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# Research highlights

**WAVE 19** 

This report monitors sentiment and short-term plans for domestic and intra-European travel and is the 19th wave of a market research project which began in September 2020. The findings are drawn from data collected in May and early June 2024 from individuals across 10 key European markets for the June-November 2024 travel period.



EUROPEAN Travel Commission

#### TRAVEL INTENTIONS

- European tourism is set to reach new heights, with 76% of Europeans planning to travel between June and November 2024, up by 6% over last year. Leisure is the key motivation for 70%, while 14% will travel to visit friends/relatives, and 8% plan a business trip.
- Travel will peak with the heat of the summer 45% of respondents intend to travel in June and July (+6% compared to last year), and an additional 39% will do so during August and September. Visiting another European country remains the most popular choice for 58% of travellers, while 28% will travel domestically.
- As in previous summers, Sun & Beach trips have the lead (19%), followed by Culture & Heritage (17%) and Nature & Outdoors (14%). Europeans' most desired travel experiences include admiring natural landscapes, savouring local gastronomy and indulging in local cultures.

#### TRIP PLANNING

- Nearly equal shares of travellers plan to take a single trip (36%) and two trips (33%) in the upcoming months, with the former increasing by 6% compared to last year, possibly due to economic concerns.
- A larger share of Europeans (56%) have already booked their upcoming trip, gearing up towards travelling high season.
- 54% of Europeans will fly to their next destination, up by 5% over a year ago. Travel by train remains stable at 11%.
- As for accommodation, hotels remain Europeans' first choice (53%, +3% compared to last year), followed by short-term rentals (17%).

# Research highlights

**WAVE 19** 



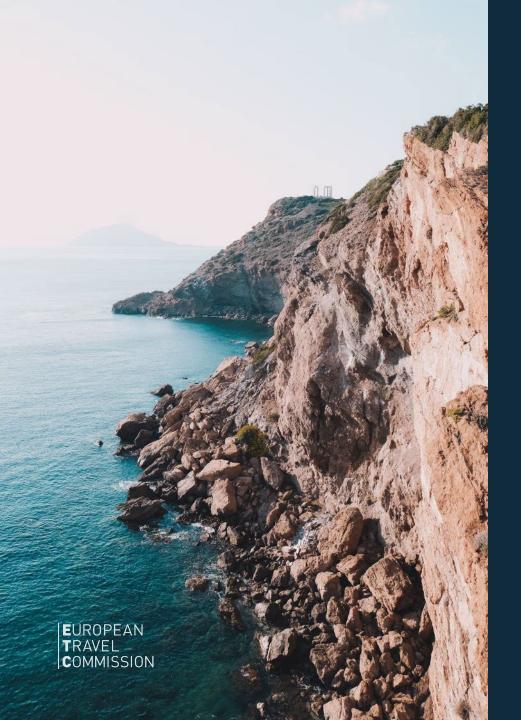
#### TRIP PLANNING

- Taking advantage of the 'Grandes Vacances', half of travellers are planning trips that extend for at least one week. This trend is particularly prominent among Europeans aged 45 and above, who show a notable preference (52%) for extended vacations lasting beyond seven days.
- Despite price inflation, Europeans' travel budgets and intended length of stay for the coming months remain unchanged.
- Europeans aged 25-34 are the most likely to splurge on their upcoming trip, with 46% planning on spending over 1,500 euros per trip.

#### TRAVEL CONCERNS

- In times of geopolitical tension, climate crisis, and high travel costs, safety (16%), pleasant weather (13%), and bargains (11%) are Europeans' leading criteria for choosing a destination in the coming six months.
- Consequently, price inflation (21%) and personal finances (16%) are travellers' leading concerns, followed by geo-political tensions resulting from the war in Ukraine (11%) and the Middle East (10%).
- Additionally, some Europeans have reported changing their travel habits due to the evolving climate. A third of them now shared to be avoiding destinations where temperatures might reach extreme levels, opting instead for locations with more stable weather conditions. Travellers above the age of 55 are particularly determined to avoid the heat

EUROPEAN Travel Commission



**WAVE 19** 

# Recommendations for destinations

- As European travel demand peaks, a growing number of destinations are called upon to prevent overtourism, by implementing visitors' management tools. These include limiting further expansion of tourism infrastructure, capping visitor numbers, applying visitors' taxes, and directing tourism development to second tier destinations.
- Europeans' growing concern about extreme temperatures is a prime opportunity for Coast & Sea getaways, which could market themselves as a pleasant and less crowded alternative to hot and jam-packed Sun & Beach destinations.
- Europeans' demand for air travel soars especially for Culture & Heritage (61%) and Sun & Beach (59%) trips. To encourage these travellers to take a train, destinations should act to make train travel more affordable, enhance the supply of direct trains between key demand areas and popular destinations, and offer rewards to travellers who choose to travel by train.
- To aid travellers with an aversion to extreme weather, destinations should mitigate the impact of such events by establishing cooling areas in tourist spots, increasing the availability of shaded areas, and investing in heat-resilient infrastructure (e.g., heat-reflective pavements).



**WAVE 19** 

# Recommendations for businesses

- 29% of Europeans plan to immerse themselves in the local lifestyle or learn new things about their next destinations. To meet this interest, local businesses could provide walking tours, culinary experiences, workshops, and visits to local homes—activities that would allow visitors to get an insider's perspective while promoting cross-cultural understanding and more respectful behaviours.
- To attract couples who prefer staying in hotels, these establishments could offer romantic packages, create activities specifically for couples, and emphasise privacy and intimacy.
- 38% of Cruise travellers and 32% of Sun & Beach travellers have already fully booked their trip, and travel agencies targeting these travellers should market well in advance. In contrast, 33% of Europeans planning a City Break and 32% of those taking a Culture & Heritage trip have not yet booked, and campaigns for these segments could be launched at a later stage.
- Responding to Europeans' economic concerns and the interest in destinations with lower costs of living, businesses in more affordable destinations should highlight both their attractive pricing and the overall low cost of travelling in their region. This is especially important when targeting households of average or below-average income.



**WAVE 19** 

# Reading the data

#### Data collection periods

	Wave 15	1-7 March 2023
-	Wave 16	8 May- 4 June 2023
	Wave 18	2-17 April 2024
	Wave 19	25 May -7 June 2024

#### Travel timings for Wave 19

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

In 1-2 months:	June-July 2024
In 3-4 months:	August-September 2024
In 5-6 months	October-November 2024

#### Analysed samples

- Total respondents: 5,955
- Respondents most likely to travel in the next six months: 4,508
- Respondents planning to travel internationally within Europe (not necessarily in the next six months): 4,560

#### Significant changes

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

ncrease 🚖

Decrease

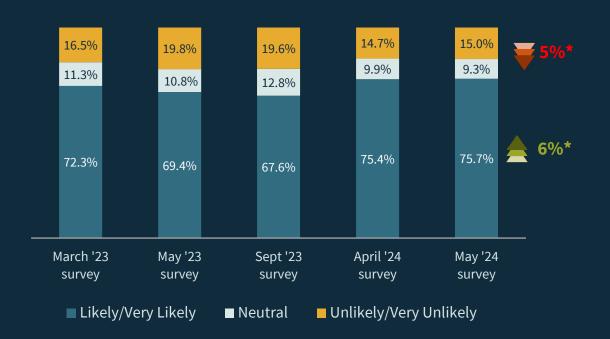


All data and insights refer to domestic and intra-European travel unless otherwise stated.



