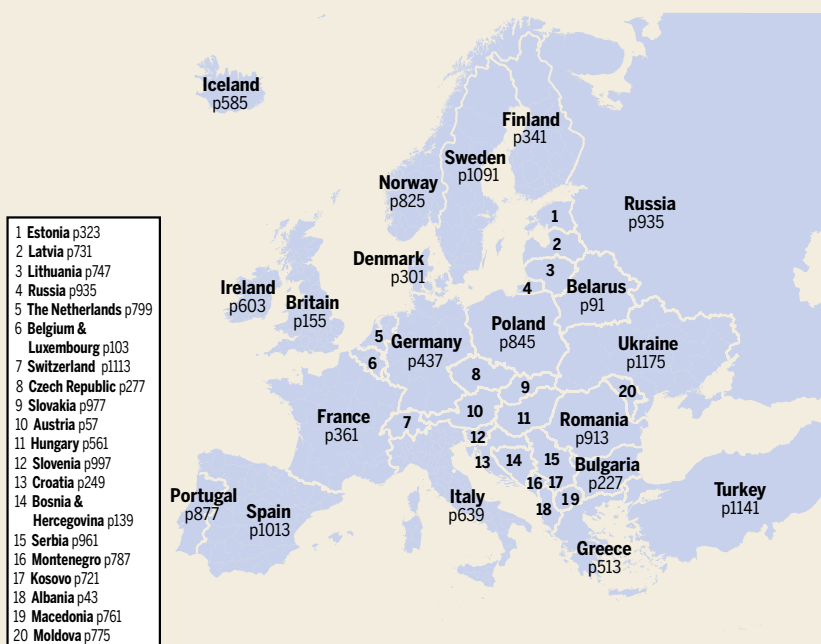




# Europe



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# Itineraries



## 6 WEEKS First-Time Europe

This itinerary covers six iconic European countries that are essential for any first-time visitor – each is crammed with world-famous sights and unforgettable experiences.

Begin in ancient **Rome**, home to the Vatican and the Colosseum. Go north to **Florence**, a Renaissance time capsule, then glide along the canals of **Venice**. Continue to the Swiss lakeside city of **Zürich**, followed by charming **Lucerne** or **Bern**, before heading by train to the **Jungfrau** region to see the Alps.

Next is Germany. **Munich** is worth a stop whether it's the Oktoberfest or not, followed by hedonistic **Berlin** where you can see the remains of the wall.

Spend a couple of days in **Amsterdam** admiring works by Van Gogh and Rembrandt, as well as wandering along the canals. Move on to **Paris** to be dazzled by the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower and Versailles.

Take the Eurostar to **London**; along with great sights, enjoy superb eating, drinking and clubbing. Travel west to view Stonehenge and historic **Oxford** and **Bath**. Swing north to **Liverpool** and end your journey in Scotland, ticking off the old and new towns of **Edinburgh** and happening **Glasgow**.



## Mediterranean Europe

Think Europe doesn't do beaches? Think again – it does, but with lashings of culture on the side, as you'll find during this romp along its southern shores.

Fly to Spain's capital **Madrid** and spend a day or two enjoying its art museums, and brilliant bar and food scene. The Mediterranean is calling, so take a train to **Barcelona** and soak up the seaside ambience of Gaudí's city, as well as pedestrianised La Rambla and Museu Picasso. Cross the border into France, then beach hop along the Côte d'Azur. Stop in **Nice** with its palm-lined seafront, then take the twisty coastal corniches to beguiling **Monaco**. Spend a day or two inland in the beautiful villages of **Provence**.

Return to Nice to take the train to historic **Rome**. Continue south to energetic **Naples**, peer into ill-fated **Pompeii** and explore the stunning Amalfi Coast. Cross Italy to **Bari**, from where you head across the Adriatic by ferry to the Croatian pearl of **Dubrovnik** where you'll find marble streets, baroque buildings and spectacular city walls.

Bus it south through Montenegro and Albania – two of Europe's least-known but most-breathtaking gems. Pause at the picturesque island of **Sveti Stefan** in the former and the white crescent-shaped beaches of **Drymades** in the latter.

