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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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Britain	France	Germany
History ☆☆ Culture ☆☆ Nature ☆☆	Food ☆☆ Cities ☆☆ Wine ☆☆	History ☆☆ Beer ☆☆ Festive ☆☆
British history made the history of the world, from the first voyage on Columbus' ship to the great health care revolution. The English language and much of the literature and music of the world are a result of the British Empire.	There's Paris and then there's Paris and that's enough to make you fall in love. But don't miss the other France. From the Loire Valley to the Pyrenees, there are many more sides to this beautiful country.	Germany is a land of many firsts. It was the first to invent the automobile, the airplane, and the modern city. It's also a land of many traditions, from the Oktoberfest to the Christmas markets.
Monuments ☆☆ Islands ☆☆ Food ☆☆	People ☆☆ Culture ☆☆ Nature ☆☆	History ☆☆ Culture ☆☆ Food ☆☆

August
Everybody's going to Europe this month to go on holiday with the other half. If it's near the beach, from Germany's Baltic to Spain's Balearic, it's excellent.

Salzburg Festival
Austria's most renowned classical music festival, the Salzburg Festival (www.salzburgfestival.at)

Your Daily Budget
Budget less than **€60**
€60-€100
Midrange **€60-€200**
Expensive **€200+**

Low Season
Aimee
Christmas markets
Spain
Paris



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SURVIVAL GUIDE

VITAL PRACTICAL INFORMATION TO HELP YOU HAVE A SMOOTH TRIP

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the vital information for each listing:

- WiFi Access
- Swimming Pool
- Vegetarian Selection
- English-Language Menu
- Family-Friendly
- Pet-Friendly
- Bus
- Ferry
- Metro
- Subway
- London
- Train
- Shop
- Information
- Transport

ISBN 978-1-74179-679-7





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Regis St Louis, Nicola Williams, Neil Wilson**

Western Europe



Irish Coast
Hike the Giant's Causeway (p754)

London
Europe's most vibrant city, the perfect start to the trip (p164)

Paris
Behold the staggering Eiffel Tower (p315)

Granada
One extraordinary palace (p1120)

Champagne
Sip the legend at its source (p364)

Amsterdam
Go for a ride (p929)

The Matterhorn
Marvel at the Swiss icon (p1165)

Barcelona
Fanciful, proud La Sagrada Familia (p1069)

Top Experiences >



itineraries

Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



One to Two Months Ultimate Europe

Have limited time but want to see a bit of everything? Start in **Dublin**, sampling the vibrant pubs and traditional Irish craic. From Ireland, take a ferry to **Liverpool** or fly to **London** for some great theatre. From London, take the Eurostar train to **Paris**.

Head north from Paris to **Antwerp** for amazing beer, and then further north to **Amsterdam**, not forgetting to ride a canal boat. Go east, stopping for a cruise on the Rhine, and spend a few days exploring (and surviving) the nightlife in **Berlin**. Next, **Vienna** beckons with classical-music riches. Step west to **Zürich** and the Alps for awe-inspiring ski slopes and vistas.

Head to the canals of **Venice** and through **Florence** to historic **Rome**. Train it to **Bari** and take a ferry to **Athens**, then explore island beaches, starting with the stunning **Santorini**. Off to the south of France then, and to Mediterranean towns such as **Nice**. Continue to **Barcelona** before heading to the Moorish towns of southern Spain, perhaps **Granada**. End your trip in laid-back **Lisbon**, enjoying a glass of local port wine to celebrate completing your grand journey!



One to Two Months

Mediterranean Europe

Beautiful weather and scenery are the draw of this comprehensive tour that follows famous towns and cities from antiquity to the present.

Start in southern Spain with some British flavour in **Gibraltar**, where you can view the only wild primates in Europe. Go north to the city that defines lovely: **Seville**. Make your way up the eastern coast past the Moorish town of **Málaga** and on to the ever-beautiful **Granada** and **Córdoba**. Then it's back to the coast at **Valencia**, for a ferry hop to the parties and beaches of the **Balearic Islands**.