# 76% of Europeans are eager to travel in the next six months, up 6% in a year

#### Intention to travel in the next six months

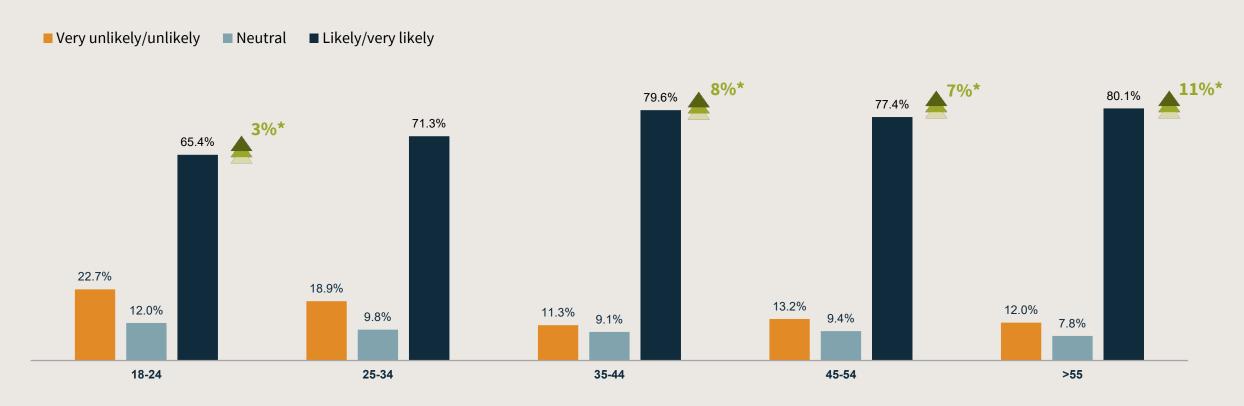


Q8. Do you plan to take an overnight trip domestically or within Europe in the next six months, either for personal or professional purposes?



# Travel sentiment is stronger among Europeans over the age of 35, with an increase of 9% over a year ago

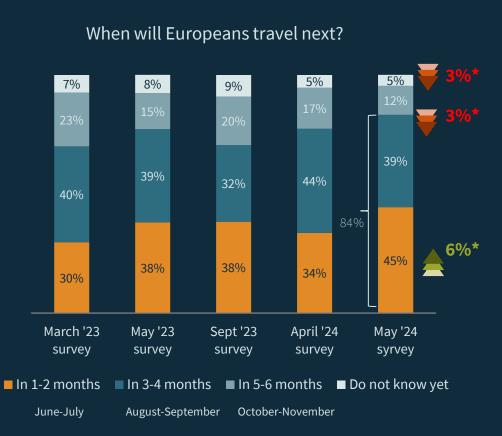
Intention to travel in the next six months by age group



<sup>\*</sup> Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (May 2023)

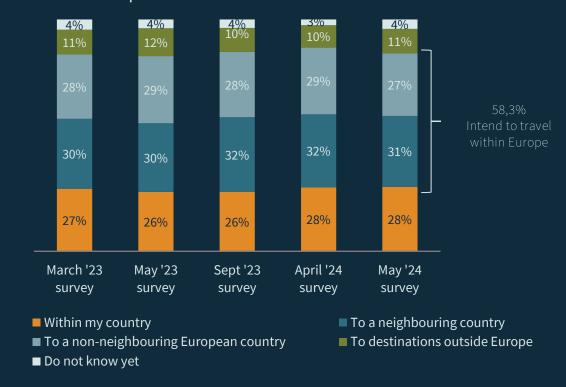
Q8. Do you plan to take an overnight trip domestically or within Europe in the next six months, either for personal or professional purposes?

# 45% of Europeans are planning to travel between June-July, with more than half (58%) opting to visit other countries within Europe



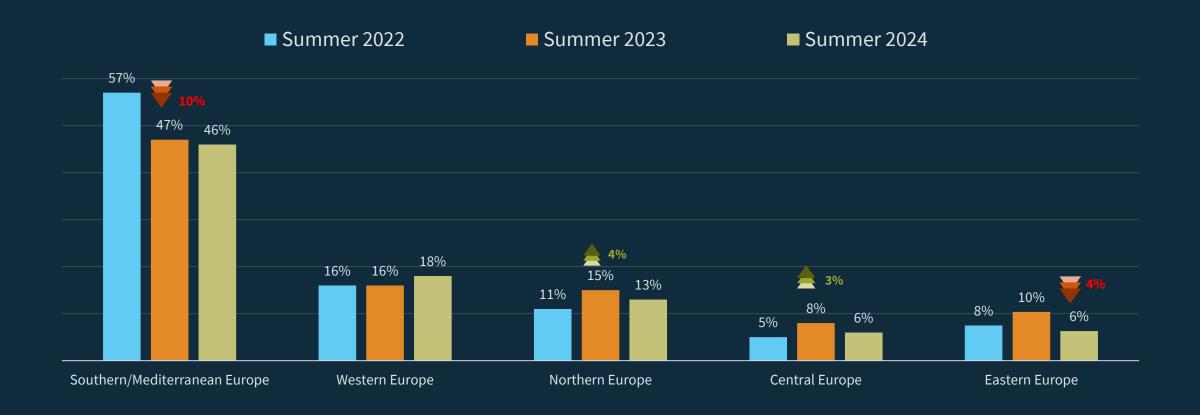
Q11. When are you most likely to go on your next trip either in your country or within Europe?

#### Where will Europeans travel within the next 6 months?



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

# European regions favoured for travel in the summer

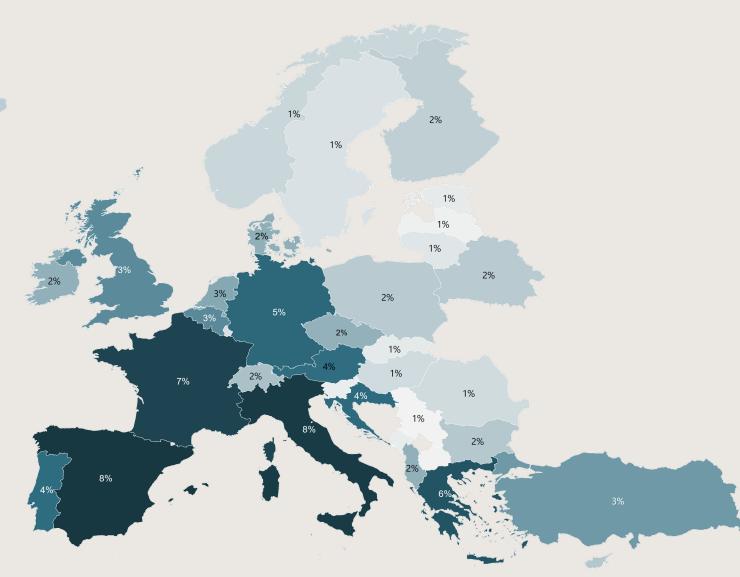


Preferred countries for the next intra-European trip

Horizon June -November '24

#### **TOP 10 COUNTRIES**

Spain	7,8%
Italy	7,6%
France	7,0%
Greece	5,9%
Germany	4,6%
Croatia	4,3%
Portugal	4,2%
Austria	4,2%
Belgium	3,4%
United Kingdom	3,4%



## Spain and Austria lead in visitor loyalty, Greece and Portugal draw in fresh enthusiasts

Past and future visitors per destination (Top 10 most popular destinations)



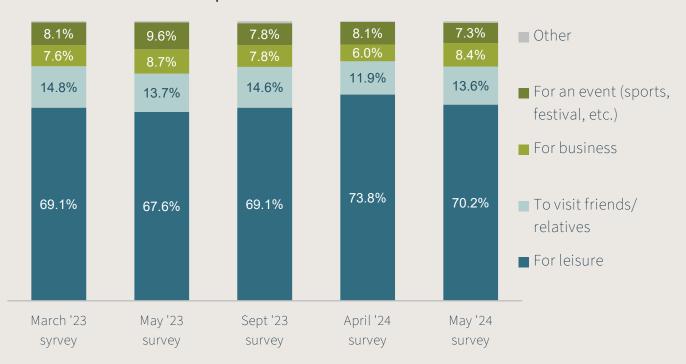
EUROPEAN TRAVEL COMMISSION Q1. Which European countries have you visited in the past three years (2022-2023-24)?

