors per destination -Top 10 most popular destinations

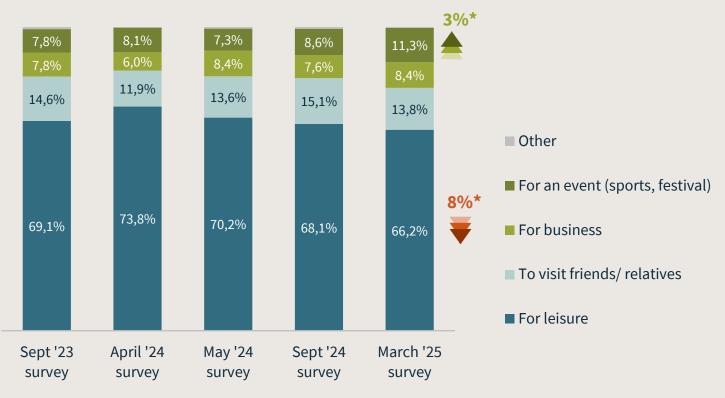


Q1. Which European countries have you visited in the past three years (2023-20234/25)?

Q11. To which country(ies) do you plan to travel next?

Leisure remains the top travel purpose despite an 8% decline, while event travel rises by 3%





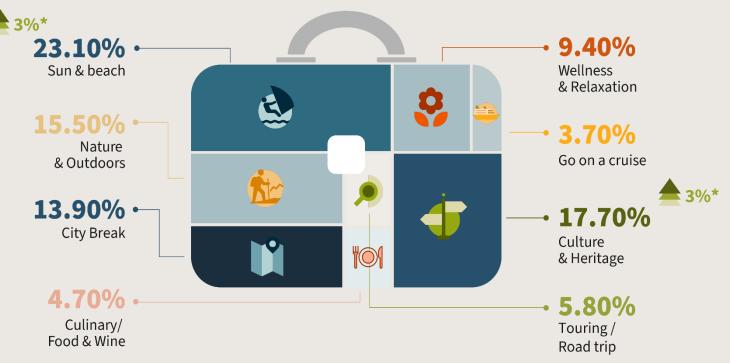
Q7. For what reason are you most likely to travel within Europe next?

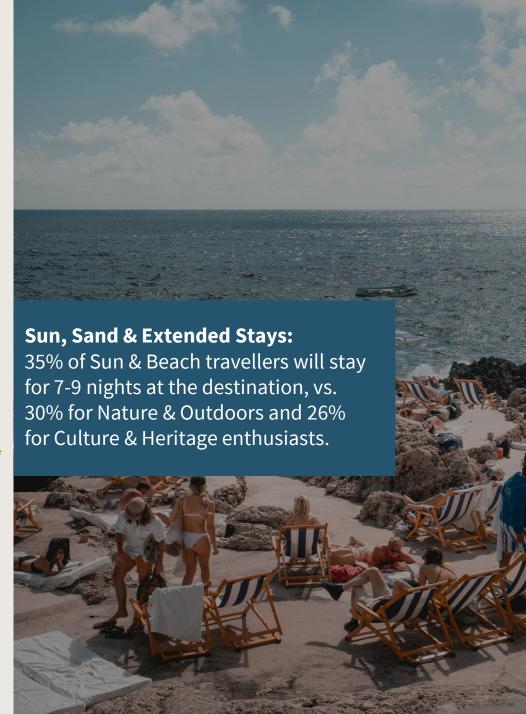


^{*} Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (April 2024)

