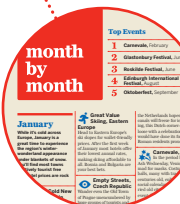


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PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT
 Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
 to help you put together your perfect trip

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SURVIVAL GUIDE

VITAL PRACTICAL INFORMATION TO
 HELP YOU HAVE A SMOOTH TRIP

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Europe



Top Experiences >



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Trace the line of the Berlin Wall (p488)

St Petersburg, Russia
Peter the Great's remarkable city (p1053)

Prague, Czech Republic
A rich history and an exciting present (p305)

Transylvania, Romania
Explore fabulous castles and mountains (p1030)

Dubrovnik, Croatia
Walk the old city walls at dusk (p280)

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A wonderland of stunning mosques (p1263)

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Gaze into the Caldera at sunset (p583)

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View across fields to the offshore abbey of Mont St-Michel (p427)



Europe 101

Six Weeks

Italy, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, France and Britain are the absolute essentials for any first-time visitor to Europe – all are crammed with world-famous sights, cultural icons and unforgettable experiences.



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- » Begin in **Rome** (p685) and spend several days in this incredible city.
- » Go north to heartbreakingly beautiful **Florence** (p733) and then revel in timeless **Venice** (p718).
- » Carry on to majestic Switzerland, spend a day in **Zürich** (p1247) and visit lovely **Lucerne** (p1252) and the amazing Swiss Alps by taking the train to the **Jungfrau** (p1255).
- » Head to **Munich** (p510) for Oktoberfest if you're there in September.
- » Hit **Berlin** (p488) at the weekend to check out Europe's most hedonistic city, see the remains of the wall and dance your nights (and days) away.
- » Then go to **Amsterdam** (p904), perfect for a couple of days' exploration, Rembrandt and canal wandering.



- » Next up is the train to **Paris** (p400). Spend several days here visiting the Louvre, Versailles and the Eiffel Tower.
- » Take the Eurostar to **London** (p156) and see the wealth of great sights and enjoy the city's great eating, drinking and clubbing.
- » Travel west to historic **Oxford** (p194) and **Bath** (p187), savouring incredible Stonehenge along the way, and swing north to **Liverpool** (p208).
- » End your journey with several days in Scotland – check out magical **Edinburgh** (p214), happening **Glasgow** (p219) and have a walk in the **Highlands** (p225).

Clockwise from top left

1. The Swiss Alps near the Jungfrau
2. Palazzo Ducale as seen from Piazza San Marco, Venice
3. Eiffel Tower, Paris
4. Houses of Parliament, London



Mediterranean Europe

Four Weeks

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, starting in Madrid and ending up in Turkey.

GREG ELIAS / LONELY PLANET IMAGES ©



- » Fly into **Madrid** (p1121) and then head directly for the Mediterranean by taking a train to **Barcelona** (p1146) and soak up the seaside ambience of Gaudi's city.
- » Head along the Côte d'Azur via **Nice** (p464) and spend time exploring **Monaco** (p470) and the beautiful villages of **Provence** (p458).
- » From Nice, take the train to historic **Rome** (p685) and continue south to energetic **Naples** (p747), peer into ill-fated **Pompeii** (p753) 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** (p280).

- » Bus it south through Montenegro and Albania – two of Europe's least-known but most-breathtaking gems – and then head to the beautiful Greek island of **Corfu** (p596).
- » From Patra, do a loop of the Peloponnese: bus to Byzantine pin-up city **Mystras** (p572), the ancient heavyweight **Mycenae** (p572) and then bus it to venerable **Athens** (p563).
- » Go south to Piraeus for an island-hopping expedition to **Mykonos** (p578), **Paros** (p580) and volcanic **Santorini** (p583).
- » Continue to island-hop until you've had your fill, then set sail for Turkey from Samos or Lesvos.
- » Visit ancient **Ephesus** (p1275) then bus north along the Aegean coast to the ruins of Troy and **Çanakkale** (p1273) and to throbbing, beautiful and chaotic **Istanbul** (p1263).

Clockwise from top left

1. The ruins of Pompeii 2. Whirling dervish in action in Istanbul 3. Oia town on Santorini 4. The Monte Carlo casino at Monaco



2



3

From London to the Sun

Four Weeks

Beginning in England, this lovely journey just gets warmer and warmer as you head further south. While you visit just four countries, this is a chance to get to know them all fairly well.



