



Europe

on a shoestring

- 1 Estonia p319
- 2 Latvia p716
- 3 Lithuania p732
- 4 Russia p911
- 5 The Netherlands p788
- 6 Belgium & Luxembourg p100
- 7 Switzerland p1121
- 8 Czech Republic p294
- 9 Slovakia p1005
- 10 Austria p54
- 11 Hungary p552
- 12 Slovenia p1026
- 13 Croatia p266
- 14 Bosnia & Hercegovina p136
- 15 Serbia p991
- 16 Montenegro p777
- 17 Kosovo p710
- 18 Albania p42
- 19 Macedonia p750
- 20 Moldova p765



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

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PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Europe	6
Europe Map	8
24 Top Experiences	10
Need to Know	22
If You Like.....	24
Month by Month	27
Itineraries	32

ON THE ROAD

ALBANIA	42	BRITAIN	153
Tirana	45	London	155
Shkodra	48	Windsor & Eton	183
Kruja	49	Canterbury	184
Berat	49	Dover	185
Saranda	50	Brighton & Hove	186
Gjirokastra	51	Salisbury	187
		Stonehenge	188
AUSTRIA	54	Bath	188
Vienna	58	Bristol	191
Krems an der Donau	67	Newquay	194
Melk	68	St Ives	195
Linz	68	Penzance	196
Graz	69	Oxford	197
Klagenfurt	71	Stratford-upon-Avon	199
Salzburg	72	Peak District National Park	200
Hallstatt	77	Cambridge	201
Innsbruck	78	York	202
Kitzbühel	81	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	206
Lienz	81	Manchester	208
Vorarlberg	82	Chester	211
		Liverpool	211
BELARUS	89	Lake District National Park	213
Minsk	92	Cardiff	215
Brest	96	Snowdonia National Park	217
		Edinburgh	218
BELGIUM & LUXEMBOURG	100	Glasgow	223
Brussels	104	Loch Lomond	228
Antwerp	112	Stirling	228
Ghent	117	Inverness	230
Bruges	119	Glen Coe	231
Ypres	123	Fort William	231
Wallonia	124	Isle of Skye	232
Luxembourg	126		
		BULGARIA	243
BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA	136	Sofia	246
Sarajevo	139	Plovdiv	253
Mostar	145	Veliko Tärново	255



BERNKASTEL-KUES (P482), GERMANY



MEDITERRANEAN COAST (P1170), TURKEY

Contents

Varna	257	Tours	380	Constance	474
Burgas	261	Amboise	382	Frankfurt-am-Main	475
CROATIA	266	Dijon	383	Moselle Valley	481
Zagreb	270	Beaune	384	Trier	482
Pula	276	Lyon	385	Cologne	483
Split	278	Chamonix	390	Düsseldorf	486
Hvar Island	281	Sarlat-La-Canéda	392	Aachen	487
Korčula Island	283	Bordeaux	393	Hanover	488
Dubrovnik	284	Biarritz	395	Bremen	490
		Nîmes	396	Hamburg	491
		Toulouse	398	Lübeck	496
		Marseille	400		
CZECH REPUBLIC ..	294	Aix-en-Provence	403	GREECE	505
Prague	297	Avignon	404	Athens	507
Karlštejn	307	Nice	407	The Peloponnese	515
Kutná Hora	308	Cannes	410	Meteora	519
Karlovy Vary	308	St-Tropez	411	Thessaloniki	520
Pižeň	310	Monaco	413	Ioannina	522
Český Krumlov	311	Ajaccio	414	Mykonos	523
Brno	312	Bastia	415	Paros	525
		Bonifacio	416	Naxos	526
				Ios	528
				Santorini (Thira)	528
ESTONIA	319	GERMANY	427	Crete	530
Tallinn	322	Berlin	429	Dodecanese	535
Lahemaa National Park	330	Potsdam	445	Samos	538
Tartu	331	Dresden	447	Lesvos (Mytilini)	539
Pärnu	334	Leipzig	449	Skiathos	540
		Weimar	451	Corfu	541
		Erfurt	452		
FRANCE	338	Munich	454	HUNGARY	552
Paris	342	Bavarian Alps	460	Budapest	554
Lille	365	Rothenburg ob der Tauber	463	Sopron	566
Calais	366	Würzburg	463	Lake Balaton	567
Rouen	368	Nuremberg	464	Pécs	569
Bayeux	369	Bamberg	466	Szeged	570
Quimper	371	Regensburg	467	Eger	571
St-Malo	372	Stuttgart	468		
Reims	374	Heidelberg	469	IRELAND	578
Épernay	375	Black Forest	471	Dublin	581
Strasbourg	376	Freiburg im Breisgau	472		
Metz	378				
Blois	379				

