

MONITORING SENTIMENT FOR DOMESTIC AND INTRA-EUROPEAN TRAVEL



WAVE 11 RESEARCH OUTLINE

This report monitors sentiment and short-term intentions for domestic and intra-regional travel within Europe. Results in this report are based on data collected in early March, during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of the war in Ukraine*. However, this does not seem to have significantly affected Europeans' travel sentiment and behaviour. More specifically:

- The survey results are optimistic and reflect a solid desire to travel. A slight increase in Europeans' concern over the economic situation and their personal finances is not statistically significant compared to previous survey periods.
- Europeans' most preferred destinations continue to be Western and Southern European countries, especially for spring & summer vacations. Travel preference to Eastern European countries remains similar to a year ago (February 2021).
- Analysis of trip timings and destinations does not reveal any significant differences compared to previous periods.

NOTE: Polish respondents (n=501) express above-European-average travel intentions (82% vs 77%) in Wave 11. Their interest in travelling during the summer months is similar to other markets, and their slightly higher interest in domestic travel (34% vs 31%) is parallel to Wave 10 (December 2021).

WAVE 11 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Europeans' travel sentiment climbs to new heights, with 3 in 4 Europeans planning to travel by September 2022. Furthermore, leisure travel reaches its highest level (76%) since August 2020.
- Despite the drop in COVID-19 cases during the data collection, the importance of the EU Digital Covid Certificate (60%) and vaccine roll-out (59%) in enabling travel increases.
- In contrast, and for the first time since August 2020, COVID-19 vaccination is no longer the leading confidence booster for travelling, having been replaced by **flexible cancellation** policies and fully-lifted travel restrictions.
- As Europeans are learning to live with the pandemic and travel restrictions are being lifted, the share of those realising their travel plans without any change (27%) achieves an all-time-high.

WAVE 11 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- With summer holidays in mind, 70% of 'travel-ready' Europeans* will travel between June and September 2022; intra-European tourism is the preferred choice for 56% of them.
- Europeans' interest in Mediterranean destinations peaks, with Spain, Italy and France featuring as the most popular countries.
- Sun & Beach holidays (22%) are Europeans' top choice for the upcoming summer, followed by City Breaks (15%) and Coast & Sea trips (15%).
- As summer approaches, family travel (40%) is gaining popularity over travelling with one's partner (37%); 49% of Sun & Beach travellers will go on vacation with their families.
- Europeans' preferences for air travel increased by 7%, compared to the December 2021 survey, At the same time, the interest in train and bus travel (8%) has dropped to their lowest levels since August 2020, a prerequisite for increasing tourism-transportation generated CO² emissions for the first time since 2019.

WAVE 11

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Trips of 4-6 nights remain the top choice for 33% of Europeans who plan to travel, whereas 25% will opt for trips of 10 nights or longer.
- The share of travellers planning to spend 500-1,500 euros rises by 8%, while the share of those ready to spend over 2,000 euros drops by 8%, potentially due to inflation concerns.
- Just 25% of travel-ready Europeans have fully booked their next trip, indicating a limited level of travel commitment and some potential impact of the war in Ukraine.
- Despite the drop in COVID-19 cases during data collection, 2 in 3 travel-ready Europeans still feel safer and more relaxed with strict health & safety protocols (+8%).



WAVE 11 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESTINATIONS



- Destinations and companies using age-based segmentation should recognise the stronger travel intention of the over 45s market (82% vs. 72% in the 18-44 age group). This segment of travellers is particularly interested in domestic travel (36% vs. 26% in the 18-44 age group) and trips that revolve around culture & history and relaxing at the coast.
- Campaigns targeting different age groups are advised to highlight different holiday attributes: travellers aged 18-24 care most about creating lasting memories; the 25-44 age group focuses on escaping from routine; and Europeans over 45 years old put the highest importance on enjoying life in a relaxing environment.
- To mitigate the environmental impacts of travel during the peak summer season, destinations may focus
 on cooperation with rail companies and promote alternatives to air travel for domestic visitors and
 visitors from neighbouring countries.
- As the war in Ukraine continues, NTBs and DMOs will need to closely follow up its impacts on travel, e.g., prepare a crisis management plan, and target domestic travellers and foreign source markets that are less likely to be affected by the war.

WAVE 11

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUSINESSES



- Tourism destinations and businesses targeting families, should consider the higher interest of this segment in Sun & Beach vacations (49%) over the following months. Most family travellers are looking for 4–9-night vacations (62%) and have plans to spend between 500-1,500 euros (49%).
- 56% of Europeans have already chosen their next destination but have only partially booked their trips or not yet booked at all. By offering appealing deals and bargains and using re-marketing tools, businesses can trace back late bookers and assist them in the conversion process.
- The importance of flexible cancellations policies increased significantly compared to the previous survey. Given the uncertainty ignited by the war in Ukraine, businesses are advised to provide even more flexible cancellation policies, especially when promoting travel products for June-July.
- Strict health & safety protocols should remain of high importance, particularly for spas and wellness centres, cultural attractions and heritage sites.

