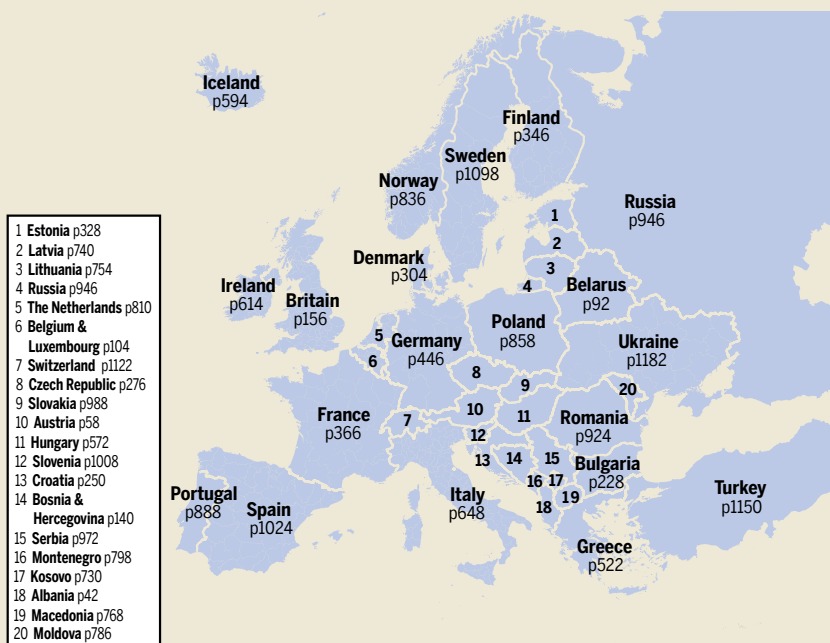




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Itineraries



5 WEEKS First-Time Europe

If you only visit Europe once in your life, you'll want to experience its famous cultural cities.

London is calling. The former capital of a huge empire is a city of massive museums, regal parks and electrifying nightlife.

Take the Eurostar to **Paris** and prepare to be seduced by the Eiffel Tower, Versailles and the Louvre. The art theme continues in **Amsterdam** where you can admire works by Van Gogh and Rembrandt and cycle alongside shimmering canals. Next travel to cosmopolitan, hedonistic **Berlin** in Germany where it's possible to see the remains of the wall.

Prague in the Czech Republic is a city of intangible medieval magic. **Budapest** could be Prague's twin offering refined music, riverside architecture and a youthful nocturnal scene. **Vienna** is known for its Habsburg history and gilded coffee bars.

Time to hit southern Europe. Start in glorious **Venice** with its canals and gondoliers, jump on a train to the Renaissance time capsule of **Florence**, and then proceed to **Rome**, home to the Vatican and Colosseum.

Leapfrog southern France to Spain stopping in **Barcelona** where Gaudí meets Gothic, before having a grand finale in **Madrid**, HQ of heavyweight art and all-night partying.



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Above: Dubrovnik
(p268), CroatiaLeft: Santorini (p546),
Greece

5
WEEKS

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 and claim your sun-lounger at one of Europe's warmest year-round beaches in **Málaga**, an emerging art city with a museum to native son, Picasso. Follow the coast up to **Valencia** next, a complex mix of antique and modern, and the culinary home of paella. Pay homage to Catalonia in **Barcelona** where you can soak up the seaside ambience of Gaudi's city, while investigating the pedestrianised La Rambla and another Picasso museum. Cross the border into France, then beach-hop along the Côte d'Azur to **Nice** with its palm-lined seafront. Take the twisty coastal corniches to beguiling **Monaco** and, afterwards, spend a day or two inland in the beautiful villages of **Provence**.

Return to Nice and take the train southeast to historic **Rome**. Continue south to energetic **Naples**, peer into ill-fated **Pompeii** and explore the narrow footpaths and ancient staircases of the precipitous Amalfi Coast. Cross Italy to understated **Bari**, from where you head across the Adriatic by ferry to the Croatian pearl of **Dubrovnik** with its marble streets, baroque buildings and spectacular city walls.

Bus it south through Montenegro and Albania – two of Europe's lesser known but underrated destinations. Pause at the walled town of **Kotor** 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** where Greek mythology and ancient castles are complemented by some fine scimitars of sand. Take a ferry to Patra and a bus on to venerable **Athens**, capital of the ancient world, guarded by the Acropolis. Move on to the port of Piraeus 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 salads, set sail for 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 in beautiful, chaotic **Istanbul**: when you've had your fill of sightseeing you can relax in a *hammam* (Turkish bath).