23% of Europeans plan to centre their next holiday around the Sun & Beach theme

Preferred type of leisure trip in the next six months





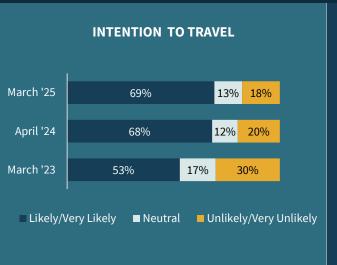
Popular types of trips and experiences

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

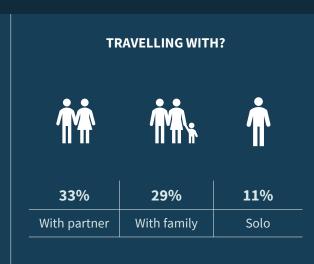
	Sun 8	& Beach	Culture	& Heritage	Nature 8	& Outdoors	City I	Break
AGE GROUPS MOST INTERESTED IN THIS TYPE OF TRIP	35% >55	24% 35-44	20% 45-54	19% >55	16% 45-54	16% 25-34	15% >55	15% 45-54
MOST COMMON LENGTH OF STAY & BUDGET	35% 7-9 nights 27% 4-6 nights	25% 500-1000 € 22% 1001-1500 €	44% 4-6 nights 26% 7-9 nights	25% 1001-1500 € 23% 500-1000 €	34% 4-6 nights 30% 7-9 nights	23% 500-1000 € 20% 1001-1500 €	49% 4-6 nights 25% up to 3 nights	28% 500-1000 € 24% 1001-1500 €
TOP DESTINATIONS	16% Spain 11% Greece 8% Italy 6% France		7% France 6% Italy 5% Germany 5% UK		6% France 5% Germany 5% Austria 4% Italy		9% Italy 8% France 6% Germany 5% UK	

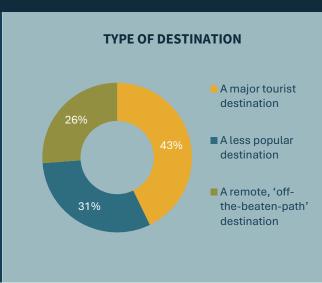
Austrians' travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025









29% Accommodation 18% Food & Drinks Activities at the destination



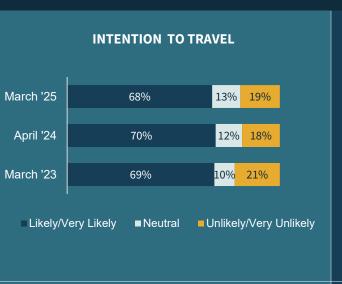
TOP EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS**

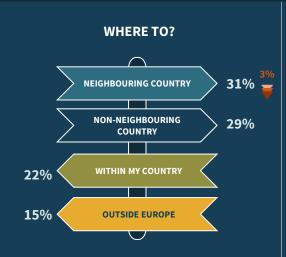
	PLAN TO VISIT
Italy	11%
Croatia	9%
Germany	6%
Greece	5%
Spain	5%

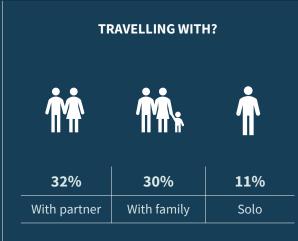
^{**} Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

Belgians' travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025



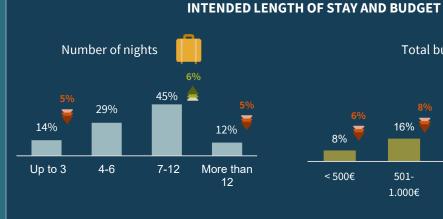






TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES





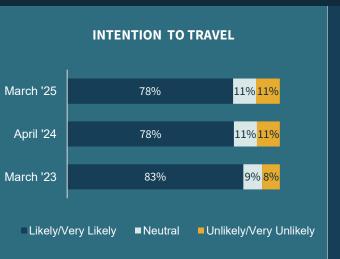


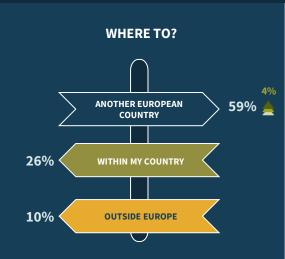
	PLAN TO VISIT
France	13%
Italy	7%
Austria	6%
Spain	5%
Albania	5% 3%

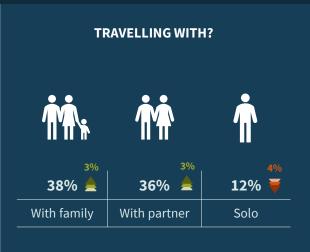
 $[\]ensuremath{^{\star\star}}$ Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

Britons' travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025



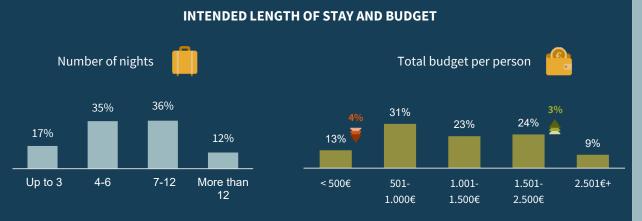






TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES



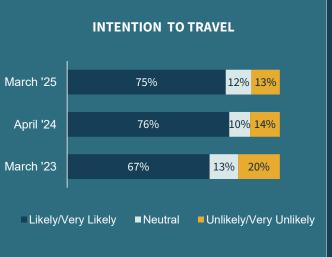


	PLAN TO VISIT	
Spain	16%	
France	10%	
Italy	7%	
Greece	7%	
Germany	6%	
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^{**} Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