Greece's Ionian Islands are next and the best is **Corfu**. Sail by ferry to **Patra**, and then do a loop of the Peloponnese: catch a bus to Byzantine pin-up city **Mystras**, ancient heavyweight **Mycenae** and venerable **Athens**. Move on to Piraeus, Greece's main port, for an island-hopping expedition of the Cyclades, dreamy islands that include sophisticated **Mykonos**, laid-back **Paros** and volcanic **Santorini**. When you've had enough of Greek islands, set sail for the Turkish port Kuşadası from lush, mountainous Samos.

Visit ancient **Ephesus**, one of the greatest surviving Graeco-Roman cities. Travel by bus north along the Aegean coast to the ruins of Troy and **Çanakkale**, the harbour town that's the base for visiting Gallipoli Peninsula. Finish up in beautiful, chaotic **Istanbul**: when you've had your fill of sightseeing, you can always relax in a *hamam* (Turkish bath).

4  
WEEKS

## From London to the Sun

Combining the best of both worlds, this itinerary begins with urban powerhouses London and Paris, and ends with soaking up the sun in Spain and Portugal.

Enjoy several days in **London** for museums, galleries, shopping and clubbing, then take a train to **Bath** to enjoy Roman and Georgian architecture and thermal baths. Return to London to board the Eurostar to romantic **Paris**. Having dipped into the city of light's cultural sights and gourmet delights, make side trips to **D-Day Beaches** north of Bayeux and the iconic abbey of **Mont St-Michel**, which reaches for the sky from its rocky island perch.

Rail south, stopping at lively **Toulouse**. Detour to the fairytale fortified city of **Carcassonne**. Cross into Spain, pausing at supercool **Barcelona**, where you can indulge in traditional Catalan cooking as well as more avant-garde Spanish cuisine. Regular ferries sail from Barcelona to the **Balearic Islands**: relax on beaches, hike the mountains of Mallorca, or party on Ibiza. Return to mainland port **Valencia** with great nightlife and the architecturally stunning Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias.

Zip north to Basque seaside resort **San Sebastián**, with its delicious food scene, and then to the shimmering Museo Guggenheim in happening **Bilbao**. Turn south, making a beeline for energetic **Madrid**, for some of Europe's best galleries and bars. From here plan day trips to Moorish **Toledo** and enchanting **Segovia**.

Continue south to **Granada** to explore the exquisite Islamic fortress complex of the Alhambra. Continue your Andalusian adventures with the stunning Mezquita of **Córdoba**, before dancing the flamenco in **Seville**. Get the bus to Portugal's captivating hillside capital **Lisbon** and listen to fado in the lamplit lanes of Alfama. Sidestep to the wooded hills of **Sintra**, home to fairytale-like palaces and gardens. Further north lies Unesco World Heritage-listed **Porto**, a lovely city to explore on foot, and the **Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês**, where you can hike amid scenery little changed since the 12th-century founding of Portugal. Retrace your steps south to touristy **Algarve**; the coastal train journey is beautiful and there are pretty towns to stop at including Tavira and Lagos.



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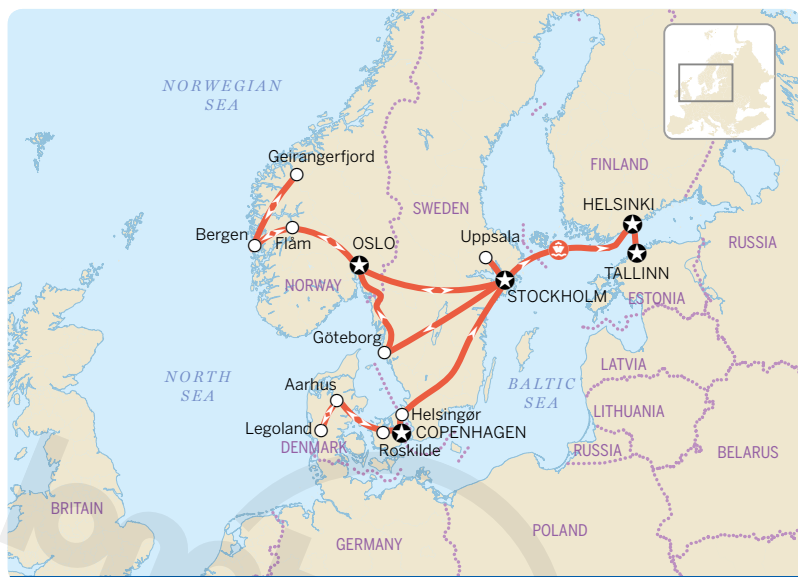