HOLDER LEBE/LOVELY PLANET IMAGES ©



KARL BLACKWELL/LOVELY PLANET IMAGES ©

» Enjoy **London** (p156) for several days of museums, galleries, world-class shopping and clubbing, then head to **Bath** (p187) by train before returning to London.

» Take the Eurostar to romantic **Paris** (p400) and make side trips to the **D-Day Beaches** (p427) and **Mont St-Michel** (p427).

» Rail south to **Barcelona** (p1146) possibly stopping at Limoges for the **Dordogne Valley** (p449) en route. From Barcelona, it's possible to make a longish round trip to the **Balearic Islands** (p1169) and **Valencia** (p1166).

» Zip up to the Basque seaside resort of **San Sebastián** (p1161) and the Museo Guggenheim in happening **Bilbao** (p1162).

» Next make a beeline for energetic **Madrid** (p1121), making day trips to Moorish **Toledo** (p1143) and enchanting **Segovia** (p1140).



» Then board a bus to the Islamic fortress, the Alhambra in **Granada** (p1179) and see the stunning Mezquita of **Córdoba** (p1177) before dancing the flamenco in **Seville** (p1173).

» Get the bus to **Lisbon** (p993) and relax and eat custard tarts in Portugal's breezy capital and sidestep to **Sintra** (p1001).

» North lies **Porto** (p1010) and the **Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês** (p1017), with lots of hiking opportunities.

» The southern **Algarve** (p1003) is touristy, but the train journey along the coast is beautiful.

Above

1. Street scene in Lisbon 2. Valencia's Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias (City of Arts and Sciences), designed by Santiago Calatrava

Scandinavian Highlights

Three Weeks

This is a three-week hop around the classic sights of Scandinavia, though you can easily spend far longer in these fascinating countries: Extra time allows more detailed exploration and side-trips to quieter places.

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FRANS LEMMENS/LOVELY PLANET IMAGES ©



- » Start in the funky Icelandic capital **Reykjavik** (p632) and spend several days in and around the city – don't miss the Blue Lagoon or the spectacular Gullfoss Falls.
- » Fly on to **Copenhagen** (p329), admiring the waterfront and museums and enjoying the lights of Tivoli at night.
- » Take a day trip to the cathedral and Viking boat museum at **Roskilde** (p337) and 'Hamlet's' castle at **Helsingør** (p337).
- » Next, take the train to **Stockholm** (p1200) and admire the stately, watery centre of town, perhaps stopping along the way at **Göteborg** (p1218) to soak up its bonhomie.
- » A ferry-trip from Stockholm could take you to quirky **Helsinki** (p373) or picturesque **Tallinn** (p355).

- » An overnight train from Stockholm takes you to **Oslo** (p930), where you can check out much of Munch's work in a stunning setting.
- » From Oslo, a long but very scenic day includes the **Norway in a Nutshell rail trip** (p936) to Flåm and a combination boat/bus journey along the Sognefjord to **Bergen** (p937), Norway's prettiest city.
- » From here you can take a fjord sidetrip to mighty **Geiranger** (p946) or to **Fjærland** (p937), the gateway to a glacial wonderland.
- » Head back to Denmark, stopping at **Århus** (p340) – don't miss the ARoS art museum.

Above

1. Bryggen waterfront in Bergen 2. Iceland's Blue Lagoon hot springs

The Alps to the Rif Mountains

One to Two Months

If you can't get enough of gorgeous towns on the shores of brilliant-blue lakes surrounded by soaring peaks, then this itinerary is bound to please. Abundant opportunities to hike or ski are available.



» Start with a couple of days on the Danube in elegant **Vienna** (p63) before dropping in to lovely **Bled** (p1108) and perhaps to nearby Bohinj in Slovenia.

» Then it's back to Austria for a couple of days to explore the beautiful **Salzkammergut** (p84) region.

» Detour to fairytale **Neuschwanstein Castle** (p522) near Füssen in Germany. By now you'll be ready to sample some beers in nearby **Munich** (p510).

» Head into Switzerland for a few days in the unbeatable **Swiss Alps** (p1240). Visit lovely **Lucerne** (p1252) and take the train to the top of Jungfrau.