Back on the mainland, **Barcelona** is filled with the architecture of Gaudí. From here, head into France's Provence region, where in **Marseille** you can see the fortress that was inspiration for the novel *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Leave the sea for the hills and lavender-scented towns like **Orange**. On to the **Côte d'Azur** and its playground for the rich and famous, **St-Tropez**. A quick stop in the capital of the French Riviera, **Nice**, makes a good jumping-off point for other nearby hot spots such as **Cannes**.

Take a ferry to **Corsica** and experience the traditional lifestyle of quiet fishing villages. Hit the snowy peaks at **Calvi** and the groves of **Les Calanques** before hopping down to **Sardinia**. From here, take a long ferry ride or a quick flight to **Sicily** to visit colossal Greek temples and its famous volcano, Mt Etna.

Catch a ferry to **Naples**, on the Italian mainland, and take a trip to **Pompeii**. Move east to **Brindisi** for a ferry to Greece that passes rocky coasts seen by mariners for millennia, landing in **Patra**. Head to **Athens** to wonder at ancient treasures before getting a plane or ferry to islands such as **Crete** and **Mykonos**. Retrace your steps to Italy. Head north to **Rome**, taking time to wander amid its ruins and piazzas. Continue through Tuscany, stopping at **Pisa** to see its famous 'leaning tower'. Finish up along the Ligurian coast in the port city of **Genoa** via the coastal towns of the Cinque Terre, where you can stroll along the Via dell'Amore.



Three Weeks

Backroads of Europe

You've already done the major capitals and ticked every must-see box. Now start seeing the rest of Europe. The far north of Ireland is rugged and uncrowded; start yourself in **Donegal**, then head to the very welcoming Northern Ireland – **Belfast** in particular. Head southeast to the gritty yet charming town of **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** in England, then catch the ferry to the Netherlands, where **Rotterdam** combines edgy modern architecture with rocking charm.

Go east to the former East German cities of **Leipzig** and **Dresden**, each of which are creating a new future from their historic pasts. Turn south via the amazing **Regensburg** to the temperate Swiss town of **Lugano**. Traverse Italy and the hidden gem of **Mantua**, followed by beautiful Umbria and towns such as **Perugia**. In the far south, take time to wander frenetic **Naples** and the ruin-filled **Amalfi Coast** before pressing on to **Sicily** and its ancient and colourful culture.

Hop a ferry to Greece and enjoy some of the less-visited islands, such as **Naxos** or **Lesvos**. From here you can fly home or enjoy the ultimate carefree holiday, exploring other Greek islands as the ferries and your whims take you.

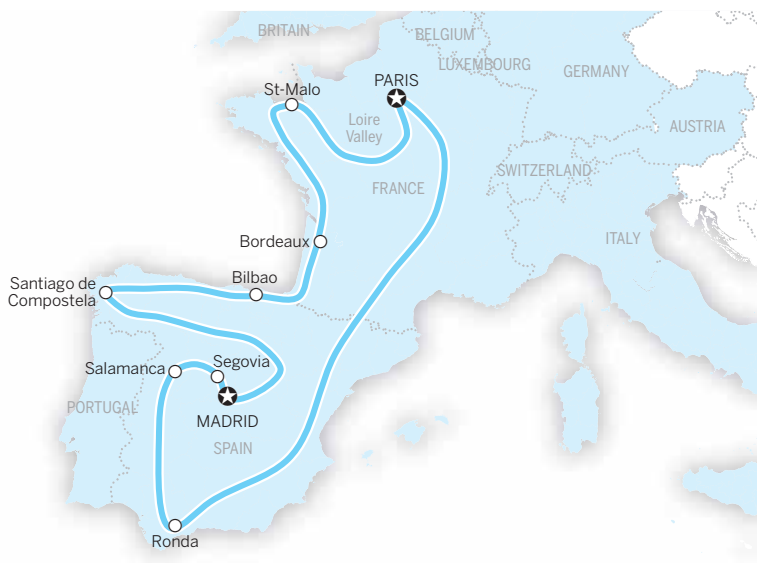


Two Weeks

A Sample of Europe

Watching Europe from the window of a train, gazing at the sea rolling past the handrail of a ferry – that’s the way generations of travellers have explored the continent, and you can, too. To stick to tradition you might even grab a kiss on a misty station platform or share a hug on deck as the land slips away behind you. Start in the Scottish castle-town of **Edinburgh**, then take the train to **London** and on to **Harwich** for a ferry crossing to **Hoek van Holland**. From here, trains connect to fabled, gabled **Amsterdam**.

