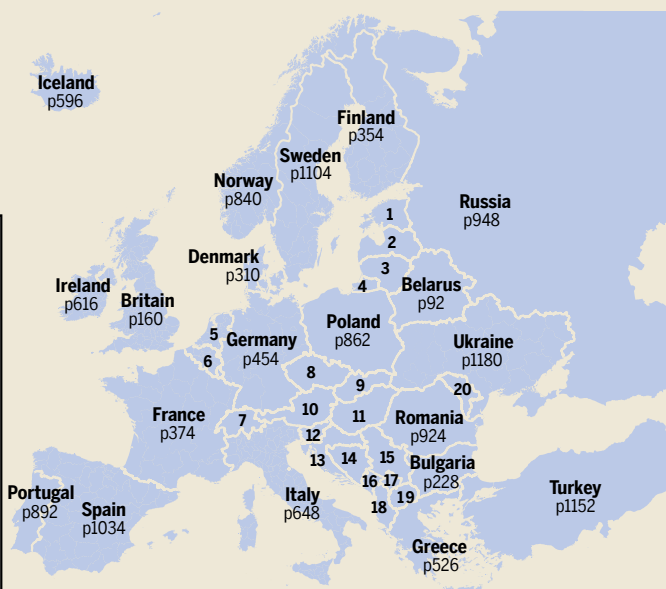




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# Itineraries



## 5 WEEKS First-Time Europe

If this is your first visit to Europe you'll want to experience as many of its famous cultural cities as possible – this is where your dreams become reality.

**London** is calling. The former capital of a huge empire is a city of massive museums, regal parks and electrifying nightlife.

Take the Eurostar to **Paris** and prepare to be seduced by the Eiffel Tower, Versailles and the Louvre. The art theme continues in **Amsterdam**, where you can admire works by Van Gogh and Rembrandt. Next travel to cosmopolitan, hedonistic **Berlin** in Germany where you can see the remains of the wall.

**Prague** in the Czech Republic is a city of intangible medieval magic. **Budapest** could be Prague's twin, offering refined music and a youthful nocturnal scene. **Vienna** is known for its gilded coffee bars.

Time to hit southern Europe. Start in glorious **Venice** with its canals and gondoliers, jump on a train to the Renaissance time capsule of **Florence**, and then proceed to **Rome**. Leapfrog southern France to Spain, stopping in **Barcelona** where Gaudí meets Gothic, before having a grand finale in **Madrid**.



5  
WEEKS

## Mediterranean Europe

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.

Fly to Spain and claim your sun-lounger at one of Europe's warmest year-round beaches in **Málaga**. Follow the coast up to **Valencia** next, the culinary home of paella. Pay homage to Catalonia in **Barcelona**, where you can soak up the seaside ambience of Gaudí's city. Cross the border into France, then beach-hop along the Côte d'Azur to **Nice** with its palm-lined seafront. Take the twisty coastal corniches to beguiling **Monaco** and, afterwards, spend a day or two inland in the beautiful villages of **Provence**.

Return to Nice and take the train southeast to historic **Rome**. Continue south to energetic **Naples**, walk through ill-fated **Pompeii** and explore the narrow footpaths and ancient staircases of the precipitous Amalfi Coast. Cross Italy to understated **Bari**, from where you head across the Adriatic by ferry to the Croatian pearl of **Dubrovnik** with its spectacular city walls.

Bus it south through Montenegro and Albania. Pause at the walled town of **Kotor** in the former and the white crescent-shaped beaches of **Drymades** in the latter.

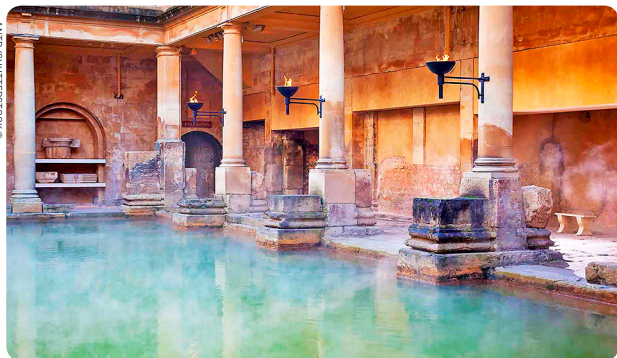
Greece's Ionian Islands are next and the best is **Corfu**. Take a ferry to **Patra**, from where you can get a bus on to venerable **Athens**, capital of the ancient world. Move on to the port of Piraeus for an island-hopping expedition of the Cyclades, dreamy islands that include sophisticated **Mykonos**, laid-back **Paros** and volcanic **Santorini**. When you've had enough of Greek salads, set sail for Turkish port Kuşadası from lush, mountainous Samos.

Visit ancient **Ephesus**, one of the greatest surviving Graeco-Roman cities. Travel by bus north along the Aegean coast to the ruins of Troy and **Çanakkale**, the base for visiting Gallipoli Peninsula. Finish in beautiful, chaotic **Istanbul**.



RESUL WUSLU/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

**Top:** Whirling dervishes, Istanbul (p1156), Turkey  
**Bottom:** Roman Baths (p191), Bath, Britain



ANITA/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



3  
WEEKS

## From London to the Sun

Combining the best of both worlds, this itinerary begins with the urban powerhouse of London and ends with soaking up the sun in Spain and Portugal.

Enjoy several days in **London** for museums, galleries and clubbing, then take a train to **Bath** to appreciate Roman and Georgian architecture. Save time on the way back for **Oxford**, the fabled university town.

