

MONITORING SENTIMENT FOR DOMESTIC AND INTRA-EUROPEAN TRAVEL

WAVE 15 | 04/23





WAVE 15 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

TRAVEL INTENTIONS

This report monitors sentiment and short-term intentions for domestic and intra-European travel and is the **15**th wave of a market research project¹ which began in September 2020. Results are based on data collected in March 2023 from Europeans in 10 high-volume source markets.

- 72% of Europeans plan to travel between April September 2023 (-5% compared to the same period in 2022). A stronger sentiment is shared by Europeans over the age of 25 (74%), while, among younger travellers (18-24), 61% intend to take a trip during this period.
- More Europeans are planning getaways this spring and early summer. Almost 30% intend to take an overnight trip between April and May (up 6% from 2022). 40% consider travelling in June or July, while only 23% expect to travel in August and September (down 9% from last year),
- Travelling within Europe remains the top choice: 30% of travellers plan to visit a neighbouring European country, and 28% are heading to a non-neighbouring one. At the same time, only 11% of respondents plan trips outside the region.
- Europeans' preference for leisure travel (69%) falls by 7%, compared to a year ago, while other reasons to travel gain ground. Interest in business travel is slowly increasing (+3% year on year).
- Sun & Beach keeps its top spot as Europeans' most preferred type of leisure trip (19%), followed by City Break (15%) and Culture & Heritage (14%).

 1 The data collection and research methodology are detailed in the methodological annex (slide 42)

WAVE 15 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

TRIP PLANNING

- **59% of Europeans plan to take multiple trips by September 2023.** This trend is led by solo travellers, with 34% planning at least 3 trips (+8% compared to a year ago).
- The percentage of **Europeans who prefer to use public transportation** (train or bus) on their next trip has **increased to 14%, up 6% from a year ago**. Meanwhile, driving own car (26%) has dropped to its lowest level since the start of this research. The normalisation of travel behaviour post-COVID-19 could be a possible factor behind this change, resulting in a wider range of available and preferred transportation modes.
- 35% of Europeans plan trips of 4-to-6 nights with an average budget of 501-1,000 euros. The share of **those** planning to spend more than 1,500 euros has increased by 7% compared to 2022, reaching 37%. Among age groups, mature travellers (aged 54+) show a stronger interest in longer and more expensive trips.
- **52% of Europeans have already fully or partially booked their next trip** (up 8% from 2022) a sign of growing consumer confidence. Data shows that a larger share of bookings (53%) are being made for intra-European trips compared to domestic travel (45%).
- Pleasant weather conditions (18%) and attractive deals (17%) top Europeans' criteria for choosing a destination, while the preference for uncrowded destinations climbs to third place (11%).

WAVE 15

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- For the next months, **50% of Europeans** plan to maintain their regular travel budget, while a considerable **19%** plan **to invest more than usual**.
- Nevertheless, people remain concerned about the increased travel costs (24%) and their personal finances (17%)
- Efforts to keep travel expenses within the disposable budget include spending less on **shopping** (17%), choosing cheaper **accommodation** (16%) and opting for **less expensive restaurants** or **self-catering** (15%) at the destination.
- Erratic weather and one of the warmest European winters on record have made an impact uneasiness about extreme weather events climbs to the sixth place of travel concerns (7%).
- The war in Ukraine is still a worry, impacting trip-related decisions of half of the European travellers (+4% on last year).



WAVE 15

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESTINATIONS



- As **3 in 5 Europeans plan to take multiple trips by September 2023**, destinations could target Europeans planning their second or third summer trip with **multi-wave marketing campaigns**. These could run to the end of the season.
- Destinations focusing on high-value segments could target travellers over the age of 54 by highlighting tourism products that allow indulging in natural landscapes, savouring local cuisine and relishing culture. Trips for this demographic group are more likely to be longer and more expensive 24% plan to spend over 2,000 euros per person on their next trip.
- As the preference for uncrowded destinations rises (especially for Nature & Outdoors and City Break travellers), **second-tier cities and more remote natural areas can leverage their position.** They could be marketed as 'hidden gems', offering authentic, off-the-beaten-path experiences.
- Europeans' increasing concerns about inflation and personal finances create an opportunity for more affordable destinations to gain popularity and penetrate new segments by offering greater value for money.

WAVE 15

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUSINESSES



- Sentiment for business travel strengthens (+3%) compared to 2022. Hotels could now refocus on this segment by getting back in touch with business customers. Offering coworking spaces for remote work and reintroducing loyalty programs for returning business customers could be attractive.
- **Immersion in the local culture is an important travel experience for Europeans.** Tourism businesses are encouraged to promote cultural activities such as crafts workshops, local cuisine cooking classes, and homestay experiences for both leisure and business travellers.
- Europeans are less inclined to travel by private car (-7% down from 2022). Transport businesses (e.g., car rentals, shared mobility, and transport apps) could now offer tourists greener, easy-to-use and affordable alternatives for getting from A to B.
- The percentage of Europeans who have fully or partially booked their next trip varies widely depending on the timing. For trips in April-May, 68% have already booked, while **only 40% have booked trips planned for August-September**. This presents an opportunity for airlines and hotels to **target the latter with attractive early-booking deals for the late summer months.**