ON THE ROAD

Kilkenny	589
Cork	591
Killarney	594
Ring of Kerry	595
Galway	596
Aran Islands	598
Sligo	600
Belfast	602
Derry	609

ITALY 617

Rome	620
Genoa	643
Cinque Terre	645
Turin	646
Milan	647
Verona	650
Padua	652
Venice	653
Bologna	662
Ravenna	664
Florence	666
Pisa	673
Siena	675
Lucca	676
Perugia	677
Assisi	679
Naples	680
Capri	686
Sorrento	687
Amalfi Coast	688
Matera	689
Lecce	691
Sicily	692
Sardinia	698

KOSOVO 710

Pristina	712
Peja (Peć)	713
Prizren	714

LATVIA 716

Rīga	719
Liepāja	727
Sigulda	728

LITHUANIA 732

Vilnius	734
Trakai	742
Kaunas	743
Klaipėda	745
Curonian Spit	745

MACEDONIA 750

Skopje	752
Ohrid	757
Bitola	760

MOLDOVA 765

Chişinău	768
Tiraspol	773

MONTENEGRO 777

Morinj	780
Kotor	780
Budva	781
Sveti Stefan	782
Ulcinj	783
Cetinje	783
Lake Skadar National Park	784
Durmitor National Park	784

THE NETHERLANDS ... 788

Amsterdam	791
Haarlem	798
Leiden	799
Den Haag	800
Delft	801
Rotterdam	802

Utrecht	806
Maastricht	808

POLAND 815

Warsaw	818
Kraków	824
Lublin	832
Zamość	834
Zakopane	835
Wrocław	836
Poznań	839
Gdańsk	841
Toruń	845
Great Masurian Lakes	847

PORTUGAL 852

Lisbon	855
Sintra	864
Cascais	865
Faro	866
Tavira	867
Lagos	868
Sagres	869
Évora	869
Peniche	870
Nazaré	872
Tomar	872
Coimbra	873
Luso & the Buçaco Forest	874
Serra da Estrela	874
Porto	875
Viana do Castelo	879
Braga	880
Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês	881

