

MONITORING SENTIMENT FOR DOMESTIC AND INTRA-EUROPEAN TRAVEL

TRAVEL HORIZON: JUNE - NOVEMBER 2023



WAVE 16 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Europeans want to travel, but less than a year ago

This report monitors sentiment and short-term plans for domestic and intra-European travel and is the **16**th wave of a market research project¹ which began in September 2020. Results are based on data collected in May 2023 from Europeans in 10 high-volume source markets.

- 69% of Europeans plan to travel between June and November 2023, a slight decrease of 4% compared to last year. Europeans aged 25-44 are the most eager to travel (71%), while Gen Z aged 18-24– are the most hesitant (63%).
- Among Europeans with travel plans, the majority (77%) intend to take a trip between June-September.
 Visiting a non-neighbouring European country emerges as the top preference, capturing 29% of interest, the highest level since August 2020.
- Non-leisure travel grows in popularity: interest in business travel and event trips both increased by 4% over 2022.
- Europeans' most desired types of leisure trips for this summer and autumn are **Sun & Beach holidays** (18%), Culture & Heritage getaways (16%) and City Beaks (14%).

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WAVE 16 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

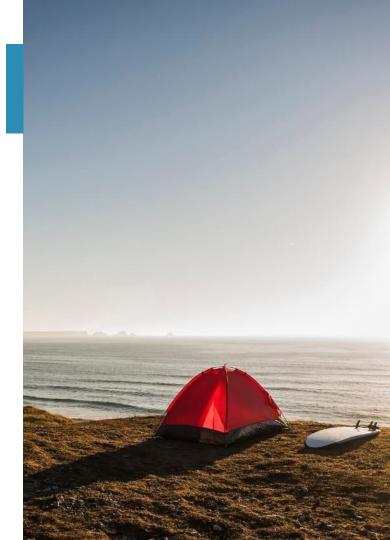
The share of travellers intending to use public transport reaches an all time high

- 60% of European travellers plan to take at least two trips this summer and autumn, while a considerable 12% intend to head for four or more trips (an increase of 5% compared to a year ago).
- Similar to 2022, the intended lengths of stay at the destination remain 4-6 nights (36%), and 7-9 nights (27%), while **the intended budget has increased by 8% compared to a year ago:** 41% of travellers plan to spend more than 1,500 euros.
- The share of Europeans who intend to travel by **train or bus** has reached an **all-time high of 16%.** Yet, taking a flight remains the most popular option for **48%** of respondents, while driving a personal car appeals to **25%** of people with travel plans (down by 10% compared to a year ago).
- For the first time, preference for hotel accommodation drops below the 50% threshold (currently 49%), while interest in short-term rentals peaks to 17%.
- 56% of Europeans have already fully or partially booked their upcoming trip a 4% rise compared to the same period last year.
- Pleasant weather (17%), attractive deals (17%) and welcoming locals (12%) remain Europeans' top criteria for choosing a travel destination.

WAVE 16 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Financial worries still impact travel decisions

- High travel prices and personal finances are consolidated as the primary travel concerns for Europeans, with respective increases of 6% and 4% compared to the same period in 2022.
- Responding to the ongoing financial challenges, 17% of Europeans will consider off-season travel, 14% will opt for destinations they perceive as more affordable, and 14% will book activities well in advance.
- During their next trip, 17% of Europeans plan to cut down on shopping, 15% will opt for less-expensive accommodation establishments, while 15% will select less-expensive restaurants or settle for self-catering.
- While concerns regarding the war between Russia and Ukraine slightly drop (decreasing by 3%), its impact on Europeans' travel-related decisions has increased by 9%, affecting 44% of travellers.



WAVE 16 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESTINATIONS



- To leverage the growing interest in travelling for events, which is particularly appealing among 18–24-year-old Europeans, destinations could **organise small-to-medium pop-up events and festivals aimed at young people.** This could further enhance their interest to travel after the summer season.
- Now is also a good time for destinations to proactively **design and organize larger-scale events for late autumn** plus **sponsor already-planned events for the same period**, to boost awareness in such events.
- As the interest in short-term rentals continues to increase, destinations should put efforts to responsibly manage this growing trend and its social and economic implications for the host communities. Potential measures may include requiring licensing, applying tourism tax, or limiting the number of days a property could be rented.
- European tourism returns to full capacity, and so do Europeans' concerns about over-crowded destinations. This is a prime **opportunity for lesser-known destinations to promote themselves**, through, for instance, **cooperation with highly-popular destinations** that want to better manage their tourism flows.
- Travellers' interest in using public transportation peaks for City Breaks (27%), Culture & Heritage trips (26%) and Sun & Beach holidays (25%). Destinations offering such kind of trips are recommended to highlight their accessibility by rail and bus. Besides, they can create holiday packages that include a transportation ticket.

WAVE 16

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUSINESSES



- The increasing travel costs and the economic situation are prime concerns in the coming summer and autumn. Special bargains, early-booking deals and price promotion offerings (such as 'travel now and pay later') are now an essential element in winning the hearts and pockets of European travellers.
- As the share of Europeans who prefer to book their next trip in advance (in full or at least one out of transportation or accommodation) surges by 4% compared to a year ago, businesses can **promote early-bird packages for October-November, offering a 'life jacket' against cost increases**.
- Europeans' top experiences include tasting the local cuisine (16%), diving into the local life (15%) and learning about history and culture (13%). Tour companies are therefore encouraged to **promote going** beyond the ordinary and offer unique, immersive experiences. Some examples could be joining meal preparation hosted by a local family, art workshops with local craftsmen, or family-oriented agritourism activities in a local farm.
- In response to the slight decrease in the preference for hotel stays, hotels should focus on targeting segments which are most likely to opt for this type of stay; these include Europeans travelling with their partner (52%) or family (49%) and who are taking a Sun & Beach holiday (56%) or a City Break (54%).