From London to the Sun

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

Enjoy several days in **London** for museums, galleries, street markets and clubbing, then take a train to **Bath** to appreciate Roman and Georgian architecture and thermal baths. Save time on the way back for **Oxford**, the fabled university town.

Back in London, take the Eurostar from grand St Pancras station to **Brussels**, the ethnically diverse headquarters of the EU known for its chocolate, art nouveau architecture and French-Flemish culture.

The Eurostar will whisk you southwest 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.

Head by rail south, stopping at lively **Toulouse**. Detour to the fairy-tale 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.

Zip north to Basque seaside resort **San Sebastián**, with its envelope-pushing food scene, and then to the curvaceous 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 **Toledo**, the so-called 'city of three cultures', and enchanting **Segovia**.

Continue south to **Granada** to explore the exquisite Alhambra. Continue your Andalusian adventures with the one-of-a-kind Mezquita of **Córdoba**, before dancing flamenco in **Seville**. Get the bus to Portugal's captivating hillside capital **Lisbon** where you can eat custard tarts by the sea, or listen to fado in the lamplit lanes of the Alfama. Sidestep to the wooded hills of **Sintra**, home to fairy-tale-like palaces and gardens.

Further north lies Unesco World Heritage-listed **Porto**, a lovely city to explore on foot. Finish off your Iberian ramblings in the **Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês**, where you can hike amid scenery little changed since the 12th-century founding of Portugal.

4
WEEKS

Scandinavian & Baltic Highlights

Three weeks is sufficient for the classic sights of northern Europe, 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** with its incredible art at ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum; and the country's top tourist attraction, **Legoland**.

Take the train to charming **Stockholm**. Sweden's capital spills across 14 islands with Gamla Stan the oldest and 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.

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 that runs 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 spectacular Unesco World Heritage Site.

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.

Wind up proceedings in the Baltic States starting in **Tallinn**, the charming Estonian capital. Next is Latvia's gorgeous art nouveau **Riga** followed by Lithuania's capital **Vilnius**, the baroque bombshell of the Baltics, a fitting finale.



The Alps to the Balkans

If you fancy visiting gorgeous towns on the shores of brilliant-blue lakes surrounded by turreted Alpine peaks, followed by a sojourn through the capitals of Eastern Europe, then head to Switzerland and jump on this itinerary.

Start with a few days in the spectacular **Swiss Alps**, ideal for hiking in summer and skiing in winter. Visit the oft-overlooked Swiss capital of **Bern**, and sophisticated, lakeside **Zürich**. Take the train to the top of Jungfrau (it's Europe's highest station) before heading down to visit lovely **Lucerne** where candy-coloured houses are reflected in a cobalt lake.

Turn east into Austria next where, on the banks of the Danube, you'll find elegant **Vienna** where you can tour the Habsburg palace Hofburg, world-class museums and the city's legendary coffee houses. Track south into 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.

Time to decamp to Croatia's **Dalmatian Coast**, a holiday paradise of sun-dappled islands, limestone cliffs, ancient towns and Mediterranean cuisine. Aptly named **Split** on the Adriatic displays an interesting split between tradition and modernity, and guards Diocletian's Palace, one of Europe's most incredible Roman ruins. Further south, the walled marble town of **Dubrovnik** is heavy with history and tourists. Inland and across the border in Bosnia and Hercegovina lies **Sarajevo**. Forget its grisly recent past, this is a city on the rebound and a good place for winter activities, especially skiing in the nearby mountains.

Travel east through Serbia stopping off in gritty but lively **Belgrade** to experience its famous nightlife and explore historic Kalemegdan Citadel. Then take a train to the relaxed Bulgarian capital of **Sofia** with its cityscape of onion-domed churches and Cold War-era monuments.

A train zips you through the mountains to Bulgaria's loveliest town, **Veliko Târnovo**, laced with cobbled lanes and surrounded by forested hills. Finish off in seaside **Varna**, your base for Black Sea beaches, archaeology museums and enormous parks.



Above: Jungfrau
(p1136), Switzerland
Right: Sofia (p230),
Bulgaria



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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. Despite wartime bombing, there is plenty of history here from the Reichstag to the Holocaust Memorial and Checkpoint Charlie.

Cross the now nonexistent iron curtain to Poland's capital **Warsaw**, a vibrant city that's survived all that history could throw at it and was meticulously restored after WWII. Further south is beautiful **Kraków**, the amazingly preserved royal capital which miraculously was spared destruction in WWII.

Cut across Slovakia into the Czech Republic and another remarkably intact medieval city **Prague** which has one of Eastern Europe's most romantic and architecturally impressive historical centres.