Q13. To which country(ies) do you plan to travel next?

# 70% of Europeans plan leisure trips for the next 6 months

Interest in travelling for an event remains similar to a year ago, despite the upcoming Olympic Games, the EURO 2024 games and the Taylor Swift Eras Tour in Europe

#### Purpose of travel



Q10. For what reason are you most likely to travel within Europe next?

Top 3 markets to Top 3 markets to take a business trip take a leisure trip **NETHERLANDS SPAIN** 80% 16% ITALY **BELGIUM** 10% 77% **FRANCE SWITZERLAND** 74% Results for business trip per country are indicative due to small sample bases

<sup>\*</sup> Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (May 2023)

# Sun & Beach trips are the undisputed king of summer travel

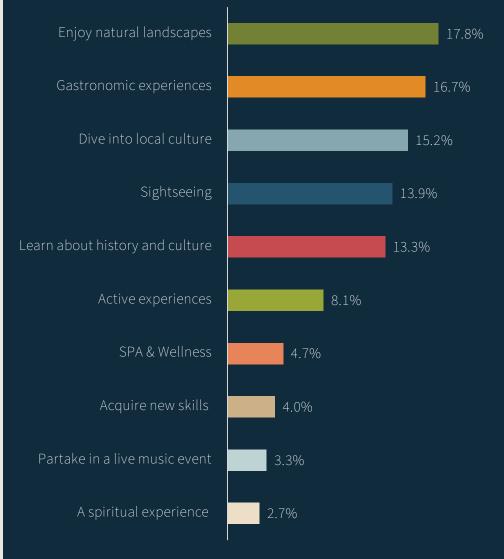
Europeans' preference for enjoying nature, gastronomy and culture remains stable compared to summer 2023

Preferred type of leisure trip in the next six months





#### PREFERRED EXPERIENCES IN THE NEXT 6 MONTHS



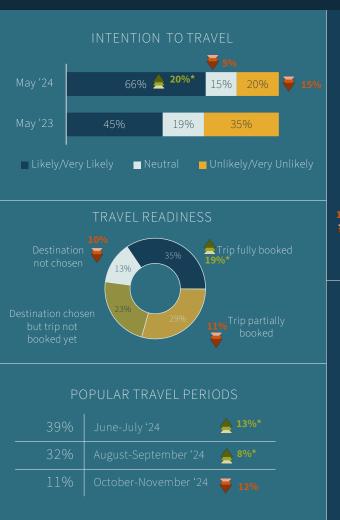
## Popular types of trips and experiences

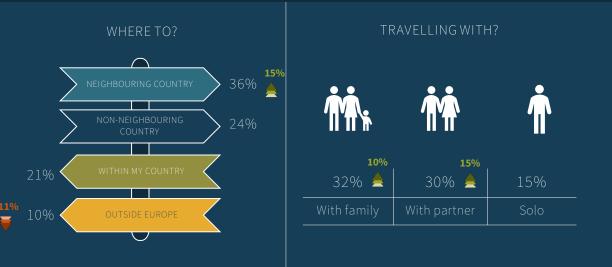
Analysis of preferred types of leisure trip by age, length of stay, budget, types of experiences and preferred destinations

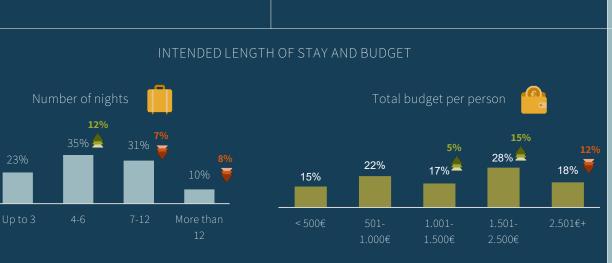
	· ·				Ç		Ø	<b>5</b>
	Sun &	Beach	Culture	& Heritage	Nature 8		City	Break
AGE GROUPS MOST INTERESTED IN THIS TYPE OF TRIP	27% >55	21% 35-44	38% >55	21% 25-34	37% >55	22% 45-54	29% >55	20% 25-34 & 35-44
MOST COMMON LENGTH OF STAY & BUDGET	34% 7-9 nights 27% 4-6 nights	25% 500-1000 € 24% 1001-1500 €	43% 4-6 nights 22% 7-9 nights	24% 500-1000 € 20% 1001-1500 €	38% 4-6 nights 26% 7-9 nights	30% 500-1000 € 21% 1001-1500 €	41% 4-6 nights 28% up to 3 nights	33% 500-1000 € 19% up to 500€
TOP EXPERIENCES TO TRY	18% Enjoy natu 18% Gastronom 15% Dive into lo 13% Sightseein	nic experiences ocal culture	22% Learn abo 17% Dive into l 16% Sightseeir 14% Gastronor	local culture ng	, ,		20% Sightseein 17% Gastronom 16% Dive into lo 16% Enjoy natu	oic experiences ocal culture
TOP DESTINATIONS	17% Spain 11% Greece 9% Italy 6% France		8% France 7% Italy 6% Austria 5% Spain		10% France 6% Italy 6% Austria 6% Germany		10% Italy 8% France 7% Germany 6% UK	

## Austrians' travel plans

#### Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024







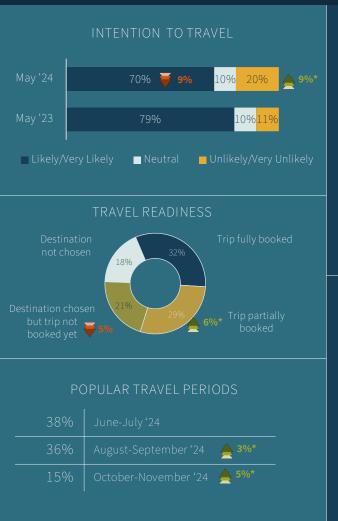
# TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS 18% Sun & Beach 15% Nature & Outdoors 14% Coast & Sea

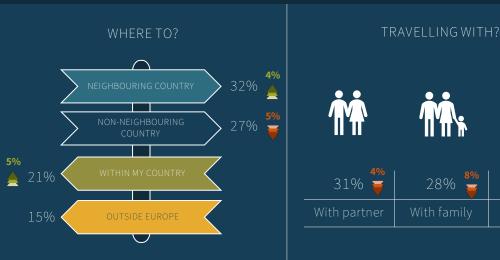
	Plan to visit	Have visited before
Italy	10%	10%
Croatia	7%	9%
Germany	6%	7%
Greece	5%	3%
Belgium	4%	3%

