

## MONITORING SENTIMENT FOR INTRA-EUROPEAN TRAVEL

Travel horizon: May 2024 – October 2024 | Wave 18th





#### **WAVE 18 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

#### TRAVEL INTENTIONS

This report monitors sentiment and short-term plans for domestic and intra-European travel and is the 18<sup>th</sup> wave of a market research project<sup>1</sup> which began in September 2020. The findings are drawn from data collected in April 2024 from individuals across 10 key European markets.

- 75% of Europeans plan to travel between May and October 2024, representing an increase of 3% compared to last year. Europeans over the age of 55 share the strongest travel sentiment (81%).
- Most Europeans plan to take at least one trip within the region (60%), and July and August are the most popular months (44%).
- As summer approaches, Europeans are increasingly drawn to Sun & Beach holidays (20%) and City Break trips (16%). Their most desired travel experiences include enjoying scenic beauties (19%), savouring local cuisine (17%), engaging with local cultures (15%), and admiring famous landmarks (15%).
- With the upcoming summer season, the desire for leisure travel rises to 74% (a 5% increase over summer 2023), while interest in business travel remains low at 6%.

#### WAVE 18 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

#### TRIP PLANNING

- 57% of Europeans plan multiple trips in the coming six months. Solo travellers (61%) and those travelling with their friends (58%) are the most likely to take two trips or more.
- Over half of travellers (52%) have already fully or partially booked their next trip. A significant 35% have chosen their destination but have not made any arrangements yet.
- 55% are choosing to fly to their next destination, marking a 5% increase compared to the same period last year. This figure represents the highest level since 2020. Meanwhile, the eco-friendlier options, like train or bus, are preferred by 13% of respondents.
- In terms of accommodation, hotels, being part of a chain or independent, remain the top choice for 56% of Europeans. Short-term rentals follow and maintain another significant market share (17%).
- In a turbulent world, safety (16%) is the foremost criterion for Europeans when selecting a travel destination, followed by pleasant weather (13%). Attractive deals (11%) and cost of living at the destination (8%) are also significant factors for European travellers to consider.
- The key digital tools for trip planning are search engines (23%), travel websites (21%) and online maps (16%). Despite the hype, the share of Europeans using generative AI tools and AI-based apps for trip planning is currently only 4%.

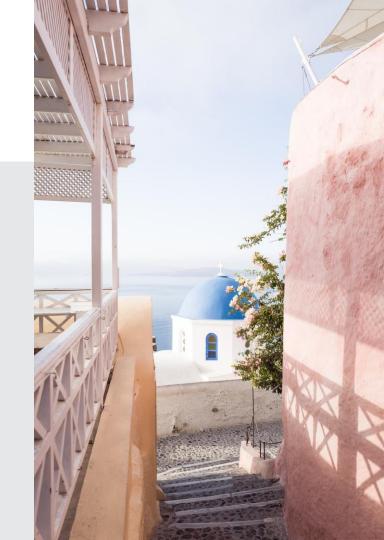
# WAVE 18 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- High inflation (22%) and personal financial situations (17%) continue to be the primary concerns for Europeans. Worries about the conflicts in Ukraine (12%) and the Middle East (10%) follow.
- To manage increasing travel costs, Europeans are adopting several strategies, including opting for off-season trips (17%), selecting more budget-friendly destinations (13%), and booking trips well in advance (12%). Additionally, while at their destination, travellers are cutting back on shopping (19%), choosing more affordable accommodation options (15%), and dining at less expensive restaurants (15%).
- 74% of Europeans adapt their travel behaviour to the climate crisis, mainly by avoiding extreme temperatures (17%), seeking destinations with more stable weather conditions (15%), and monitoring weather forecasts (15%) before finalising plans.



# WAVE 18 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESTINATIONS

- Europeans aged over 55 are the keenest to travel during this spring and summer. Destinations aiming to attract this group should promote Culture & Heritage (35%), Coast & Sea (30%), and Nature & Outdoors (29%) trips, which they recognise as most attractive.
- Safety is a top priority for Europeans. Destinations with a strong reputation for safety (as evidenced by other visitors) or proactive measures should emphasise this in their messaging. Safety is particularly important for a third of travellers over the age of 55.



# WAVE 18 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESTINATIONS

- Compared to other travellers, Sun & Beach travellers cite more often worries about high trip costs (52%) and personal finances (37%). This is a prime opportunity for affordable accommodation providers, travel agencies, and budget-conscious destinations to promote their value-for-money proposition, offering travellers the opportunity to enjoy the summer sun without breaking the bank.
- Nearly half (48%) of Europeans have not yet booked their next trip. People over the age of 55 and those looking for city breaks are among the least decisive, with 61% and 57%, respectively, yet to book. Destinations and businesses seeking to attract more travellers and maximise revenue should focus their marketing efforts on these two groups.
- With financial worries persisting, Europeans are trying to limit costs at the destination. Restaurants
  and cafes can offer and promote fixed-price set menus or even pre-packed picnic baskets for
  travellers who prefer self-catering.