» Head across to Italy to check out the sawtooth peaks of **The Dolomites** (p732).

» **Chamonix** (p447) in France is a great base to explore around Mt Blanc. Then it's time for some coffee, wine and sun along the Côte d'Azur travelling via **Monaco** (p470) and **Nice** (p464).

» Spain's two most exciting cities, **Barcelona** (p1146) and **Madrid** (p1121) beckon. Head south from here to see the beautiful Alhambra in **Granada** (p1179) and the stunning Mezquita of **Córdoba** (p1177).

» Next, take a ferry across to exotic Morocco. Check out the country's imperial cities of **Fez** (p885) and **Marrakesh** (p891).

» Lastly, chill out in the stunning **Rif Mountains** (p876) dotted by delightful towns and villages.

Clockwise from top left

1. Cafe scene during an evening in Madrid 2. Delightful Neuschwanstein Castle, near Füssen 3. Produce at a souq in Marrakesh 4. A soaring peak in Italy's Dolomites



Eastern Europe Today

Four Weeks

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: come and explore it yourself.

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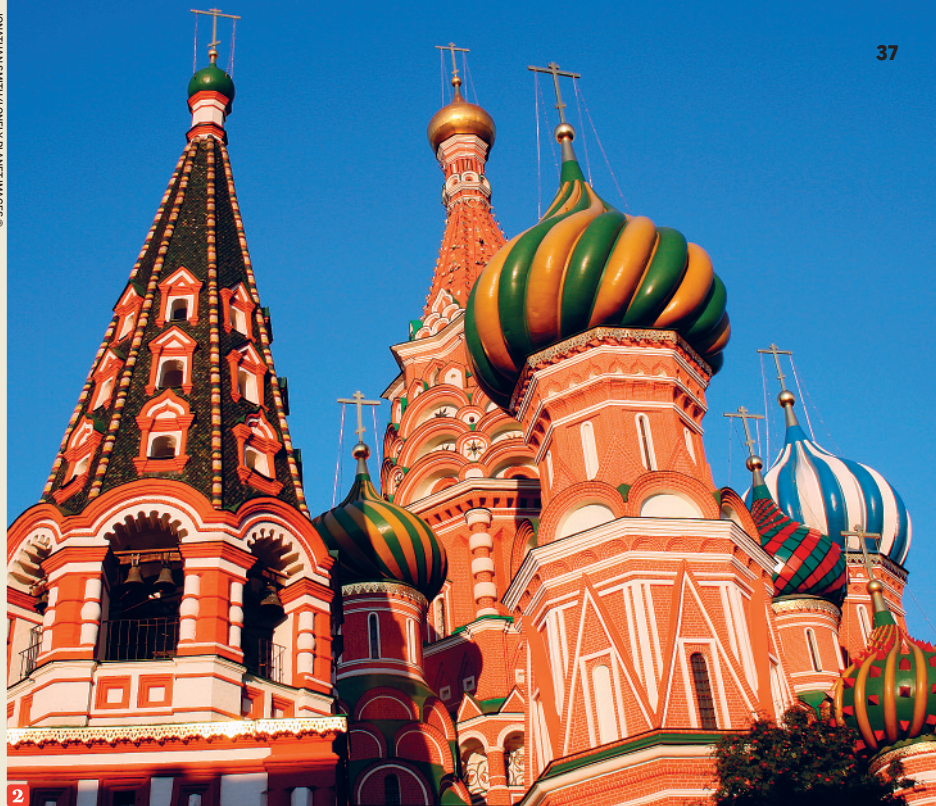
- » Pick a flight to **Berlin** (p488), now a veritable music, art and nightlife mecca.
- » Then travel to vibrant **Warsaw** (p961) and **Kraków** (p966), Poland's amazingly preserved royal capital.
- » Take in the old town in Lithuania's capital **Vilnius** (p802), wander the streets of gorgeous art nouveau **Riga** (p783) and party in technophile **Tallinn** (p355).
- » Head into Russia and split your time between imperial **St Petersburg** (p1053) and modern-day super-city **Moscow** (p1046).
- » Swing into the past by taking a train to **Minsk** (p99) in Belarus to see how things were under communism.
- » Continue into Ukraine and spend a few days in its bustling Soviet capital **Kyiv** (p1298), then contrast it with **Lviv** (p1299).