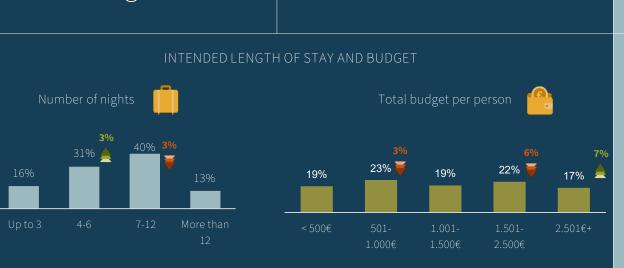
<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

## Belgians' travel plans

Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024









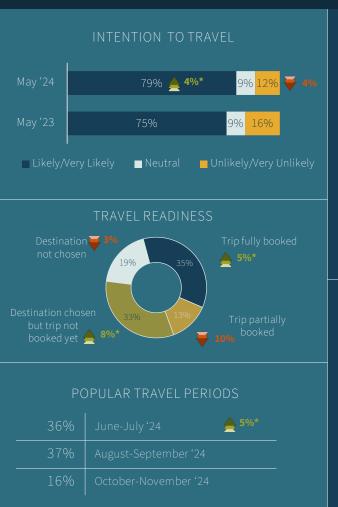
12%

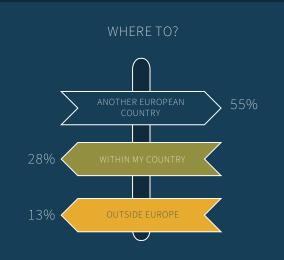
	Plan to visit	Have visited before
France	13%	8%
Spain	8%	5%
Italy	7%	4%
Austria	5%	3%
Netherlands	5%	5%

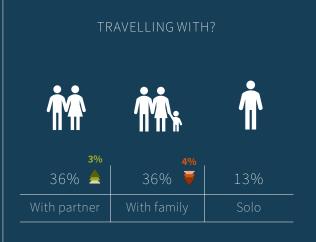
<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

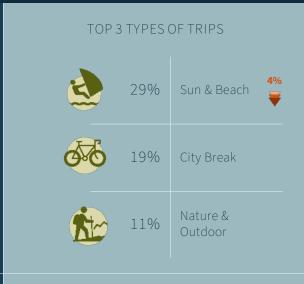
## Britons' travel plans

#### Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024









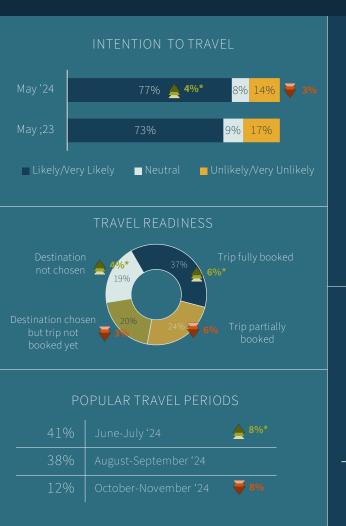


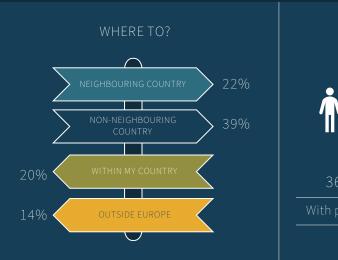
	Plan to visit	Have visited before
Spain	14%	15%
France	11%	9%
Italy	9%	6%
Greece	8%	7%
Germany	6%	6%

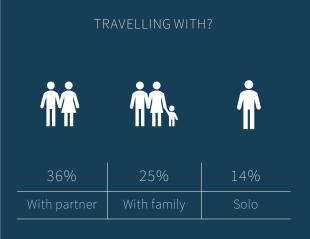
<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

## **Dutch's travel plans**

Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024









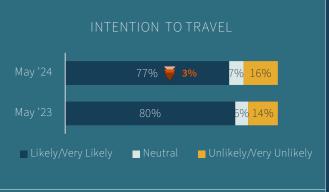


	Plan to visit	Have visited before
Belgium	8%	7%
France	8%	6%
Spain	7%	5%
Germany	7%	7%
Italy	7%	5%

<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

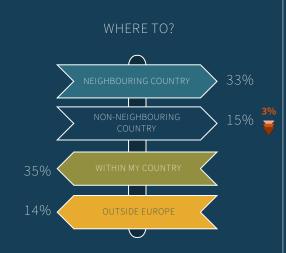
## French's travel plans

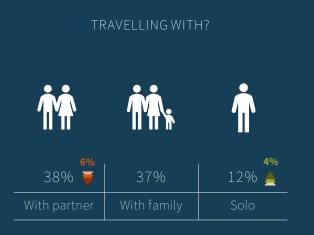
#### Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024

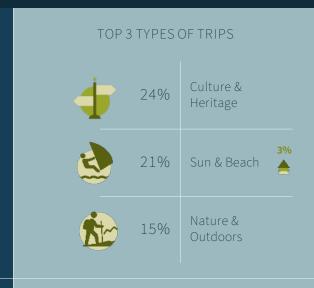




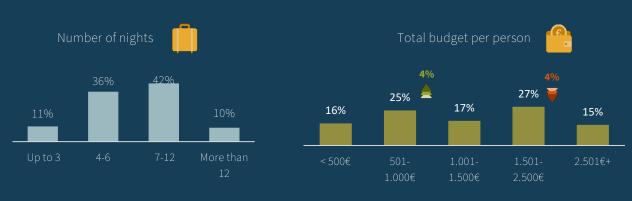
# POPULAR TRAVEL PERIODS







## INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND BUDGET

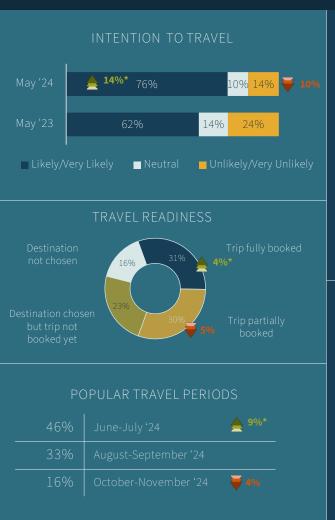


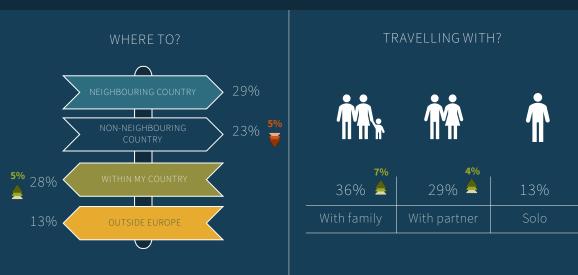
	Plan to visit	Have visited before
Italy	10%	7%
Greece	9%	5%
Spain	8%	8%
Croatia	6%	4%
Portugal	6%	5%

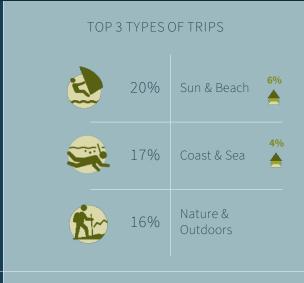
<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