6

## **CONTENTS**

02. 01. 03. 04. TRAVEL **PLANNING TRAVEL METHODOLOGICAL PLANS** THE DETAILS **CONCERNS ANNEX** P. 9 P. 28 P. 40 P. 46

# Reading the data

## Wave 18

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

	<u>Wave 14</u>	<u>Wave 15</u>	<u>Wave 16</u>	<u>Wave 17</u>	<u>Wave 18</u>
Survey dates	15-29 Dec '22	1-7 March '23	8 May-4 June '23*	11-26 Sept '23	2-17 April '24

2. To present Wave 18 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: May-June 2024

In 3-4 months: July-August 2024

In 5-6 months: September-October 2024

- 3. To present data and insights, the following distinct groups have been analysed:
  - Total respondents: 5,859
  - Respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months: 4,419
  - Respondents planning to travel internationally within Europe (not necessarily in the next 6 months): 4,583
- 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 for Wave 18 was conducted prior to Iran's attack on Israel on April 13th, 2024



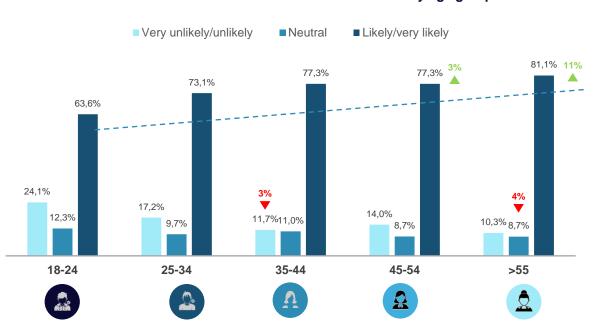
#### European travel intentions surge: a 3% increase in planned trips between May and October 2024

## Top 5 markets most likely to travel in the next six months Italy 81.6% UK Spain **Netherlands** 76.2% **Poland** 79.4%



## Travel sentiment for this spring and summer is higher among those aged 35+. 4 out of 5 Europeans over the age of 55 plan to travel (+11%)

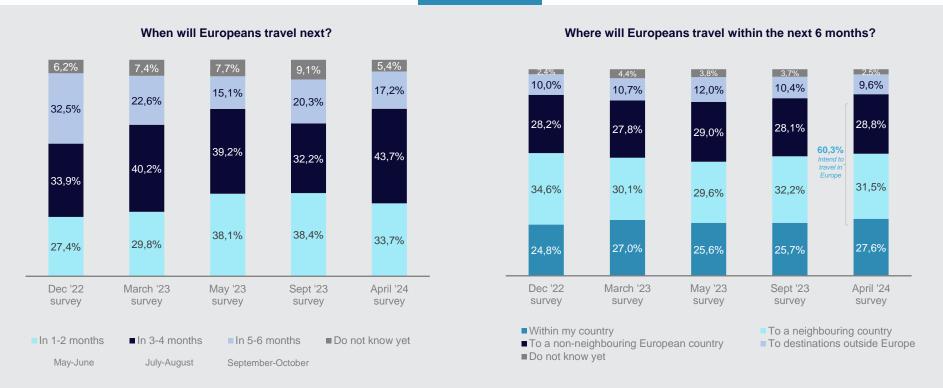
#### Intention to travel in the next six months by age group



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



## 60% of Europeans are planning to travel within Europe. July and August are the preferred travel months for a large share (44%) of them



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 THE NEXT INTRA – EUROPEAN TRIP

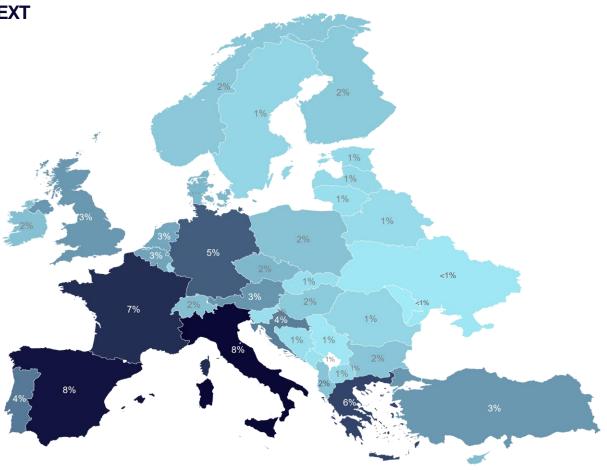
April '24 survey

#### **TOP 10 COUNTRIES**

	-
Italy	8,4%
Spain	8,1% 30%
France	7,1%
Greece	6,3%
Germany	5,4%
Portugal	4,4%
Croatia	4,2%
Austria	3,4%
United Kingdom	3,3%
Türkiye	3,0%

<sup>\*</sup> Please use this map as a reference only

No. of respondents: 4,583

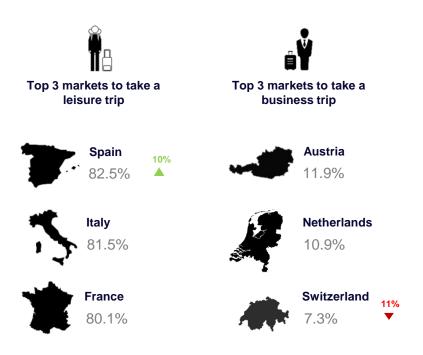


Spain attracts the highest number of repeat visitors, followed by Greece, Italy and France. Greece, Portugal and Croatia will host more new visitors than other destinations this spring and summer.

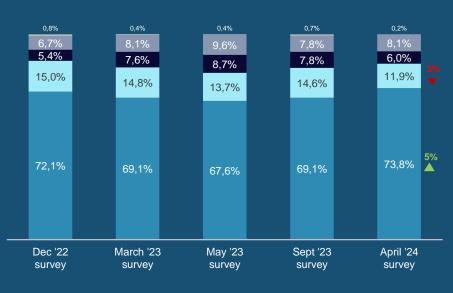
#### Destination focus: past and future visitors per destination (top-10 destinations)



#### Most Europeans plan leisure trips over the next months, while sentiment for business trips remains sluggish



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



- For leisure
- For business
- Other

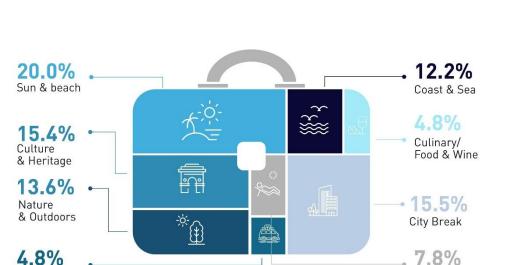
- To visit friends/relatives
- For an event (sports, festival, etc.)