Take a fast train to **Cologne** and then mellow out on a river cruise down the alluring Rhine River. Alight at **Mainz** and connect by train through **Basel** to **Interlaken** for the slow-moving trains and trams that wend through glaciers of the Alps. Next take a train past rugged scenery to connect with stylish **Milan**, where a fast Italian Eurostar train zips to **Florence**, the heart of the Slow Food Movement. Reserve a sleeping compartment and snuggle up tight on the night train to **Paris**, feeling the romance in the rhythm of the rails.

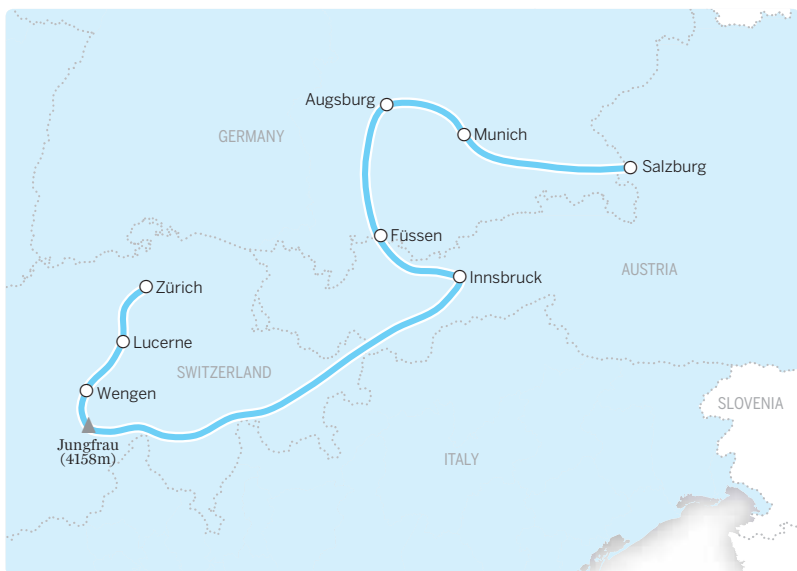


Two Weeks

France & Iberia

Get a feel for two of Europe's most distinct countries on this relatively compact jaunt. Start in **Paris**, of course. Sample the chateaux of the **Loire Valley**, then take the fast TGV train to Brittany, where the battlements of **St-Malo** always astound. Although the apple ciders of the region delight, you'll want to continue south to Burgundy, where red wine reaches its pinnacle in the region around **Bordeaux**. Head across the border to the Basque city of **Bilbao** before continuing to the pilgrimage shrine of **Santiago de Compostela**.

If you think you eat late at home, you've got nothing on **Madrid**, where an evening of tapas and drinks in tiny bars can postpone dinner until midnight. Find your favourite square and become a regular. Spend a day inside the walls of the beautiful hill town of **Segovia**. And don't let the sandstone splendour of **Salamanca** pass without a stop. Go south and plan on using a car to explore the many hill towns of Andalucía. Little winding roads traverse stark landscapes and olive orchards before reaching places like **Ronda**, with its whitewashed buildings gleaming in the distance. End at the coast or return to Paris.



One to Two Weeks

Europe's Mountains

Fly into **Zürich**, the tidy banking town, where (besides the smell of money) you'll get a whiff of the Alps. Move onwards to the ever-cute lakeside city of **Lucerne**, where iconic half-timbered bridges cross glacier-cold waters. Start your ascent by setting up in one of the cosy chalets of **Wengen**, where an imposing wall of Alps looms before you. Go by train to the top of **Jungfrau** and walk everywhere on wildflower-framed trails (in spring). Let the cowbells serenade you.