- » Entering Romania, you should make a bee-line for Transylvania. Sharpen your fangs at 'Dracula's' castle in **Bran** (p1033) and enjoy the gorgeous old towns nearby.
- » Romania's capital **Bucharest** (p1024) is next, where urban renewal of the communist kind awaits.
- » A train zips you through the mountains to Bulgaria's loveliest town, **Veliko Târnovo** (p252). Travel on to the relaxed capital **Sofia** (p243) and then by train to Serbia's vibrant capital, **Belgrade** (p1071).
- » Head back to Berlin via sumptuous **Budapest** (p608) and romantic **Prague** (p305).

Clockwise from top left

1. Art Nouveau decoration in Riga 2. St Basil's Cathedral, Moscow 3. Széchenyi Baths, Budapest 4. Modern shopping centre, designed by The Jude Partnership, Warsaw



2



3



Nicola Williams

France Independent travel writer and editorial consultant Nicola Williams has lived in France and written about it for more than a decade. From her hillside house on the southern shore of Lake Geneva, it's a quick and easy hop to the French Alps (call her a ski fiend...), Paris (... art buff), southern France (... foodie and wine lover). Paris this time around meant stylish apartment living in the heart of St-Germain des Prés, aided and abetted by husband extraordinaire Mathias and three small tri-lingual kids with ant in their pants. Nicola has worked on numerous Lonely Planet titles, including *France*, *Discover France*, *Paris*, *Provence & the Côte d'Azur* and *The Loire*. She blogs at tripalong.wordpress.com and [tweets@Tripalong](https://twitter.com/Tripalong).

Read more about Nicola at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/nicolawilliams



Neil Wilson

Ireland, Malta Neil's first experiences of Ireland were a sailing trip to Kinsale in 1990 and a tour of Northern Ireland's Antrim coast in 1994. Since then he has returned regularly for holidays, hiking trips and guidebook research – this time round he finally climbed Carrauntoohil, Ireland's highest peak. Neil is a full-time travel writer based in Edinburgh, Scotland, and has written around 50 guidebooks, including working on the last four editions of Lonely Planet's *Ireland* guide.

Read more about Neil at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/neilwilson



Tamara Sheward

Serbia After years of freelance travel writing, rock'n'roll journalism and insalubrious authordom, Tamara leapt at the chance to join the Lonely Planet ranks in 2009 as presenter of LPTV's *Roads Less Travelled: Cambodia* documentary. Taking on the decidedly less leech-infested Serbia for this book was a natural fit for a half-Russian Australian girl with a penchant for Cyrillic, *ćevapčići* and home-made spirits, although getting trapped in a derelict Tito-era lift did test pan-Slavic relations somewhat. As befitting someone who believes that mayonnaise, sour cream and cheese does a salad make, Tamara has extensively travelled in and written about the Balkans, the Caucasus and Russia, and will continue to do so, as soon as the brain cells she lost at Guča are rejuvenated.



Caroline Sieg

Switzerland, Liechtenstein Half-Swiss, half-American. Caroline's relationship with Switzerland began when she and her family first moved to Lucerne at age five. Several moves back and forth across the Atlantic ended when she resided in Zurich throughout high-school and beyond, including working a season in a ski resort in the Valais. These days, Caroline heads to Switzerland as often as possible – to ski, indulge in cheese and chocolate or to simply meander along Lake Zürich.

Read more about Caroline at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/carolinesieg



Regis St Louis

Portugal Regis' long-time admiration for wine, rugged coastlines and melancholic music made him easy prey for Portugal. He has travelled extensively across the country – most recently fêting Lisbon's favourite saint at the Festa de Santo Antonio, exploring gorgeous beaches in the Parque Natural da Arrábida and eating too many *pasteis de nata* (including six in one day – oops). Regis is the coordinating author of Lonely Planet *Portugal*, and his travel essays have appeared in

newspapers, in-flight magazines and online. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Read more about Regis at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/regisstlouis



Andy Symington

Finland Andy first visited Finland many years ago more or less by accident, and walking on frozen lakes with the midday sun low in the sky made a quick and deep impression on him, even as fingers froze in the -30°C temperatures. Since then they can't keep him away, fuelled by a love of huskies, saunas, Finnish mustard, moody Suomi rock and metal, but above all, of Finnish people and their beautiful country.

