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Western Europe

p386 Britain p108

The Netherlands p502 Belgium & p260 Luxembourg p72

France p180 Switzerland p38 p638

Portugal p528

Spain p564 Italy p420

> Greece p336

Oliver Berry, Gregor Clark, Marc Di Duca, Duncan Garwood, Catherine Le Nevez, Korina Miller, John Noble, Andrea Schulte-Peevers, Andy Symington, Donna Wheeler, Neil Wilson, Karla Zimmerman

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Western Europe 6
Western Europe Map 8
Western Europe's Top 2610
Need to Know 22
If You Like 24
Month by Month 28
Itineraries 32







BAGPIPE PLAYER, EDINBURGH (P161), SCOTLAND

ON THE ROAD

AUSTRIA	38
Vienna	.39
Danube Valley	. 51
Krems an der Donau	.51
Melk	52
Linz	52
The South	.53
Graz	53
Klagenfurt	56
Salzburg	.56
Salzkammergut	.61
Hallstatt	.61
Tyrol	.62
Innsbruck	62
Kitzbühel	66
Lienz	66
Hohe Tauern National Park	67
Vorarlberg	68

BELGIUM & LUXEMBOURG 72

Brussels
Flanders 84
Leuven 84
Mechelen 84
Antwerp 85
Ghent
Bruges 92
Ypres
Wallonia 98
Mons
Luxembourg 99
Luxembourg City 99
Northern Luxembourg 103
Moselle Valley 103

BRITAIN 108

England	.109
London	109
Around London	139

Canterbury 140
Salisbury141
Stonehenge 142
Bath 142
Oxford 145
Stratford-upon-Avon 148
Cambridge151
York 153
Castle Howard 155
Chester 156
Lake District
National Park
Wales158
Wales
Wales 158 Cardiff 159 Snowdonia National Park National Park 160 Scotland 161 Edinburgh 161 Glasgow 166 Loch Lomond & 166
Wales 158 Cardiff 159 Snowdonia 160 National Park 160 Scotland 161 Edinburgh 161 Glasgow 166
Wales 158 Cardiff 159 Snowdonia National Park National Park 160 Scotland 161 Edinburgh 161 Glasgow 166 Loch Lomond & 166
Wales 158 Cardiff 159 Snowdonia 160 National Park 160 Scotland 161 Edinburgh 161 Glasgow 166 Loch Lomond & 170

FRANCE 180

Paris	. 181
Around Paris	204
Versailles	. 204
Chartres	. 205
Giverny	. 205
Lille & the Somme	206
Lille	. 206
Normandy	208
Bayeux	. 208
D-Day Beaches	. 209
Mont St-Michel	. 209
Brittany	.210
Quimper	. 210
St-Malo	. 210
Champagne	. 211
Reims	211

Contents

Épernay	213
Alsace & Lorraine	.214
Strasbourg	214
The Loire Valley	.215
Blois	215
Amboise	.217
Burgundy & the Rhône Valley	
Dijon	219
Beaune	220
Lyon	221
The French Alps	226
Chamonix	226
The Dordogne	228
Sarlat-La-Canéda	228
The Atlantic Coast	230
Bordeaux	
Biarritz	
Languedoc-	
Roussillon	233
Toulouse	233
Nîmes	236
Pont du Gard	
Provence	
Marseille	
Aix-en-Provence	
Avignon	241
The French Riviera & Monaco	243
Nice	243
Cannes	248
St-Tropez	249
Monaco	
Corsica	251
Ajaccio	252
Bastia	
Bonifacio	254

GERMANY 260

Berlin	1
Central Germany27	7
Dresden 27	7

Leipzig	280
Weimar	282
Erfurt	284
Bavaria	285
Munich	285
Garmisch- Partenkirchen	292
Berchtesgaden	
Romantic Road	
Nuremberg	
Bamberg	
Regensburg	
Stuttgart &	
the Black Forest	
Stuttgart	
Heidelberg	303
Black Forest	304
Freiburg im Breisgau	306
Frankfurt &	
the Rhineland	
Frankfurt-am-Main	307
Frankfurt-am-Main	307
Frankfurt-am-Main The Romantic Rhine Valley	307 310
Frankfurt-am-Main	307 310 312
Frankfurt-am-Main The Romantic Rhine Valley Moselle Valley Trier	307 310 312 313
Frankfurt-am-Main The Romantic Rhine Valley Moselle Valley Trier Cologne	307 310 312 313 314
Frankfurt-am-Main The Romantic Rhine Valley Moselle Valley Trier	307 310 312 313 314 .317
Frankfurt-am-Main The Romantic Rhine Valley Moselle Valley Trier Cologne Düsseldorf	307 310 312 313 314 .317 319
Frankfurt-am-Main The Romantic Rhine Valley Moselle Valley Trier Cologne Düsseldorf Aachen	307 310 312 313 314 .317 319 .321
Frankfurt-am-Main The Romantic Rhine Valley Moselle Valley Trier Cologne Düsseldorf Aachen Hamburg & The North Hamburg	307 310 312 313 314 .317 319 .321
Frankfurt-am-Main The Romantic Rhine Valley Moselle Valley Trier Cologne Düsseldorf Aachen Hamburg & The North. .	307 310 312 313 314 .317 319 .321 321 327