ROMANIA 887

Bucharest	889
------------------	------------

Contents

Braşov	896	Tatra Mountains	1014	Bern	1133
Sighişoara	898	Levoča	1017	Lucerne	1134
Sibiu	900	Slovenský Raj & Around	1017	Interlaken	1135
Cluj-Napoca	901	Košice	1019	Jungfrau Region	1136
Timişoara	903	Bardejov	1021	Zürich	1138
RUSSIA	911	SLOVENIA	1026	Basel	1142
Moscow	914	Ljubljana	1028	Lugano	1143
St Petersburg	922	Lake Bled	1034	St Moritz	1144
Kaliningrad	929	Lake Bohinj	1037	TURKEY	1151
SCANDINAVIA	939	Postojna & Škocjan Caves	1039	İstanbul	1153
Denmark	942	Koper	1039	Gallipoli (Gelibolu) Peninsula	1164
Copenhagen	942	Piran	1040	Çanakkale	1164
Zealand	948	SPAIN	1045	İzmir	1166
Odense	950	Madrid	1047	Selçuk	1166
Jutland	951	Salamanca	1063	Kuşadası	1168
Sweden	953	Segovia	1065	Bodrum	1168
Stockholm	953	Toledo	1067	Marmaris	1169
Uppsala	959	Barcelona	1068	Fethiye	1170
Göteborg	960	Tarragona	1082	Kaş	1172
Norrland	963	Aragón	1083	Olympos & Çıralı	1173
Norway	964	Santiago de Compostela	1088	Antalya	1173
Oslo	964	Valencia	1090	Ankara	1174
Bergen & the Western Fjords	968	Mallorca	1093	Konya	1176
Finland	975	Ibiza	1095	Göreme	1177
Helsinki	975	Seville	1097	UKRAINE	1187
Turku	979	Córdoba	1102	Kyiv	1189
Tampere	980	Granada	1104	Lviv	1195
Lakeland	982	Málaga	1107	SURVIVAL GUIDE	
Lapland	983	Tarifa	1109	Directory A–Z	1202
SERBIA	991	Cáceres	1110	Transport	1215
Belgrade	994	SWITZERLAND	1121	Language	1225
Novi Sad	1000	Geneva	1123	Index	1237
Subotica	1001	Lausanne	1129	Map Legend	1259
SLOVAKIA	1005	Gruyères	1131		
Bratislava	1008	Zermatt	1131		

On the Road

- 1 Estonia p319
- 2 Latvia p716
- 3 Lithuania p732
- 4 Russia p911
- 5 The Netherlands p788
- 6 Belgium & Luxembourg p100
- 7 Switzerland p1121
- 8 Czech Republic p294
- 9 Slovakia p1005
- 10 Austria p54
- 11 Hungary p552
- 12 Slovenia p1026
- 13 Croatia p266
- 14 Bosnia & Hercegovina p136
- 15 Serbia p991
- 16 Montenegro p777
- 17 Kosovo p710
- 18 Albania p42
- 19 Macedonia p750
- 20 Moldova p765



Europe



Faxaflói
★ **ICELAND**
Reykjavik

Fjords, Norway
Take an unforgettable boat trip (p968)

Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Stroll the iconic canals (p791)

Dublin, Ireland
Enjoy the craic (fun) at a local pub (p581)

London, Britain
Catch the buzz of the city at night (p155)

Paris, France
Climb the Eiffel Tower (p342)

Barcelona, Spain
Be humbled by La Sagrada Família (p1068)

Venice, Italy
Drift along the winding canals (p653)

Top Experiences >



Berlin, Germany
Trace the line of the Berlin Wall (p429)

St Petersburg, Russia
Enjoy Peter the Great's remarkable city (p922)

Prague, Czech Republic
Take in the rich history of this exciting city (p297)

Kraków, Poland
Soak up the history of the former royal capital (p824)

Transylvania, Romania
Explore fabulous castles and mountains (p895)

Dubrovnik, Croatia
Walk the old city walls at dusk (p284)

İstanbul, Turkey
Marvel at the stunning mosques (p1153)

Santorini, Greece
Gaze into the caldera at sunset (p528)



Nicola Williams

France British writer and editorial consultant Nicola Williams has lived in France and written about it for more than a decade. From her hillside home on Lake Geneva's southern shore, it is an easy hop to the French Alps (call her a ski fiend...), Paris (art buff...), southern France (foodie...). She 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.

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



Neil Wilson

Ireland 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 climbed Mt Brandon and six of Connemara's Twelve Bens. Neil is a full-time travel writer based in Edinburgh, Scotland, and has written around 50 guidebooks, including working on the last five editions of Lonely Planet's *Ireland* guide.