Read more about Andy at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/andysymington



Ryan Ver Berkmoes

Germany, Netherlands Ryan Ver Berkmoes once lived in Germany. Three years in Frankfurt during which time he edited a magazine until he got a chance for a new career: with Lonely Planet. One of his first jobs was working on the Germany chapter of the 4th edition of this very book. Later he worked on the 1st edition of LP's *The Netherlands*, a country where they pronounce his name better than he can. He continues to write about both. These days he lives in Portland, Oregon.

Follow him at ryanverberkmoes.com. He tweets at @ryanvb.

Read more about Ryan at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/ryanverberkmoes



Richard Watkins

Bulgaria Richard studied ancient history at Oxford, and his first job after university was teaching conversational English to college students in Sofia. He tried teaching for a while in Singapore, but found travelling much more fun, and he has returned to Bulgaria several times since, discovering something new each time. Richard has contributed to various guidebooks, newspapers and websites, and has written for Lonely Planet since 2003. His previous titles include two editions

of Lonely Planet *Bulgaria* as well as *Poland*, *Best of Krakow*, *Eastern Europe* and *Italy*.

**Leif Pettersen**

Moldova, Romania In 2003, after nine years of feigning interest in electronic payments for the US Federal Reserve System, Leif Pettersen – from Minneapolis, Minnesota – was ‘Kramered’ into being a homeless, shameless, godless freelance travel writer by an unbalanced friend. Leif’s weakness for beauty first brought him to Romania in 2004, where he’s since lived and/or traveled for two cumulative years. He’s repeatedly visited every notable patch of grass in

Romania and Moldova, making dear friends, except for Romania’s Neo-Nazi Party who publicly denounced him in 2008, calling him a ‘slimeball’ and ‘human piece of garbage.’ (True story.) Leif writes an almost award-winning, ‘slightly caustic’ blog, where he dishes on travel writing, Romania, Italy’s woeful internet and his remarkable-gift-for-hyphenation at KillingBatteries.com.

**Brandon Presser**

Latvia His wanderlust bigger than his wallet, Brandon earned his backpacker stripes after an epic overland adventure from Morocco to Finland. He then joined the glamorous ranks of eternal nomadism as a fulltime travel writer, and has since contributed to over 20 Lonely Planet titles. He co-authored *Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania* and was delighted to return to the Baltic where he put his Harvard art history degree to good use while checking out Rīga’s surplus of evocative art

nouveau architecture.

**Josephine Quintero**

Cyprus Josephine has visited Cyprus many times and finds the island fascinating, as well as experiencing a real affinity with the Cypriots from both sides of the Green Line. Highlights during this trip were visiting the incredible frescoed Byzantine churches in the Republic and a moonlit stroll around the north’s Kyrenia harbour; a quintessential Mediterranean resort. Josephine also re-discovered the irresistible appeal of the traditional meze, especially when washed down with

local Cypriot wine from one of the growing number of wineries in the Troodos.

Read more about Josephine at: lonelyplanet.com/members/josephinequintero

**Tim Richards**

Poland Tim taught English in Kraków in 1994-95, after a two-year teaching stint in Egypt. He was fascinated by the post-communism transition affecting every aspect of Polish life, and by surviving remnants of the Cold War days. He’s since returned to Poland repeatedly for Lonely Planet, deepening his relationship with this beautiful, complex country. When he’s not on the road for Lonely Planet, Tim is a freelance journalist living in Melbourne, Australia. You can see more of his

writing at www.iwriter.com.au.

**Simon Richmond**

Russia After studying Russian history and politics at university, Simon’s first visit to the country was in 1994 when he wandered goggle eyed around gorgeous St Petersburg, and peeked at Lenin’s mummified corpse in Red Square. He’s since travelled the breadth of the nation from Kamchatka in the far east to Kaliningrad in the far west, stopping off at many points between. An award-winning writer and photographer, Simon is the co-author of the first and subsequent editions of Lonely Planet’s *Trans-Siberian Railway* as well as editions 3, 4 and 5 of *Russia*. Read more about his travels in the country for this edition of *Europe on a shoestring* on his blog at www.simonrichmond.com.