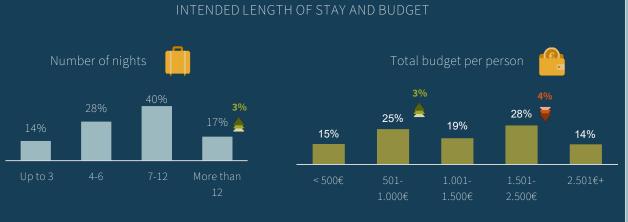
## Germans' travel plans

Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024







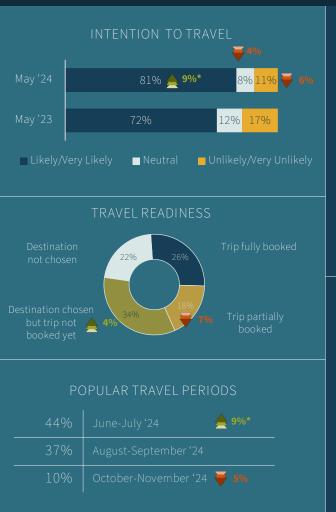


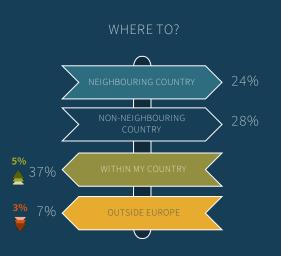
	Plan to visit	Have visited before
Spain	8% <del></del>	7%
Austria	8% <del>4%</del>	9%
Italy	7%	7%
France	6%	9%
Türkiye	5%	5%
** 5		

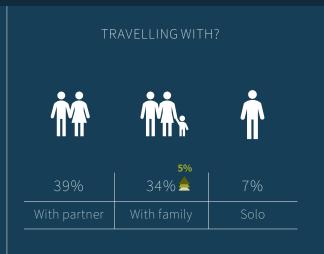
<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

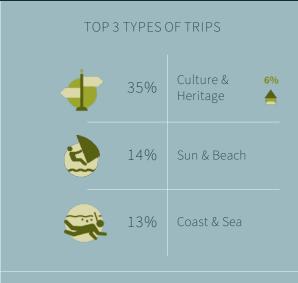
## Italians' travel plans

#### Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024









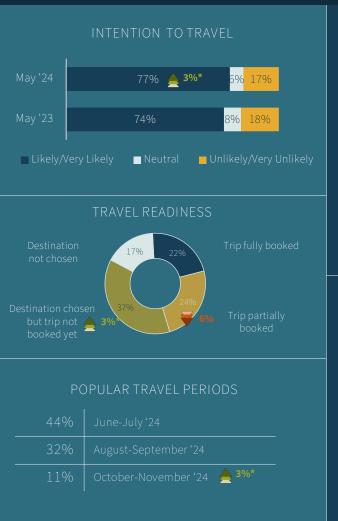


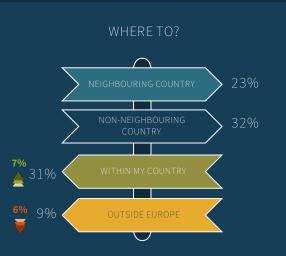
	Plan to visit	Have visited before
Spain	12%	9%
France	10%	9%
Greece	6%	6%
UK	6%	5%
Portugal	5%	3%

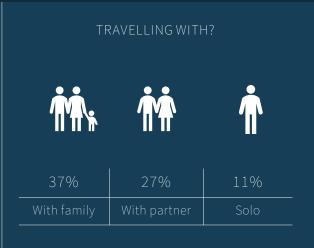
<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

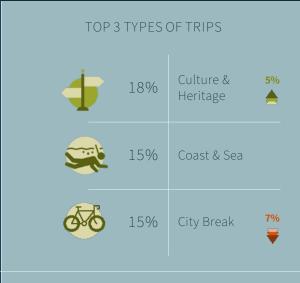
## Poles' travel plans

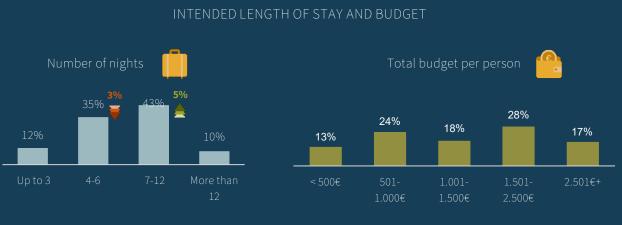
#### Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024









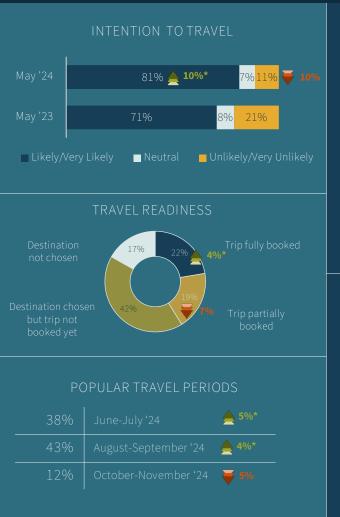


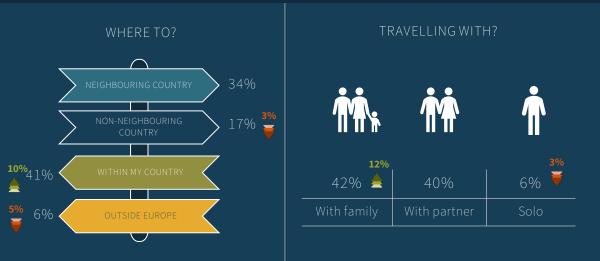
	Plan to visit	Have visited before
Croatia	7%	6%
Germany	6%	6%
Italy	6% <b>4%</b>	5%
Greece	5%	4%
Spain	5%	4%
** 5		

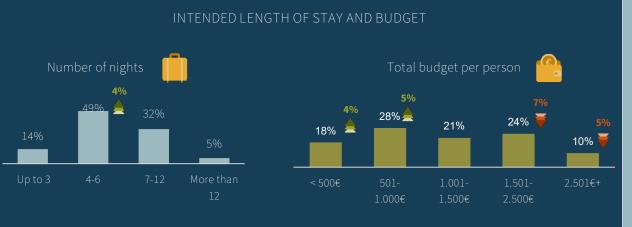
<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

## Spaniards' travel plans

#### Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024







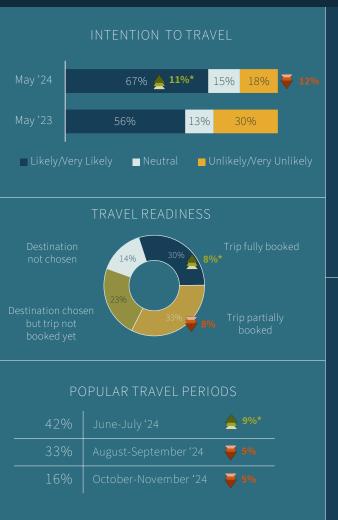
# TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS 30% City Break Culture & heritage 15% Sun & Beach

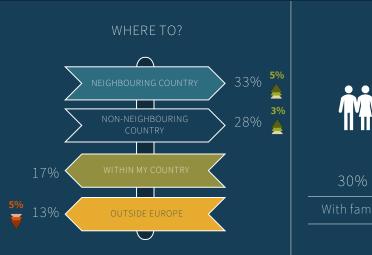
	Plan to visit	Have visited before						
Italy	15% <b>5%</b>	13%						
France	13%	20%						
Portugal	8%	13%						
Germany	7%	10%						
UK	6%	5%						
** December 2 - 1 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 -								