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How to read

Wave 10

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

	Wave 8	Wave 9	<u>Wave 10</u>	<u>Wave 11</u>
Surveys dates	13-23 July 2021	10-18 Sep '21	23-31 Dec '21	1-9 March '22

To present Wave 11 '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 2022

• In 3-4 months; June-July 2022

• In 5-6 months; August-September 2022

- 3. To present data and insights, the following distinct groups have been analysed:
 - Total respondents; 5,998
 - Respondents with short-term travel plans/most likely to travel in the next 6 months ('early-bird' travellers/ 'travel-ready' Europeans); 4,606
 - Respondents selecting outbound European destinations; 4,401
- 4. Significant changes between current and previous waves are calculated on a 5% significance level. Statistically significant differences are marked using the following symbols:
 - Increasing ▲, decreasing ▼
 - Numbers next to the arrows reflect the actual <u>change in the share of respondents</u> selecting a specific response between current and previous waves
- All data and insights refer to domestic and intra-European travel, unless otherwise stated.



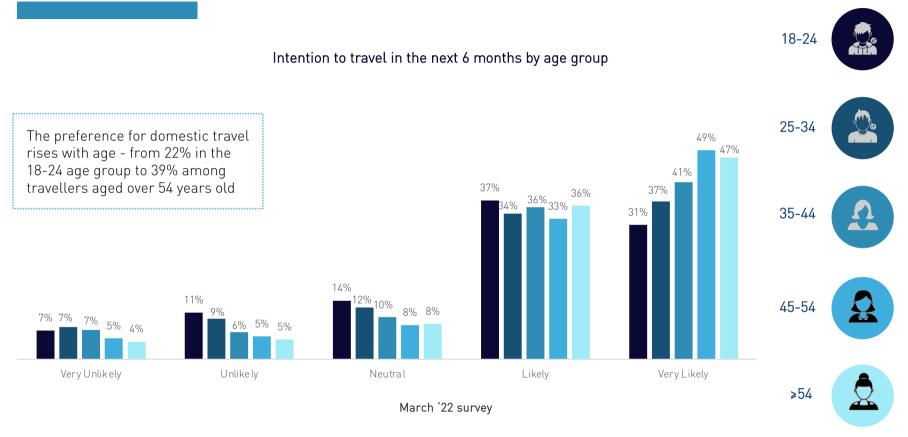
Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, Europeans' travel sentiment climbs to new heights: over 3 in 4 Europeans plan to travel by September 2022 (+16%)



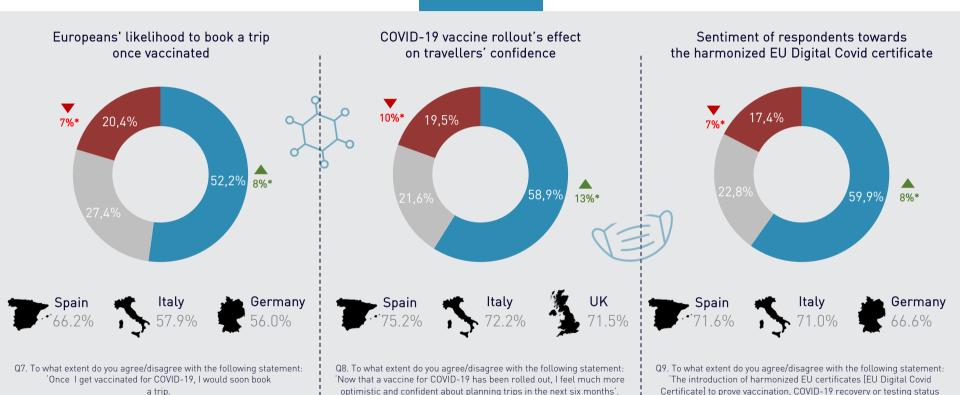


previous survey period

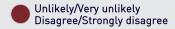
Travel intentions increase with age, rising from 69% among Gen Z (18-24) to 83% among Baby Boomers (over 54)



The importance of getting vaccinated (+8%), vaccine roll-outs (+13%) and a harmonised EU Digital Covid Certificate (+8%) have increased, despite the drop in Covid-19 cases during the data collection period

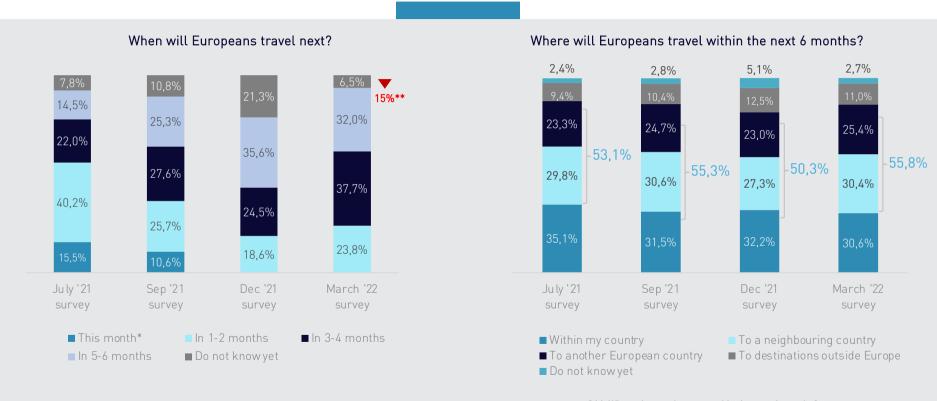






will facilitate travel/planning my next trip'.

70% of Europeans choose to travel between June and September 2022, with intra-regional travel as the leading choice (56%). Uncertainty regarding the trip's timing drops to its lowest point (6.5%)



Q13. When are you most likely to go on your next trip either in your country or within Europe?

Q14. Where do you plan to travel in the next 6 months?