Tim Richards

Poland Tim taught English in Kraków in the 1990s, and was fascinated by Poland's post-communist transition. He's returned repeatedly for Lonely Planet, deepening his relationship with this beautiful, complex country. In 2011 Tim released a Kindle ebook collecting his media articles about Poland, *We Have Here the Homicide*. When he's not on the road for Lonely Planet, Tim is a freelance journalist in Melbourne, Australia, writing about travel and the arts. You can find

his blog and social media contacts at www.iwriter.com.au.



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 65 countries. She's written about her native country for two decades and authored or contributed to some 60 Lonely Planet titles, including all editions of the *Germany* country guide, the *Berlin* city guide and the *Pocket Berlin* guide. After years of living in LA, Andrea now makes her home in Berlin.



Tamara Sheward

Serbia After years of freelance travel writing, rock'n'roll journalism and insalubrious authordom, Tamara joined the Lonely Planet 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 arctic Russia and Serbia. She lives between northern Serbia, a mountain shack in Montenegro and Melbourne with her husband, Dušan, whom she never would have met were

it not for some late night "researching" for the last edition of *Eastern Europe*.



Regis St Louis

Portugal Regis' long-time admiration for wine, rugged coastlines and soulful music made him easy prey for Portugal – a country he has travelled extensively over the past decade. Fine memories from his most recent trip include chatting with shepherds in the mountains near Manteigas, hearing avant-garde fado in Lisbon and feasting on delectable *percebes* in the Algarve. Regis is the coordinating author of the last three editions of Lonely Planet's *Portugal*, and he has

written numerous articles about the Iberian Peninsula.



Andy Symington

Scandinavia Andy hails from Australia, lives in Spain, learned to ski as a child in Norway, was entranced by wintertime Finland as a backpacking teenager and has been a regular visitor to the Nordic lands ever since. He has travelled widely throughout the region, and is a regular contributor on Finland and Scandinavia to Lonely Planet guides and other publications. Highlights have included close encounters with bears, rowing-boat odysseys on enormous lakes and a near-terminal

swim in a seriously cold Arctic Ocean.

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



Ryan Ver Berkmoes

The Netherlands, Switzerland Ryan Ver Berkmoes first visited Switzerland in 1984 when he used it as his mail drop during a year-long backpacking trip. Later he worked on the first edition of Lonely Planet's *The Netherlands*, a country where they pronounce his name better than he can. He continues to write about both. These days he divides his time between Europe and the US. Follow him at ryanverberkmoes.com. He tweets at @ryanvb



Luke Waterson

Slovakia Dividing his love affair with Slovakia between the castles, the mountains, *pirohy* (potato dumplings) and (more unexplainably) Soviet architecture, Luke has, besides contributions to 15 Lonely Planet titles, written for BBC Travel, the *Guardian*, Avalon Travel Publishing and a clutch of in-flight magazines (thus keeping you entertained even in mid-air). He lives on the very edge of Bratislava, conveniently located for slurping Small Carpathian wine and his favourite (non-writing) weekend

activity: hiking into the hills to a quirky *krčma* (rural pub).

Read more about Luke at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/lukewaterson



Steve Fallon

Hungary Steve first visited Magyarország in the early 1980s by chance. It was a brief visit but he immediately fell in love with thermal baths, Tokaj wine and *babbleves* (bean soup). Not able to survive on the occasional fleeting fix, he moved to Budapest in 1992, where he could enjoy all three in abundance. Now based in London, Steve returns to Hungary regularly for all these things and more: *pálinka*, art nouveau and the haunting voice of Marta Sebestyén.

Read more about Steve at: lonelyplanet.com/members/stevefallon



Duncan Garwood

Italy Born in the UK, Duncan lives just outside Rome with his Italian wife and two bilingual kids. He has travelled extensively in his adopted homeland and worked on about 30 Lonely Planet publications, including *Italy, Rome, Sardinia, Sicily, Italy's Best Trips* and the *Food Lover's Guide to the World*. Stand-out memories on this job included sailing into a storm en route to Cagliari and having to break into his sister-in-law's apartment in Bologna.

