



# Europe on a Shoestring



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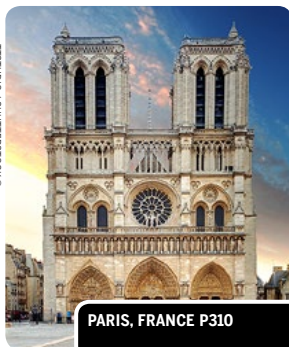
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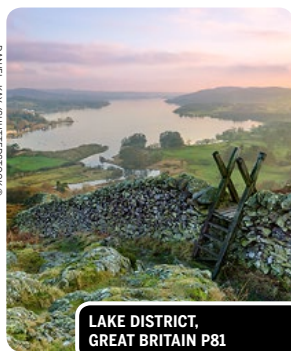
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## Plan Your Trip

# Itineraries



8  
WEEKS

### First-Time Europe

This combo of major league countries and left-field destinations provides an irresistible mix of world-famous sights and unforgettable experiences for the first-time European traveller.

Ease into the first two weeks with Ireland and Great Britain. The atmosphere of a **Dublin** bar provides the perfect introduction, followed by a few days exploring the city's museums and literary haunts. It costs nothing to walk across the Unesco-listed **Giant's Causeway** in Northern Ireland, which leaves more money to enjoy

your next stop: **London**. The city is pricey, but affordable if you focus on its free museums and parks. Travel west to marvel at **Stonehenge** and wander the historic streets of **Oxford** and **Bath**.

Return to London to board the Eurostar or a low-cost airline flight (often cheaper) for the next couple of weeks to hop around some of the continent's iconic northern metropolises. In **Paris** you will be dazzled by the Louvre, Eiffel Tower and Versailles. Check out more classic art, plus *those* cafes, in enchanting **Amsterdam**. Get a taste of Scandinavia in **Copenhagen**, the







Piran (p595), Slovenia

coolest kid of the Nordic bloc. And unleash your inner party animal in **Berlin**, where you can also see the remains of the wall.

Go through the former Iron Curtain to the gorgeous old Polish royal capital of **Kraków**, miraculously spared destruction in WWII. If you thought that was stunning wait till you see the architectural glories of **Prague**. Continue to **Budapest** to freshen up in thermal baths and enjoy cafes and bars, followed by a visit to Slovenia's eco-friendly capital **Ljubljana**.

The Venetian-style seaside resort of **Piran** is a good starting point for a jour-

ney down the scenic Dalmatian Coast via **Split** and **Dubrovnik**, both with ancient ruins to explore. End up off the beaten track in Albania, where you can sail on a ferry across beguiling **Lake Koman** and relax at a beachside campsite in **Dry-mades** on the Albanian Riviera.

Cruise across the Adriatic on one of the ferry services to Italy, where your final week's pit stops include hauntingly beautiful **Venice**, the exquisite Renaissance time capsule of **Florence**, and **Rome**.



## East to West

This trans-European journey kicks off in the east, a dynamic part of Europe where it's still possible to encounter under-the-radar experiences. Then enjoy a more leisurely pace of life along the balmy Mediterranean coast as you continue west towards the resorts of Spain and Portugal.

Begin in Russia's capital **Moscow**, where the imposing Kremlin and adjacent Red Square are guaranteed to strike you with awe. Take an overnight train to **St Petersburg**, home to the magnificent art collection of the Hermitage and gorgeously restored imperial palaces. Another overnight train will whisk you to Latvia's lovely art-nouveau capital **Riga**, where you can get a taste of the Baltic. If the weather's fine consider a day trip to the chic beach resort of **Jūrmala**.

Poland's capital **Warsaw** is a vibrant city that's survived all that history could throw at it. Continue into Ukraine and spend a few days in Unesco World Heritage-listed **Lviv**, which oozes Central European charm. Move on to **Transylvania** and sharpen your fangs at 'Dracula's' castle in **Bran**. Romania's dynamic capital **Bucharest** is next, with its good museums, parks and trendy cafes.

**Sofia**, Bulgaria's relaxed capital, is another recommended pitstop en-route to the beautiful, chaotic **İstanbul**: when you've had your fill of sightseeing you can relax in a hamam (Turkish steam bath).

Explore the ancient world with the Acropolis in **Athens**, then island-hop to volcanic **San-torini**. Pick up the pace by flying to Spain where the genius of Gaudí, cultural riches and glorious food beckon in supercool **Barcelona**. Zip north to Basque seaside resort **San Sebastián**, with its delicious food scene, and to the Museo Guggenheim in happening **Bilbao**. End in energetic **Madrid**, home to some of Europe's finest galleries and bars.