Dutch travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025









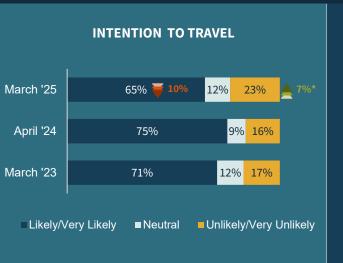
19% Accommodation 19% Food & Drinks Activities at the destination

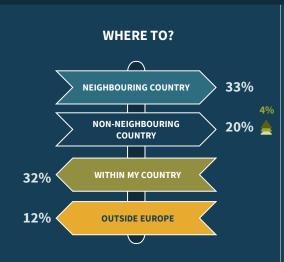


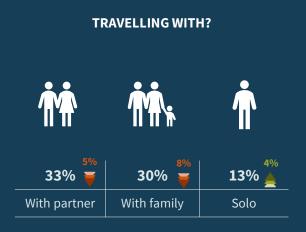


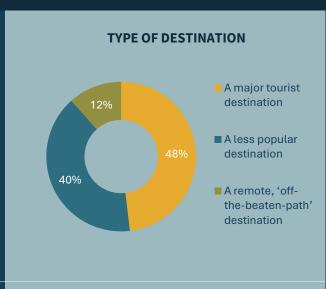
French travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025











TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES



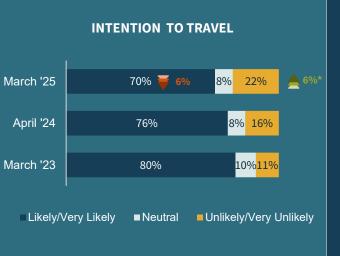


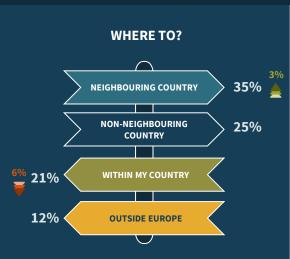
the destination

^{*} Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (April 2024)

Germans' travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025



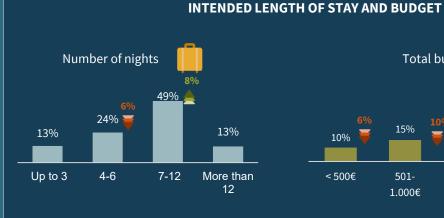






22% Accommodation 18% Food & Drinks Activities at

TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES





PLAN TO VISIT Spain 6% Austria 6% France 5% Italy 5% Greece 4%

the destination

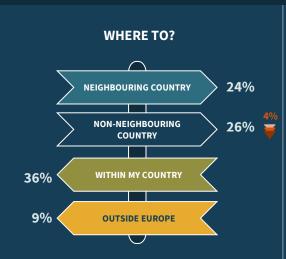
15%

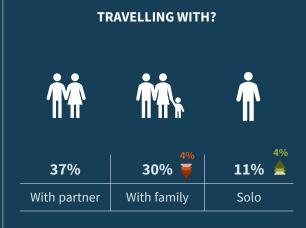
^{**} Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

Italians' travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025



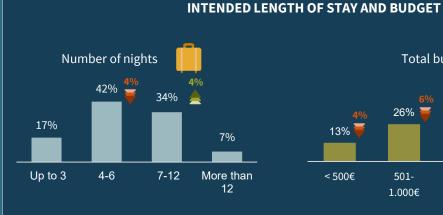






TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES





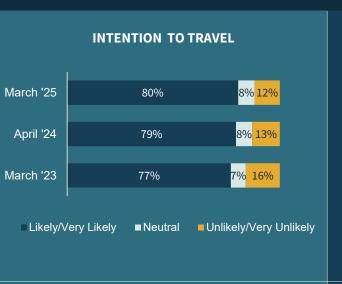


	PLAN TO VISIT
France	7%
Spain	7% 6%
Greece	6%
Germany	5%
Austria	5%

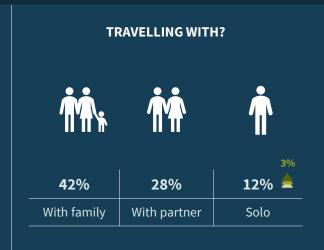
^{**} Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

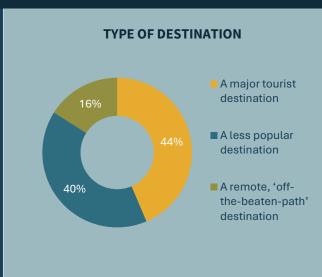
Poles' travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025









TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES





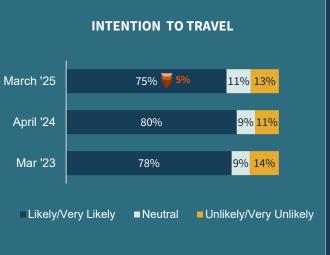


	PLAN TO VISIT	
Greece	7%	
Spain	6%	
Croatia	6%	
Italy	5%	
Germany	5%	
** Daniel and hatel annuals without references to demonstrate		

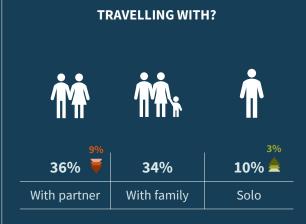
^{**} Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

Spaniards' travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025



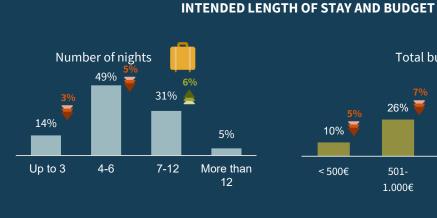






TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES





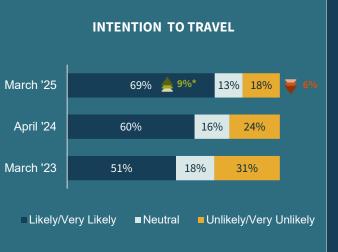


	PLAN TO VISIT
France	9% 🔫
Italy	8% 9 %
Portugal	7%
Germany	7%
Greece	5%

^{**} Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

Swiss travel plans

Travel horizon: April-September 2025



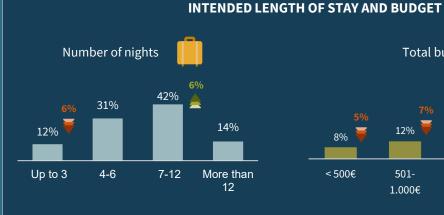






TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES







	PLAN TO VISIT
Austria	8% <mark>3%</mark>
Belgium	5%
Germany	5% 3%
France	5%
UK	5%

^{**} Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips



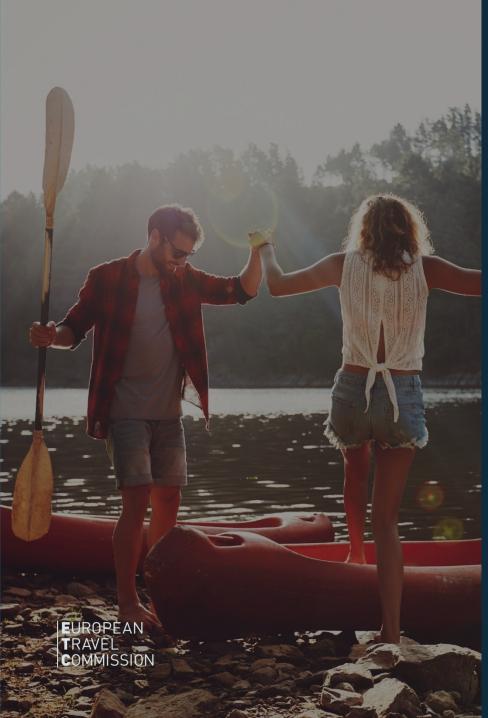


61% of Europeans plan multiple trips this spring and summer, up 4% from last year

Number of intended trips within Europe in the next six months

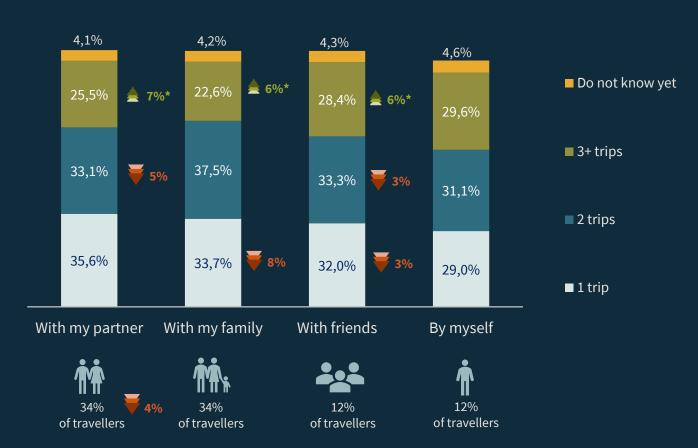


Q6. How many trips do you plan to take in the next 6 months, within Europe?