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Reading the data

Wave 15

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

| | | <u>Wave 11</u> | <u>Wave 12</u> | <u>Wave 13</u> | <u>Wave 14</u> | <u>Wave 15</u> |
|-----|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sur | vey dates | 1-9 March '22 | 9-12 May '22 | 13-23 Sept '22 | 15-29 Dec '22 | 1-7 March '23 |

To present Wave 15 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: April - May 2023

In 3-4 months: June - July 2023

In 5-6 months: August - September 2023

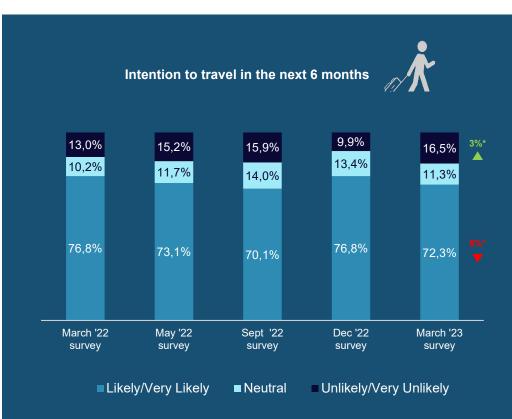
- 3. To present data and insights, the following distinct groups have been analysed:
 - Total respondents: 6,000
 - Respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months: 4,337
 - Respondents planning to travel internationally within Europe (not necessarily in the next 6 months): 4,889
- 4. Significant changes between current and previous waves are calculated on a 2.5% significance level. Statistically significant differences are marked using the following symbols:

 - Numbers next to the arrows reflect the actual change in the share of respondents selecting a specific response between current and previous waves
- 6. All data and insights refer to domestic and intra-European travel, unless otherwise stated.

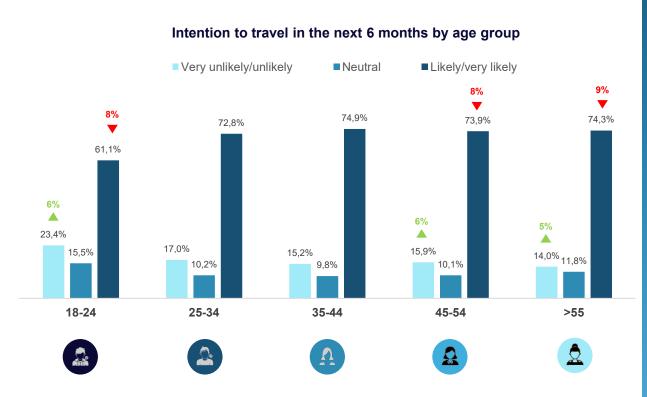


Europeans' travel intention is strong, at 72%, despite a slight year-on-year decrease





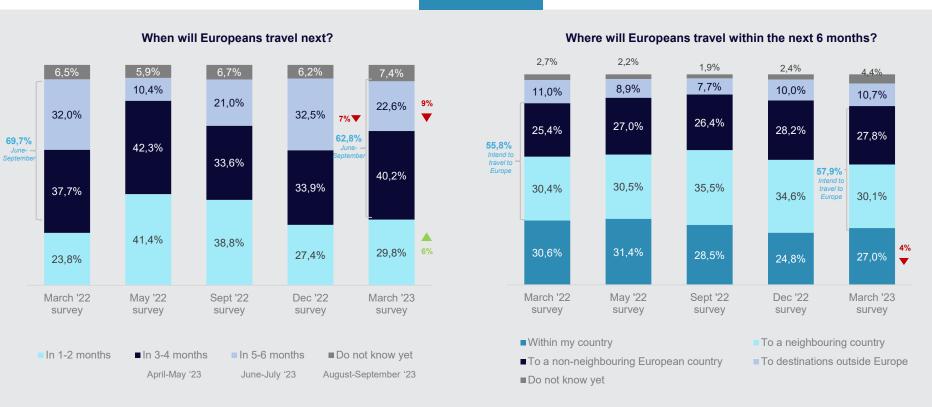
While Europeans over the age of 25 are brimming with wanderlust, the younger Gen Z crowd (18-24) remains more hesitant about travelling



TOP TRAVEL EXPERIENCES BY AGE GROUP:



About 63% of Europeans are gearing up to take their next trip in summer 2023. 40% of respondents have plans for June or July, similar to a year ago, and almost 58% plan intra-European trips



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?