Read more about Simon at: lonelyplanet.com/members/simonrichmond

**Miles Roddis**

Andorra Living in Valencia, on Spain’s Mediterranean coast, Miles loses count of the times he’s nipped up to Andorra for a skiing weekend or a summertime camping and walking break – though never, ever to shop. He has written or contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet titles, including guides, both general and walking, to Spain and France, Andorra’s immediate neighbours.

Read more about Miles at: lonelyplanet.com/members/serranoham



Duncan Garwood

Italy Since moving to Italy in 1997, Duncan has travelled the length and breadth of the country numerous times, contributing to a raft of Lonely Planet Italy titles as well as newspapers and magazines. Each trip throws up special memories and this time it was a perfect beach moment in Sardinia – driving down a rough dirt track to find a deserted strip of sand lapped by limpid aquamarine waters. He currently lives in the Alban hills just outside of Rome.

Read more about Duncan at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/duncangarwood



Anthony Ham

Norway, Spain In 2002 Anthony arrived in Madrid on a one-way ticket, has called the city home ever since and now lives with his *madrileña* wife and two daughters overlooking their favourite plaza in the city. He has written or co-written more than 50 guidebooks for Lonely Planet, including *Spain, Madrid and Norway*, and writes regularly on both countries for newspapers and magazines around the world. Researching this guide allowed him to rediscover his home city

afresh and revisit one of his true passions, the Arctic North.

Read more about Anthony at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/anthony_ham



Anna Kaminski

Lithuania Many thanks to everyone who helped me on my Lithuania journey, including all of the too-numerous-to-mention-individually tourist office and Litinterp staff. A special thank you to Mikael for the late, late Vilnius nights, to Gintaras for his insider tips on Kaunas, to Justas and Milda for the memorable Klaipeda dinner, and to Luisè and Juozas for the smoked eel and boundless hospitality in Nida, yet again.



Craig McLachlan

Greece Craig has researched the Greek Islands for the last four editions of Lonely Planet's Europe guidebooks. He is also a regular visitor to Greece as a tour leader, guiding mainly hiking groups in the mountains and gorges of Crete and around the Cyclades. He's even taken a group of Japanese doctors to Kos to see the birthplace of Hippocrates. A Kiwi, Craig spends the southern hemisphere summer running an outdoor adventure company in Queenstown before heading

north for the winter as a 'freelance anything'. He is also a karate instructor and Japanese interpreter. Check out his website at www.craigmclachlan.com.

Read more about Craig at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/craigmclachlan



Anja Mutić

Croatia It's been more than 18 years since Anja left her native Croatia. The journey took her to several countries before she made New York City her base 11 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. On her last trip, she loved exploring Hvar's lavender-dotted interior. Anja blogs about her travels at www.everthenomad.com.

Read more about Anja at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/anjamutic



Becky Ohlsen

Sweden Becky has traveled in Sweden since age two and is constantly amazed at the fact that no matter how often she visits, she still finds things she's never seen before, whether it's an underground cafe in Södermalm or a Viking-era stone ship hidden away in the forest. Becky's favorite things about Sweden include fried herring and saffron ice cream (not together), the art of John Bauer, the diaries of August Strindberg, the films of Ingmar Bergman, the hiking trails of

Norrland, and the little red huts scattered everywhere. She has also written about England and the Pacific Northwest for Lonely Planet. Becky lives in Portland, Oregon.



Fran Parnell

Iceland Fran updated the Iceland chapter. Her passion for Scandinavia began while studying for a masters degree in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic. A strange university slideshow, featuring sublime Icelandic mountains and a matter-of-fact man who'd literally dug his own grave, awakened a fascination with Iceland that has just kept on growing. Fran returns to the country as often as possible, and always finds something new to appreciate. This year, she ran the Reykjavik

Marathon for the first time, and would recommend the experience to everyone! Fran has worked on other Lonely Planet guides to Scandinavia, including *Scandinavia, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark and Reykjavik*.



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. Several prolonged stints, countless near misses with Kyiv's metro doors and many bottles of *horilka* later, he still never misses a chance to fine-tune his Russian while exploring far-flung corners of this immense land. An established travel author, Marc has penned guides to Moscow and Lake Baikal, as well as working on Lonely Planet's *Trans-*

Siberian Railway and *Russia* books.