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Reading the data

Wave 16

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

	<u>Wave 12</u>	<u>Wave 13</u>	<u>Wave 14</u>	<u>Wave 15</u>	<u>Wave 16</u>
Survey dates	9-12 May '22	13-23 Sept '22	15-29 Dec '22	1-7 March '23	8 May-4 June '23*

2. To present Wave 16 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: June - July 2023

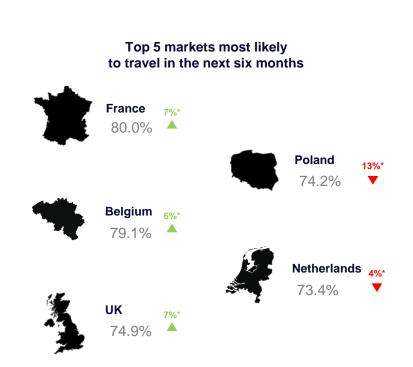
In 3-4 months: August - September 2023
 In 5-6 months: October - November 2023

- 3. To present data and insights, the following distinct groups have been analysed:
 - Total respondents: 6,002
 - Respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months: 4,165
 - Respondents planning to travel internationally within Europe (not necessarily in the next 6 months): 4,967
- 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 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.

^{*}Fieldwork in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland stopped on May 19th and was relaunched on May 31st

TRAVEL PLANS

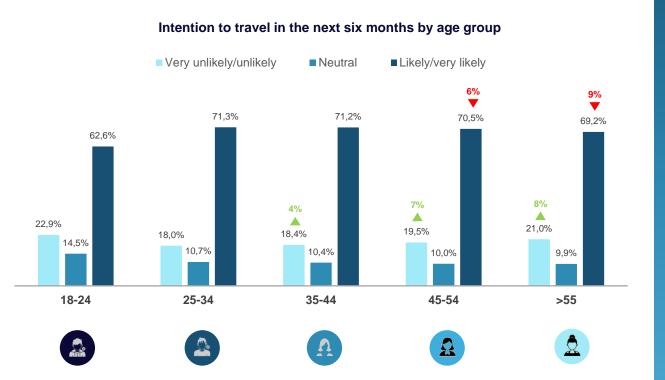






¹⁰ Q7. Do you plan to take an overnight trip domestically or within Europe in the next 6 months, either for personal or professional purposes?

Europeans over the age of 25 share a high sentiment for travelling, despite a drop in intentions among travellers over the age of 45



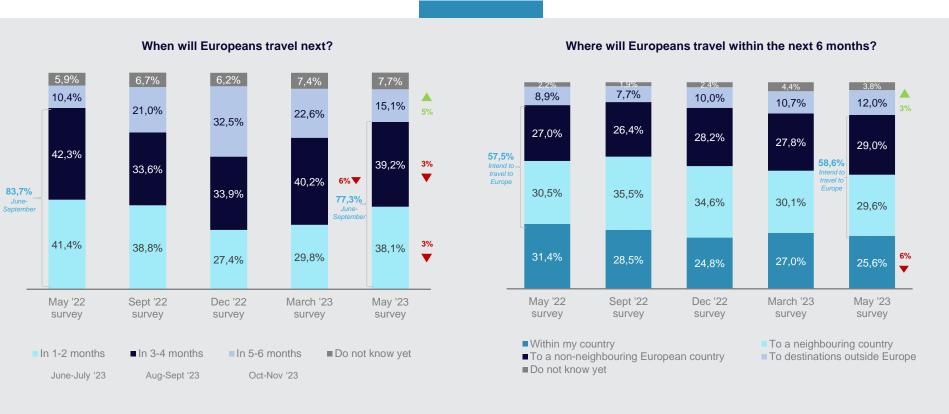
TOP TRAVEL EXPERIENCES BY AGE GROUP:



¹¹ Q7. Do you plan to take an overnight trip domestically or within Europe in the next 6 months, either for personal or professional purposes?

Q6. What criteria will play the most important role in choosing your next holiday destination?

77% of European travellers plan to take a trip during June-September With interest in visiting a non-neighbouring country reaching the highest level (29%) since May 2022



Q10. When are you most likely to go on your next trip either in your country or within Europe?

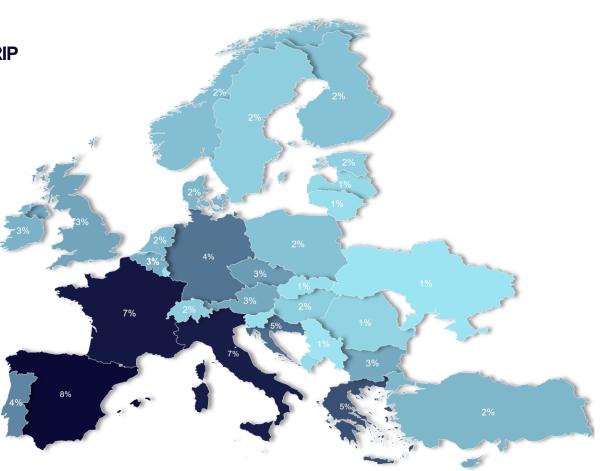
Q11. Where do you plan to travel in the next 6 months?