Head south to see the beautiful Moorish architecture of the Alhambra in **Granada** and the stunning Mezquita of **Córdoba**. Cross to Portugal where the fascinating capital **Lisbon** offers a lamplit old quarter and superb *pastéis de nata* (custard tarts) in the waterside Belém district.

GREGG / SHUTTERSTOCK

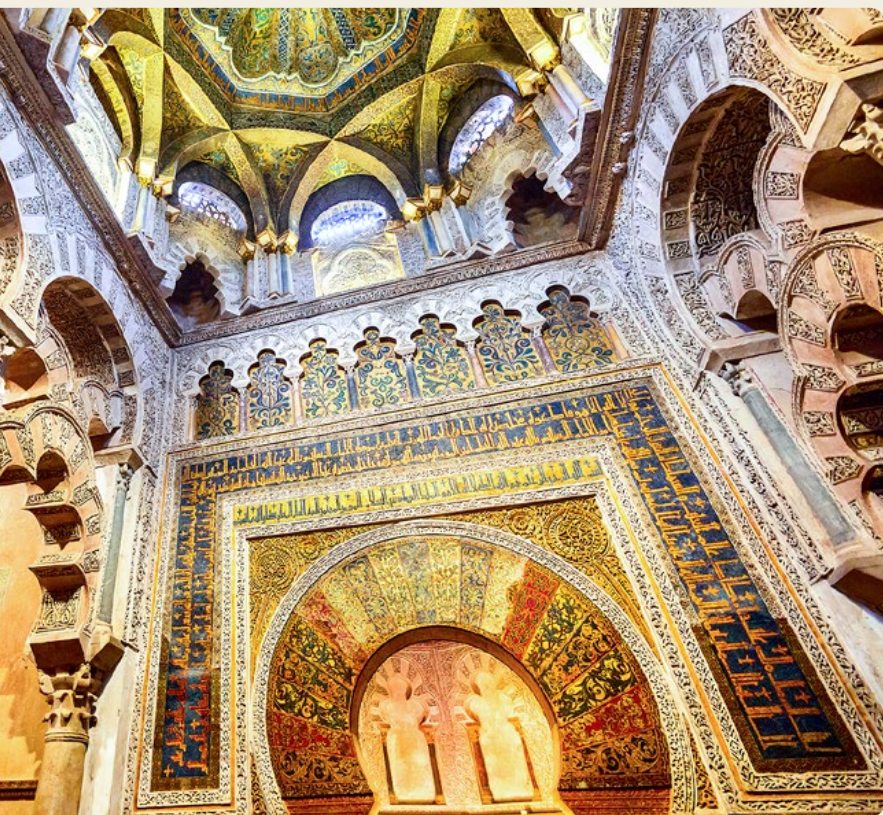


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Top: Mezquita (Mosque; p429), Córdoba, Spain  
Bottom: Blackheads House (p817), Riga, Latvia





## Off the Beaten Track – Europe



### THE WESTFJORDS (ICELAND)

Surround yourself in Iceland's most dramatic landscapes, including jagged bird cliffs, broad multithued beaches, jaw-dropping coastal fjords, immense central mountains and tiny fishing villages embracing traditional ways of life. (p191)

### ABISKO (SWEDEN)

A prime viewing spot for the Aurora Borealis, Abisko lies near the national park of the same name and is the start or endpoint for the spectacular 425km Kungsleden hiking trail. (p155)

### INARI (FINLAND)

This tiny village is home to the wonderful Siida museum devoted to Sámi culture and environment, and a great base for hiking in the nearby Lemmenjoki National Park and Kevo Strict Nature Reserve. (p167)