Read more about Marc Di Duca at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/madidu



Peter Dragičević

Montenegro Among the two dozen or so Lonely Planet books that Peter's co-written are the first ever *Montenegro* country guide, *Western Balkans* and the two previous editions of this title. While it was family ties that first drew him to the Balkans, it's the history, natural beauty, convoluted politics, cheap *rakija* and intriguing people that keep bringing him back. This trip's highlight was a particularly dramatic trek through the clouds to the Njegoš monument on the top of Mt Lovćen.



Lisa Dunford

Slovakia A fascination with Europe has gripped Lisa since childhood, probably because her grandfather emigrated from the Carpathian mountains that were a part of Hungary, then Czechoslovakia and now are in the Ukraine. She studied in Budapest junior year at university and, post graduation, worked for the Agency for International Development at the US embassy in Bratislava. While living in Slovakia, Lisa danced with the country as it became an independent nation,

learned the language and made life-long friends. She returns often as a freelance writer. Lisa has contributed to numerous books for Lonely Planet, including *Czech & Slovak Republics*, *Hungary* and *Central Europe*.



Mark Elliot

Belgium, Bosnia & Hercegovina, Luxembourg In 1995, a chance encounter at a Turkmenistan camel market saw British-born author Mark Elliott tumble into the arms of his Belgian bride-to-be. He followed her home and is now well into a second decade living in the Benelux, still revelling in the crazy carnivals, fabulous festivals, classic castles and brilliant beer cafes that make this area one of the world's most underestimated destinations. Mark was only 11 when his family first dragged him

to Sarajevo and stood him in the now defunct concrete footsteps of Gavrilo 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 healthy stomach should be subjected to.



David Else

Britain David is a professional travel writer and author of more than 40 guide-books, including numerous editions of Lonely Planet's guides to *Great Britain*, *England* and *Walking in Britain*. His knowledge comes from a lifetime of travel around the country – often on foot – a passion dating from university years, when heading for the hills was always more attractive than visiting the library.

Originally from London, David has lived in Yorkshire, Wales and Derbyshire, and is currently based on the southern edge of the Cotswolds.

Read more about David at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/davidelse



Steve Fallon

Slovenia Steve has been travelling to Slovenia since the early 1990s, when most everyone but the Slovenes had never heard of the place. Never mind, it was his own private Idaho for over a decade. Though *on še govori slovensko kot jamski človek* (he still speaks Slovene like a caveman), Steve considers part of his soul to be Slovenian and returns as often as he can for a glimpse of the Julian Alps in the sun, a dribble of *bučno olje* and a dose of the dual.



Mark Baker

Hungary Mark first came to Eastern Europe in the mid-'80s as a grad student in International Affairs. Those were the dark days of the dying communist regimes, yet even then he was hooked by the region's quirky history, beauty and cheap booze. He's lived in Prague for the better part of 20 years, and is a frequent traveller throughout the region (and now has a special fondness for Hungary). After working as a fulltime journalist for The Economist Group and Radio Free Europe,

he's found permanent employment as a freelance travel writer and is co-author of Lonely Planet's *Prague* and *Romania*, among other titles.



Cristian Bonetto

Denmark A weakness for svelte design, adventurous chefs and cycle-toned bodies first drew Cristian Bonetto to Denmark. Years later, the Australian-born writer is no less impressed by the country's progressive green policies and high quota of perfect cheekbones. Indeed, Denmark's effortless cool continues to inspire this one-time soap scribe, whose musings on travel and popular culture have appeared in Australian, British and Italian publications. When Cristian isn't hunting

down Denmark's best *kanelnæggle* ('cinnamon snail'), you're likely to find him scouring Sweden, Italy and New York for decent espresso, cheap chic and the perfect shot to post on Facebook.



Kerry Christiani

Austria Born in Essex, Kerry now lives in the Black Forest, Germany. Ever since her first encounter with real snow in the Tyrolean Alps, she has been travelling back to those incredible mountains. On her second visit for Lonely Planet she discovered the truth about the von Trapps in Salzburg, sweated out a rare heat-wave in the Alps and climbed (almost) every mountain. In so doing, she fell in love with the little country and its great outdoors all over again. Kerry's incurable wanderlust has taken her to six continents, inspiring numerous articles and some 20 guidebooks, including Lonely Planet *Austria*, *Germany*, *Switzerland* and *France*.