PREFERRED COUNTRIES FOR EUROPEANS' NEXT INTERNATIONAL TRIP



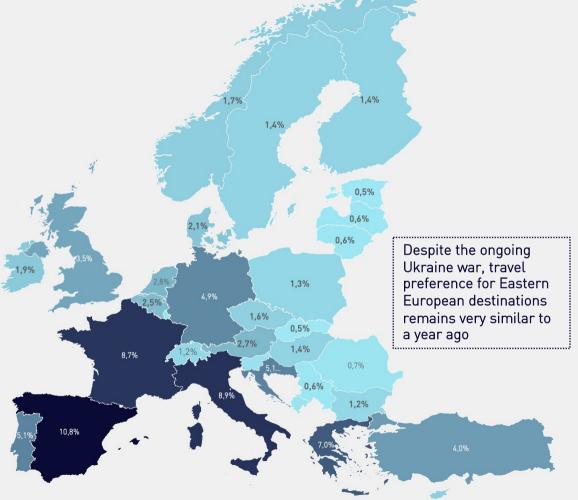
With the approaching summer period, Europeans' interest in Mediterranean destinations peaks

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

Spain	10.8% 🔺 4%*
Italy	8.9% 🔺 3%*
France	8.7%
Greece	7.0% 🔺 3%*
Portugal	5.1%
Croatia	5.1%
Germany	4.9%
Turkey	4.0%
UK	3.5%
Netherlands	2.8%

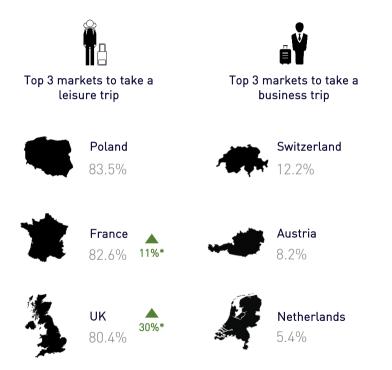
^{*}Please use this map as a reference only

No. of respondents: 4,401

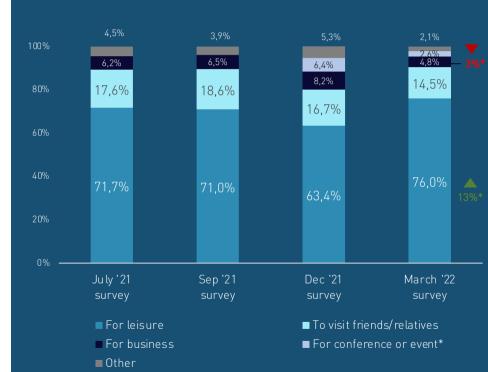


Q15. To which country(ies) do you plan to travel next?

Leisure travel reaches its highest level since August 2020 (+13%), while business travel shrinks



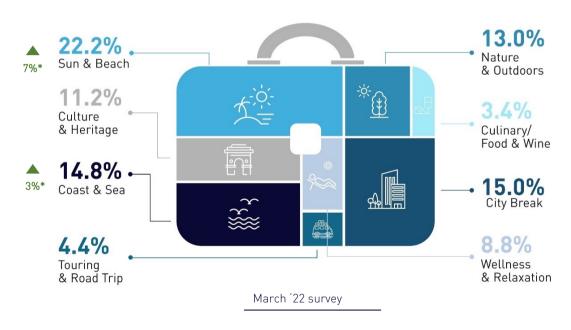
Purpose of travel for respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months



* Statistically significant difference vs previous survey period **Up to September '21. 'For conference or event' was included in 'Other'

Sun & Beach holidays (+7%) are Europeans' leading choice for the summer, followed by City Breaks and Coast & Sea trips (+3%)

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

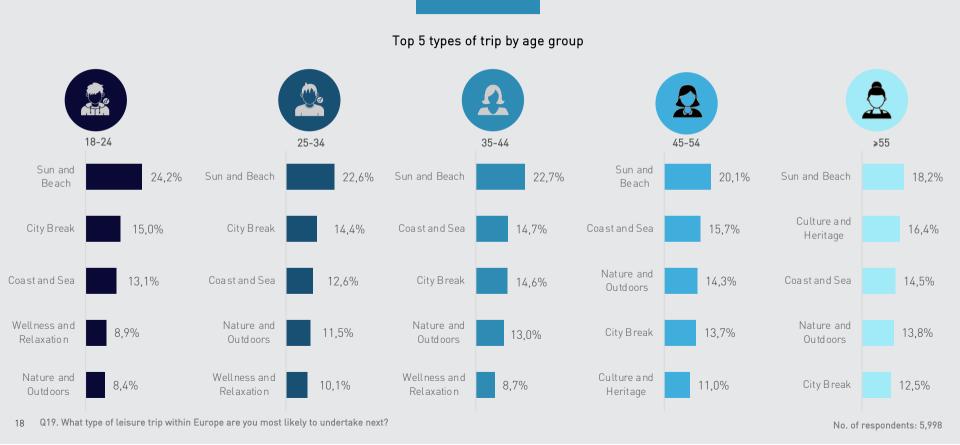


[&]quot;Coast & Sea" and "Sun & Beach" holidays are separated in this survey because some destinations like the Netherlands, Denmark, the Baltic countries, etc., offer coast & sea experiences and sports (e.g. sailing) but they are not necessarily associated with sun & beach vacations and experiences like Spain, Italy, Greece, etc..