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

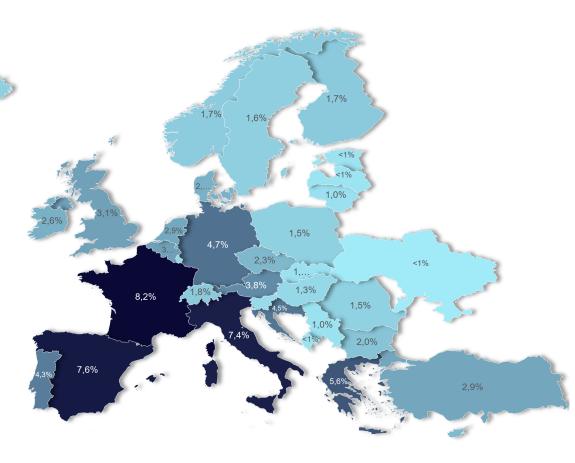
As the summer arrives, France keeps its no 1 position, the Netherlands falls out of the top 10 and Belgium is a new entrant

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

| 8.2% |
|------|
| 7.6% |
| 7.4% |
| 5.6% |
| 4.7% |
| 4.5% |
| 4.3% |
| 3.8% |
| 3.1% |
| 3.1% |
| |

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

No. of respondents: 4,889





Europeans diversify their travel preferences: leisure decreases (-7%) while business trips increase (+3%)



Top 3 markets to take a leisure trip



Top 3 markets to take a business trip



Italy 79.4%



Switzerland

19.6%



UK

76.1%



Austria

13.0%



Spain

71.8%



Netherlands

9.0%

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

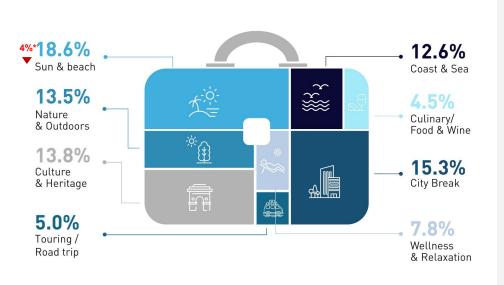


- For leisure
- For business
- For an event (sports, festival, etc.)
- To visit friends/relatives
- For a conference or event
- Other

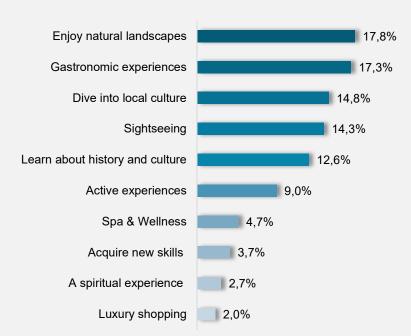
¹⁴ Q10. For what reason are you most likely to travel within Europe next?
Results for business trip per country are indicative due to small sample bases

Sun & Beach is still the most preferred leisure trip despite a small year-on-year drop (-4%) Nothing beats the allure of enjoying the beautiful nature, gastronomy, and interesting local traditions while on holiday in Europe

Preferred type of leisure trip in the next 6 months



Preferred type of experiences in the next 6 months

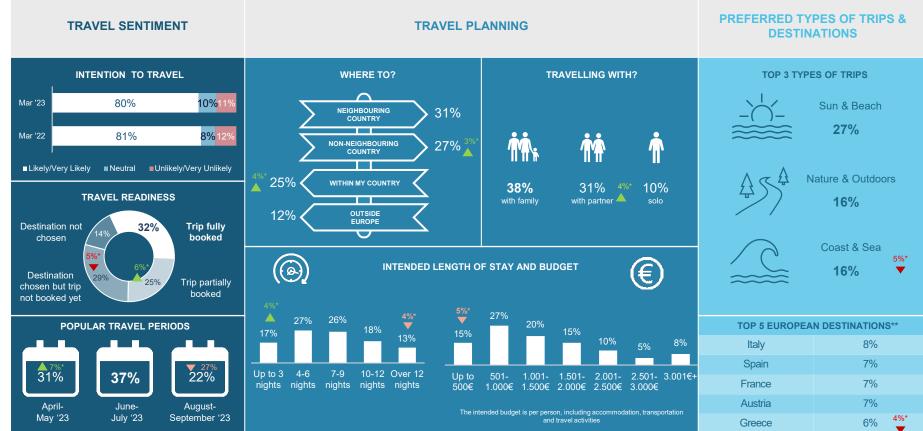


EUROPEANS' MOST IN-DEMAND TRIP TYPES AND EXPERIENCES

| | Sun & Beach | | City Break | | Heritage | Nature & Outdoors | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| AGE GROUPS MOST INTERESTED IN THIS TYPE OF TRIP | 25% 23 % >55 35-44 | | 23% 25-34 | 32% >55 | 23% 45-54 | 31% >55 | 23% 35-44 | | |
| MOST COMMON LENGTH OF STAY & BUDGET | 37% 29% 7-9 nights 500-10 26% 21% 4-6 nights 1001-1 | 000 € 4-6 nigh | 33% hts 500-1000 € 23% nights Up to 500 € | 42% 4-6 nights 24% 7-9 nights | 28% 500-1000 € 21% 1001-1500 € | 39% 4-6 nights 23% 7-9 nights | 32% 500-1000 € 18% 1001-1500 € | | |
| TOP 4 EXPERIENCES TO TRY | 19% Gastronomic expe 18% Enjoy natural land 15% Dive into local cult 14% Sightseeing | 17% Gas ture 15% Dive | 20% Sightseeing17% Gastronomic experiences15% Dive into local culture15% Enjoy natural landscapes | | 20% Learn about history18% Sightseeing17% Dive into local culture16% Gastronomic experiences | | 28% Enjoy natural landscapes 15% Gastronomic experiences 14% Dive into local culture 12% Active holiday experiences | | |