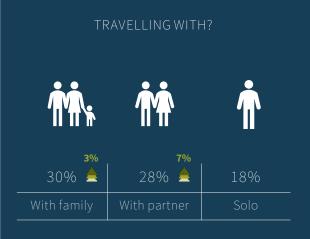
<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

## Swisses' travel plans

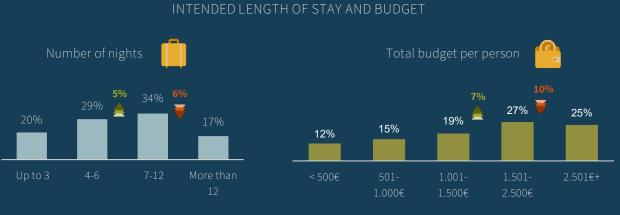
#### Travel horizon: June 2024-November 2024











	Plan to visit	Have visited before
Austria	8%	6%
Italy	7%	7%
Germany	6%	7%
France	6%	7%
Spain	5%	4%

<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

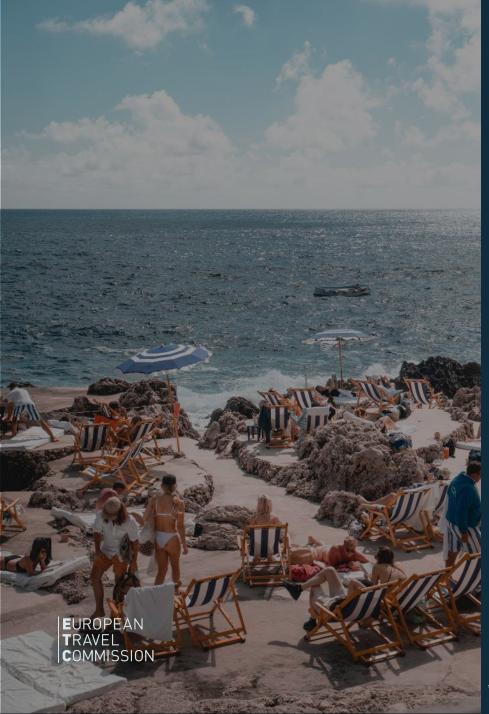


# 36% of Europeans concerned by the economic situation are planning a single trip, vs. only 6% of those planning 3 trips or more. TRAVEL **C**OMMISSION

# More travellers (+6%) plan to travel only once - possibly due to economic concerns

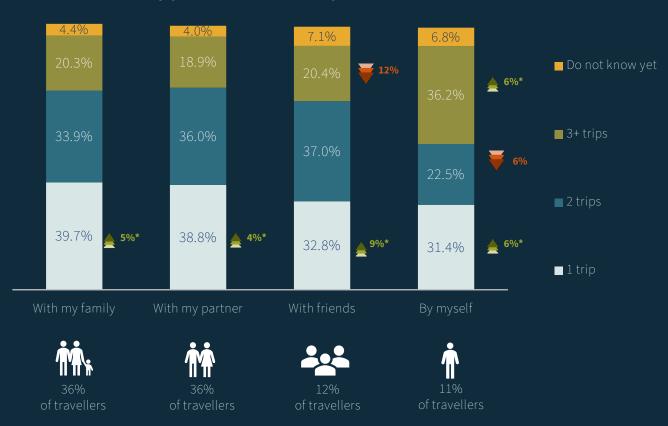


Q9. How many trips do you plan to take in the next 6 months, within Europe?



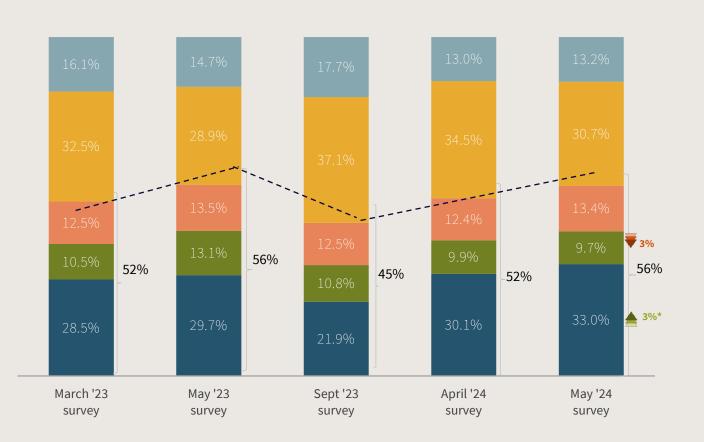
# Most Europeans will travel with their family or partner; those travelling solo are most likely to take 3 trips or more (+6%)

Number of intended trips within Europe by preferred travel companion



# 56% of Europeans have already booked their next trip, preparing for the upcoming high season

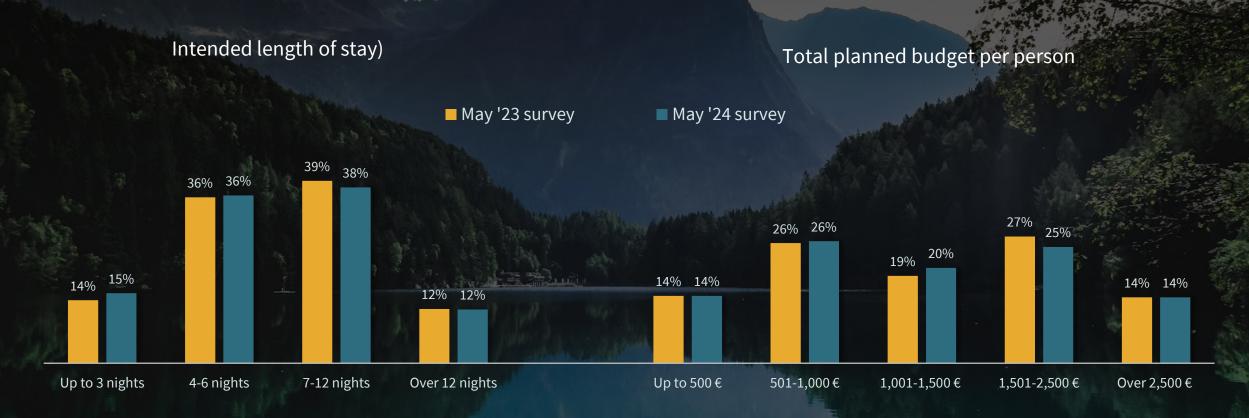
Planning status for the next trip



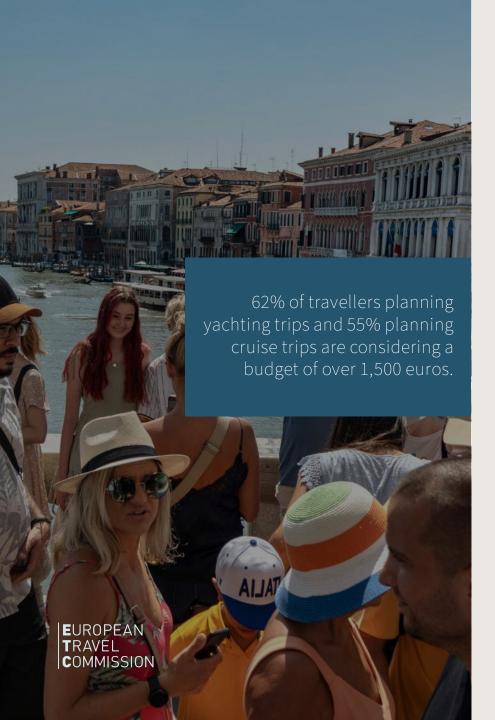


**Early vs late bookers:** 38% of cruise travellers and 32% of Sun & Beach travellers have already fully booked their trip, while 33% of Europeans planning a City Break and 32% of those taking a Culture & Heritage trip have not yet booked.