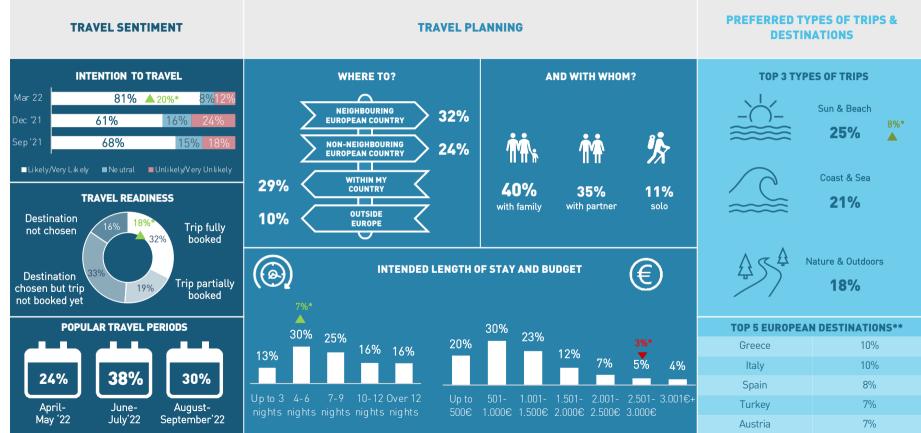
43% of Europeans travelling with their family will opt for Sun & Beach and Coast & Sea holidays

Travellers of all ages favour Sun & Beach holidays for the next months. These preferences are particularly strong among younger generations who are also intrigued by City Breaks, while mature travellers show more variety in their desired trip type