CULTURAL TRAVEL / ATTILIA MAR HARTENSSON / GETTY IMAGES ©

Above: Bern (p1122),  
Switzerland

Left: Copenhagen  
(p303), Denmark





## Scandinavian Highlights

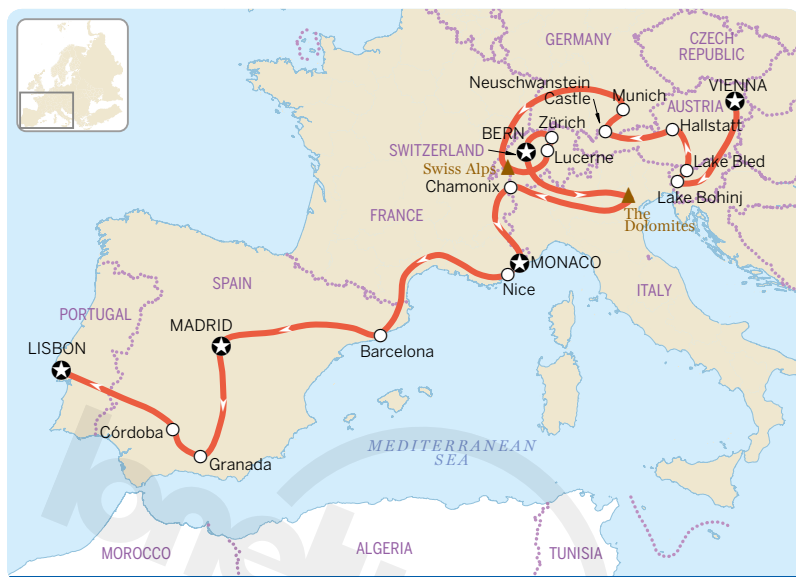
Three weeks is sufficient for the classic sights of Scandinavia, though you can easily spend longer. Extra time allows detailed exploration and side trips to quieter places.

Start in Danish capital **Copenhagen**, the hipster of the Nordic block, admiring the waterfront and museums, and enjoying world-class eating options. Make day trips to the cathedral and Viking boat museum at **Roskilde**, 'Hamlet's' castle Kronborg Slot at **Helsingør**; Denmark's second but no-less-trendy city **Aarhus** where the incredible ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum offers nine floors of top-class art; and the country's biggest tourist attraction: **Legoland**.

Take the train to charming **Stockholm**. Sweden's capital spills across 14 islands with Gamla Stan, the oldest part, as its most beautiful. Side-trip to university town **Uppsala**, Sweden's spiritual heart, and spend the night. Creative and happening **Göteborg**, the country's second city, has interesting galleries and museums, including a great one for kids. Kids will also be thrilled by Liseberg, Scandinavia's largest amusement park. It's a 3½-hour bus ride to **Oslo**, where you can check out Munch's work in a stunning setting. Norway's capital has plenty of museums and galleries, plus the iconic Oslo Opera House, the centre of its massive waterfront redevelopment project.

From Oslo, take the long but scenic 'Norway in a Nutshell' rail day trip to **Flåm** and ride the world's steepest railway without cable or rack wheels. Continue by boat and bus along the stunning Sognefjord, Norway's deepest fjord with rock walls rising up to 1000m over the water, to **Bergen**. Admire this pretty town from a cable car and explore the quayside Bryggen district of historic buildings. From Bergen take a side trip to the mighty 20km-long emerald-green **Geirangerfjord**, a Unesco World Heritage Site and one of Scandinavia's most spectacular sights.

Return to Stockholm for a cruise circuit of the Baltic. First stop in quirky, design-diva **Helsinki**, a great base for exploring the natural wonders of Finland. Don't miss Unesco World Heritage-listed Suomenlinna, a fortress set on a tight cluster of islands connected by bridges. End your journey in picturesque **Tallinn**, the charming Estonian capital where the old town is a jumble of turrets, spires and winding streets.