### REYKJAVÍK



ICELAND

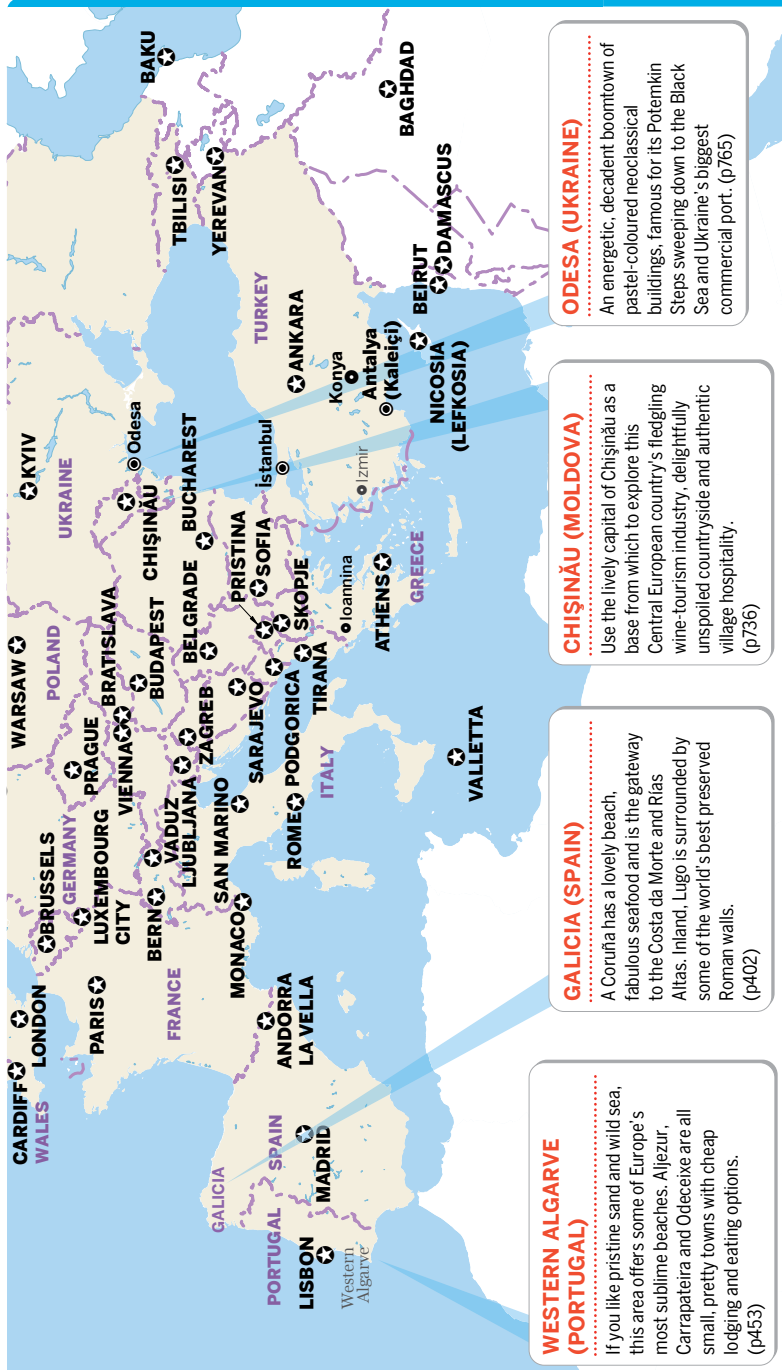
### DAUGAVPILIS (LATVIA)

With a fairly well-preserved historical centre and a mighty fortress, Daugavpils has more recently been put on the tourist map by the new Rothko Centre devoted to contemporary art. (p828)

### BREST (BELARUS)

This relatively prosperous and cosmopolitan border town has plenty of charm as well as the impressive 19th century Brest Fortress. Reconstruction has been rampant as Brest gears up for its millennial celebrations in 2019. (p766)





# Behind the Scenes

## SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

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## THIS BOOK

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- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

## Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

## Eating

- Eating

## Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

- Entertainment

## Shopping

- Shopping

## Information

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

## Geographic

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

## Population

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

## Transport

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

## Routes

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

## Boundaries

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

## Hydrography

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

## Areas

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

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



### **Andrea Schulte-Peevers**

**Germany, Austria & Benelux** 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**

**Scandinavia, Spain & 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.



### **Nicola Williams**

**France & Switzerland, Plan, Survival Guide** Border-hopping is a way of life for British writer, runner, foodie, art aficionado and mum-of-three Nicola Williams, who has lived in a French village on the southern side of Lake Geneva for more than a decade. Nicola has authored more than 50 guidebooks on Paris, Provence, Rome, Tuscany, France, Italy and Switzerland for Lonely Planet and covers France as a destination expert for the *Telegraph*. She

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Brana Vladislavjevic curated the Balkans chapter.





## 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



### Mark Baker

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

other organisations. Instagram: @markbakerprague Twitter: @markbakerprague Blog: www.markbakerprague.com



### Korina Miller

**Italy, Greece & Turkey** 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, an MA in Migration Studies and a diploma in Visual Arts en route. As a writer and editor, Korina has worked on nearly 60 titles for Lonely Planet and has also worked with LP.com, BBC, the *Independent*, the *Guardian*, BBC5 and CBC, as well as many independent magazines, covering travel, art and culture. She has currently set

up camp back in Victoria, soaking up the mountain views and the pounding surf.



### Simon Richmond

**Great Britain & Ireland, Russia & the Baltic Coast** Journalist and photographer Simon Richmond has specialised as a travel writer since the early 1990s and first worked for Lonely Planet in 1999 on its *Central Asia* guide. He's long since stopped counting the number of guidebooks he's researched and written for the company, but countries covered include Australia, China, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Russia, Singapore, South Africa and Turkey. For Lonely Planet's website he's penned features on topics from

the world's best swimming pools to the joys of Urban Sketching – follow him on Instagram to see some of his photos and sketches.

OVER MORE  
PAGE WRITERS

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