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

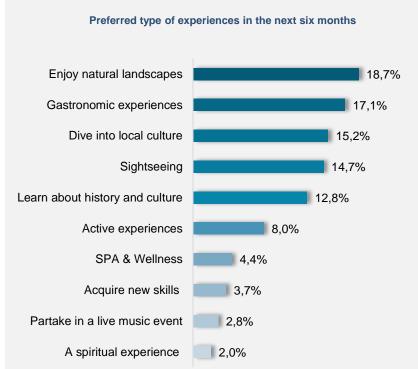
As summer draws near, Europeans' desire for Sun & Beach trips prevails. City Breaks and Cultural trips follow. Travellers look forward to enjoying the nature, gastronomy and culture of European destinations

Wellness

& Relaxation



Preferred type of leisure trip in the next six months



Touring /

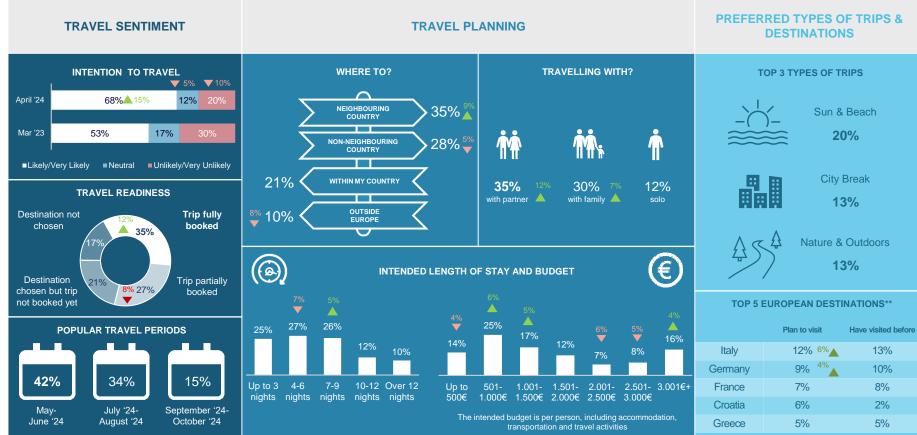
Road trip

#### POPULAR TYPE OF TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES

	$\sim$	Beach	City Break		Culture & Heritage		Nature & Outdoors	
AGE GROUPS MOST INTERESTED IN THIS TYPE OF TRIP	<b>27%</b> >55	<b>20%</b> 45-54	<b>26%</b> >55	<b>25%</b> 25-34	<b>37%</b> >55	<b>23%</b> 45-54	<b>30%</b> >55	<b>21%</b> 35-44
MOST COMMON LENGTH OF STAY & BUDGET	<b>33%</b> 7-9 nights <b>25%</b> 4-6 nights	27% 500-1000 € 24% 1001-1500 €	<b>49%</b> 4-6 nights <b>30%</b> Up to 3 nights	<b>35%</b> 500-1000 € <b>21%</b> Up to 500 €	<b>45%</b> 4-6 nights <b>24%</b> 7-9 nights	26% 500-1000 € 24% 1001-1500 €	37% 4-6 nights 22% 7-9 nights	<b>32%</b> 500-1000 € <b>20%</b> 1001-1500 €
TOP 4 EXPERIENCES TO TRY			20% Sightseeing 18% Dive into local culture 17% Gastronomic experiences 15% Learn about history		<ul><li>22% Learn about history</li><li>18% Sightseeing</li><li>18% Dive into local culture</li><li>15% Gastronomic experiences</li></ul>		28% Enjoy natural landscapes 15% Gastronomic experiences 14% Dive into local culture 12% Active holiday experiences	

#### SNAPSHOT: AUSTRIAN TRAVEL PLANS





#### **SNAPSHOT: BELGIAN TRAVEL PLANS**

Travel horizon: May 2024-October 2024



#### **PREFERRED TYPES OF TRIPS &** TRAVEL SENTIMENT TRAVEL PLANNING **DESTINATIONS TRAVELLING WITH?** INTENTION TO TRAVEL WHERE TO? **TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS** <u></u> 3% ▼ 3% 12% April '24 70% NEIGHBOURING 34% Sun & Beach COUNTRY **10%** 21% Mar '23 69% 20% **NON-NEIGHBOURING** 27% -COUNTRY ■ Likely/Very Likely ■ Neutral ■ Unlikely/Very Unlikely Nature & Outdoors 20% WITHIN MY COUNTRY 33% 30% 13% TRAVEL READINESS with family 18% with partner OUTSIDE 14% Trip fully Destination not **EUROPE** booked chosen J Coast & Sea € 12% INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND BUDGET 28% Destination Trip partially 29% chosen but trip booked not booked yet **TOP 5 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS\*\*** 27% 23% **POPULAR TRAVEL PERIODS** Plan to visit Have visited before 17% 12% 7% France 16% 6% Spain 9% 4% 26% 40% 22% 10-12 Over 12 Up to 3 4-6 1.001- 1.501- 2.001- 2.501- 3.001€+ Italy 8% 4% Up to nights nights nights nights 1.000€ 1.500€ 2.000€ 2.500€ 3.000€ 4% Netherlands 6% May-July '24-September '24-The intended budget is per person, including accommodation,