4-8  
WEEKS

## The Alps to the Iberian Peninsula

If you love gorgeous towns on the shores of brilliant-blue lakes, surrounded by soaring peaks, this itinerary is bound to please, with abundant opportunities to hike or ski.

Start with a couple of days on the Danube in elegant **Vienna** where you can tour the Habsburg palace Hofburg, world-class museums and the city's legendary coffee houses. Move on to Slovenia, pausing by emerald-green **Lake Bled** and nearby, but much less-developed, **Lake Bohinj** with the picturesque Julian Alps as the backdrop. Both locations are great for outdoor activities, offering kayaking, mountain biking and trekking.

Return to Austria for a couple of days exploring the beautiful Salzkammergut region of lakes and craggy peaks; don't miss postcard-perfect lakeside town **Hallstatt**.

Bavaria's fairytale **Neuschwanstein Castle** is next. Sample some beers in nearby **Munich**, which offers the best of traditional and contemporary Germany.

Make your way to Switzerland for a few days in the spectacular **Swiss Alps**. Visit the oft-overlooked Swiss capital of **Bern**, or sophisticated lake-side **Zürich**. Take the train to the top of Jungfrau (it's Europe's highest train station) before heading down to visit lovely **Lucerne** where candy-coloured houses are reflected in a cobalt lake.

Nip into Italy to check out the sawtooth peaks of the **Dolomites** where ski resorts abound. Head to **Chamonix** in France – a great base to explore Mont Blanc. Then it's time for coffee, wine and sun along the Côte d'Azur. Travel via **Monaco**, where you can live out James Bond fantasies at the Casino de Monte Carlo, and gorgeous **Nice**, the queen of the Riviera.

Spain's two most exciting cities, **Barcelona** and **Madrid**, beckon, packed with a wealth of sights, restaurants, bars and clubs. Head south to see the beautiful Moorish architecture of the Alhambra in **Granada** and the stunning Mezquita of **Córdoba**.

Finish in Portugal's fascinating capital **Lisbon**, with narrow cobblestone lanes, clattering bright-yellow trams and a lamplit old quarter. Make sure you sample a *pastéis de nata* (custard tart) in the waterside Belém district.

LISA KIMBERLY / GETTY IMAGES ©



Above:  
Neuschwanstein  
Castle in Bavaria  
(p463), Germany  
Right: Hallstatt (p81),  
Austria

KENJILAU / GETTY IMAGES ©







## Eastern Europe Today

Forget the stereotypes of the grim and grey 'Eastern Bloc' of the early 1990s – this half of Europe is one of the most dynamic and fast-changing places in the world.

The natural starting point is **Berlin**, once a city divided but now a veritable music, art and nightlife mecca. There's plenty of history here from the Reichstag to the Holocaust Memorial and Checkpoint Charlie.

Travel to Poland's capital **Warsaw**, a vibrant city that's survived all that history could throw at it, and beautiful **Kraków**, the amazingly preserved royal capital which miraculously was spared destruction in WWII. The centrepieces are the stunning Wawel Castle and Cathedral and the Rynek Główny, Europe's largest medieval town square.

Next is Lithuania's capital **Vilnius**, the baroque bombshell of the Baltics with an Old Town of cobbled streets and church spires, followed by Latvia's gorgeous art nouveau **Riga**. Round out the tour with Estonia's technophile **Tallinn**, a city that sports an impressive medieval Old Town. Head into Russia stopping first in the imperial capital of **St Petersburg**. Spend several days touring the Hermitage and other gorgeously restored palaces. Take a train to modern-day supercity **Moscow**, where the imposing Kremlin and adjacent Red Square are guaranteed to strike you with awe.

Journey into the past on a train to **Minsk** in Belarus to see how things were under communism. Continue into Ukraine and spend a few days in its bustling capital **Kyiv**, one of the former Soviet Union's more pleasant metropolises, then contrast it with Unesco World Heritage-listed **Lviv** which oozes central European charm.