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



Anthony Ham

Spain In 2001, Anthony 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. Having recently passed the ten-year mark in Madrid, he still adores his adopted city. Anthony also writes about and photographs Spain, Scandinavia, Africa and the Middle East for newspapers and magazines around the world.



Anna Kaminski

Lithuania Having been going to Lithuania since it was still part of the Soviet Union, Anna finds a lot to appreciate about the country – from the familiar relics of Communism to the cold beetroot soup – a childhood favourite. Vilnius's cobbled streets aside, she particularly enjoys revisiting the fishing villages and sand dunes of Curonian Spit.



Craig McLachlan

Greece Craig has covered the Greek Islands for the last five editions of Lonely Planet's Europe guidebooks. He runs an outdoor activity company in Queens-town, New Zealand in the southern-hemisphere summer, then heads north for another summer, writing for Lonely Planet and leading tours all over the world, including Greece. A 'freelance anything', he has an MBA from the University of Hawaii and leads other lives as a pilot, karate instructor and Japanese interpreter.

Check out www.craigmclachlan.com



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 13 years ago. But the roots are a'calling. She's been returning to Croatia frequently for work and play. 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.



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, and has since travelled to over 75 countries and has contributed to roughly 40 Lonely Planet titles. He is the lead author of the *Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania* series, and is always delighted to return to the Baltic where he puts his Harvard art history degree to good use while

checking out Rīga's surplus of evocative art nouveau architecture. For more about Brandon check out www.brandonpresser.com.



Oliver Berry

Britain Oliver is a writer and photographer based in Cornwall. He has travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles for Lonely Planet, having worked on several previous editions of the *England* and *Great Britain* guides, as well as writing the first editions of *Devon*, *Cornwall & Southwest England* and *The Lake District*. He also writes regularly for many national publications including *Lonely Planet Traveller*. His latest work can be found at www.oliverberry.com.



Greg Bloom

Russia Greg cut his teeth in the former Soviet Union as a journalist and later editor-in-chief of the *Kyiv Post*. He left Ukraine in 2003, but returns frequently to the region. In the service of Lonely Planet, he has been detained in Uzbekistan, taken a *shlagbaum* to the head in Kyiv, swam in the dying Aral Sea, snowboarded down volcanoes in Kamchatka, and hit 100km/h in a Latvian bobsled. These days Greg lives in Cambodia. Read about his trips at www.mytripjournal.com/bloomblogs.

Read more about Greg at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/gbloom4



Kerry Christiani

Austria Ever since her first post-grad trip to Austria, Kerry has seized every available chance to travel to the country of Mozart, Maria and co. Picking the cream of Vienna's coffee houses, glimpsing September snow in the Alps above Innsbruck and finding out the truth about the von Trapps in Salzburg kept her busy for this edition. Kerry has authored/coauthored some 20 guidebooks, including Lonely Planet's *Austria*, *Germany* and *Switzerland*. She tweets @kerrychristiani and lists her latest work at www.kerrychristiani.com.



Chris Deliso

Macedonia Chris Deliso is an American travel writer and journalist who has been based in Macedonia for over a decade, writing considerably about the country since then in a range of world media. In addition to covering Macedonia for the current book, he has written for Lonely Planet guides to Greece, Crete, Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria. His original enthusiasm for the region and introduction to its cultures and history came with an MPhil in Byzantine Studies at Oxford University, in 1999.



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 overheated bus journeys later, he still never misses a chance to fine-tune his Russian while exploring far-flung nooks of this immense land. Marc has penned guides to Moscow, Siberia's Lake Baikal, Russia and the Trans-Siberian Railway; this is his

23rd Lonely Planet contribution.