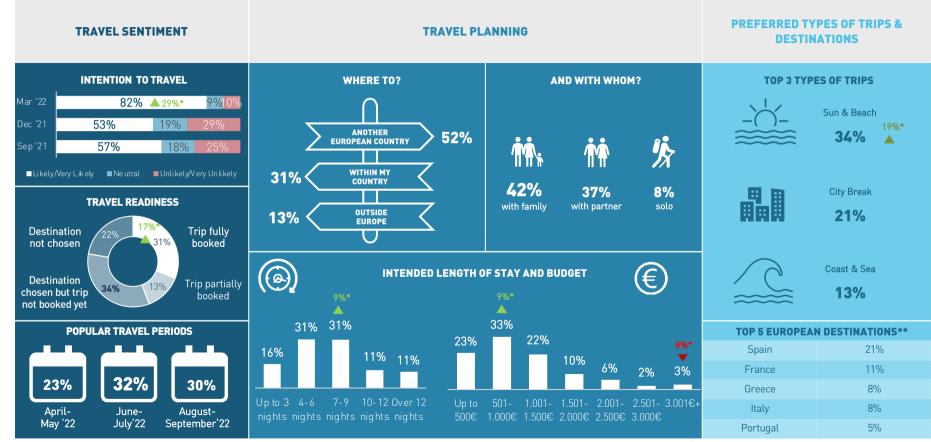
A SNAPSHOT OF GERMAN TRAVEL PLANS





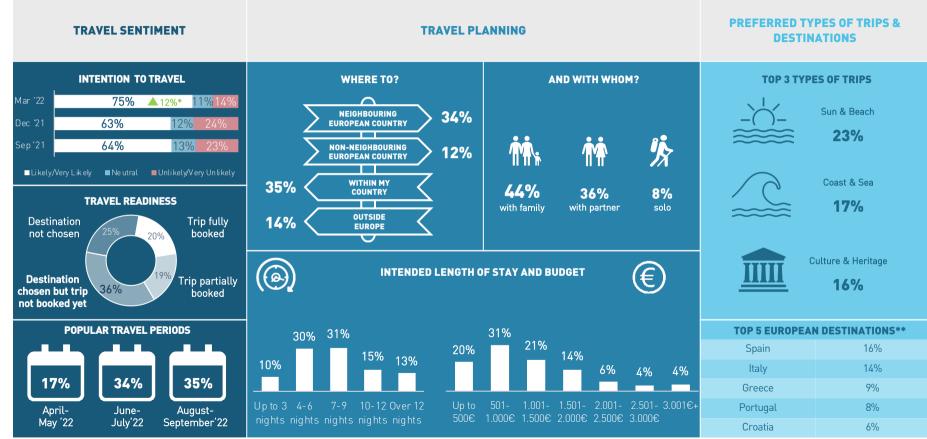
A SNAPSHOT OF BRITISH TRAVEL PLANS





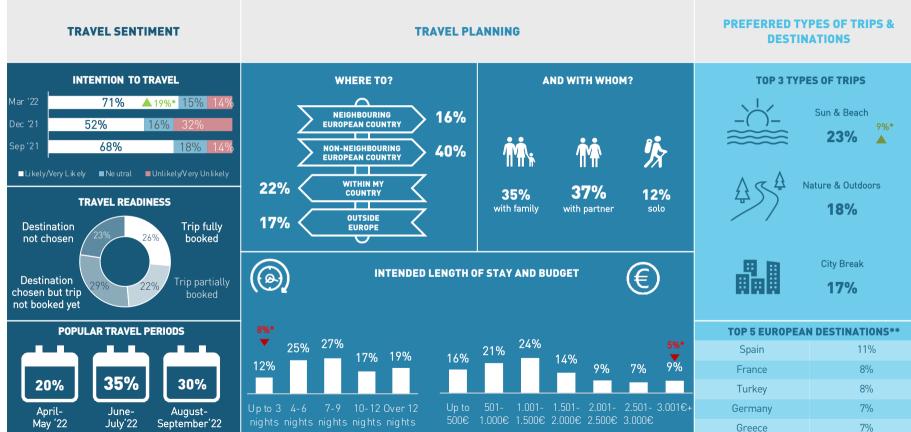
A SNAPSHOT OF FRENCH TRAVEL PLANS





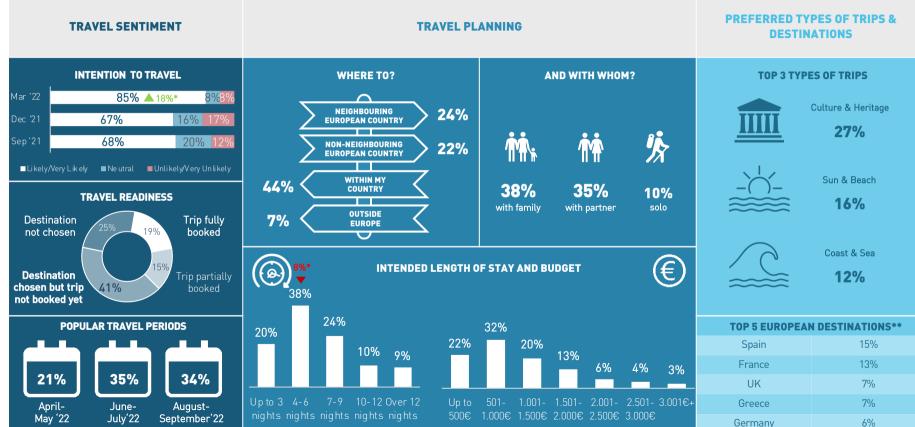
A SNAPSHOT OF DUTCH TRAVEL PLANS





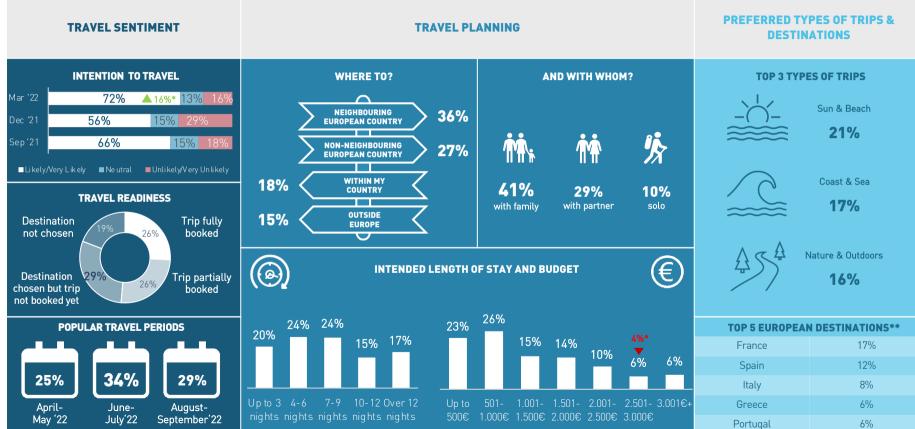
A SNAPSHOT OF ITALIAN TRAVEL PLANS





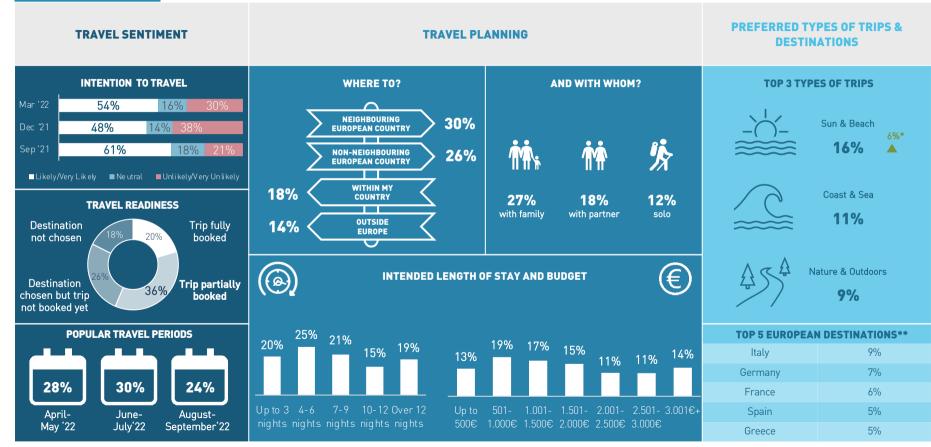
A SNAPSHOT OF BELGIAN TRAVEL PLANS





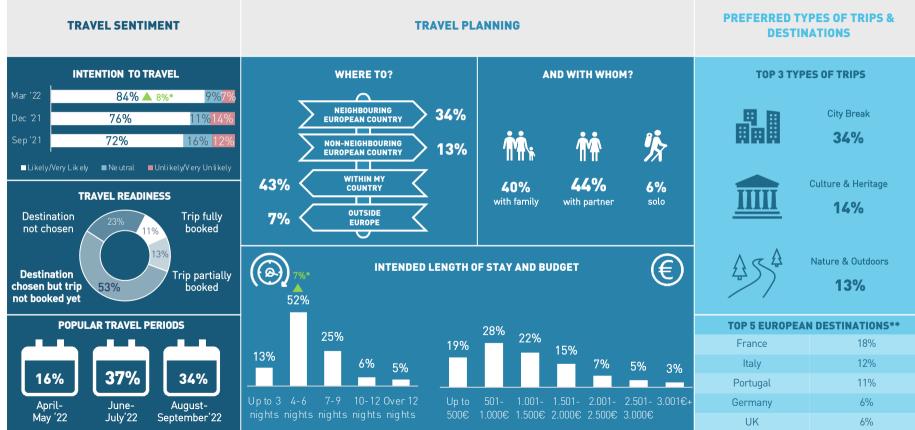
A SNAPSHOT OF SWISS TRAVEL PLANS





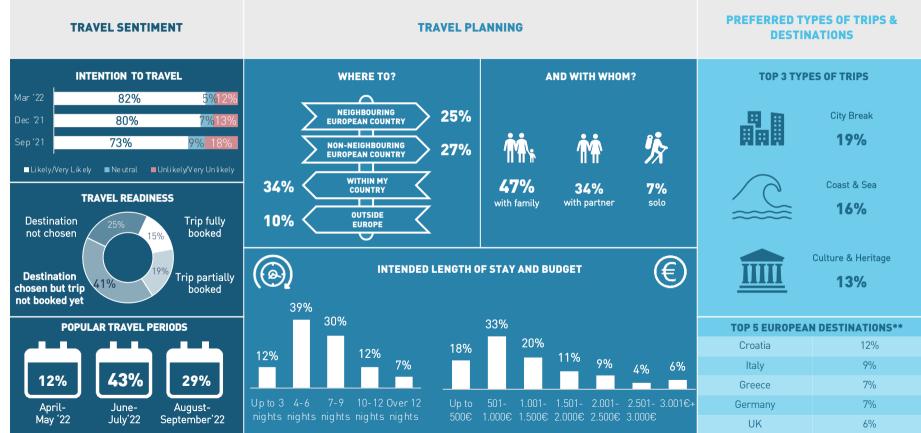
A SNAPSHOT OF SPANISH TRAVEL PLANS





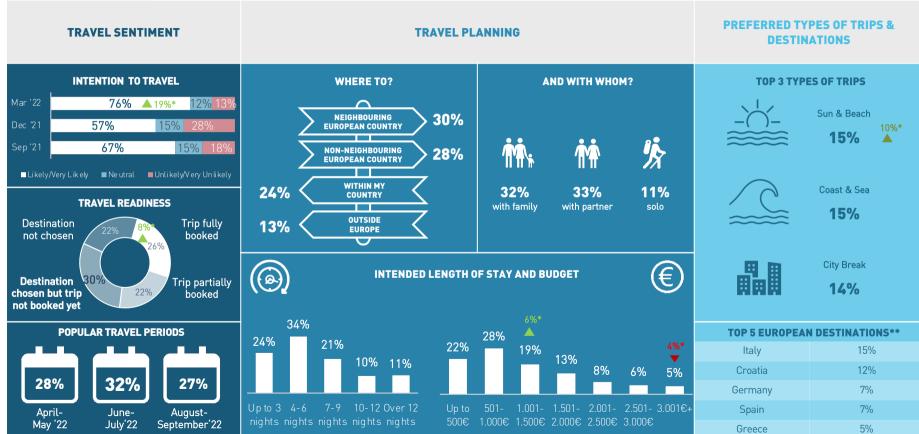
A SNAPSHOT OF POLISH TRAVEL PLANS