# Despite high prices, Europeans' travel budgets and length of stay remain unchanged for the coming months







# Budget allocation by length of trip

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

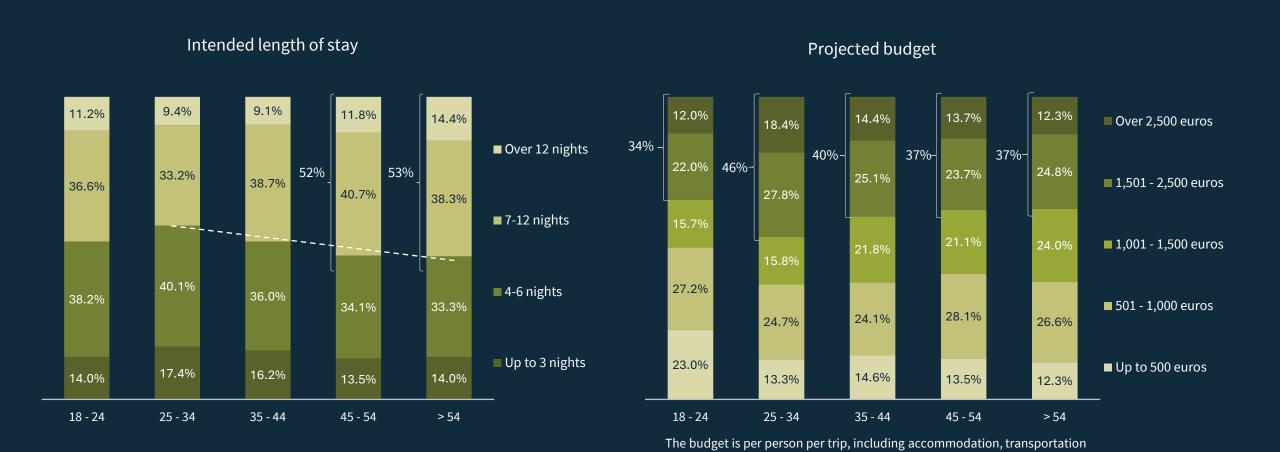
	< 3 nights	4-6 nights	7-12 nights		
< 500 €	41%	13%	14%		
501 - 1,000 €	30%	33%	39%		
1,001 - 1,500 €	12%	23%	44%		
1,501 - 2,500 €	8%	24%	63%		

No. of respondents: 4,508

Q19. How much do you intend to spend on your next overnight trip (per person, including accommodation, transportation and travel activities)?

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

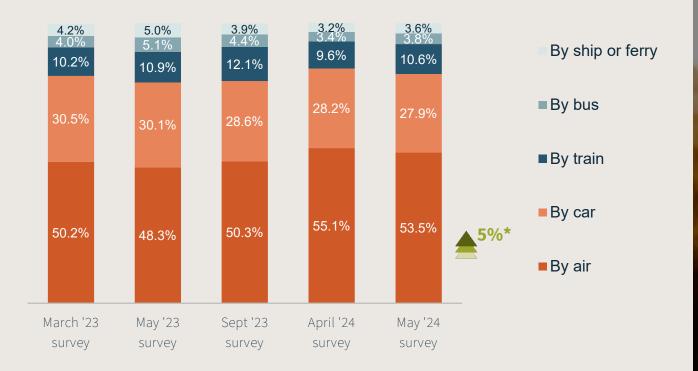
# Europeans over the age of 45 are the most likely to take longer trips, while younger Europeans (aged 25-34) are the most likely to splurge

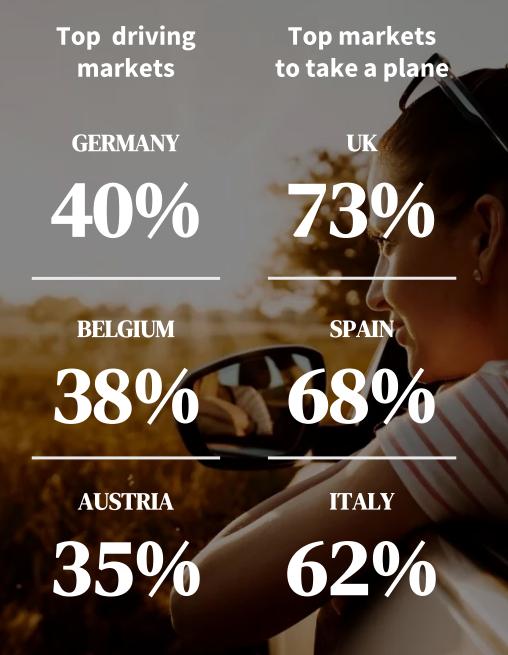


and travel activities

# Over half of Europeans will fly to their next travel destination (+5%)

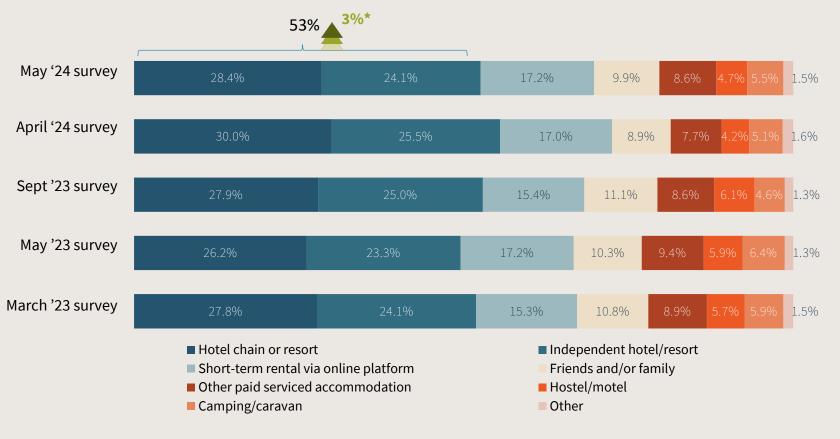
#### Preferred modes of transport for intra-European travel