Read more about Kerry at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/kerrychristiani



Paul Clammer

Morocco As a student, Paul had his first solo backpacking experience when he took a bus from his Cambridgeshire home all the way to Casablanca. After an interlude where he trained and worked as a molecular biologist, he returned to work as a tour guide, trekking in the Atlas and trying not to lose passengers in the Fez medina. The increasing number of budget-airline routes from the UK to Morocco is one of his favourite recent travel innovations, allowing him to continue to hop over to Morocco on a regular basis.

Read more about Paul at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/paulclammer



Jayne D'Arcy

Albania & Kosovo Counting Albania's highlights every two years for the past six has led Jayne to the startling conclusion that Albania resembles a robust child's growth chart. Taking advantage of the growth are cyclists in remote corners, hikers turning the 'Accursed Mountains' into a 'must-hike' and backpacker hostels opening in the hottest spots. When she's not taking photos of vintage folding bikes in Albania, Jayne also writes about the southern hemisphere (*South East Asia* on a *shoestring* and *Australia*) and rides her own vintage folding bike around Melbourne, Australia.



Chris Deliso

Macedonia US travel writer and journalist Chris Deliso (www.chrisdeliso.com) has been exploring widely in the Balkans ever since finishing a master's in Byzantine History at Oxford University, back in 1999. He's lived in Greece, Turkey and, for the most part, Macedonia – a country that still continues to surprise him on a daily basis. In researching the present guide, Chris checked out new nightspots in Skopje's revitalised old town, gazed out from beatific mountaintop

monasteries, and hopped boulders while fending off freshwater crabs in Macedonia's rushing rivers. Chris has contributed to several other Lonely Planet guidebooks, including *Greece*, *Bulgaria* and *Western Balkans*.

Read more about Chris at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/chrisdeliso



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 Melbourne, London and Oakland, 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



Tom Masters

Co-ordinating Author, Belarus An inveterate traveller since childhood, Tom has backpacked, trained, flown, walked and driven through all corners of Europe over the past three decades. Having lived in London, Paris, St Petersburg and Berlin, he feels more European than English these days. When not travelling through police states and avoiding arrest from shadowy security services, Tom can usually be found in the bars and cafes of East Berlin. You can find him online at www.tommasters.net.

Read more about Tom at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/tommasters



Brett Atkinson

Czech Republic Brett Atkinson has been travelling to Eastern Europe for more than 20 years, honeymooning in Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary, writing about the legacy of the communist era, and enjoying more than a few local beers. For his fourth extended research trip to the Czech Republic, he dived into Prague's emerging visual arts scene, trekked the spectacular valleys of the Bohemian Switzerland region, and continued to marvel at sunsets above Prague Castle.

When he's not on the road for Lonely Planet, Brett's at home in Auckland, planning his next overseas sojourn with wife Carol. He's contributed to more than 20 Lonely Planet titles, and travelled to more than 60 countries. See www.brett-atkinson.net for details of his latest writing and travels.



Carolyn Bain

Estonia Melbourne-based Carolyn studied European history and languages and has lived and studied in a few Euro hotspots, from London to rural Denmark to St Petersburg. Lonely Planet has given her licence to further investigate great pockets of the continent – Greece, Malta, Sweden, Denmark, the Baltics – and there's still a huge buzz to be had in crossing the Arctic Circle or swimming in the Med in December, all in the name of work. For this book she returned to the northeast,

where Estonia combines the best of Eastern Europe and Scandinavia and delivers something heartwarmingly unique.



James Bainbridge

Turkey Coordinating two editions of Lonely Planet's *Turkey* took James from Aegean islands to the Anatolian plateau. He also spent most of 2010 living in Istanbul – trendy Cihangir to be exact – and learning to love suffixes on a Turkish course. Originally from England, he now lives in Cape Town (Turkey, give my South African girlfriend a visa next time!) and writes about Africa, the Middle East and Europe for worldwide publications. His other Lonely Planet credits include

the previous edition of this guide and, most recently, coordinating *Morocco*. You can find links to travel articles by James at the Lonely Planet website.

Read more about James at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/james_bains

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

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