Enter Romania and make a beeline for **Transylvania**. Sharpen your fangs at 'Dracula's' castle in **Bran** and enjoy the gorgeous old towns nearby. Romania's dynamic capital **Bucharest** is next, with its good museums, parks and trendy cafes.

A train zips you through the mountains to Bulgaria's loveliest town, **Veliko Târnovo**. Travel to the relaxed capital **Sofia** and then by train to Serbia's vibrant capital, **Belgrade**. Head back to Berlin via **Budapest**, where you can freshen up at the thermal baths and party at numerous pubs and bars, and romantic **Prague**, one of eastern Europe's most architecturally stunning cities.



**Andrea Schulte-Peevers**

**Germany** Born and raised in Germany, and educated in London and at UCLA, Andrea has travelled the distance to the moon and back in her visits to some 75 countries and now makes her home in Berlin. She's written about her native country for two decades and authored or contributed to some 80 Lonely Planet titles, including all editions of the *Germany* country guide and the *Berlin* city guide.



**Tamara Sheward**

**Bulgaria, Serbia** After years of freelance travel writing, rock'n'roll journalism and insalubrious authorism, Tamara joined Lonely Planet's ranks as the presenter of LPTV's *Roads Less Travelled: Cambodia* documentary. Since then she's stuck to covering decidedly less leech-infested destinations including Russia, Serbia and Bulgaria. Tamara is currently living in Australia's far north with her husband (whom she never would have met were it not for some late night 'researching') and daughter.



**Helena Smith**

**Belgium, Luxembourg** Helena Smith is the author of Lonely Planet's *Pocket Brussels & Bruges*, and was very glad to return to Europe's most eccentric country to work on this guide, as well as adding Luxembourg to her list of countries visited. When not travel writing, Helena writes about food and community at [www.eathackney.com](http://www.eathackney.com).



**Andy Symington**

**Finland** Andy has covered Finland for Lonely Planet several times, having first visited Helsinki many years ago more or less by accident. Walking on frozen lakes with the midday sun low in the sky made a quick and deep impression on him, even as his fingers froze in the -30°C temperatures. Since then he can't stay away, fuelled by a love of wilderness hiking, the Kalevala, huskies, saunas, Finnish mustard, moody Suomi rock and metal, but above all the Finnish people and their beautiful country.



**Luke Waterson**

**Slovakia** Luke fell in love with Slovakia and these days lives in its quirky capital, Bratislava, beside vineyards that yield some of the country's finest white wines. He's constantly planning hikes into Slovakia's forests and hills – particularly if they go via a ruined castle or a rustic *krčma* (pub). As well as writing a bunch of content about Slovakia for LP and the BBC, he also runs the quirky travel/culture blog on all things Slovak: [www.englishmaninslovakia.com](http://www.englishmaninslovakia.com).



**Neil Wilson**

**Britain, Ireland** Neil was born in Scotland and, save for a few years spent abroad, has lived there most of his life; he is based near Dunkeld in Perthshire. An enduring passion for the great outdoors has inspired hillwalking, mountain-biking and sailing expeditions to every corner of Britain and Ireland. Neil has been a full-time author since 1988 and has written more than 70 guidebooks for various publishers, including Lonely Planet guides to Scotland, England and Ireland.

**Catherine Le Nevez**

**The Netherlands** Catherine's wanderlust kicked in when she first roadtripped across Europe, including the Netherlands, aged four, and she's been returning to this spirited, *gezellig* country ever since, completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and post-grad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way. Catherine has worked as a freelance writer for many years and during the past decade or so she's written scores of Lonely Planet guidebooks and articles covering destinations all over Europe and beyond.

**Jessica Lee**

**Turkey** Jessica first came to Turkey in 2005 and ended up leading adventure tours across the breadth of Anatolia for four years. In 2011 she moved there to live and now calls Turkey home. As a co-author on the last two editions of Lonely Planet's *Turkey* guide she's travelled to most of Turkey's far-flung corners but especially loves the wild landscapes of the southeast, the ruin-strewn trails of the Lycian Way and the wacky rock formations of Cappadocia. She tweets @jessofarabia.