Moving back east, you'll encounter the Hungarian capital, **Budapest**, where you can freshen up at the thermal baths and party at numerous pubs and bars.

Romania had to wait a long time for its place in the sun, but it has come, especially in dynamic capital **Bucharest** with its emerging museums, trendy cafes and the world's largest parliament building.

For another side of Romania, make a beeline for **Transylvania** where you can sharpen your fangs at 'Dracula's' castle in **Bran** and enjoy the gorgeous old towns nearby.

Head north into Western Ukraine where epiphanies are rife in charming Unesco World Heritage-listed **Lviv**. Continue on to bustling Ukrainian capital **Kyiv**, one of the former Soviet Union's more pleasant metropolises, before journeying into the past on a train to **Minsk** in Belarus to see how things were under communism.

Take another train to modern-day supercity **Moscow**, where the imposing Kremlin and adjacent Red Square are guaranteed to strike you with awe. Finally, head north to the old imperial capital of **St Petersburg**, where you can spend several days touring the Hermitage and other gorgeously restored palaces.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book

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The Netherlands Karla lives in Chicago, where she eat doughnuts, yells at the Cubs, and writes stuff for books, magazines, and websites when she's not doing the first two things. She has contributed to 40-plus guidebooks and travel anthologies covering destinations in Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, and the Caribbean – all of which are a long way from the early days, when she wrote about gravel for a construction magazine and got to

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written a novel and is currently working on several fiction and non-fiction writing projects. Andy, from Australia, moved to Northern Spain many years ago. When he's not off with a backpack in some far-flung corner of the world, he can probably be found watching the tragically poor local football side or tasting local wines after a long walk in the nearby mountains.



Donna Wheeler

Austria Donna has written guidebooks for Lonely Planet for ten years, including the Italy, Norway, Belgium, Africa, Tunisia, Algeria, France, Austria and Melbourne titles. She is the author of *Paris Precincts*, a curated photographic guide to the city's best bars, restaurants and shops and is reporter for Italian contemporary art publisher My Art Guides. Donna's work on contemporary art, architecture and design, food, wine, wilderness areas and cultural history also can

be found in a variety of other publications. She became a travel writer after various careers as a commissioning editor, creative director, digital producer and content strategist.



Neil Wilson

Britain, Czech Republic & Ireland Neil was born in Scotland and has lived there most of his life. Based in Perthshire, he has been a full-time writer since 1988, working on more than 80 guidebooks for various publishers, including the Lonely Planet guides to Scotland, England, Ireland and Prague. An outdoors enthusiast since childhood, Neil is an active hill-walker, mountain-biker,

sailor, snowboarder, fly-fisher and rock-climber, and has climbed and tramped in four continents, including ascents of Jebel Toubkal in Morocco, Mount Kinabalu in Borneo, the Old Man of Hoy in Scotland's Orkney Islands and the Northwest Face of Half Dome in California's Yosemite Valley.



Lorna Parkes

Macedonia Londoner by birth, Melburnian by palate and ex-Lonely Planet staffer in both cities, Lorna has spent more than 10 years exploring the globe in search of the perfect meal, the friendliest B&B, the best-value travel experience, and the most spectacular lookout point – both for her own pleasure and other people's. She's discovered she writes best on planes, and has contributed to numerous Lonely Planet books and magazines. Wineries and the tropics (not at the same time!) are her go-to happy places. Follow her @Lorna_Explorer.



Josephine Quintero

Denmark, Spain & Sweden Josephine first got her taste of not-so-serious travel when she slung a guitar on her back and travelled in Europe in the early 70s. She eventually reached Greece and caught a ferry to Israel where she embraced kibbutz life and the Mexican-American she was to subsequently wed. Josephine primarily covers Spain and Italy for Lonely Planet.



Leonid Ragozin

Latvia, Russia & Ukraine Leonid studied beach dynamics at the Moscow State University, but for want of decent beaches in Russia, he switched to journalism and spent 12 years voyaging through different parts of the BBC, with a break for a four-year stint as a foreign correspondent for the Russian *Newsweek*. Leonid is currently a freelance journalist focusing largely on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine (both his Lonely Planet destinations), which prompted him to leave Moscow and find a new home in Riga.



Tim Richards

Poland Tim is a travel writer whose work has appeared in a variety of newspapers, magazines and websites. He also researches and writes guidebooks for Lonely Planet. Tim lived in Egypt for two years, and Poland for a year, while teaching English as a foreign language in the mid-1990s. Nowadays he lives in the city centre of Melbourne, Australia, with his wife, Narrelle Harris.