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



Peter Dragicevich

Montenegro After a dozen years working for newspapers and magazines in both his native New Zealand and Australia, Peter ditched the desk and hit the road. While it was family ties that first drew him to the Balkans, it's the history, natural beauty and the intriguing people that keep bringing him back. He wrote Lonely Planet's first guide to the newly independent Montenegro and has contributed to literally dozens of other Lonely Planet titles, including four successive editions of this book.



Mark Elliott

Belgium & Luxembourg, Bosnia & Hercegovina As a small child Mark Elliott was dragged up a bizarre conical hill to meet a giant lion (Waterloo) then let loose inside an enormous chemistry set (the Atomium). To a baby Brit Belgium already looked pretty weird. But that was just the start. Having spent most of the last two decades based there, he has merrily discovered that Belgium's surrealism is more than skin deep, that the carnivals really are as crazy as one might hope and that

there always seems to be yet another timeless classic cafe to discover. This enthusiasm he has tried to pass on through articles in local magazines, books on Belgian culture and several travel guides for Lonely Planet.



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, Oakland 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



Tom Masters

Coordinating Author; Albania, Belarus, Kosovo, Moldova Tom is a British writer and photographer whose work has taken him to some of the strangest and most challenging countries on earth. Having lived in Russia, travelled to all corners of eastern Europe in the decade that he's been working on the *Eastern Europe* guide and currently residing in East Berlin, he has a good understanding of what makes the former communist world tick. You can find more of Tom's work at

www.tommasters.net.



Carolyn Bain

Estonia Melbourne-born Carolyn got her first glimpse behind the Iron Curtain in Poland in early 1989, while a student in Denmark. It was the year communism unravelled throughout eastern Europe, and thus began her fascination. Since then, on regular visits to the Baltic region she has applauded the renewed independence and flourishing creativity here. Among other destinations, she has covered Sweden, Denmark and Iceland for Lonely Planet; Estonia holds a special

place in her heart for combining the best of eastern Europe and Scandinavia and coming up with something heartwarmingly unique.



James Bainbridge

Turkey Media assignments and extra-curricular wanderings have taken James to most of Turkey's far-flung regions, from Aegean islands to the eastern steppe via Cappadocia's surreal rock formations. He has coordinated three editions of Lonely Planet's *Turkey* guide, and deepened his local knowledge by living in Istanbul and grappling with suffixes on a Turkish course. For articles on Turkey, and a link to a blog with advice about travel writing, visit James's website at

www.jamesbainbridge.net.

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



Mark Baker

Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia Based permanently in Prague, Mark has lived and worked in central Europe for more than 20 years, first as a journalist for The Economist Group and then for Bloomberg News and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He travels frequently throughout the region and counts Bulgaria, Slovenia and Romania among his favourite countries in Europe. In addition to this book, Mark is coauthor of the Lonely Planet guides *Prague & the*

Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Romania & Bulgaria.

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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Itineraries

First-Time Europe

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.



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



- » Hop on the train to **Paris**. Spend several days here visiting the Louvre, Versailles and the Eiffel Tower.
- » Take the Eurostar to **London** – see the wealth of great sights and enjoy the city's superb eating, drinking and clubbing.
- » Travel west to historic **Oxford** and **Bath**. Savour incredible Stonehenge along the way and then swing north to **Liverpool**.
- » End your journey with several days in Scotland – check out magical **Edinburgh**, happening **Glasgow** and have a walk in the **Highlands**.

Clockwise from top left

1 Florence (p666), Italy 2 The Great Court (architects: Foster + Partners) at London's British Museum (p161), England 3 Train to Jungfrauoch (p1137), Switzerland

2



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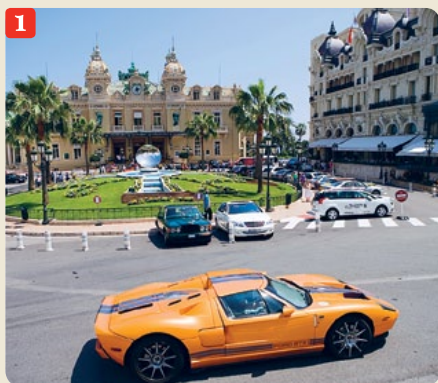


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Mediterranean Europe

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 in Turkey.