August '24

October '24

June '24

transportation and travel activities

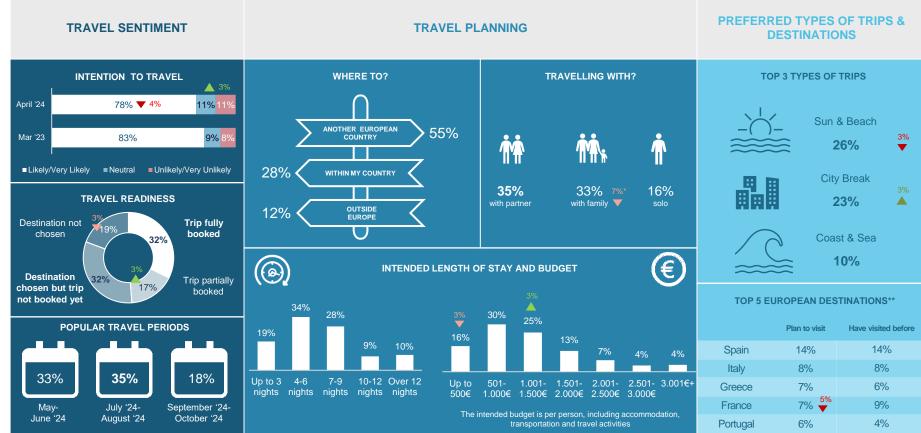
5%

Germany

4%

#### **SNAPSHOT: BRITISH TRAVEL PLANS**





#### SNAPSHOT: DUTCH TRAVEL PLANS

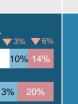
Travel horizon: May 2024-October 2024



#### TRAVEL SENTIMENT

INTENTION TO TRAVEL

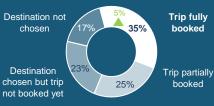
76% 4 9%



13%



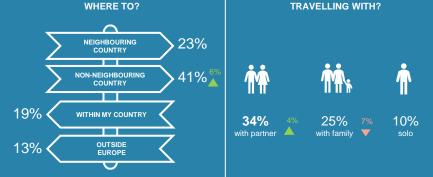
67%



#### **POPULAR TRAVEL PERIODS**



#### TRAVEL PLANNING



#### INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND BUDGET



#### 26% 15% 7% 1.001- 1.501- 2.001- 2.501- 3.001€ Up to 500€ 1.000€ 1.500€ 2.000€ 2.500€ 3.000€

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

#### **PREFERRED TYPES OF TRIPS & DESTINATIONS**

#### **TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS**



Sun & Beach

20%



Nature & Outdoors

19%



€

City Break

17%

#### **TOP 5 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS\*\***

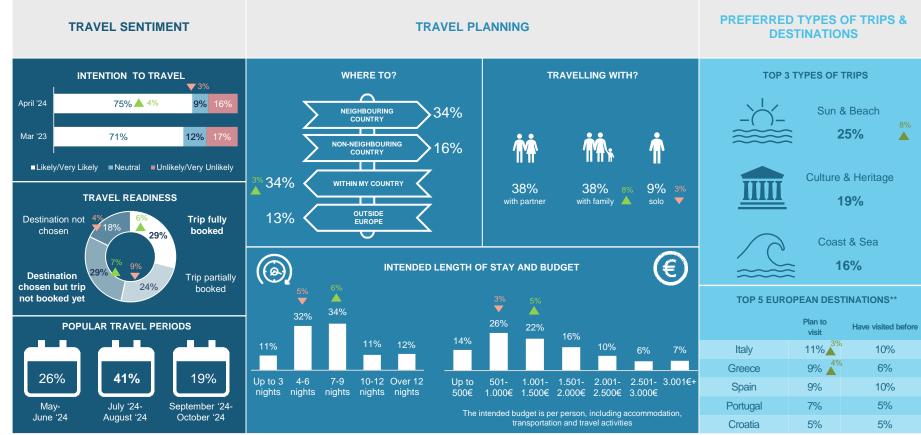
		Plan to visit	Have visited before
	Spain	10%	5%
-	Germany	10%	7%
+	France	7%	4%
	Belgium	6%	5%
	Italy	6%	4%