A SNAPSHOT OF AUSTRIAN TRAVEL PLANS







WHAT DO EUROPEANS MISS THE MOST ABOUT TRAVELLING?

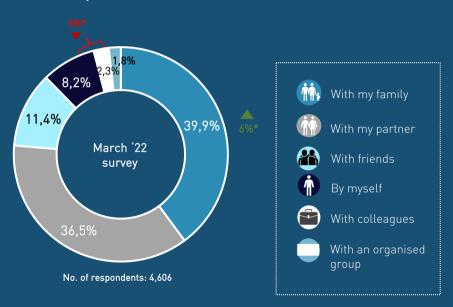
Gen Z travellers (18-24 years old) mostly miss the chance to create new lasting memories; the 25-44 age group long to escape from routine; and Europeans over 45 years of age miss enjoying life in a relaxing environment the most



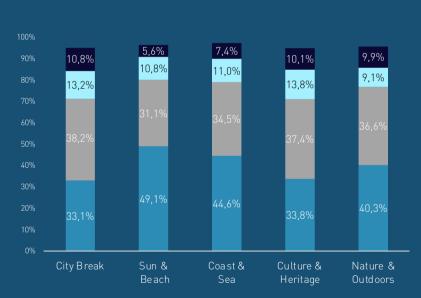
 $^{\ ^*}$ No significant changes between waves were recorded for this question

As summer approaches, family travel is once again Europeans' leading choice (40%). Plans for solo travel and business trips drop

Preferred travel companion for respondents who are most likely to travel in the next 6 months