Athens	.337
The Peloponnese	348
Nafplio	348
Epidavros	349
Mycenae	349
Mystras	349
Olympia	349
Central Greece	350

Delphi	351
Meteora	351
Northern Greece	352
Thessaloniki	352
Cyclades	355
Mykonos	355
Naxos	358
Santorini (Thira)	360
Crete	363
Iraklio	
Knossos	366
Hania	366
Samaria Gorge	368
Dodecanese	368
Rhodes	369
Kos	372
Northeastern Aegean	
Islands	.374
Samos	374
Lesvos (Mytilini)	375
Sporades	377
Skiathos	377
Ionian Islands	378
Corfu	270
00110	3/8

IRELAND 386

Dublin	388
The Southeast	.397
Kilkenny	397
The Southwest	398
Cork	398
Around Cork	402
Killarney	402
Ring of Kerry	403
The West Coast	405
Galway	405
Aran Islands	408
Northern Ireland	409
Belfast	409
The Causeway Coast	414
Derry/Londonderry	415

ON THE ROAD

ITALY4	20
Rome	
Northern Italy	
Genoa	
Cinque Terre	442
Turin	444
Milan	445
The Lakes	450
Verona	
Venice	
Trieste	
Bologna	
Ravenna	463
Florence	464
Tuscany & Umbria 4 Florence Pisa Lucca	464 472
Florence Pisa Lucca Siena	464 472 473 474
Florence Pisa Lucca	464 472 473 474
Florence Pisa Lucca Siena Perugia Assisi	464 472 473 474 477 478
Florence Pisa Lucca Siena Perugia Assisi Southern Italy	464 472 473 474 477 478 479
Florence Pisa Lucca Siena Perugia Assisi Southern Italy Naples	464 472 473 474 477 478 479 479
Florence Pisa Lucca Siena Perugia Assisi Southern Italy Naples Capri	464 472 473 474 477 478 479 479 484
Florence Pisa Lucca Siena Perugia Assisi Southern Italy Naples	464 472 473 474 477 478 479 479 484
Florence Pisa Lucca Siena Perugia Assisi Southern Italy Naples Capri	464 472 473 474 477 478 479 479 484 486 487

THE NETHERLANDS ... 502

Amsterdam	503
The Randstad	.512
Haarlem	512
Leiden	513
Den Haag	514
Delft	516
Rotterdam	518
Utrecht	522
The South	523
Maastricht	523



PORTUGAL 528 Around Lisbon. 540 Sintra 540 The Algarve 542 Faro.....542 Lagos 544 Silves 544 Sagres 545 Central Portugal 546 Évora.....546 Peniche 547 Nazaré 549 Luso & the Buçaco Forest...... 552 The North..... 553 Viana do Castelo 559 Braga 559 Parque Nacional da

Madrid 565 Castilla-La Mancha . . 584 Aragón, Basque Country & Navarra ... 600 Around Aragón 602 Cantabria. Asturias & Galicia ... 606 Santillana del Mar 606 Santiago de Valencia 608 Balearic Islands 611 Mallorca 612 Ibiza 614

Contents

Andalucía6	16
Seville6	516
Córdoba6	20
Granada 6	23
Málaga 6	27
Extremadura 6	30
Cáceres6	30

SWITZERLAND....638

Geneva	639
Lake Geneva Region	644
Lausanne	644
Gruyères	646
Valais	646
Zermatt	646
Bern	648

Central Switzerland &	
Bernese Oberland	649
Lucerne	649
Interlaken	651
Jungfrau Region	652
Zürich	654
Northern	
Switzerland	658
Switzerland Basel	
	658
Basel	658 659
Basel	658 659 659
Basel Ticino Locarno	658 659 659 660
Basel Ticino Locarno Lugano	658 659 659 660 .661

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A–Z	668
Transport	676
Language	684
Index	689
Map Legend	701

Itineraries





Have limited time but want to see a bit of everything? Hit the highlights on this trip.

Start in **Dublin**, soaking up its vibrant pubs and rich literary history. From Ireland, fly to **London** for great theatre. Then catch the Eurostar train through the English Channel tunnel to beautiful **Paris**.