SNAPSHOT: GERMAN TRAVEL PLANS

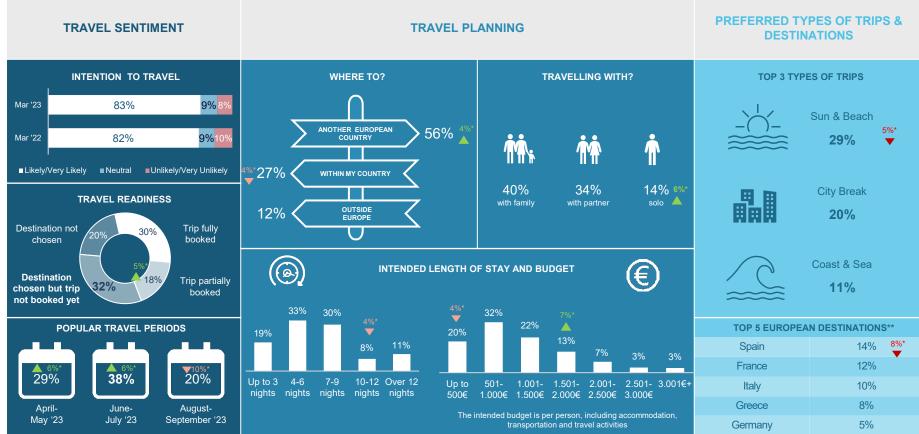




SNAPSHOT: BRITISH TRAVEL PLANS

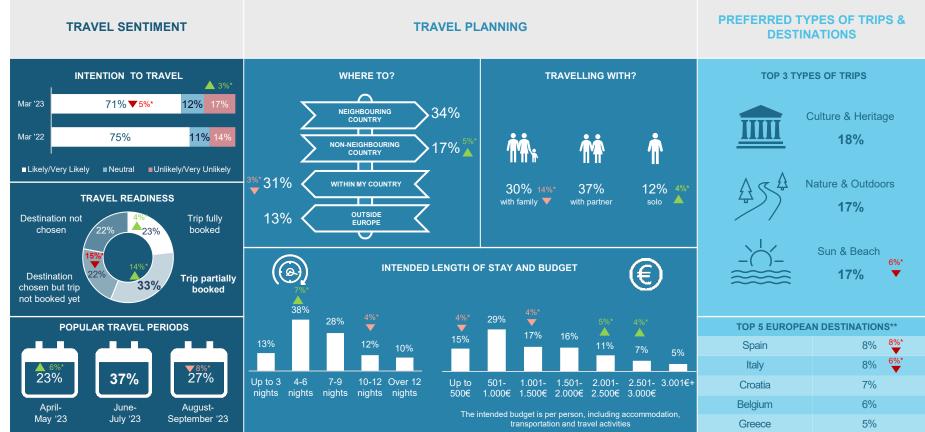
Travel Travel horizon: April-September 2023