Leave Switzerland for its immediate eastern neighbour, Austria. In **Innsbruck**, which has hosted the Winter Olympics twice, you can ski year-round and dine in cute mountain huts. Cross the spine of the Alps into Germany and behold the cutest castle on a hilltop you'll ever find: the wildly popular Neuschwanstein, in **Füssen**. If you have time, you could take a side drive on the Romantic Road starting at **Augsburg**. The beer halls of **Munich** are a short hop away; this is a good stop to spend a couple of days – when it's clear, you can see the Alps. A short final jaunt brings you to the perfect combination of hills and music: **Salzburg**.



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's *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



Nicola Williams

France Nicola Williams has lived in France and written about it for more than a decade. From her hillside home on the southern shore of Lake Geneva, it's a quick flit to the Alps (call her a ski fiend...), Paris (...art buff), Provence (...food and wine lover). Paris this time meant stylish apartment living in St-Germain des Prés with husband extraordinaire Matthias and three trilingual kids with ants in their pants. Nicola blogs at tripalong.wordpress.com and tweets at @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 finally climbed Carrantuohil, 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



David Else

Britain David is a professional travel writer and the author of more than 40 guidebooks, including numerous editions of Lonely Planet's *Great Britain and England* guides, 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



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's *Italy* guides as well as newspapers and magazines. Each trip throws up special memories; 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/duncargarwood



Anthony Ham

Spain In 2002, Anthony arrived in Madrid on a one-way ticket and has called the city home ever since. He now lives with his *madrileña* wife and two daughters overlooking their favourite plaza in the city. He has written more than 50 guidebooks for Lonely Planet, including *Spain* and *Madrid*. Researching this guide allowed him to rediscover his home city afresh (Malasaña is his new favourite *barrio*) and he particularly enjoyed losing himself in the villages of Aragón.

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



Virginia Maxwell

Italy Virginia has been travelling regularly in Italy for over 20 years, inspired by a love of Renaissance arts and architecture and an all-abiding passion for the country's food and wine. She is the coordinating author of Lonely Planet's *Tuscany & Umbria* book and has covered Rome, Lazio and Tuscany for the *Italy* guidebook.

Read more about Virginia at: lonelyplanet.com/members/virginiamaxwell



Craig McLachlan

Greece Craig has researched the Greek Islands for four of the most recent Lonely Planet guidebooks on Greece. He is also a regular visitor to Greece as a tour leader, mainly guiding hiking groups in the mountains and gorges of Crete and around the Cyclades. 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 www.craigmclachlan.com.

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



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 both general and walking guides, covering Andorra's immediate neighbours, Spain and France.

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



Caroline Sieg

Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland 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 relocated to Zurich for high school and several years beyond that, 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



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



Ryan Ver Berkmoes

Coordinating Author; Germany, Netherlands Ryan Ver Berkmoes once lived in Germany, spending three years in Frankfurt editing a magazine until he got a chance for a new career: as a Lonely Planet author. One of his first jobs was working on the Germany chapter of the fourth edition of this very book. 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 lives in Portland, Oregon. Follow him at ryanverberkmoes.com. He tweets at @ryanvb.

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



Alexis Averback

Greece Alexis Averback lives in Hydra, Greece and makes any excuse she can to travel the isolated back roads of her adopted land. She is committed to dispelling the stereotype that Greece is simply a string of sandy beaches. A travel writer for two decades, Alexis has lived in Antarctica for a year, crossed the Pacific by sailboat and written books on her journeys through Asia and the Americas. She's also a painter – see her work at www.alexisaverback.com.

Read more about Alexis at: lonelyplanet.com/members/alexisaverback



Kerry Christiani

Austria Born in Essex, Kerry now lives in the Black Forest, Germany. On her second visit to Austria for Lonely Planet she discovered the truth about the von Trapps in Salzburg, sweated out a rare heatwave in the Alps and climbed (almost) every mountain – and in doing so fell for the country and its great outdoors all over again. Kerry's wanderlust has taken her to six continents, inspiring numerous articles and some 20 guidebooks, including Lonely Planet's *Germany*,

Switzerland and *France*.

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



Mark Elliott

Belgium, 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.

Read more about Mark at: lonelyplanet.com/members/markelliottauthor

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

10th edition – Oct 2011

ISBN 978 1 74179 679 7

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Printed in Singapore

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