Travel north to **Brussels** for amazing beer and chocolate, then further north to freespirited **Amsterdam**, making time to cruise its canals. Go east, stopping for a cruise on the Rhine, and spend a few days exploring (and surviving) the legendary nightlife in **Berlin**. Next, visit **Vienna** for architectural and classical-music riches. Zip west to **Zürich** and the Swiss Alps for awe-inspiring ski slopes and vistas.

Head to canal-laced **Venice**, art-filled **Florence** and historic **Rome**. Train it to **Bari** and take a ferry to **Athens**, then explore island beaches, starting with the stunning **Santorini**. Connect by air or go by ferry and train to the French Riviera (aka the Côte d'Azur) to check out quintessential Mediterranean destinations such as **Nice**. Continue to **Barcelona**, then the Moorish towns of southern Spain like **Granada**. End your trip in the hilly quarters of **Lisbon**, toasting your grand journey with Portugal's port wine.



Beautiful weather and breathtaking scenery are the draws of this comprehensive tour that takes in famous towns and cities from antiquity to the present.

Start in southern Spain in orange-blossom-scented **Seville** and soak up the architecture, sunshine and party atmosphere. Make your way up the eastern coast past the Moorish town of **Málaga** and on to **Granada** and **Córdoba**. Then it's back to the coast at **Valencia**, home of Spain's famous rice-dish paella, for a ferry-hop to the parties and beaches of the **Balearic Islands**.

Back on the mainland, **Barcelona** brims with the architecture of Gaudí. From here, head into France's fabled Provence region, where in **Marseille** you can see the fortress that was inspiration for the novel *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Then leave the sea for Provence's lush hills and lavender-scented towns around the rampart-hooped city of **Avignon**. On to the **French Riviera** and its playground for the rich and famous, **St-Tropez**. The charming seaside city **Nice** is a perfect jumping-off point for other nearby coastal hot spots such as glamorous **Cannes**.

Cruise by ferry to Corsica and experience the traditional lifestyle of quiet fishing villages. Hit the bustling old port of **Bastia**, Napoléon Bonaparte's home town **Ajaccio**, then the glittering harbour of Bonifacio to hop on a ferry south to Sardinia and on to **Sicily** to visit its colossal temples and 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 the Greek capital's ancient treasures before boarding a plane or ferry to magical islands such as **Crete** and **Mykonos**. Return to Italy, taking time to wander amid the ruins and piazzas of **Rome**. Continue north through Tuscany, stopping at **Pisa** to see its famous 'leaning tower'. Finish up along the Ligurian coast, travelling via the brightly coloured coastal villages making up the **Cinque Terre**, strung between plunging cliffs and vine-covered hills, to the port city of **Genoa**.





Top: Galway (p405), Ireland

Left: Cube Houses or *Kubuswoningen* in Rotterdam (p518), by architect Piet Blom

34



A Backroads of Europe

Already visited the major capitals? Start discovering the rest of Europe.

The far west of Ireland is rugged and uncrowded; start in bohemian **Galway**. Then travel to Northern Ireland – **Belfast** From here, it's also easy to strike out to awe-inspiring natural sights such as the Giant's Causeway. Catch a ferry to reach the dynamic Scottish city of **Glasgow**. Swing south to the atmospheric walled English city of **York**. Hop across to the Netherlands, where buzzing **Rotterdam** is a veritable open-air gallery of modern and cutting-edge architecture.

Travel to the dynamic eastern German cities of **Leipzig**, and **Dresden**, whose historic core has been restored to its 18thcentury glory. Turn south via the stunning Bavarian student hub of **Regensburg**, to the Swiss town of on the shores of its sparkling namesake lake. Cross into Italy and stop at the cultured city of **Turin**, followed by **Perugia**. In Italy's south, explore frenetic **Naples** and the winding **Amalfi Coast**. Scoot over to **Sicily** to experience its rugged landscapes as well as its ancient and colourful culture. Marvel at the Grecian Valley of the Temples in **Agrigento**, which rivals anything in Greece itself.

WEEKS France & Iberia

Get a feel for three of Europe's most diverse countries on this relatively compact jaunt.

Start in **Paris**, discovering the magnificent monuments and hidden backstreet bistros of the **Loire Valley**, then take the fast TGV train to Brittany. Walk the 17thcentury ramparts encircling **St-Malo** and sample authentic Breton cider. Track south along the Atlantic coast, where red wine reaches its pinnacle around **Bordeaux**. Cross the border to the Basque city of **Bilbao**, best known for the magnificent Guggenheim Museum, before continuing to the pilgrimage shrine of **Santiago de Compostela**.