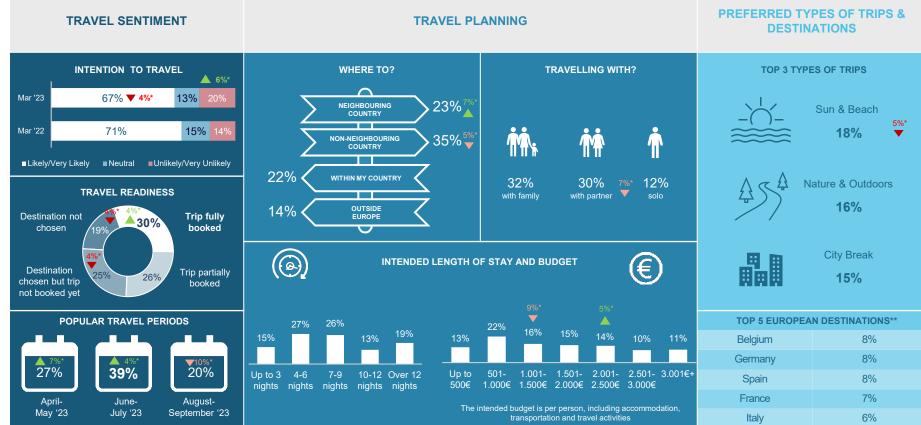
SNAPSHOT: FRENCH TRAVEL PLANS





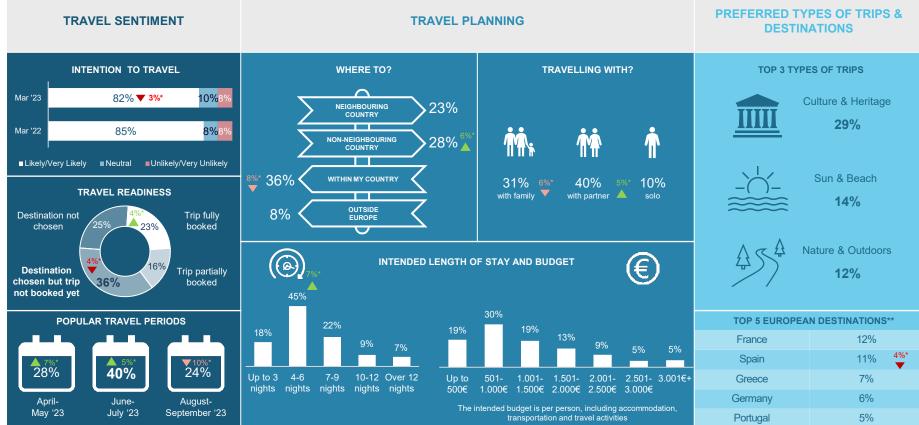
SNAPSHOT: DUTCH TRAVEL PLANS





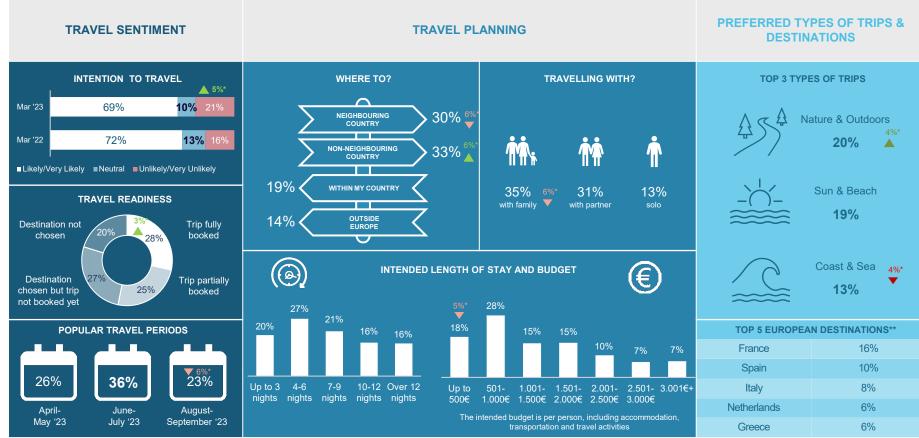
SNAPSHOT: ITALIAN TRAVEL PLANS





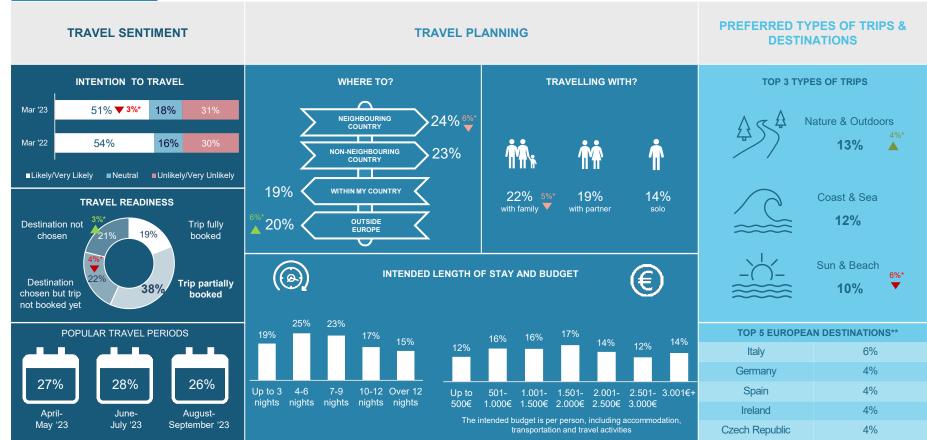
SNAPSHOT: BELGIAN TRAVEL PLANS





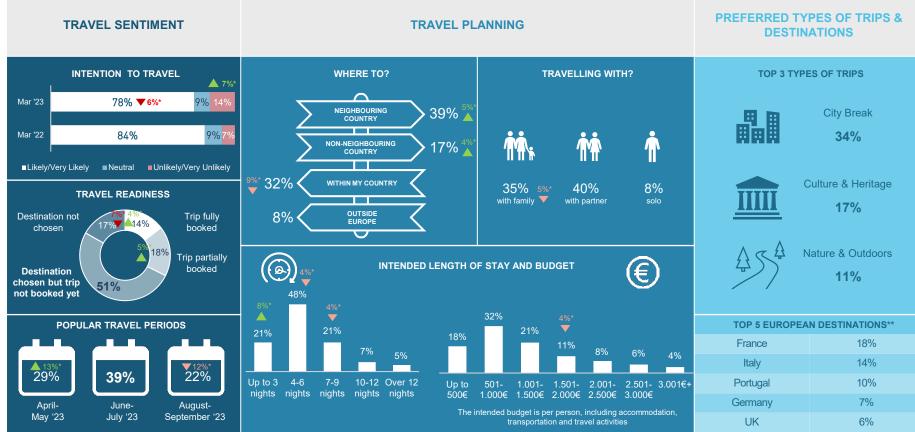
SNAPSHOT: SWISS TRAVEL PLANS





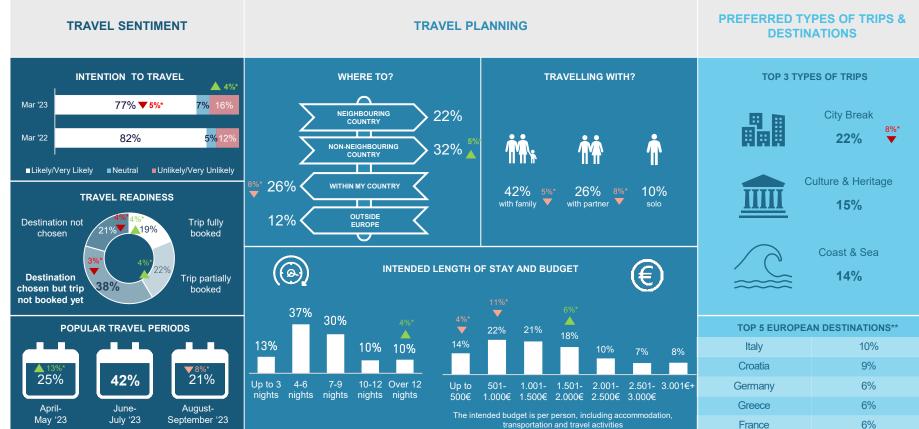
SNAPSHOT: SPANISH TRAVEL PLANS





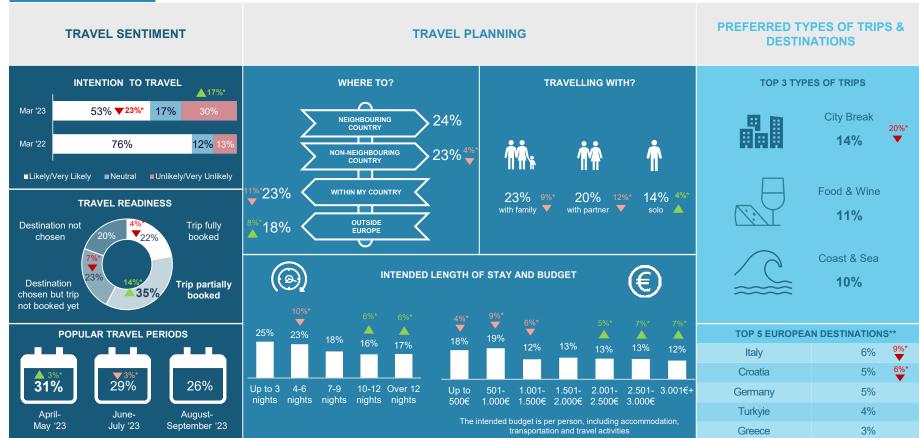
SNAPSHOT: POLISH TRAVEL PLANS





SNAPSHOT: AUSTRIAN TRAVEL PLANS



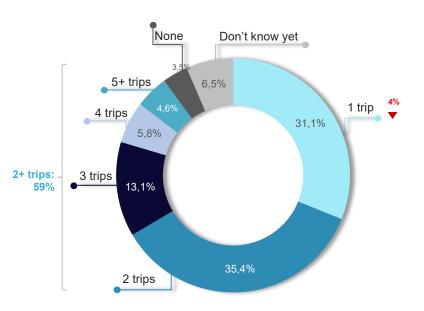


^{*} Significant increase Aor decrease vs the same time last year

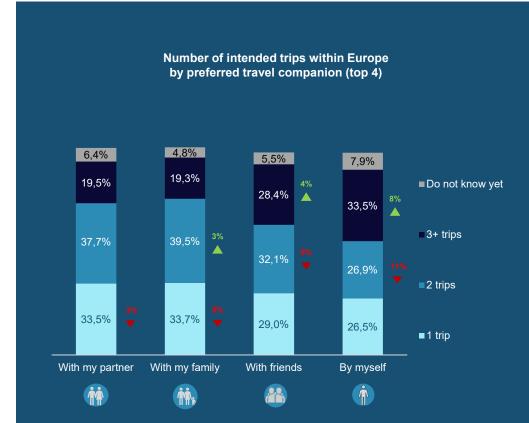


Multiple trips are popular: 59% of Europeans plan two or more trips by the end of September 2023. Solo travellers lead the way, with 34% planning to take at least three trips.