PREFERRED COUNTRIES FOR EUROPEANS' NEXT INTERNATIONAL TRIP

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

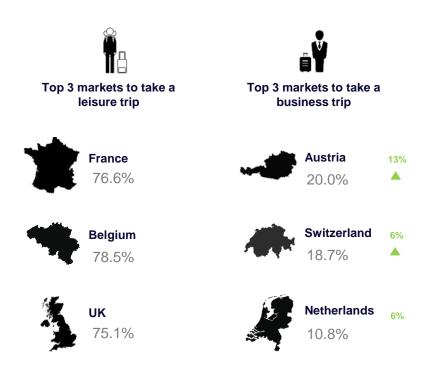
Spain	7,6%
France	7,2%
Italy	7,0%
Greece	5,4%
Croatia	4,6%
Germany	4,3%
Portugal	3,8%
Czech Republic	3,2%
United Kingdom	2,9%
Austria	2.8%

No. of respondents: 4,967



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

While leisure remains a primary motive for travel this summer, business travel (9%) and events trips (10%) gain popularity



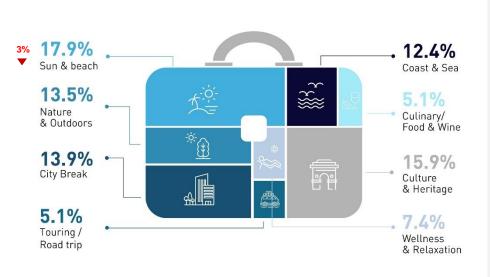
Purpose of travel for respondents most likely to travel in the next six months



¹⁴ Q9. 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

European summer escapes: unveiling the everlasting appeal of sun, beach, and cultural delights

Preferred type of leisure trip in the next six months



Preferred type of experiences in the next six months

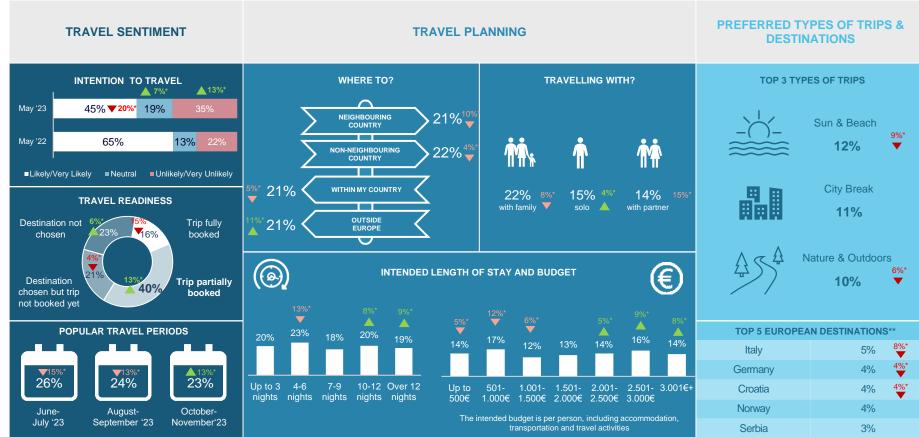


EUROPEANS' MOST IN-DEMAND TRIP TYPES AND EXPERIENCES

	Cup °	Beach		A Heritage	City B		Nature & Outdoors		
AGE GROUPS MOST INTERESTED IN THIS TYPE OF TRIP	23% >55	22% 45-54	30% >55	24% 45-54	25% 25-34	23% >55	27% >55	23% 35-44	
MOST COMMON LENGTH OF STAY & BUDGET	34% 7-9 nights 27% 4-6 nights	29% 500-1000 € 20% 1001-1500 €	45% 4-6 nights 25% 7-9 nights	29% 500-1000 € 18% 1001-1500 €	45% 4-6 nights 25% Up to 3 nights	29% 500-1000 € 21% 1001-1500 €	37% 4-6 nights 25% 7-9 nights	26% 500-1000 € 19% 1001-1500 €	
TOP 4 EXPERIENCES TO TRY			22% Learn about history17% Dive into local culture16% Sightseeing16% Gastronomic experiences		19% Sightseeing18% Dive into local culture17% Gastronomic experiences14% Learn about history		25% Enjoy natural landscapes 15% Dive into local culture 15% Gastronomic experiences 13% Learn about history		