Preferred travel companion (Top 4) vs preferred type of holiday

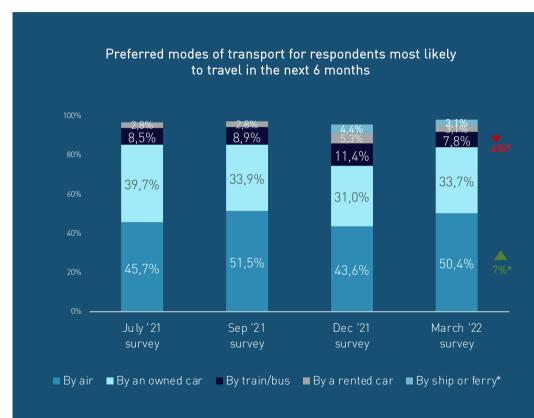


March '22 survey

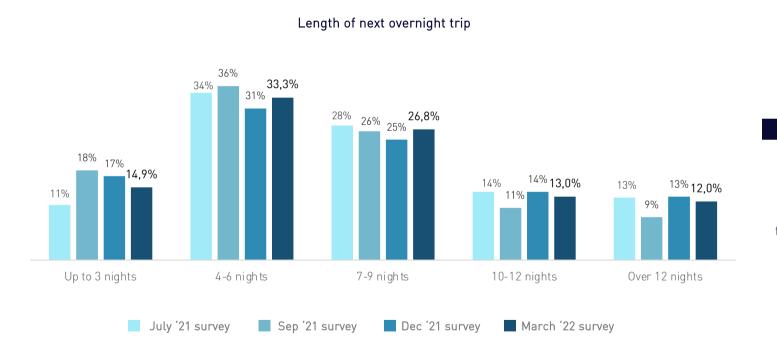
No. of respondents: 5,998

The share of Europeans planning to travel by plane rises by 7%, while preferences for train and bus travel drop by 4% to the lowest level since August 2020. This trend may potentially lead to higher tourism transportation CO² emissions during the peak travel season, compared to the last two years





The majority of Europeans with travel plans intend to take 4-6-night (33%) or 7-9-night (27%) vacations. 25% will opt for trips of 10 nights or longer





Micro-trips (up to 3 nights) are the most common for couples, while 10+ night-trips are the most common among families

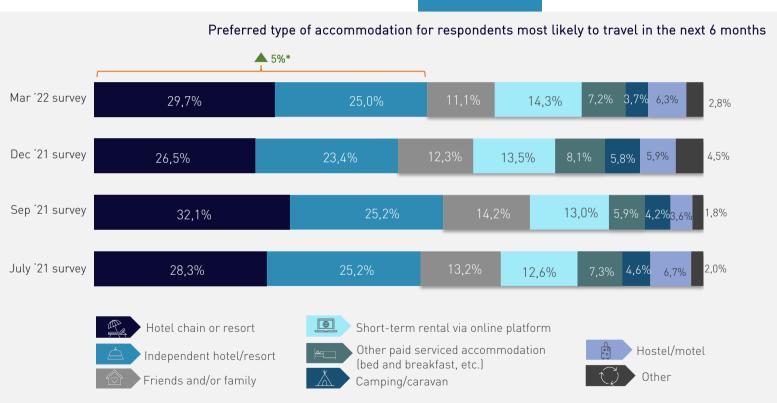
The share of Europeans planning to spend 500-1,500 euros rises by 8%, while the share of those budgeting over 2,000 euros drops by 8%, potentially due to rising concerns over inflation





Spending habits remain stable across all age groups, and there are no significant differences in the willingness to spend between younger and more mature travellers

With beach holidays in mind, the preference for hotels over other types of accommodation goes up by 5%





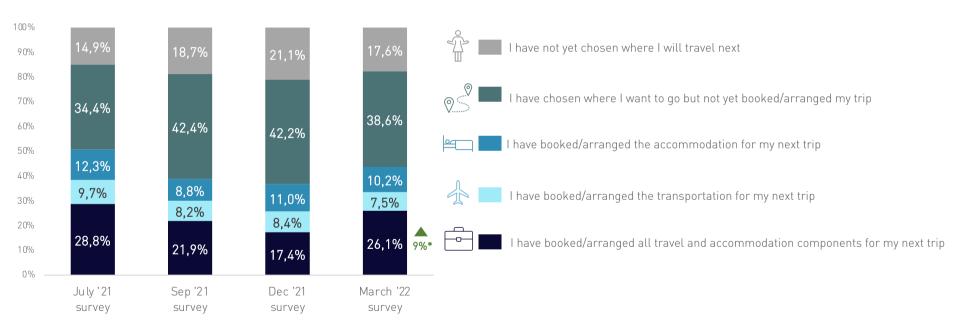
The preference for staying in hotels (chain / independent) grows with age: from 46% among Europeans aged 18-24 to 55% for travellers in the 54+ age group

^{*} Statistically significant difference vs previous survey period

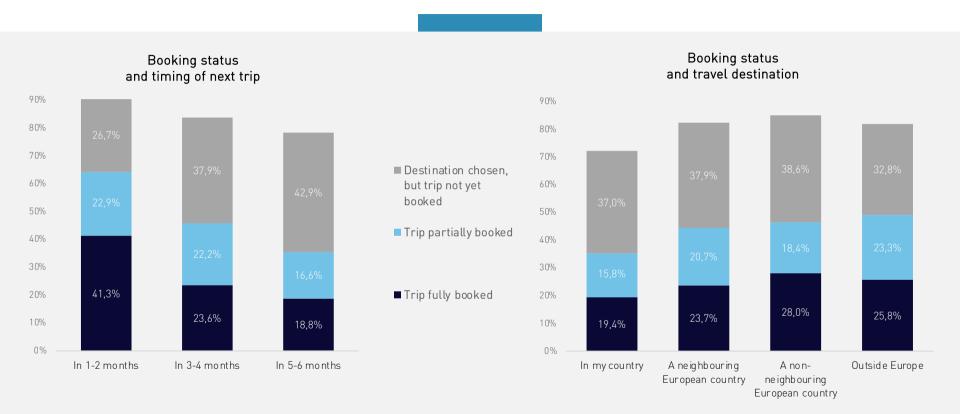
Q17. Which of the following types of accommodation would you most consider staying at during your next trip within Europe?