Number of intended trips within Europe in the next 6 months



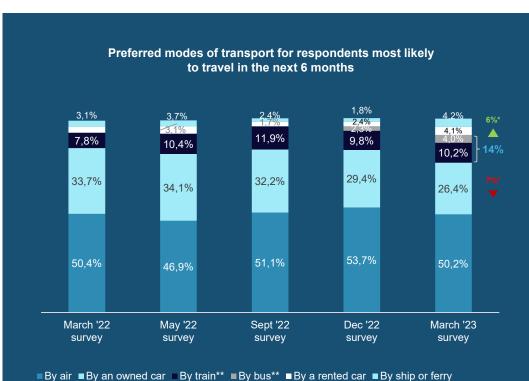
March '23 survey



Compared to a year ago, Europeans are more likely to opt for bus and train services during their next trip, while the reliance on personal cars is slightly declining



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



Travel budgets are going up: the share of Europeans planning to spend over 1,500 euros for their next trip Increases by 7% compared to a year ago. More than a third of travellers (35%) plan trips of 4-6 nights.



AFFLUENT TRAVELLERS ARE FREQUENT TRAVELLERS

Europeans planning more trips tend to have a higher budget per person per trip: 20% of travellers planning 3 trips, and 30% of those planning 4 trips will have a budget of 2,000-3,000 euros, while only 13% of travellers who plan a single trip will spend the same per trip.