Travellers going solo or with friends are the most eager to take three or more trips

Number of intended trips within Europe by preferred travel companion

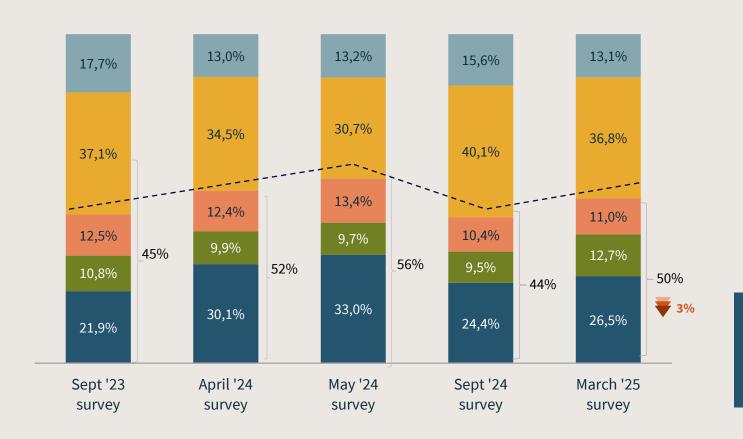


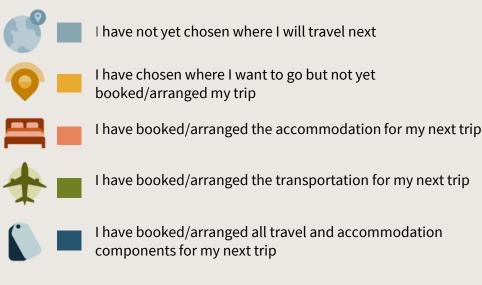
^{*} Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (April 2024)

Q6. How many trips do you plan to take in the next 6 months, within Europe?

Half of Europeans have booked their next holiday – a seasonal uptick, though still 3% below the level seen at the same time last year