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» Fly into **Madrid**. Head directly for the Mediterranean by taking a train to **Barcelona** and soak up the seaside ambience of Gaudi's city.

» Head along the Côte d'Azur via **Nice** and spend time exploring **Monaco** and the beautiful villages of **Provence**.

» From Nice, 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**.

» Bus 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**.

» From **Patra**, do a loop of the Peloponnese: catch a bus to Byzantine pin-up city **Mystras**, ancient heavyweight **Mycenae** and then venerable **Athens**.

» Go south to Piraeus for an island-hopping expedition to **Mykonos**, **Paros** and volcanic **Santorini**.

» Continue to island-hop until you've had your fill, then set sail for **Turkey** from Samos or Lesbos.

» Visit ancient **Ephesus**. Next, bus north along the Aegean coast to the ruins of Troy and **Çanakkale** and to throbbing, beautiful and chaotic **Istanbul**.

Clockwise from top left

- 1 Casino de Monte Carlo (p413), Monaco 2 Istanbul's Grand Bazaar (p1158), Turkey 3 Corfu (p541), Greece 4 Pompeii (p685), Italy

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From London to the Sun

Four Weeks

Combining the best of both worlds, this itinerary begins with cultural show-stoppers London and Paris and ends up soaking up the sun in Spain and Portugal, themselves not exactly culturally barren.



ANDREA PISTOLESI/GETTY IMAGES ©



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- » Enjoy **London** for several days of museums, galleries, world-class shopping and clubbing, then head to **Bath** by train before returning to London.
- » Take the Eurostar to romantic **Paris** and make side trips to the **D-Day Beaches** and **Mont St-Michel**.
- » Rail south to **Barcelona**, possibly stopping at **Limoges** for the **Dordogne Valley** en route. From Barcelona, it's possible to make a longish round trip to the **Balearic Islands** and **Valencia**.
- » Zip up to the Basque seaside resort of **San Sebastián** and the Museo Guggenheim in happening **Bilbao**.
- » Next make a beeline for energetic **Madrid**, making day trips to Moorish **Toledo** and enchanting **Segovia**.

- » Then board a bus to the Alhambra – the Islamic fortress of **Granada** – and see the stunning Mezquita of **Córdoba**, before dancing the flamenco in **Seville**.
- » Get the bus to **Lisbon** and relax and eat custard tarts in Portugal's breezy capital. Sidestep to **Sintra**.
- » North lies **Porto** and the **Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês**, with lots of hiking opportunities.
- » The southern **Algarve** is touristy, but the train journey along the coast is beautiful.

Above

1 Flamenco dancer in Seville (p1097), Spain 2 Seine river in Paris (p342), France

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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YVETTE CARROZZO/GETTY IMAGES ©



- » Start in funky and fashionable **Copenhagen**, admiring the waterfront and museums and enjoying the world-class eating options (book ahead!).
- » Take a day trip to the cathedral and Viking boat museum at **Roskilde** and 'Hamlet's' castle at **Helsingør**. Alternatively, make a trip to **Arhus** – don't miss the ARO5 art museum.
- » Next, take the train to **Stockholm** and admire the stately, watery centre of town. Side-trip to **Uppsala**, Sweden's spiritual heart, or creative and happening **Göteborg**, the country's second city, to soak up its bonhomie.
- » A ferry trip from Stockholm could take you to quirky **Helsinki**, a great base for ex-

ploring the natural wonders of Finland, or to picturesque **Tallinn**, the charming Estonian capital.

- » An overnight train from Stockholm takes you to **Oslo**, 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 to **Flåm** and a combination boat/bus journey along the Sognefjord to **Bergen**, Norway's prettiest city.
- » From Bergen take a side-trip to the mighty **Geirangerfjord**, one of Scandinavia's most spectacular sights.