Simon Richmond

Journalist and photographer Simon Richmond has specialised as a travel writer since the early 1990s and first worked for Lonely Planet in 1999 on their Central Asia guide. He's long since stopped counting the number of guidebooks he's researched and written for the company, but countries covered including Australia, China, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Russia, Singapore, South Africa and Turkey. For Lonely Planet's website he's penned features on topics from the world's best swimming pools to the joys of Urban Sketching - follow him on Instagram to see some of his photos and sketches. Simon contributed to the Plan and Survival Guide chapters.



Brendan Sainsbury

Originally from Hampshire, England, Brendan first experienced continental Europe using an inter-rail pass in the late 1980s. He's been back many times since travelling to and through 23 European countries. Since 2005, Brendan has contributed to nearly 50 Lonely Planet guidebooks including multiple editions of Spain and Italy. Brendan contributed to the Plan and Survival Guide chapters.



Catherine Le Nevez

Austria, Britain, Finland, France, Ireland & The Netherlands Catherine's wanderlust kicked in when she roadtripped across Europe from her Parisian base aged four, and she's been hitting the road at every opportunity since, travelling to around 60 countries and completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and postgrad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way. Over the past dozen-plus years

she's written scores of Lonely Planet guides and articles covering Paris, France, Europe and far beyond. Her work has also appeared in numerous online and print publications. Topping Catherine's list of travel tips is to travel without any expectations.



Tom Masters

Albania & Kosovo Dreaming since he could walk of going to the most obscure places on earth, Tom has always had a taste for the unknown. This has led to a writing career that has taken him all over the world, including North Korea, the Arctic, Congo and Siberia. Despite a brief spell living in the English countryside, Tom has always called London, Paris and Berlin home. He currently

lives in Berlin and can be found online at www.tommasters.net.



Hugh McNaughtan

Britain, France, Lithuania & Turkey A former English lecturer, Hugh swapped grant applications for visa applications, and turned his love of travel into a full-time thing. A long-time castle tragic with an abiding love of Britain's Celtic extremities, he jumped at the chance to explore Wales, from the Cambrian Mountains to the tip of Anglesey. He's never happier than when on the road

with his two daughters. Except perhaps on the cricket field...



Korina Miller

Greece Korina first ventured to Greece as a backpacking teenager, sleeping on ferry decks and hiking in the mountains. Since then, she's found herself drawn back to soak up the timelessness of the old towns and drink coffee with locals in seaside *kafeneio*. Korina grew up on Vancouver Island and has been exploring the globe independently since she was 16, visiting or living in

36 countries and picking up a degree in Communications and Canadian Studies and an MA in Migration Studies en route. Korina has written nearly 40 titles for Lonely Planet and also works as a children's writing coach.



John Noble

Spain & Turkey John has been travelling since his teens and doing so as a Lonely Planet writer since the 1980s. The number of LP titles he's written or co-written is well into three figures, covering a somewhat random selection of countries scattered across the globe, predominantly ones where Spanish, Russian or English are spoken (usually alongside numerous local languages).

He still gets as excited as ever about heading out on the road to unfamiliar experiences, people and destinations, especially remote, off-the-beaten-track ones. Above all, he loves mountains, from the English Lake District to the Himalaya. See his pics on Instagram: [@johnnoble11](https://www.instagram.com/johnnoble11).



Becky Ohlsen

Sweden Becky is a freelance writer, editor and critic based in Portland, Oregon. She writes guidebooks and travel stories about Scandinavia, Portland and elsewhere for Lonely Planet.



Greg Bloom

Belarus & Moldova Greg is a freelance writer, tour operator and travel planner based out of Siem Reap, Cambodia, and Manila, Philippines. Greg began his writing career in the late '90s in Ukraine, working as a journalist and later editor-in-chief of the *Kyiv Post*, an English-language weekly. As a freelance travel writer, he has contributed to some 35 Lonely Planet titles, mostly in Eastern Europe and Asia. In addition to writing, he now organises adventure trips in Cambodia and Palawan (Philippines) through his tour company, Bearcat Travel.



Gregor Clark

France, Switzerland & Liechtenstein Gregor is a US-based writer whose love of foreign languages and curiosity about what's around the next bend have taken him to dozens of countries on five continents. Chronic wanderlust has also led him to visit all 50 states and most Canadian provinces on countless road trips through his native North America. Since 2000, Gregor has regularly contributed to Lonely Planet guides, with a focus on Europe and the Americas.