Planning status for the next trip

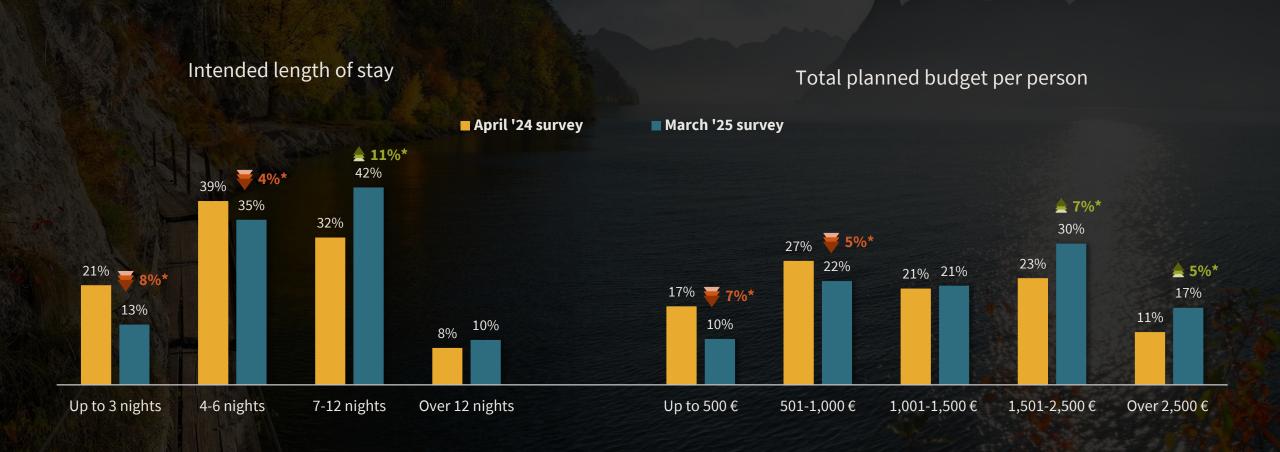


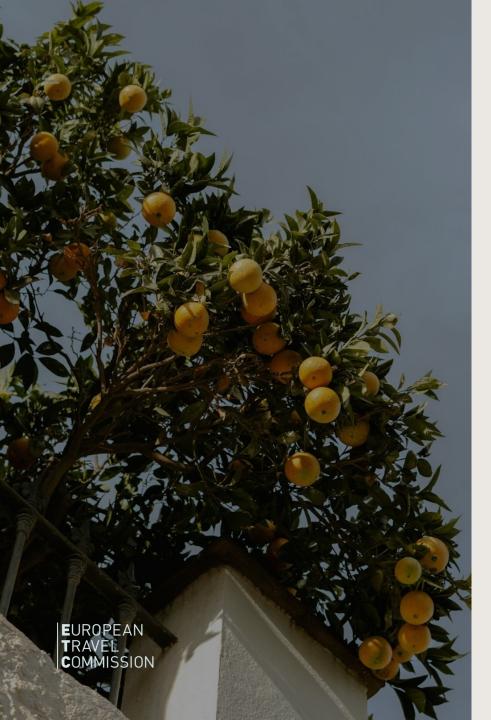


Distance Drives Early Bookings:

58% of Europeans have booked trips to non-neighbouring European countries, compared to 49% for domestic trips.

Longer stays and bigger spends: 42% of Europeans plan 7-12-night trips (+11%) and 47% will spend over €1,500 (+13%).





Budget allocation by length of trip

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

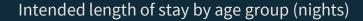
	< 3 nights	4-6 nights	7-12 nights		
< 500 €	30%	9%	16%		
501 - 1,000 €	38%	28%	36%		
1,001 - 1,500 €	12%	26%	54%		
1,501 - 2,500 €	12%	28%	73%		

No. of respondents: 4,313

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

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

Among age groups, older Millennials (35–44) are most likely to take trips longer than a week and allocate higher travel budgets, exceeding €1,500



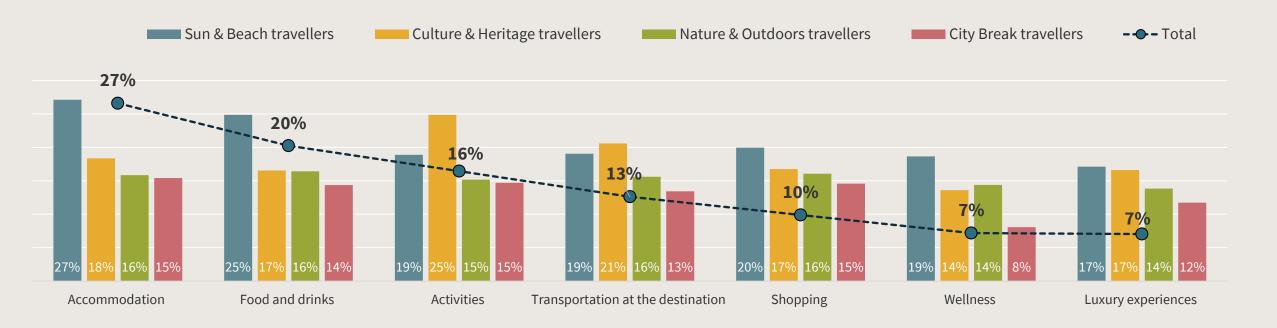
Projected budget by age group (euros)



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

Accommodation is Europeans' biggest expense priority during holidays

Sun & Beach travellers spend more on food and drinks, while Culture & Heritage travellers spend more on activities



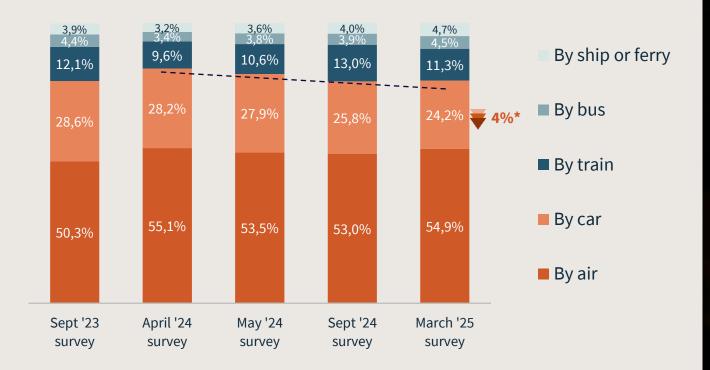


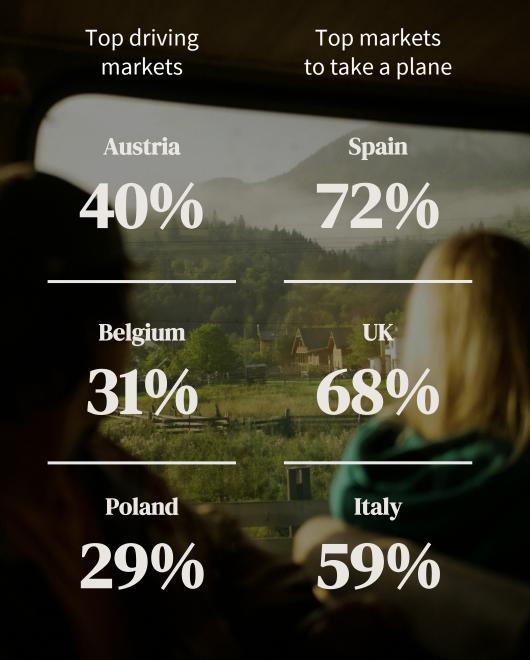
Spending priorities are age-defined:

Younger travellers, aged 18-24, opt to spend more than other age groups on shopping (14%) and luxury experiences (11%), while those aged 55+ plan to invest on food & drinks (24%) and accommodation (33%)

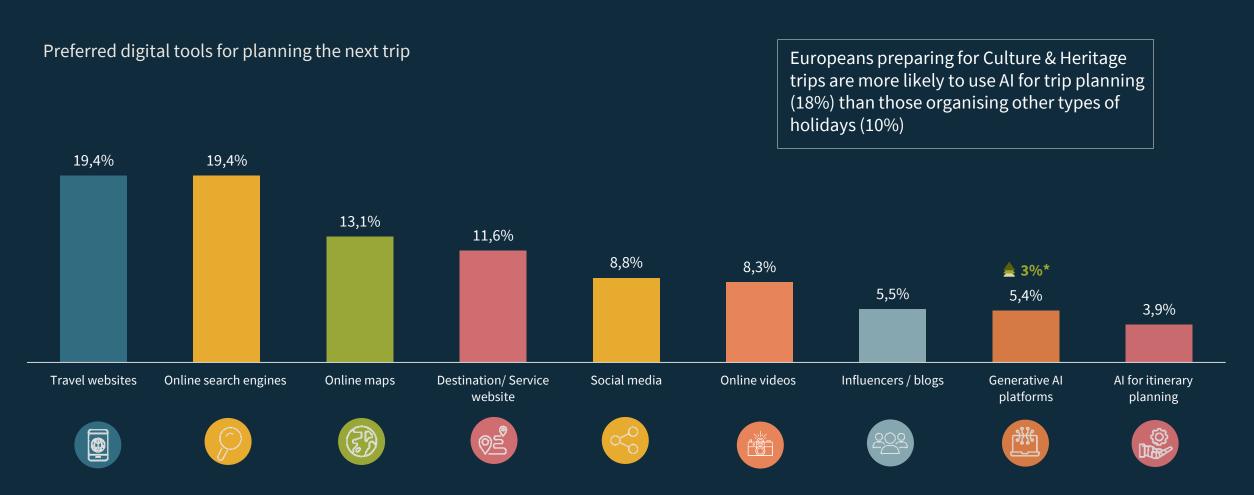
Preferences for air travel remain sky-high, while car travel drops for the 4th consecutive wave (-4%)

Preferred modes of transport for intra-European travel





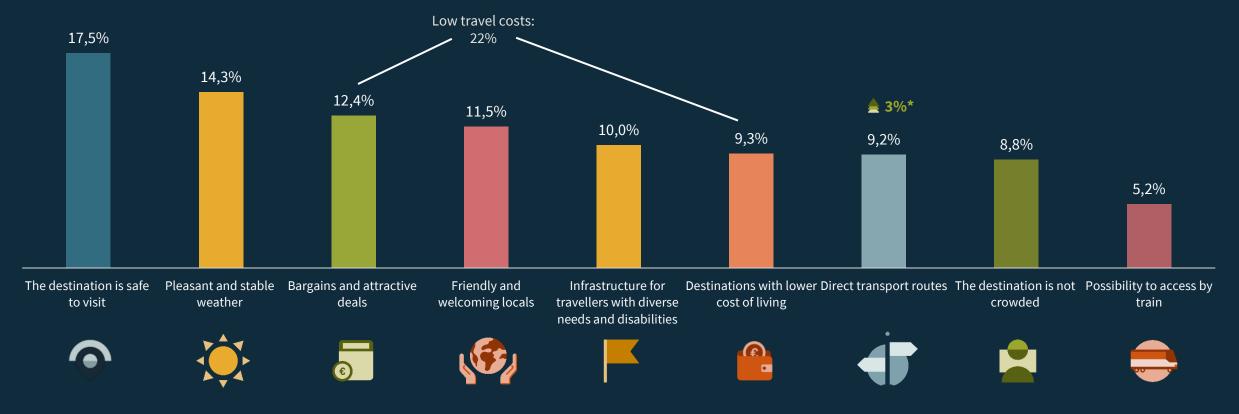
Europeans' digital trip planning starts with travel websites and search engines, but also includes generative AI (+3%)





Affordable costs and safety combined with pleasant and stable weather drive Europeans' destination choice

Europeans' top criteria in choosing a travel destination



^{*} Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (April 2024)

What do European travellers worry about?