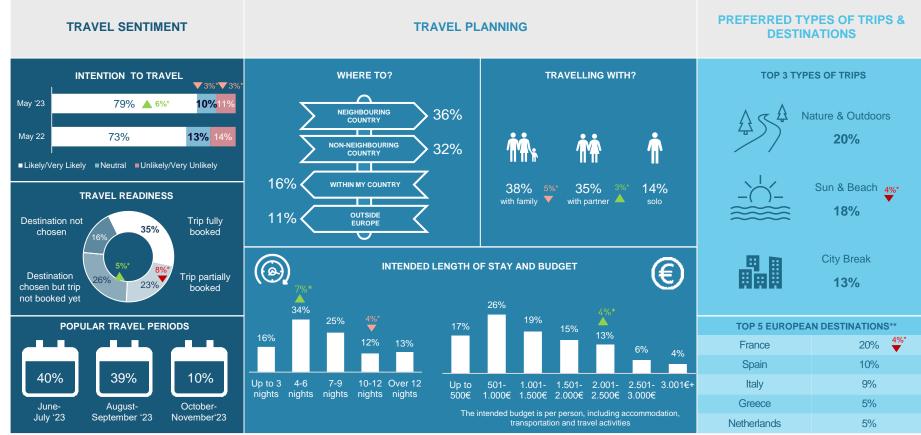
SNAPSHOT: AUSTRIAN TRAVEL PLANS





SNAPSHOT: BELGIAN TRAVEL PLANS

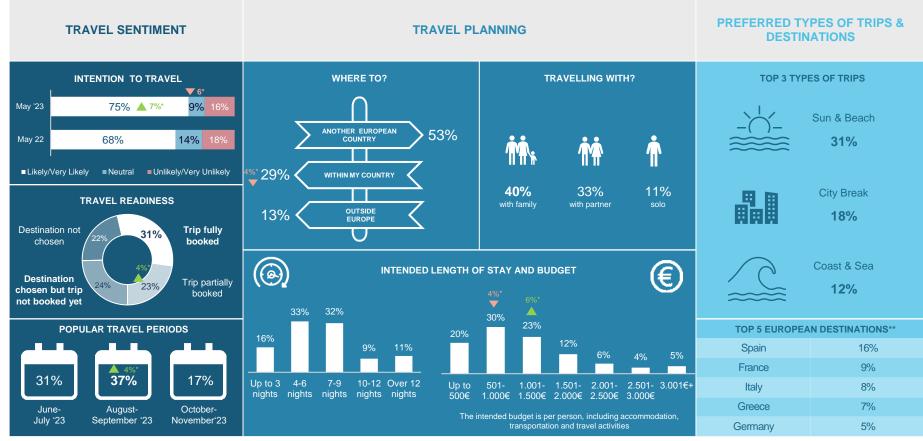




SNAPSHOT: BRITISH TRAVEL PLANS

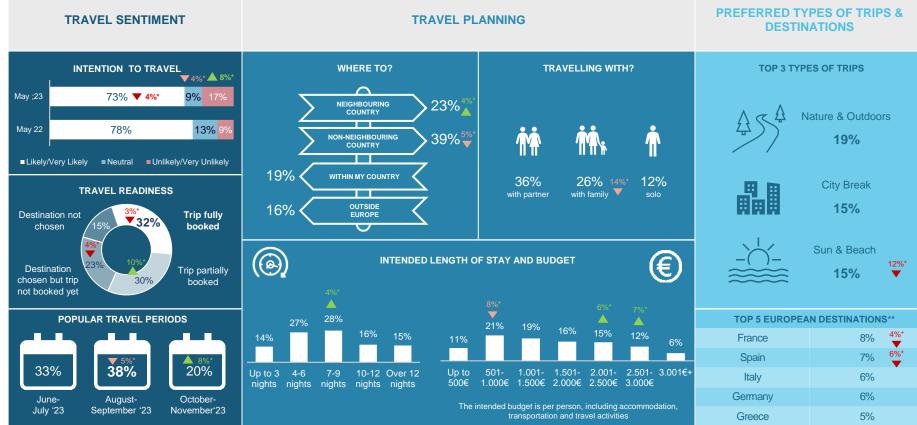
Travel Travel horizon: June-November 2023