Spain's art-rich capital, **Madrid**, is prime for night owls: an evening of tapas and drinks in tiny bars can postpone dinner until midnight. Spend a day exploring beautiful **Segovia**. And don't skip the sandstone splendour of lively **Salamanca**. Plan on using a car to explore the many hill towns of Andalucía. Narrow, winding roads traverse sunburnt landscapes and olive orchards before reaching the whitewashed buildings of **Ronda**. Finally, go west via Seville to Portugal's pretty Algarve region, finishing in **Faro**.





Watching Europe from the window of a train or gazing at the sea rolling past the handrail of a ferry is the way generations of travellers have explored the continent. and it's still as idvllic today.

Start in the engaging Scottish capital Edinburgh, then take the train to pulsating London and on to Harwich for a ferry crossing to Hoek van Holland. From here, trains connect to the dynamic city of Rotterdam and the gabled Golden Age canalscapes of Amsterdam.

Take a fast train to cathedral-crowned Cologne and then relax on a river cruise down the vinevard-ribboned Rhine. Alight at Mainz and connect by train through **Basel** to picturesque **Interlaken** for the slow-moving local trains and trams that wend through the majestic Alps. Then take a train past soaring mountain scenery to stylish Milan, home to da Vinci's refectory fresco The Last Supper. From Milan, fast trains zip to Tuscany's resplendent capital, Florence, a veritable Renaissance time capsule. Connect in Milan to snuggle up on the night train to **Paris**, feeling the romance in the rhythm of the rails.

Europe's lountains

Buckle up for an exhilarating road trip through some of Europe's most majestic peaks.

From the storybook Austrian city of Salzburg, head east to the mountain-ringed, jewel-like lakes of the Salzkammergut region. To the south is the heart-in-mouth Grossglockner Road, with 36 switchbacks over 48km as it traverses Austria's highest peak, Grossglockner.

Northwest, on the Austrian-German border, lies the 2962m-high **Zugspitze**. From here it's a short jaunt to Füssen, crowned by King Ludwig II's fairy-tale castle Schloss Neuschwanstein.

Swing southwest to one of Switzerland's ritziest ski resorts. St Moritz. Continue southwest into Italy to the sparkling lakes of Lago di Como and Lago Maggiore beneath the towering peaks.

Zigzag back into Switzerland to Zermatt. with views of the 4478m-high Matterhorn. Then make your way southwest to mighty Mont Blanc – Western Europe's highest peak and its feted ski resort Chamonix across the border in France, by the Mer de Glace glacier.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- lslamic
- 🕑 Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Chin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- P Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Coo/Wildlife Sanctuary

Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- O Bodysurfing
- 🚫 Diving
- Scanoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- G Skiing
- Snorkelling
- 🝈 Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Ø Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- 😑 Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

🚫 Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

Drinking & Nightlife
Cafe

Entertainment

Entertainment

Shopping

Shopping

Information

Bank

- C Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Ø Telephone
- Toilet
- 1 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
- -O- 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

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

Routes

Tollway Freeway Primary Secondary Tertiary Lane Unsealed road Road under construction Plaza/Mall Steps) Tunnel Pedestrian overpass Walking Tour detour Path/Walking Trail 701

Boundaries

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

Hydrography

Canal

Water

Reef

Areas

siliz

River, Creek

Intermittent River

Airport/Runway

Cemetery (Christian)

Cemetery (Other)

Glacier

Mudflat

Park/Forest

Sight (Building)

Swamp/Mangrove

Sportsground

Beach/Desert

Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake

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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 & 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.



Karla Zimmerman

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 trek to places like Fredonia, Kansas. To learn more, follow her on Instagram and Twitter (@karlazimmerman).

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Catherine Le Nevez

Austria, Britain, 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.



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 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.



Josephine Quintero

Spain 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.



Andrea Schulte-Peevers

Germany Born and raised in Germany and educated in London and at UCLA, Andrea has travelled the distance to the moon and back in her visits to some 75 countries. She has earned her living as a professional travel writer for over two decades and authored or contributed to nearly 100 Lonely Planet titles as well as to newspapers, magazines and websites around

the world. She also works as a travel consultant, translator and editor. Andrea's destination expertise is especially strong when it comes to Germany, Dubai and the UAE, Crete and the Caribbean Islands. She makes her home in Berlin.



Andy Symington

Belgium & Luxembourg, Britain & Portugal Andy has written or worked on over a hundred books and other updates for Lonely Planet (especially in Europe and Latin America) and other publishing companies, and has published articles on numerous subjects for a variety of newspapers, magazines, and websites. He part-owns and operates a rock bar, has 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.

703



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



Oliver Berry

Britain & France 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.



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, Germany & Portugal 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.



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.



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