Above

1 Uppsala's domkyrka (p959), Sweden 2 Bergen's Bryggen district (p968), Norway

The Alps to the Iberian Peninsula

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.



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- » Start with a couple of days on the Danube in elegant **Vienna** before dropping in to lovely **Bled** and perhaps to nearby **Bohinj** in Slovenia.
- » Head back to Austria for a couple of days exploring the beautiful **Salzkammergut** region.
- » Detour to Bavaria's fairy-tale **Neuschwanstein Castle** in Germany. By now you'll be ready to sample some beers in nearby **Munich**.
- » Head into Switzerland for a few days in the unbeatable **Swiss Alps**. Visit lovely **Lucerne** and take the train to the top of Jungfrau. Enjoy sophisticated **Zürich** or head to the charming and frequently overlooked Swiss capital, **Bern**.

- » Head across to Italy to check out the sawtooth peaks of the **Dolomites**.
- » Make your way to **Chamonix** in France – a great base to explore around Mont Blanc. Then it's time for some coffee, wine and sun along the Côte d'Azur travelling via **Monaco** and **Nice**.
- » Spain's two most exciting cities, **Barcelona** and **Madrid** beckon. Head south from here to see the beautiful Alhambra in **Granada** and the stunning Mezquita of **Córdoba**.
- » End your journey in fabulous **Lisbon**, Portugal's fascinating capital.

Clockwise from top left

1 The Dolomites (p665), Italy 2 Lake Bled (p1034), Slovenia 3 Tapas bar in Madrid (p1058), Spain 4 Schloss Neuschwanstein (p462), Germany

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SEAN CARRIVEY/GETTY IMAGES ©



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Eastern Europe Today

Four Weeks

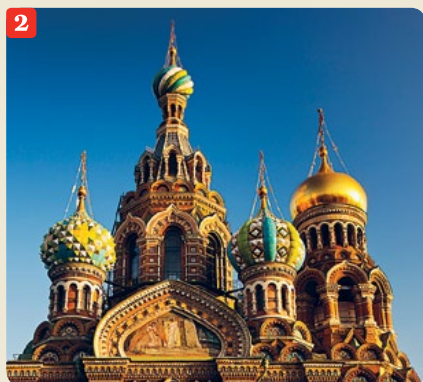
Forget the stereotypes of the grim and grey 'Eastern Bloc' of the early 1990s – this half of Europe is one of the most dynamic and fast-changing places in the world: come and explore it yourself.



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WALTER BIBIKOW/CETTY IMAGES ©



- » Pick a flight to **Berlin**, now a veritable music, art and nightlife mecca.
- » Next travel to vibrant **Warsaw** and beautiful **Kraków**, Poland's amazingly preserved royal capital.
- » Take in the Old Town in Lithuania's capital **Vilnius**, wander the streets of gorgeous art nouveau **Riga** and party in technophile **Tallinn**.
- » Head into Russia and split your time between imperial **St Petersburg** and modern-day supercity **Moscow**.
- » Swing into the past by taking a train to **Minsk** in Belarus to see how things were under communism.

- » Continue into Ukraine and spend a few days in its bustling Soviet capital **Kyiv**, then contrast it with more traditional **Lviv**.
- » Entering Romania, you should make a beeline for **Transylvania**. Sharpen your fangs at 'Dracula's' castle in **Bran** and enjoy the gorgeous old towns nearby.
- » Romania's capital **Bucharest** is next, where urban renewal of the communist kind awaits.
- » A train zips you through the mountains to Bulgaria's loveliest town, **Veliko Tarnovo**. Travel on to the relaxed capital **Sofia** and then by train to Serbia's vibrant capital, **Belgrade**.

Above

1 Restaurants in Berlin's Friedrichshain district (p442), Germany **2** St Petersburg's Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood (p923), Russia

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