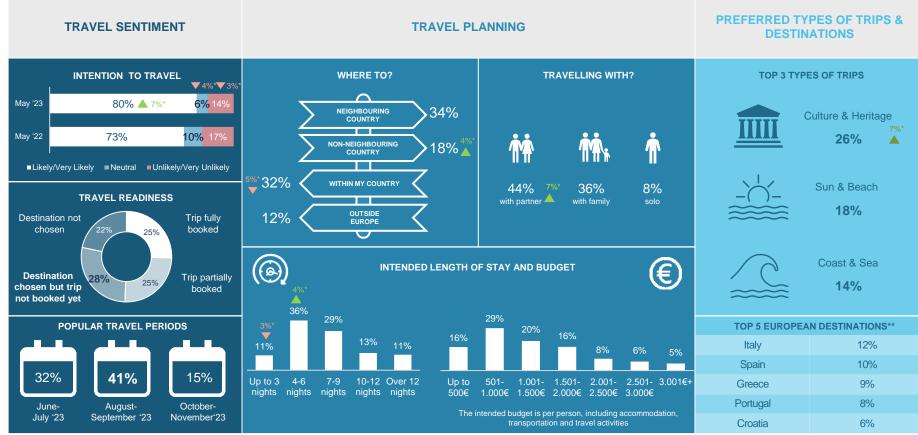
SNAPSHOT: DUTCH TRAVEL PLANS





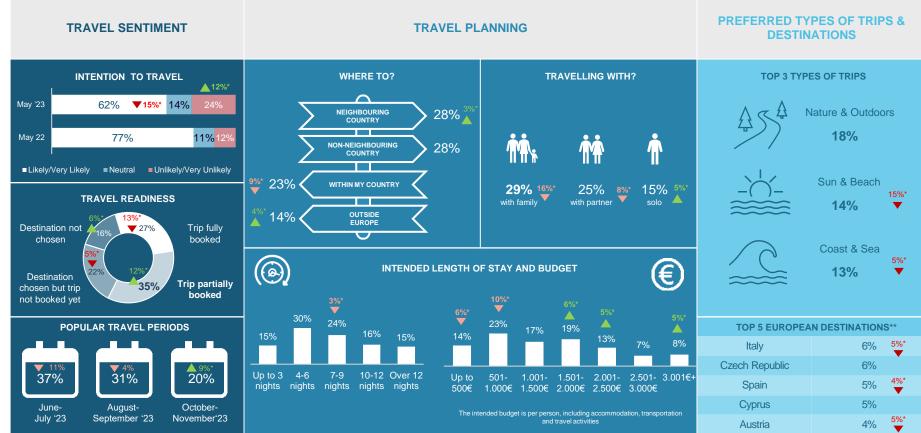
SNAPSHOT: FRENCH TRAVEL PLANS





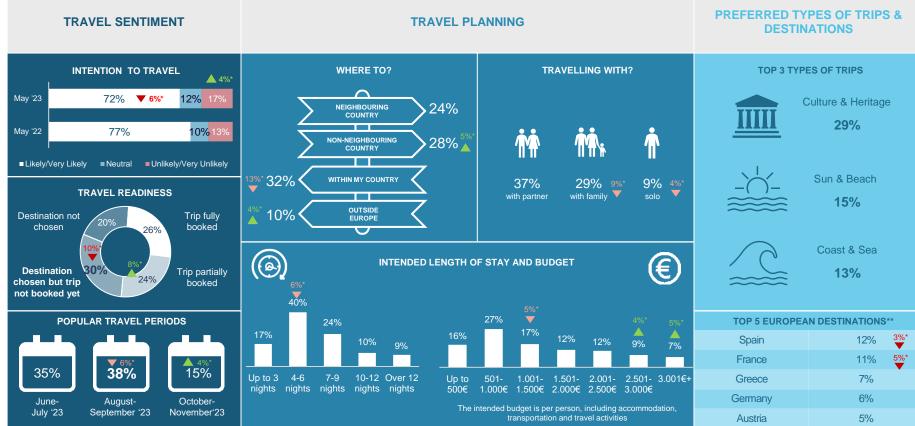
SNAPSHOT: GERMAN TRAVEL PLANS





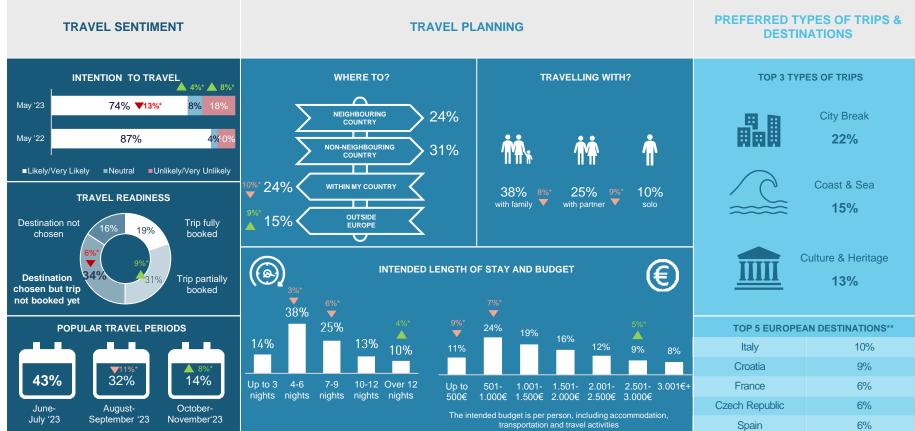
SNAPSHOT: ITALIAN TRAVEL PLANS





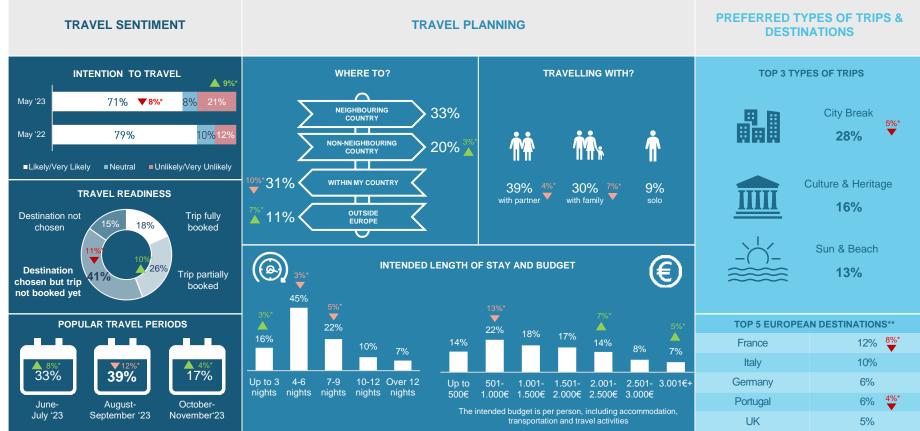
SNAPSHOT: POLISH TRAVEL PLANS





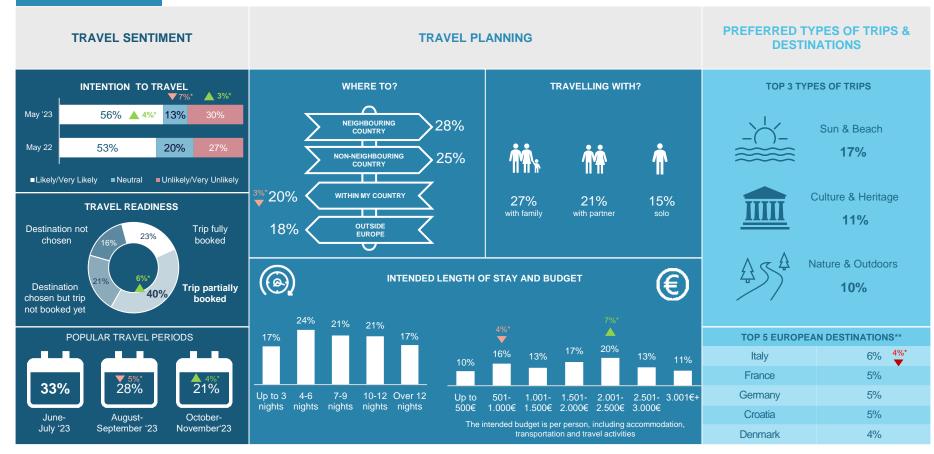
SNAPSHOT: SPANISH TRAVEL PLANS





SNAPSHOT: SWISS TRAVEL PLANS

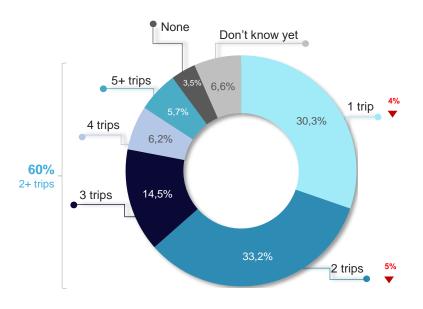




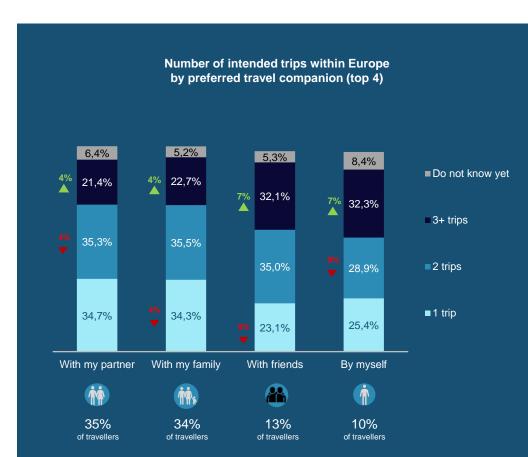


60% of Europeans plan multiple trips this summer and autumn, and out of them, 12% intend to take four or more trips

Number of intended trips within Europe in the next six months

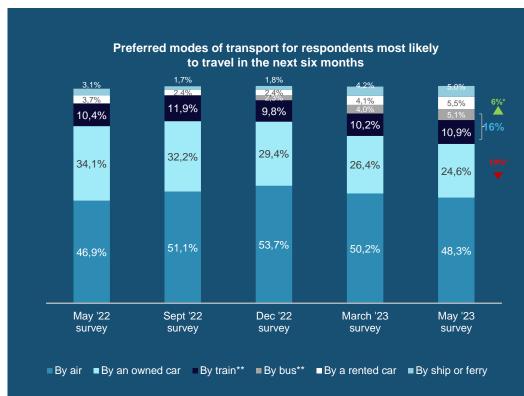


May '23 survey



The share of Europeans who plan to use public transportation in their next trip reaches an all-time high (16%) while driving a personal car slumps by -10% compared to a year ago





^{**}Up to September '22, 'By train/bus' was recorded as one answer