Marc Di Duca

Britain, Croatia, Germany, Poland, Portugal & Ukraine A travel author for the last decade, Marc has worked for Lonely Planet in Siberia, Slovakia, Bavaria, England, Ukraine, Austria, Poland, Croatia, Portugal, Madeira and on the Trans-Siberian Railway, as well as writing and updating tens of other guides for other publishers. When not on the road, Marc lives between Sandwich, Kent and Mariánské Lázně in the Czech Republic with his wife and two sons.



Peter Dragicevich

Britain, Croatia, Estonia After a successful career in niche newspaper and magazine publishing, both in his native New Zealand and in Australia, Peter finally gave into Kiwi wanderlust, giving up staff jobs to chase his diverse roots around much of Europe. Over the last decade he's written literally dozens of guidebooks for Lonely Planet on an oddly disparate collection of countries, all of which he's come to love. He once again calls Auckland, New Zealand his home – although his current nomadic existence means he's often elsewhere.



Mark Elliott

Bosnia & Hercegovina Mark Elliott had already lived and worked on five continents when, in the pre-Internet dark ages, he started writing travel guides. He has since authored (or co-authored) around 60 books including dozens for Lonely Planet. He also acts as a travel consultant, occasional tour leader, video presenter, speaker, interviewer and blues harmonicist.



Duncan Garwood

Italy From facing fast bowlers in Barbados to sidestepping hungry pigs in Goa, Duncan's travels have thrown up many unique experiences. These days he largely dedicates himself to Italy, his adopted homeland where he's been living since 1997. From his base in the Castelli Romani hills outside Rome, he's clocked up endless kilometres exploring the country's well-known destinations and far-flung reaches, working on guides to Rome, Sardinia,

Sicily, Piedmont, and Naples & the Amalfi Coast. Other LP titles include *Italy's Best Trips*, the *Food Lover's Guide to the World*, and *Pocket Bilbao & San Sebastian*. He also writes on Italy for newspapers, websites and magazines.



Anita Isalska

Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Romania & Slovakia Anita is a travel journalist, editor and copywriter whose work for Lonely Planet has taken her from Greek beach towns to Malaysian jungles, and plenty of places in between. After several merry years as an in-house editor and writer – with a few of them in Lonely Planet's London office – Anita now works freelance between the UK, Australia and any Balkan guesthouse with a good wi-fi connection. Anita writes about travel, food and culture for a host of websites and magazines. Read her stuff on www.anitaisalska.com.



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, Dublin, 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

Iceland Alexis has travelled and lived all over the world, from Sri Lanka to Ecuador, Zanzibar and Antarctica. In recent years she's been living on the Greek island of Hydra and exploring her adopted homeland: sampling oysters in Brittany and careening through hill-top villages in Provence; and adventuring along Iceland's surreal lava fields, sparkling fjords and glacier tongues. A travel writer for over two decades, Alexis has lived in Antarctica for a year, crossed the Pacific by sailboat and written books on her journeys through Asia, Europe and the Americas. She's also a painter – visit www.alexisaverbuck.com – and promotes travel and adventure on video and television.



James Bainbridge

Turkey James is a British travel writer and journalist based in Cape Town, South Africa, from where he roams the globe and contributes to publications worldwide. He has been working on Lonely Planet projects for over a decade, updating dozens of guidebooks and TV hosting everywhere from the African bush to the Great Lakes. The managing author of several editions of Lonely Planet's *South Africa*, *Lesotho & Swaziland*, *Turkey* and *Morocco* guides, his articles on travel,

culture and investment appear in the likes of BBC Travel, the UK *Guardian* and *Independent*, *Condé Nast Traveller* and *Lonely Planet Traveller*.



Mark Baker

Czech Republic, Slovenia Mark is a freelance travel writer with a penchant for offbeat stories and forgotten places. He's originally from the United States, but now makes his home in the Czech capital, Prague. He writes mainly on Eastern and Central Europe for Lonely Planet as well as other leading travel publishers, but finds real satisfaction in digging up stories in places that are too remote or quirky for the guides. Prior to becoming an author, he worked as a journalist for

The Economist, Bloomberg News and Radio Free Europe, among other organisations. Instagram: @markbakerprague Twitter: @markbakerprague



Oliver Berry

France & Norway Oliver is a writer and photographer from Cornwall. He has worked for Lonely Planet for more than a decade, covering destinations from Cornwall to the Cook Islands, and has worked on more than 30 guidebooks. He is also a regular contributor to many newspapers and magazines, including *Lonely Planet Traveller*. His writing has won several awards, including The Guardian Young Travel Writer of the Year and the TNT Magazine People's Choice Award. His latest work is published at www.oliverberry.com.

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