Inflation and economic concerns remain the biggest worries, though less pronounced than a year ago, followed by geopolitical tensions and extreme weather

16.6% ▼_{6%*}



Rise in the overall cost of my trip due to inflation

13.5%

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine

8.6%

Too many visitors at the destinations I want to visit

7.3%

Disruptions in transport options due to strikes or understaffing

5.3%

The environmental footprint of my travel

4.5%

Limited accessibility for travellers with specific needs

























Economic situation and personal finances

8.7%

Potential impact on travel safety due to tensions in the Middle East

8.6%

Extreme weather events

6.1%

Booking and cancellation policies (refunds, etc.)

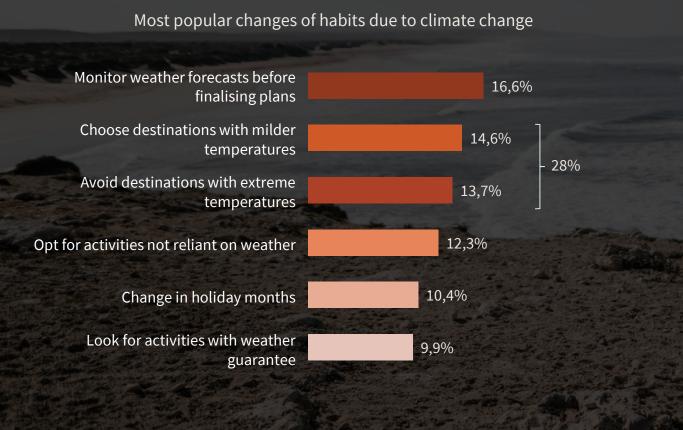
4.8%

Demonstrations and protests against tourism

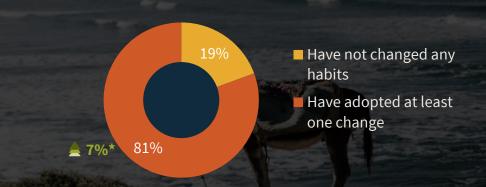
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Travel in the era of climate change

28% of Europeans choose destinations where the weather is milder and extreme temperatures are less likely



Europeans who changed their behaviours due to climate change



Heat waves are set to change beach holidays:

18% of Europeans planning Sun & Beach holidays have chosen different travel periods than the previous years, compared to an average of 10% among those planning other types of trips.

Responsible travel behaviours panel

Europeans adopt more sustainable ways to travel by choosing second-tier destinations, longer stays, and, to a lesser extent, train travel 48%

Of Europeans intend to visit less touristy and off-the-beaten-path destinations

 $\bullet 40\%$

Plan to stay at their next destination(s) for 7 nights or longer

• 11⁰/₀

Opt to travel by train to their next destination

9%

Prefer choosing destinations that are not overcrowded with tourists

5

Worry about the environmental footprint of their trip

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Methodology

- The report is the result of online market research of Europeans who took at least two overnight trips during the last three years (2023-2024/25)
- Distribution/data collection period:
 - 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 / Wave 21: 3-17 March 2025; sample = 5,974
 - o **Countries**: Germany, United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Poland and Austria
 - o Languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish and Dutch
- Research themes examined: travel concerns and impact of external shocks on travel (eight questions), and travel intentions, preferences and trip planning (fourteen questions)
- 54% of the Wave 21 survey respondents are male, and 46% are female. Sample size and age groups are listed below:

Age	Country								Total		
	UK	IT	ES	AT	FR	DE	PL	BE	СН	NL	Total
18 - 24	88	70	44	56	97	92	56	54	52	54	663
25 - 34	136	112	73	84	128	152	106	118	139	103	1,151
35 - 44	126	134	103	99	143	150	120	107	112	164	1,258
45 - 54	138	168	105	93	137	168	92	110	87	76	1,174
≥55	262	266	175	168	245	188	126	111	84	103	1,728
Total	750	750	500	500	750	750	500	500	474	500	5,974

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
- Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine

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 (<u>www.mindhaus.gr</u>) and should be interpreted by users according to their needs.

MINDHAUS

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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