LONGER TRIPS COME WITH HIGHER BUDGETS

Budget allocation by trip length

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

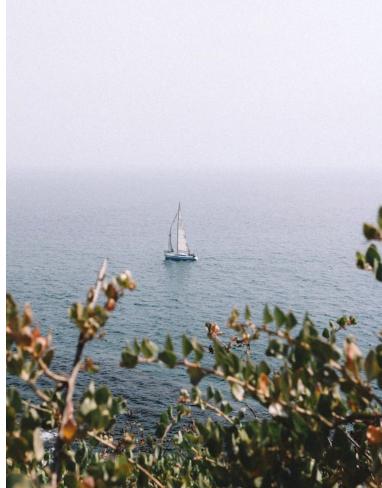
| | < 3 nights | 4-6 nights | 7-9 nights |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| < 500 euros | 40% | 16% | 9% |
| 501 - 1,000 euros | 32% | 34% | 24% |
| 1,001 - 1,500 euros | 10% | 23% | 22% |
| 1,501 - 2,000 euros | 6% | 14% | 19% |
| 2,001 - 2,500 euros | 5% | 7% | 13% |

Key characteristics of trips over 7 nights

Age: 30% of these trips are taken by travellers over the age of 54

Trip type: 22% of these trips are Sun & Beach holidays

Companions: 33% are family trips and 29% with a partner



No. of respondents: 4,337

³¹ Q18. What would be the length of your next overnight trip?

Over half of mature travellers (54+) are planning trips of at least 7 nights and have the highest budget among all age groups

Intended length of stay (nights)

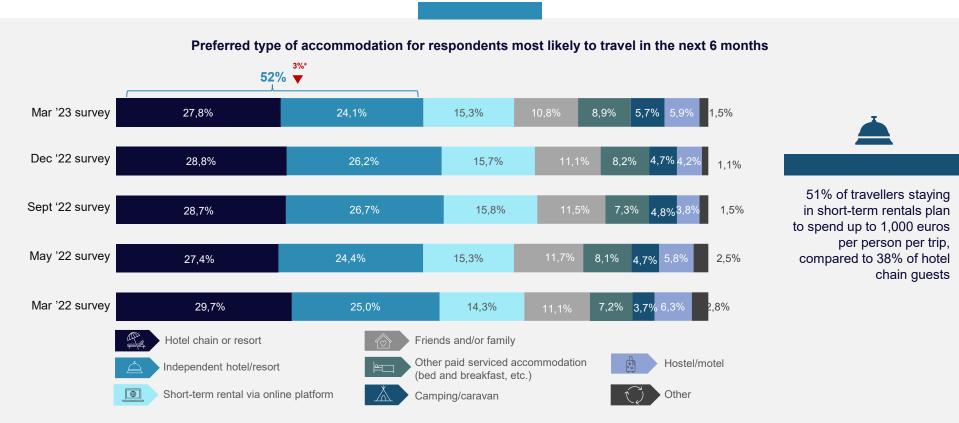
Envisaged budget





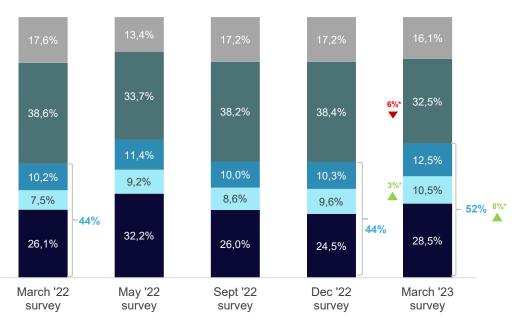
Q18. What would be the length of your next overnight trip?

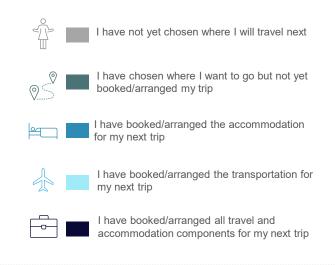
Despite the rise of alternative types of accommodation, hotels continue to be the preferred option for 52% of Europeans, while short-term rentals are the next best contender



Better prepared than a year ago: Over half of Europeans have already fully or partially secured their upcoming holidays, with a significant 8% surge in bookings compared to 2022

Planning status for the next trip





Younger travellers are more likely to book in advance 56% of Gen Z travellers (aged 18-24) have fully or partially booked their next trip compared to 50% of travellers aged 25-54, and 45% of those aged over 54

49% of Europeans have already fully or partially booked their trip for June-July; the percentage of fully-booked trips is higher among travellers heading to non-neighbouring European countries



March '23 survey

While good weather and tempting bargains remain the top priorities for Europeans when selecting their holiday destination, a new contender has emerged - tranquillity and uncrowdedness of destinations