Europeans plan to enjoy similar lengths of holidays as last year, while the share of travellers planning to spend over 1,500 euros increases by 8%, perhaps due to the soaring rise in travel costs



FINANCIAL CONCERNS AND TRAVEL BUDGETS

39% of Europeans with a planned budget of up to 1,000 Euros are concerned with the economic situation, compared to only 22% of Europeans with a travel budget over 2,000 Euros

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	36%	14%	9%	
501 - 1,000 euros	28%	30%	26%	
1,001 - 1,500 euros	13%	20%	20%	
1,501 - 2,000 euros	8%	16%	18%	
2,001 - 2,500 euros	4%	11%	13%	

Compared to 'high-spending' Europeans with a travel budget of more than 2,000 euros, those who plan to spend up to 1,000 euros are more likely to:

- Travel off-season (31% vs. 24% of 'high-spenders')
- Visit destinations that are perceived as cheaper (29% vs. 21% of 'high-spenders')
- Fly with low-cost airlines (23% vs. 16% of 'high-spenders')



No. of respondents: 4,165

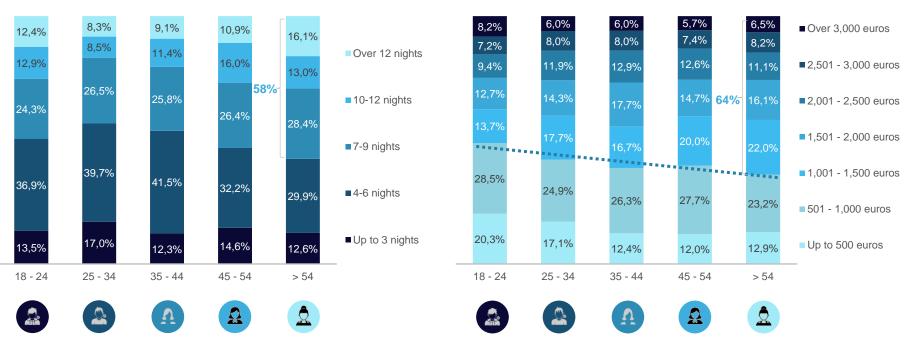
²¹ Q17. What would be the length of your next overnight trip?