April '24

Mar '23

#### SNAPSHOT: FRENCH TRAVEL PLANS

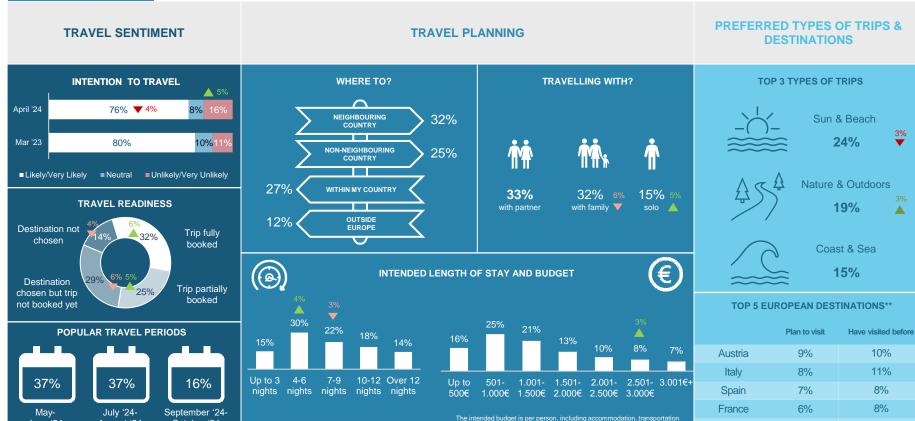




#### **SNAPSHOT: GERMAN TRAVEL PLANS**

Travel horizon: May 2024-October 2024





June '24

August '24

October '24

5%

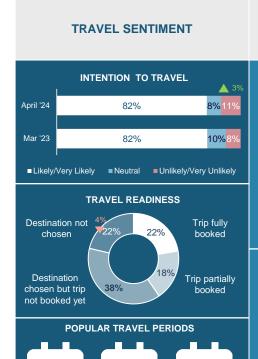
5%

Greece

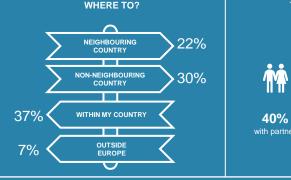
#### **SNAPSHOT: ITALIAN TRAVEL PLANS**

Travel horizon: May 2024-October 2024

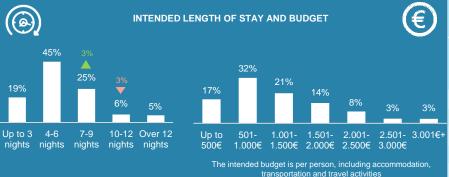




#### TRAVEL PLANNING







### PREFERRED TYPES OF TRIPS & DESTINATIONS





Culture & Heritage

 $\mathbf{A}$ 





Sun & Beach

17%

## Coas

Coast & Sea

13%

#### TOP 5 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS\*\*

		Plan to visit	Have visited before
	Spain	13%	9%
	France	9% 3%	12%
+	Greece	7%	7%
	UK	5%	6%
	Germany	5%	6%