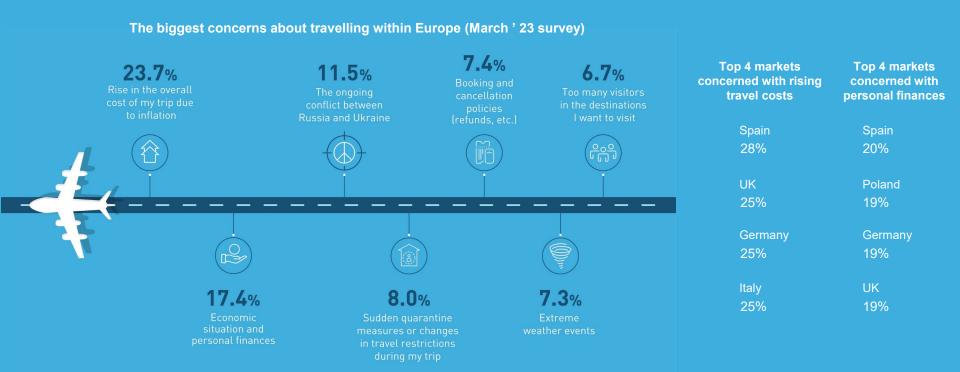


Q5. What criteria will play the most important role in choosing your next holiday destination?



WHAT DO EUROPEAN TRAVELLERS WORRY ABOUT?

Europeans remain anxious about the financial burden of their voyages (24%) and their personal finances (17%) Adding to their worries is the growing unease over extreme weather conditions (7%), which is climbing up the list of top concerns

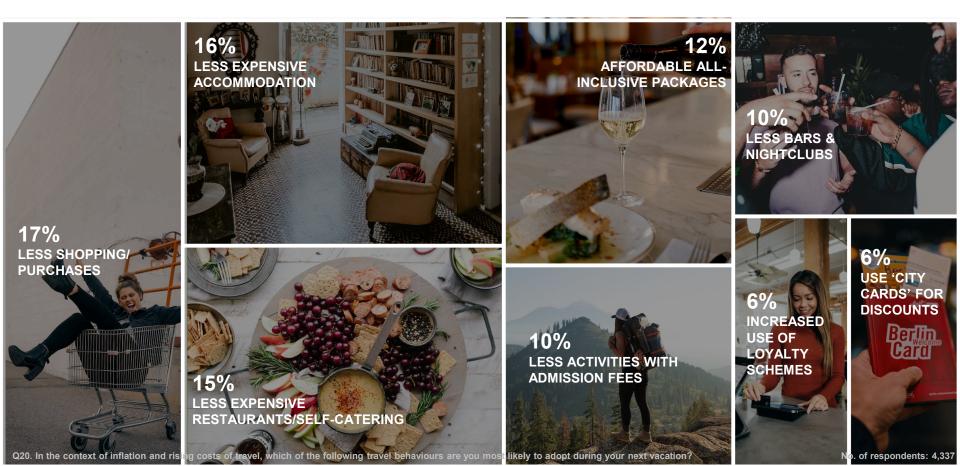


The ongoing war in Ukraine continues to impact travel-related decisions for half of Europeans (+4% compared to December 2022)



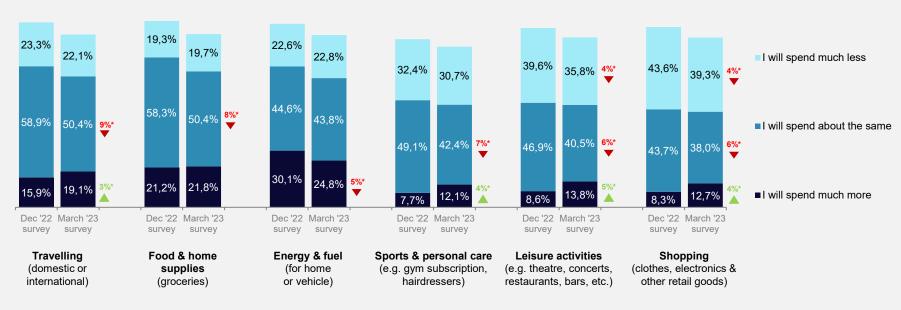
^{*} Statistically significant difference vs the previous wave 14 (December 2022)

HOW WILL EUROPEANS ADAPT THEIR TRAVEL BEHAVIOUR IN LIGHT OF THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES?



Travel expenditure stays quite resilient compared to other spending categories: half of Europeans will spend the same as usual, and 19% will spend even more

Anticipated changes in spending, in the coming six months





24% of business travellers plan to spend much more on travel in the next six months compared to 17% of leisure travellers



METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

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 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 / Wave 15: 1-7 March 2023; 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)
- 45% of the Wave 13 survey respondents are male and 55% 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 | 104 | 96 | 92 | 56 | 90 | 84 | 88 | 812 |
| | 25 - 34 | 136 | 112 | 73 | 88 | 128 | 152 | 106 | 116 | 88 | 112 | 1,111 |
| | 35 - 44 | 126 | 134 | 103 | 115 | 140 | 150 | 120 | 112 | 113 | 116 | 1,229 |
| | 45 - 54 | 138 | 168 | 105 | 102 | 146 | 168 | 92 | 91 | 126 | 96 | 1,232 |
| | ≥55 | 262 | 266 | 175 | 91 | 240 | 188 | 126 | 91 | 89 | 88 | 1,616 |
| 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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Data sources: This report is based on research conducted

by MINDHAUS ($\underline{\text{www.mindhaus.gr}}$) and should be interpreted by users according to their needs.

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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