The older the travellers are, the higher their budgets and lengths of stay at the destination: Gen X (aged 45-54) and Baby Boomers (aged >54) plan to spend the most and stay longer

Intended length of stay (nights)

Envisaged budget

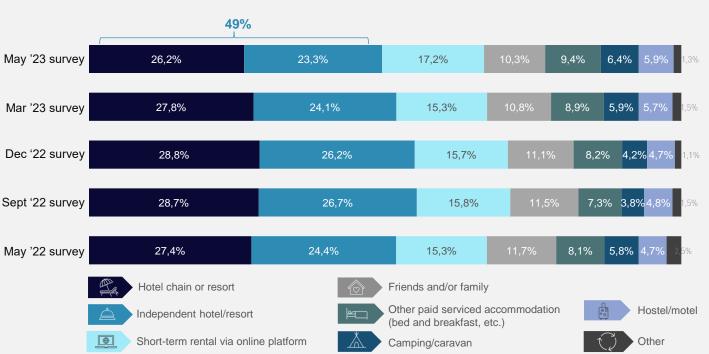
The budget is per person per trip, including accommodation, transportation and travel activities



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

An increasing number of Europeans opt for stays in short-term rentals (17%), while preference for hotels drops below the 50% threshold

Preferred type of accommodation for respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months





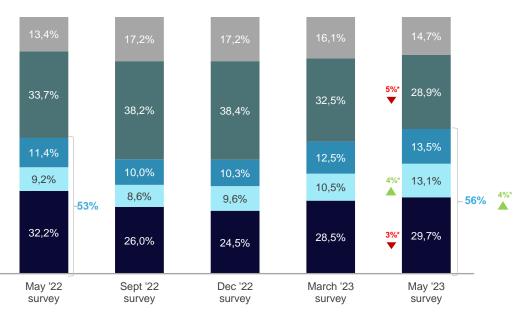
31% of Europeans booking short-term rentals will opt for less expensive restaurants and self-catering options, compared to 25% of travellers who prefer hotels

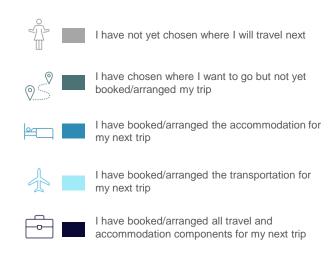
²³ Q14. Which of the following types of accommodation would you most consider staying at during your next trip within Europe?

*No statistically significant difference vs a year ago (May 2022)

European travellers are becoming more proactive in relation to their trip bookings: 56% have already partially or fully booked, up by 4% compared to 2022

Planning status for the next trip



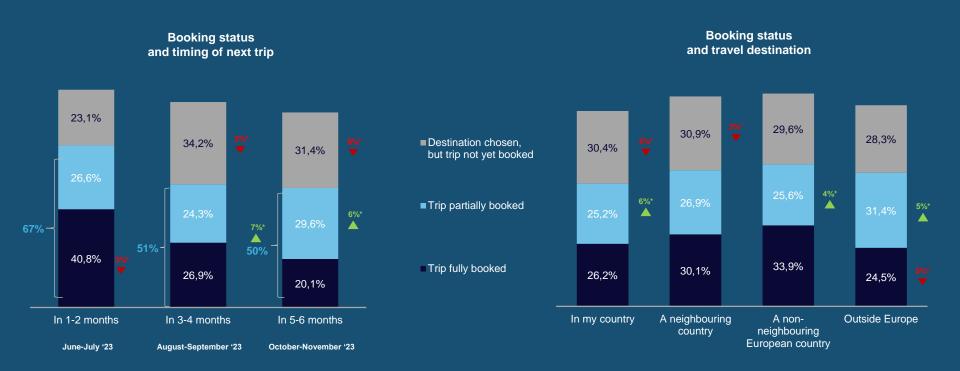


FINANCIAL CONCERNS IGNITE CONTRADICTING BEHAVIOUR

Europeans who have chosen their destination but not yet booked and those who have fully booked their next trip, have demonstrated a higher level of concern (47% for both) regarding rising costs of travel.

Travellers who have only booked their transportation or accommodation have shown lower levels of concern (31% and 35% respectively).

50% of Europeans planning off-season journeys in October-November have already fully or partially booked their trip. Holidays to non-neighbouring European countries have the highest share of early booking (60%).



May '23 survey

Europeans' top criteria for choosing a travel destination remain stable: pleasant weather, attractive deals and welcoming locals



For approximately one-third (31%) of Europeans gearing up for Nature & Outdoors trips in the coming months, the primary factor influencing their destination choice is the crowd level at the location.