26%

May-

June '24

47%

July '24-

August '24

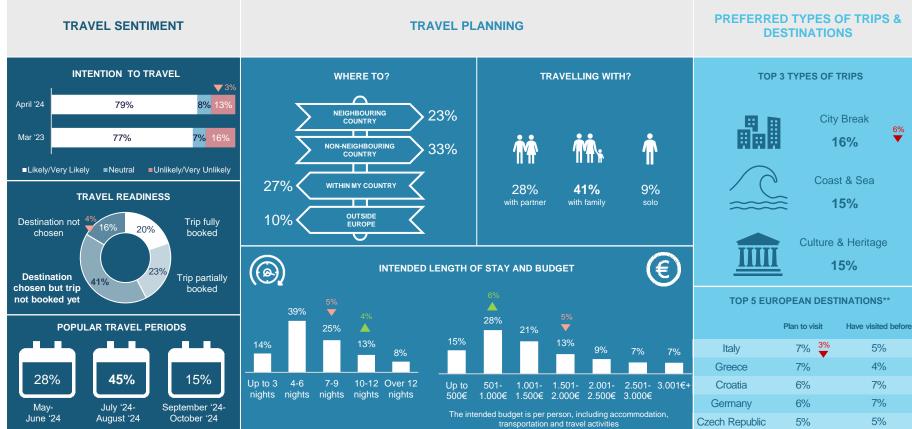
18%

September '24-

October '24

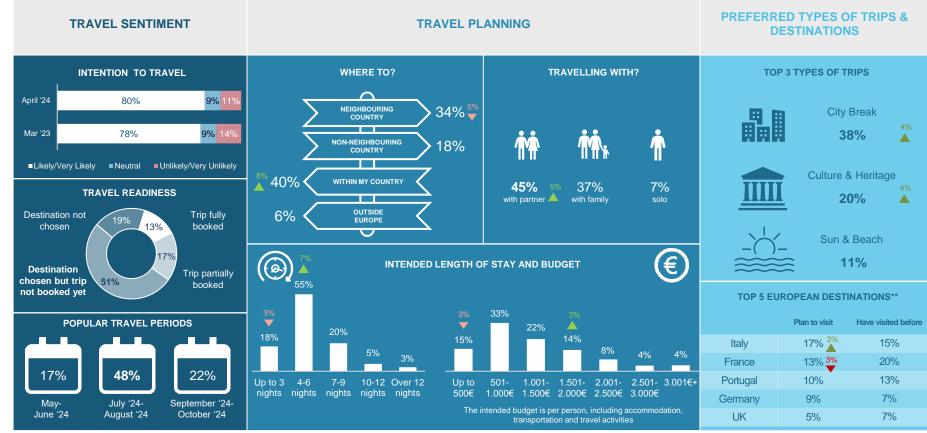
#### **SNAPSHOT: POLISH TRAVEL PLANS**





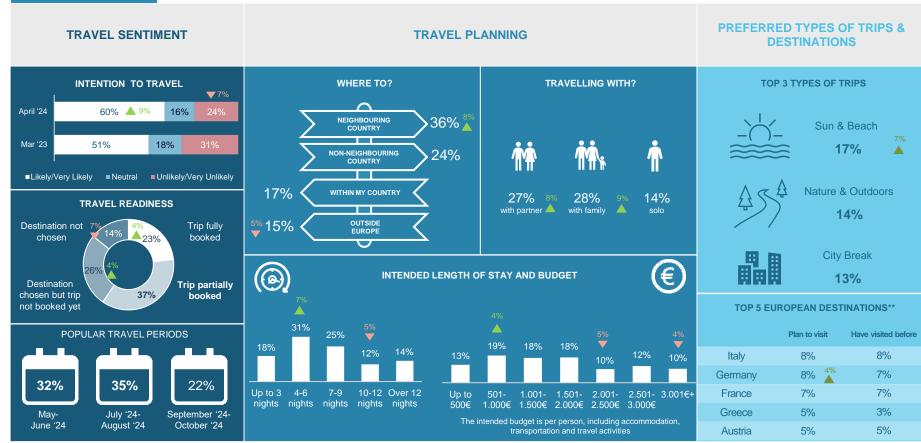
#### SNAPSHOT: SPANISH TRAVEL PLANS





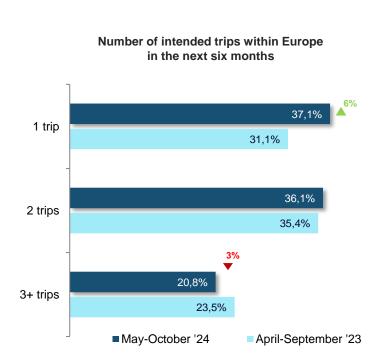
#### SNAPSHOT: SWISS TRAVEL PLANS

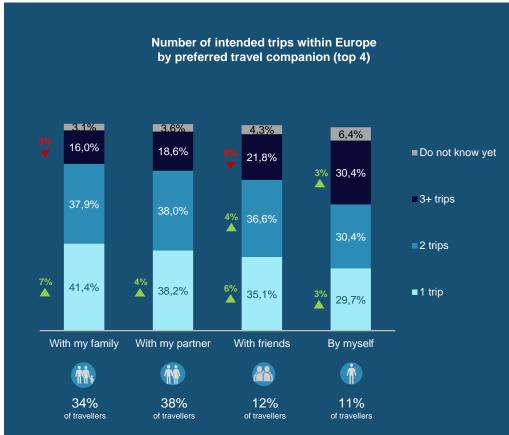






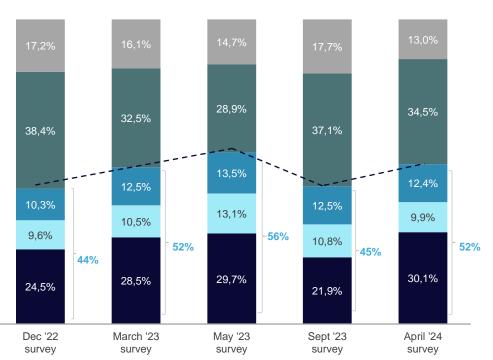
#### 57% of Europeans plan to travel multiple times between May and October. Solo travellers and those travelling with their friends are the most likely to take numerous trips

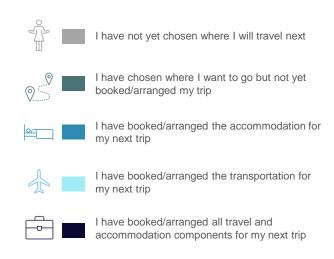




#### As the peak travel season approaches, more Europeans make advanced bookings for their trip(s)

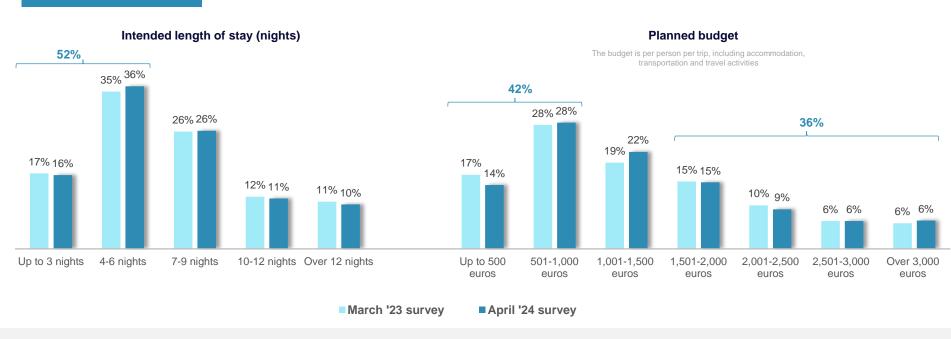
#### Planning status for the next trip





Younger travellers are more likely to book in advance: The share of early booking varies from 56% among Europeans aged 18-24 to 44% among Europeans aged over 55.

## 52% of Europeans are planning trips lasting up to 6 nights, with a budget of 500-1,000 euros, which remains consistent with the figures from a year ago





Although Sun & Beach travellers intend to stay longer, the planned budget is similar to other types of trips:

33% of travellers planning a Sun & Beach trip are likely to stay for 7-9 nights at the destination (vs. 26% of all travellers). Yet, the share of beach holidaymakers with a budget of 500-1,000 euros is 28% - similar to all other travellers.

#### **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	38%	13%	7%
501 - 1,000 euros	32%	37%	23%
1,001 - 1,500 euros	9%	24%	27%
1,501 - 2,000 euros	7%	13%	18%
2,001 - 2,500 euros	5%	7%	10%

#### Looking for high-value travellers?

Europeans spending over 1,500 euros on their next trip are most likely to opt for yachting and sailing (60%), embark on a cruise (51%), or take a culinary trip (50%).



No. of respondents: 4,419

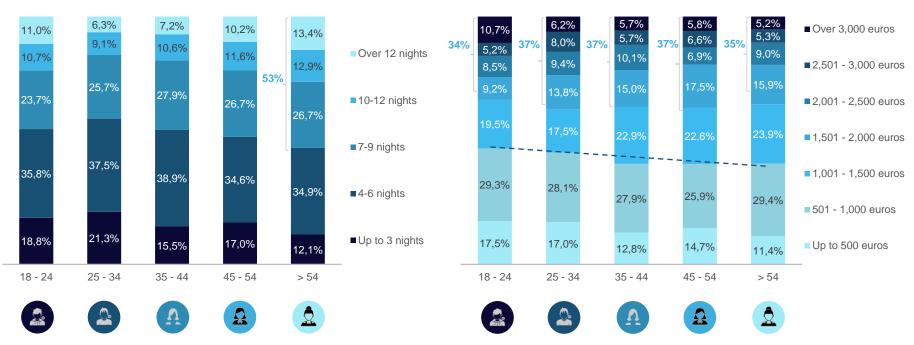
Q18. What would be the length of your next overnight trip?