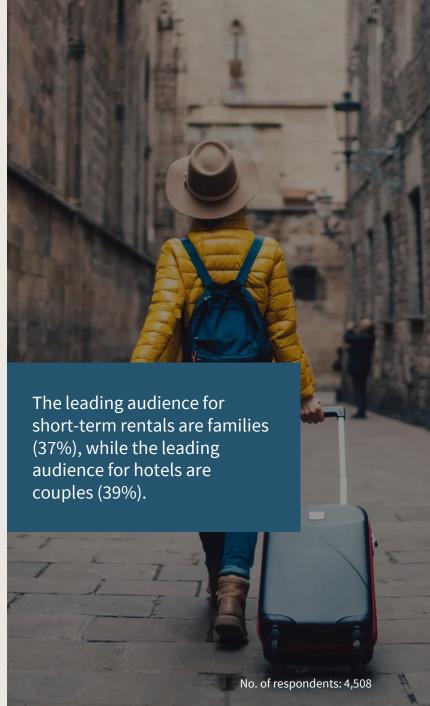




## Hotels are favoured by Europeans as their top choice for accommodation, showing a 3% rise compared to last year

Preferred type of accommodation

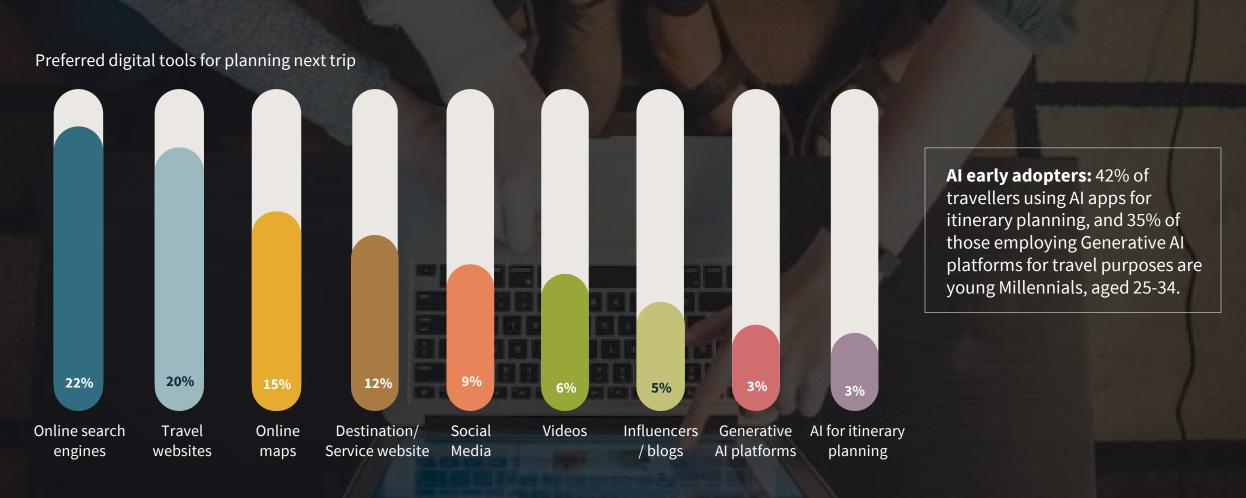




Q15. Which of the following types of accommodation would you most consider staying at during your next trip within Europe?

<sup>\*</sup> Statistically significant difference vs a year ago (May 2023)

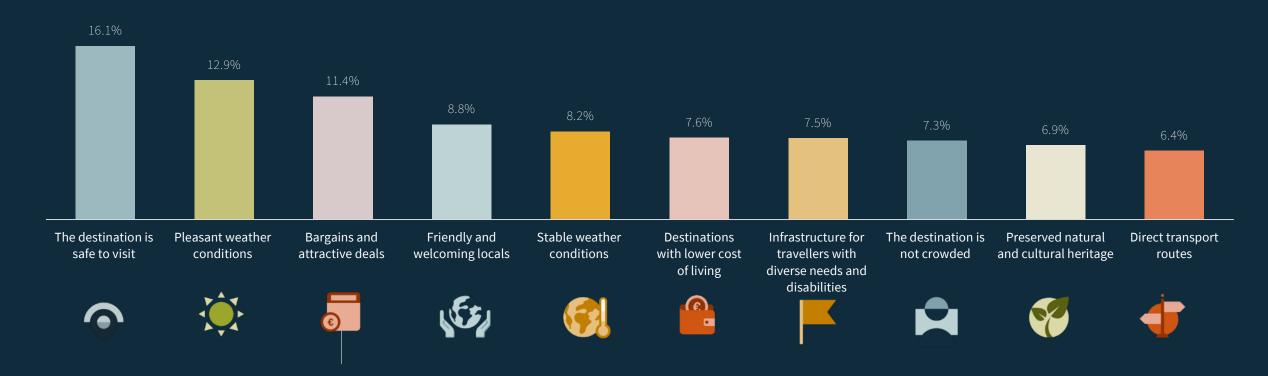
# Search engines and travel websites are the leading digital touchpoint for European travellers





# Pleasant weather and stable temperatures are key destination choice factors for 21% of travellers, while safety continues to play a vital role

Europeans' top criteria in choosing a travel destination



Of those looking for bargains and deals, 45% have below-average income, while only 17% have above-average income.

# What do European travellers worry about?

Price inflation and personal finances remain the leading concerns for 37% of travellers, followed by geo-political tensions

20.8%

Rise in the overall cost of my trip due to inflation

11.4%

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine

10.1%

Extreme weather events

9.3%

Too many visitors at the destinations I want to visit 5.2%

The environmental footprint of my travel



















16.1%

Economic situation and personal finances

10.2%

Potential impacts on travel safety due to tensions in the Middle East 9.7%

Disruptions in transport options due to strikes, under-staffing, etc.

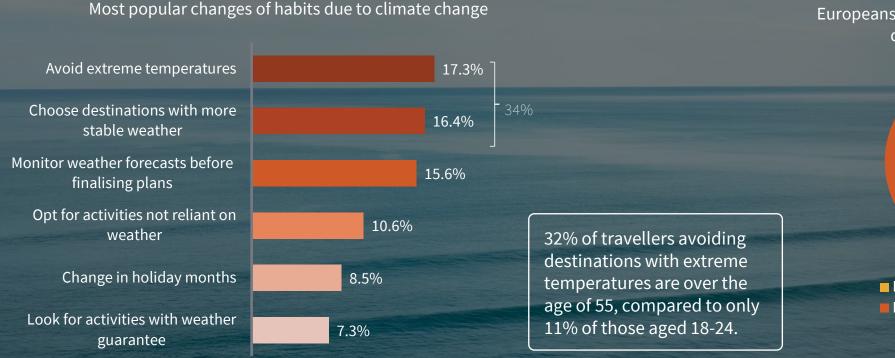
6.4%

Booking and cancellation policies (refunds, etc.)

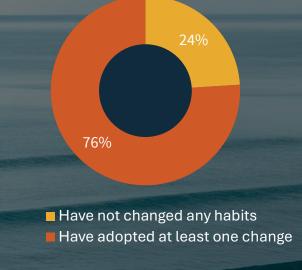
EUROPEAN TRAVEL COMMISSION

# Europeans are adjusting their travel habits according to climate change

One in three travellers will refrain from extreme weather events, either by avoiding destinations where temperatures could soar to extremes or by choosing a destination with stabler weather









## 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 15: 1-7 March 2023; sample = 6,000 / 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
  - 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)
- 46% of the Wave 19 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	TOLAL
Age	18 - 24	88	70	44	84	96	92	56	99	70	78	777
	25 - 34	136	112	73	122	128	152	106	138	112	181	1,260
	35 - 44	126	134	103	119	140	150	120	61	104	60	1,117
	45 - 54	138	168	105	75	146	168	92	79	87	83	1,141
	≥55	262	266	175	100	240	188	126	123	82	98	1,660
Total		750	750	500	500	750	750	500	500	455	500	5,955

#### 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

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Study on Monitoring Sentiment for Intra-European Trave

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Data sources: This report is based on research conducted by MINDHAUS (<a href="www.mindhaus.gr">www.mindhaus.gr</a>) and should be interpreted by users according to their needs

#### **M**INDHAUS

Tourism Marketing Strateg

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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