TRAVEL CONCERNS

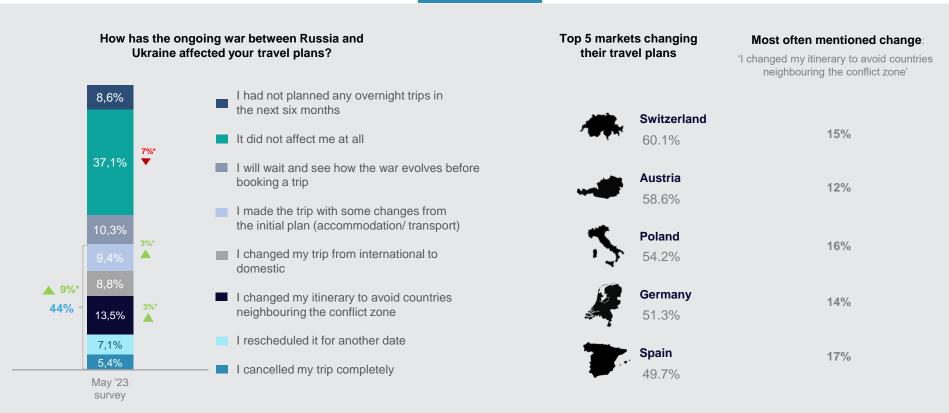


WHAT DO EUROPEAN TRAVELLERS WORRY ABOUT?

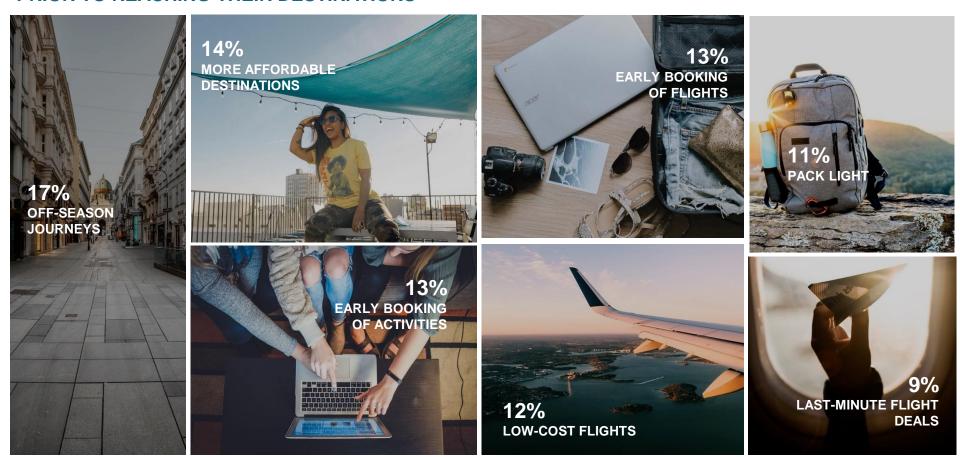
Increased travel costs (+6%) and the economic situation (+4%) strengthen their position as Europeans' key concerns, while worries regarding the war in Ukraine slightly drop (-3%)



Despite the overall decrease in concerns regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the impact of the war on Europeans' travel-related decisions increased by +9% compared to a year ago



AMID RISING COSTS, EUROPEANS ADAPT TRAVEL PREFERENCES AND BOOKING BEHAVIOR PRIOR TO REACHING THEIR DESTINATIONS



THE IN-DESTINATION BEHAVIOR IS ALTERED TOO

15%

LESS EXPENSIVE

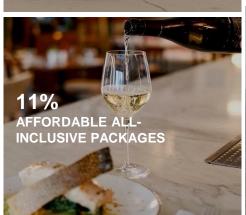
RESTAURANTS/SELF-CATERING

TO FIT WITHIN THE AVAILABLE BUDGET







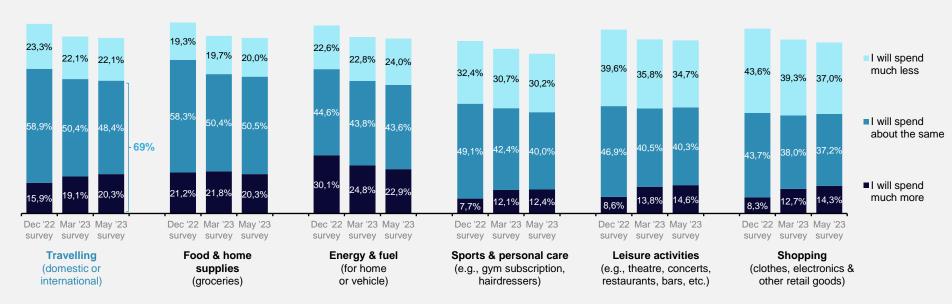






The travel budget of Europeans stays firm: 69% plan to spend the same or much more than usual on travelling

Anticipated changes in spending, in the coming six months





The share of travellers planning to spend more-than-usual <u>decreases</u> with age, from 26% among Europeans aged 18-24 to 18% among Europeans over the age of 54





METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

THE SURVEY

- The report is the result of online market research of Europeans who took at least two overnight trips during the last three years (2020-2022)
- Distribution/data collection period:
 - 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 / Wave 16: 8 May-4 June 2023*; sample = 6,002
 - 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 (8 questions), and travel intentions, preferences
 and trip planning (13 questions)
- 47% of the Wave 16 survey respondents are male and 53% 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	91	96	92	56	89	87	82	795
	25 - 34	136	112	73	99	128	152	106	101	114	149	1,170
	35 - 44	126	134	103	92	140	150	120	97	124	114	1,200
	45 - 54	138	168	105	104	146	168	92	113	94	87	1,215
	≥55	262	266	175	114	240	188	126	102	81	68	1,622
Total		750	750	500	500	750	750	500	502	500	500	6,002

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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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