## Mature Europeans, over the age of 55, are the most likely to take longer trips and spend over 1,000 euros

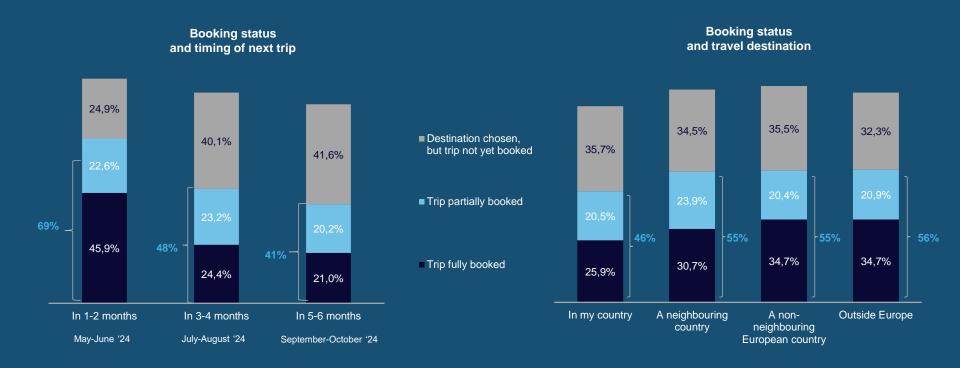
#### Intended length of stay (nights)

#### **Envisaged budget**

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



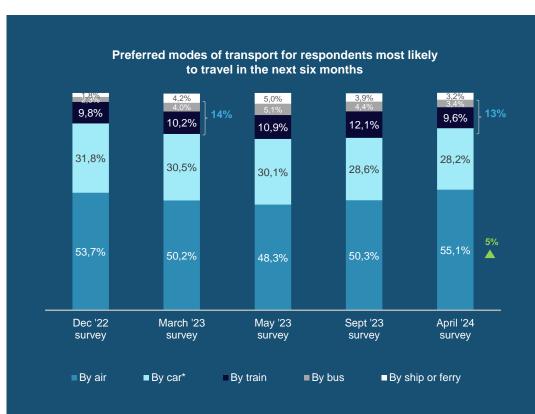
48% of Europeans have already booked their trip for the coming summer. Travellers heading for domestic trips are the least likely to pre-book.



April '24 survey

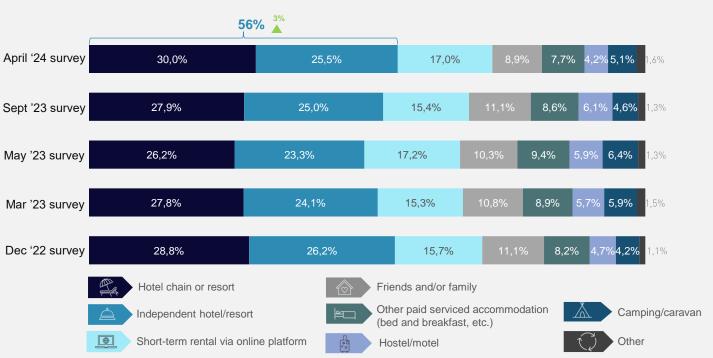
Europeans' intentions to fly hit 2020 highs - more than 1 in 2 people consider taking a plane to reach their next destination. Travelling by car remains the second most popular option for travelling within the region.





## Hotels are the preferred accommodation for 56% of Europeans during the upcoming travel season, followed by short-term rentals (17%)

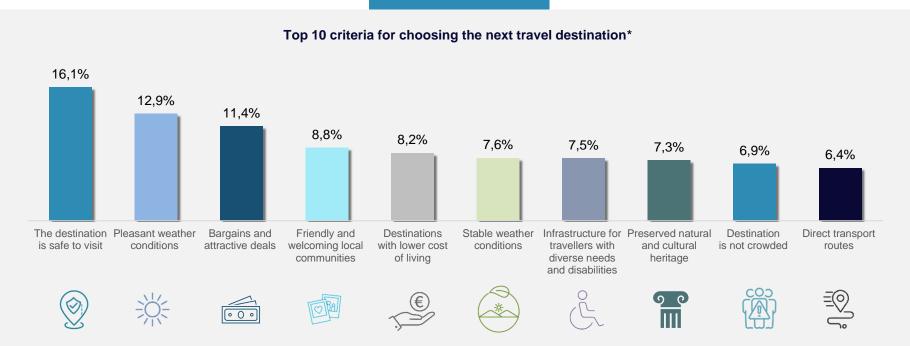
#### Preferred type of accommodation for respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months



Europeans aged 18-34 are more likely to stay in short-term rentals (21% vs. 15% among older age groups); travellers aged over 35 are more likely to opt for a hotel (56% vs. 46% among younger age groups).

36

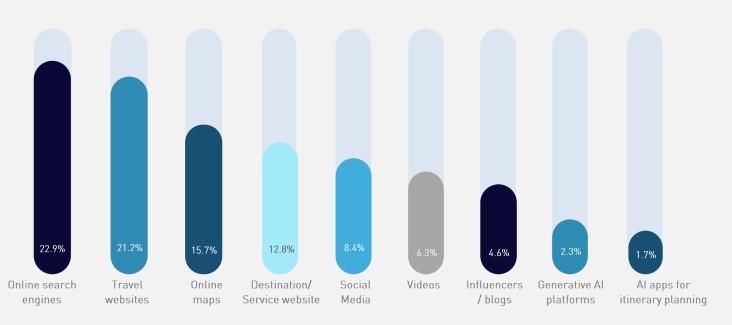
## Amidst geopolitical tensions, destination' safety is a prime consideration among 16% of European travellers. Another 13% prioritise the weather conditions.