**Tom Masters**

**Albania, Belarus, Kosovo, Macedonia** Tom has been travelling in Eastern Europe since the early '90s when, as a young teenager, he travelled by train across the newly liberated 'Eastern Bloc' with his mother, an experience not unlike a Graham Greene novel. Having studied Russian, lived in St Petersburg and currently residing in the former East Berlin, Tom knows this part of the world like few others, though it constantly manages to surprise him. You can find more of his work at [www.tom-masters.net](http://www.tom-masters.net).

**Anja Mutić**

**Croatia** It's been more than two decades since Anja left her native Croatia. The journey took her to several countries before she made New York City her base 15 years ago. But the roots are a-calling. She's been returning to Croatia frequently for work and play, intent on discovering a new place on every visit, be it a nature park, an offbeat town or a remote island. She's happy that Croatia's beauties are appreciated worldwide but secretly longs for the time when you could head to Hvar and hear the sound of crickets instead of blasting music. Anja is online at [www.everthenomad.com](http://www.everthenomad.com).

**Sally O'Brien**

**Liechtenstein, Switzerland** Since moving to Switzerland in 2007, Sally has revelled in swimming the country's lakes and rivers, snowboarding down its astounding mountains, scoffing its cheese and chocolate, and quaffing local-secret wines. Writing about this dreamy country for Lonely Planet and heading out on the road with her family to explore every last corner of her adopted home only adds to the fun.

**Becky Ohlsen**

**Sweden** A huge fan of Stockholm, Becky has spent enough time in the capital city to know where to find the no-fee public toilets but not quite enough to have absorbed any of its impressive fashion sense. Maybe next time. She also loves hiking the northern Swedish woods and stumbling over relics of the Viking age. Though raised in the mountains of Colorado, Becky has been exploring Sweden since childhood, while visiting her grandparents and other relatives.

**Simon Richmond**

**Russia** UK-born writer and photographer Simon first set foot on the continent on a family holiday to Mallorca in the 1970s. Many subsequent trips across Europe have followed with work assignments to, among other places, Portugal, Belgium, Turkey, Russia and the Baltic states. He first visited Russia in 1994, spending time in St Petersburg and Moscow and travelling by train from there to Central Asia. He's since travelled the breadth of the nation from Kamchatka in the east to Kaliningrad in the far west, stopping off at many points between. An award-winning travel writer and photographer, Simon has co-authored the last four editions of the *Russia* guide for Lonely Planet, as well as the first three editions of the *Trans-Siberian Railway* guide. Follow him on Twitter, Instagram and at [www.simonrichmond.com](http://www.simonrichmond.com). Simon also wrote the Plan and Survive chapters.

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**Marc Di Duca**

**Ukraine** Driven by an urge to discover Eastern Europe's wilder side, Marc first hit Kyiv one dark, snow-flecked night in early 1998. Many prolonged stints, countless near misses with Kyiv's metro doors and a few too many rides in seatbelt-less Lada taxis later, he still gets excited about exploring this immense but troubled land. A busy travel writer, Marc has penned guides to Moscow, Siberia's Lake Baikal, Russia and the Trans-Siberian Railway, as well as countless other destinations around Europe.

**Peter Dragicevich**

**Estonia, Latvia, Montenegro** After a dozen years working for newspapers and magazines in both his native New Zealand and in Australia, Peter ditched the desk and hit the road. He wrote Lonely Planet's first guide to the newly independent Montenegro and has contributed to literally dozens of other Lonely Planet titles, including the *Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania* guidebook and four successive editions of *Europe on a Shoestring*.

**Mark Elliott**

**Bosnia & Hercegovina** British born travel writer Mark Elliott was only 11 when his family first dragged him to Sarajevo and stood him in the now defunct concrete footsteps of Gavriilo Princip. Fortunately no Austro-Hungarian emperors were passing at the time. He has since visited virtually every corner of BiH, supping fine Hercegovinian wines with master vintners, talking philosophy with Serb monks and Sufi mystics, and drinking more Bosnian coffee than any stomach should be subjected to.