Despite the surge in travel sentiment, only 1 in 4 Europeans have fully booked their next trip, indicating a limited level of consumer commitment and some potential impact of the war in Ukraine

Status of planning for the next trip



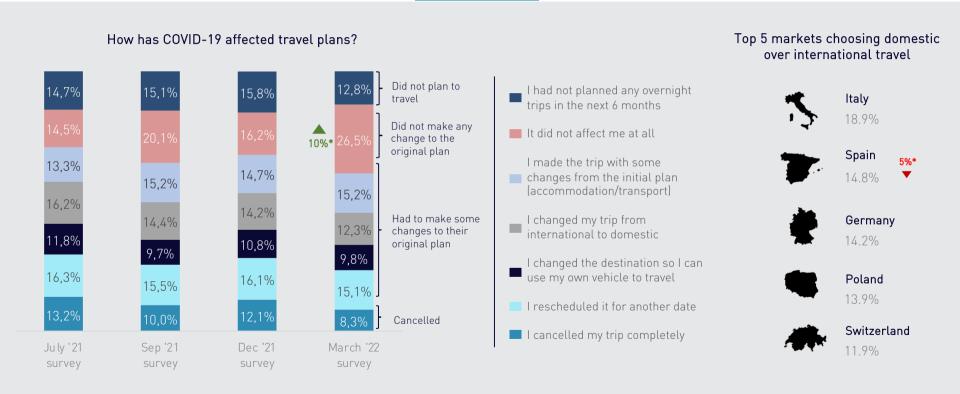
Europeans have made full or partial bookings, mainly for trips in April or May; their commitment is slightly stronger for international travel than for domestic trips



March '22 survey



As Europeans learn to live with COVID-19 and travel restrictions are eased, the number of those who realise their original travel plans continues to increase steadily



As Europeans are already vaccinated to a great extent, COVID-19 vaccination is no longer the top travel confidence booster; flexible cancellation policies and lifted travel restrictions have taken the lead, while the importance of bargains and attractive deals also increased, potentially leading to more last-minute bookings



March '22 survey

'TRAVEL-READY' EUROPEANS' CONCERNS

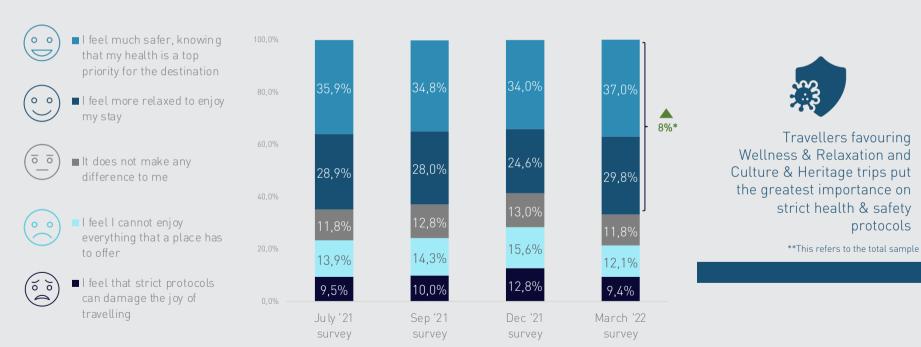
Quarantine measures remain Europeans' most critical concern, while Covid-19 case numbers in the destination drops from second to fifth place; the economic situation is still of relatively low concern



March '22 survey

Despite the drop in COVID-19 cases during data collection, travel-ready Europeans feel both safer and more relaxed with strict health & safety protocols

Sentiment towards strict health & safety protocols



^{*} No significant changes between waves were recorded for this question

No. of respondents: 4,606



METHODOLOGICAL ANNEX

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 (2019-2021)
- Distribution/data collection period:
 - Wave 8: 13-23 July 2021; sample = 5,778 / Wave 9: 10-18 September 2021; sample = 5,769 / Wave 10: 23-31 December 2021; sample = 6,002 / Wave 11: 01-09 March 2022; sample = 5,998
 - 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 COVID-19 impact on travel (9 questions) and Travel intentions, preferences and trip planning (12 questions)
- 45% of the Wave 11 survey respondents are male and 55% are female. Sample size and age groups are listed below:

		Country								Total		
		UK	ΙΤ	ES	AT	FR	DE	PL	BE	СН	NL	
Age	18 - 24	88	73	45	103	96	92	56	85	135	88	861
	25 - 34	135	112	74	140	129	155	106	134	161	161	1,307
	35 - 44	126	135	101	130	141	151	120	137	137	126	1,304
	45 - 54	138	168	105	74	146	168	93	87	48	59	1,086
	≥ 55	254	263	175	54	238	188	126	57	19	66	1,440
Total		741	751	500	501	750	754	501	500	500	500	5,998

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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 (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 completely eliminate every margin of error.

Published by the European Travel Commission

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ISBN No: 978-92-95107-60-1 Cover photo : <u>@febiyanrt</u> Design: **MINDHAUS**