**Safety is more important for mature travellers:** 31% of travellers who prioritise the destination's safety are over the age of 55, vs. only 12% among travellers aged 18-24.

European travellers mainly rely on search engines and travel websites for their trip planning. Al tools have a limited reach yet, and only 4% use them.

### Preferred digital tools for planning next trip



### Preferences by generation

Travellers aged 18-34 favour audiovisual, personalised content, on SoMe, YouTube videos or by travel bloggers (29% vs 12% of travellers aged 55+). Mature travellers use search engines and websites more (78%, vs. 64% of 18-24).

### **EUROPEANS' TRIP PLANNING PATTERNS, ACCORDING TO INCOME**

Travel horizon: May 2024-October 2024

	Low	€€ Mid	€€€ High
TRAVEL INTENTIONS	<b>72%</b> intend to travel	<b>76%</b> intend to travel	<b>82%</b> intend to travel
NUMBER OF TRIPS	37% 1 trip	34% 1 trip	27% 1 trip
	47% 2+ trips	55% 2+ trips	65% 2+ trips
PREFERRED TYPE	19% Sun & Beach 15% Culture & Heritage	21% Sun & Beach	18% Sun & Beach
OF HOLYDAY		15% City Break	14% Culture & Heritage
LENGTH OF STAY AT THE	18% up to 3 nights 82% 4+ nights	16% up to 3 nights	19% up to 3 nights
DESTINATION		88% 4+ nights	82% 4+ nights
AVAILABLE BUDGET (per person)	50% up to 1.000 € 50% 1.000+ €	<b>39%</b> up to 1.000 € <b>60%</b> 1.000+ €	<b>28%</b> up to 1.000 € <b>72%</b> 1.000+ €

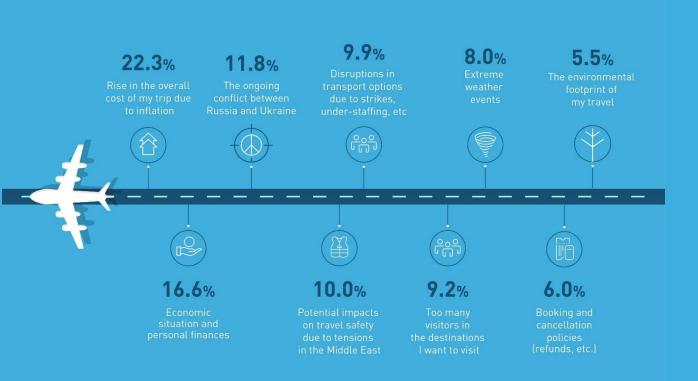
Analysis of is based on the sample's sociodemographic data; actual amounts cannot be provided, since household incomes are different in each market Low: 2,322, Mid: 2,102, High: 1,089

9



### WHAT DO EUROPEAN TRAVELLERS WORRY ABOUT?

Inflation and personal finances are once again the leading concerns for 39% of Europeans, while growing geopolitical conflicts worry another 22% of them





# More than half of Europeans are continuing with their travel plans, despite the ongoing war in Ukraine.



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

### EUROPEANS ARE ADAPTING TRAVEL PREFERENCES PRIOR TO REACHING THEIR DESTINATIONS

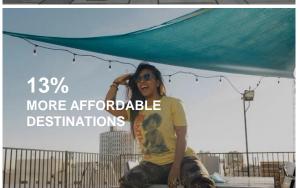
Off-season trips, affordable destinations, and early bookings are the most common coping strategies

















### THE IN-DESTINATION BEHAVIOUR IS CHANGING TOO, TO FIT WITH TIGHTER BUDGETS

Less shopping, affordable accommodation, and meals top Europeans' cost-cutting options



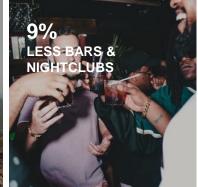












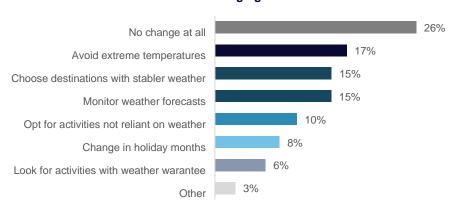


# Europeans adjusting travel habits according to changing climate

When questioned about adjusting their travel behaviours due to the changing climate, a quarter of surveyed Europeans indicated they maintain their current habits, while another large proportion have begun adopting some new practices. 17% of respondents shared that they avoid destinations where temperatures can soar to extremes. 47% seek some form of weather reassurance by opting for stable weather destinations, monitoring weather forecasts, or choosing weather-independent activities. Additionally, a smaller percentage shifts their travel timing, while very few prioritise travel services that offer weather guarantees.

Important: Future research waves will provide a better understanding of how these trends evolve.

#### Effect of the changing climate on travel habits



NEW QUESTION. Q24. How has the changing climate (heavy rains, heatwaves, wildfires, lack of snow, etc.) have been influencing your travel habits?

No. of respondents: 5,859



## 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 (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
  - 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)
- 45% of the Wave 18 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	Total
Age	18 - 24	88	70	44	130	96	92	56	89	68	136	869
	25 - 34	136	112	73	142	128	152	106	121	85	173	1,228
	35 - 44	126	134	103	77	140	150	120	73	76	64	1,063
	45 - 54	138	168	105	82	146	168	92	99	70	61	1,129
	≥55	262	266	175	69	240	188	126	118	60	66	1,570
Total		750	750	500	500	750	750	500	500	359	500	5,859

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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

needs.

Please note that while every possible effort has been made to ensure the data in this report is

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