**Steve Fallon**

**Hungary, Slovenia** Steve, who has written every edition of Lonely Planet's *Hungary* guidebook, lived in Budapest for three years in the early 1990s. From there he also researched and later wrote LP's first *Slovenija* guidebook. He maintains close contacts with both countries, returning often to Magyarország for thermal baths, Tokaj wine and *bableves* (bean soup) and to Slovenija for a glimpse of the Julian Alps in the sunshine, a dribble of *bučno olje* (pumpkinseed oil) and a dose of the dual. Find out more about Steve at [www.steveslondon.com](http://www.steveslondon.com).

**Emilie Filou**

**France** Emilie was born in Paris and spent most of her childhood holidays roaming the south of France. She now lives in London, where she works as a freelance journalist specialising in development issues in Africa. She still goes to France every year for holidays and loves feasting on local market products, especially cheese and wine. See more of Emilie's work on [www.emiliefilou.com](http://www.emiliefilou.com); she tweets at @emiliefilou.

**Duncan Garwood**

**Italy** Duncan is a British travel writer based near Rome. Since he moved to Italy in 1997, he has travelled extensively in his adopted homeland and worked on about 30 Lonely Planet guides, including *Rome*, *Sardinia*, *Sicily* and *Italy's Best Trips*. Memories from his most recent trip include a barbecue in a Palermo street market and catching an open-air concert in Trieste's vast central piazza.

**Anthony Ham**

**Norway, Spain** Spain and Norway are two of Anthony's great loves. In 2001, Anthony ([www.anthonnyham.com](http://www.anthonnyham.com)) fell in love with Madrid on his first visit to the city. Less than a year later, he arrived on a one-way ticket, with not a word of Spanish and not knowing a single person. After ten years living in the city, he recently returned to Australia with his Spanish-born family, but he still adores his adopted country as much as the first day he arrived. And he fell in love with Norway the first time he laid eyes on her and there aren't many places in Norway he hasn't been, from Lindesnes in the south to the remote fjords of Svalbard in the far north.



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Alexis Averbuck

**Greece, Iceland** Alexis lives in Hydra, Greece, takes regular reverse R&R in Athens, and makes any excuse she can to travel the isolated back roads of her adopted land. Also a self-proclaimed glacier geek, Alexis loves exploring Iceland: from surreal lava fields and sparkling fjords to ice-blue glacier tongues. A travel writer for two decades, Alexis has lived in Antarctica for a year, crossed the Pacific by sailboat and written books on her journeys through Asia and the Americas. She's also a painter. Visit [www.alexisaverbuck.com](http://www.alexisaverbuck.com).



### Carolyn Bain

**Denmark** Melbourne-based Carolyn has been involved with Lonely Planet's *Europe on a Shoestring* title since she worked as an editor on its inaugural edition back in 1999. She has been listed as a contributing author on the eight editions since. Destinations covered over the years include Greece, Malta, Sweden and Estonia. For this book, Carolyn wrote on Denmark, a country dear to her heart, after living in the centre of it for a year as a teenager. See [www.carolynbain.com.au](http://www.carolynbain.com.au).



### Mark Baker

**Czech Republic, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania** Mark Baker is an independent travel writer based in Prague. He's lived in Central Europe for more than 20 years, working as a writer and editor for the *Economist*, Bloomberg and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and is an enthusiastic traveller throughout the region. He's author of several Lonely Planet guides, including *Prague & the Czech Republic*, *Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania, Romania & Bulgaria, Poland* and *Slovenia*. Tweet him @markbakerprague.



### Kerry Christiani

**Austria, Portugal** Ever since her first post-grad trip to Austria, Kerry has seized every available chance to travel back to the country of Mozart, Maria and co. Hanging out in the cream of Vienna's coffee houses, road-testing Christmas markets and glimpsing the first snow of the season in the Alps were highlights this edition. Her love affair with Portugal began as a child hiking the cliffs of the Algarve. She's returned countless times since, and remains captivated by this country's creative

spirit and beautifully melancholic soul. Kerry has authored/co-authored around two dozen travel guides, including Lonely Planet *Austria*, *Pocket Lisbon* and *Pocket Porto*. She tweets @kerrychristiani and lists her latest work at [www.kerrychristiani.com](http://www.kerrychristiani.com).

## OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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