Back in London, take the Eurostar from grand St Pancras station to **Brussels**, the ethnically diverse headquarters of the EU.

The Eurostar will whisk you southwest to romantic **Paris**. Having dipped into the City of Light's cultural sights and gourmet delights, make side trips to the **D-Day beaches** north of Bayeux and the iconic abbey of **Mont St-Michel**, which reaches for the sky from its rocky island perch.

Head south by rail, stopping at lively **Toulouse**. Detour to the fairy-tale fortified city of **Carcassonne**. Cross into Spain, pausing at supercool **Barcelona**, where you can indulge in avant-garde Spanish cuisine.

Zip north to Basque seaside resort **San Sebastián**, with its envelope-pushing food scene, and then to the curvaceous Museo Guggenheim in happening **Bilbao**. Turn south, making a beeline for energetic **Madrid**, for some of Europe's best bars. From here plan day trips to **Toledo**, the so-called 'city of three cultures', and enchanting **Segovia** with its Roman aqueduct.

Continue south to **Granada** to explore the exquisite Islamic fortress complex of the Alhambra. Continue your Andalusian adventures with the one-of-a-kind Mezquita of **Córdoba**, before dancing flamenco in **Seville**. Get the bus to Portugal's captivating hillside capital **Lisbon**, where you can eat custard tarts by the sea. Finish in the wooded hills of **Sintra**, home to fairy-tale-like palaces and gardens.

4  
WEEKS

## Scandinavian & Baltic Highlights

Three weeks is sufficient for the classic sights of northern Europe, though you can easily spend longer. Extra time allows detailed exploration and side trips to quieter places.

Start in Danish capital **Copenhagen**, the hipster of the Nordic block. Make day trips to the cathedral and Viking-boat museum at **Roskilde**; 'Hamlet's' castle Kronborg Slot at **Helsingør**; Denmark's second but no-less-trendy city **Aarhus** with its incredible art at ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum; and the country's top tourist attraction, **Legoland**.

Take the train to charming **Stockholm**. Sweden's capital spills across 14 islands with Gamla Stan the oldest and most beautiful. Side-trip to university town **Uppsala**, Sweden's spiritual heart, and spend the night. Creative and happening **Gothenburg**, the country's second city, has interesting galleries and museums, including a great one for kids.

It's a 3½-hour bus ride to **Oslo**, where you can check out Munch's work in a stunning setting. Norway's capital has plenty of museums and galleries, plus the iconic Oslo Opera House.

From Oslo, take the long but scenic 'Norway in a Nutshell' rail day trip to **Flåm** and ride the world's steepest railway that runs without cable or rack wheels. Continue by boat and bus along the stunning Sognefjord – Norway's deepest fjord – to **Bergen**. Admire this pretty town from a cable car and explore the quayside Bryggen district of historic buildings. From Bergen take a side trip to the mighty 20km-long emerald-green **Geirangerfjord**.

Return to Stockholm for a cruise circuit of the Baltic. First stop in quirky, design-diva **Helsinki**, a great base for exploring the natural wonders of Finland.

Wind up proceedings in the Baltic States starting in **Tallinn**, the charming Estonian capital where the Old Town is a jumble of turrets, spires and winding streets. Next is Latvia's gorgeous art nouveau **Riga** followed by Lithuania's capital **Vilnius**, the baroque bombshell of the Baltics.



MAZAR/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



SEAN PAVONE / SHUTTERSTOCK ©

**Top:** Great Synagogue (p577), Budapest, Hungary

**Bottom:** Acueducto (p1051), Segovia, Spain

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### **Brendan Sainsbury**

**Italy, Spain** Born and raised in the UK in a town that never merits a mention in any guidebook (Andover, Hampshire), Brendan spent the holidays of his youth caravanning in the English Lake District and didn't leave Blighty until he was 19. Making up for lost time, he's since squeezed 70 countries into a sometimes precarious existence as a writer and professional vagabond. His rocking chair memories will probably include staging a performance of 'A Comedy of Errors'

at a school in war-torn Angola, running 150 miles across the Sahara Desert in the Marathon des Sables, and hitchhiking from Cape Town to Kilimanjaro with an early, dog-eared copy of LP's *Africa on a Shoestring*. In the last 11 years, he has written more than 40 books for Lonely Planet from Castro's Cuba to the canyons of Peru. When not scribbling research notes, Brendan likes partaking in ridiculous 'endurance' races, strumming old Clash songs on the guitar, and experiencing the pain and occasional pleasures of following Southampton Football Club. Brendan wrote the Plan and Survival Guide chapters.



### **Nicola Williams**

**France, Italy, the Netherlands** 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 also writes for the *Independent*, *Guardian*,

*lonelyplanet.com*, *Lonely Planet Magazine*, *French Magazine*, *Cool Camping France* and others. Catch her on the road on Twitter and Instagram at @tripalong.



### **Neil Wilson**

**Britain, Ireland, Poland** 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.

**Steve Fallon**

**Hungary** A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Steve graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science in modern languages. After working for several years for a daily US newspaper and earning a master's degree in journalism, his fascination with the 'new' Asia led him to Hong Kong, where he lived for over a dozen years, working for a variety of media companies and running his own travel bookshop. Steve lived in Budapest for three years before moving to London

in 1994. He has written or contributed to more than 100 Lonely Planet titles. Steve is a qualified London Blue Badge Tourist Guide. Visit his website on [www.steveslondon.com](http://www.steveslondon.com).

**Anthony Ham**

**Croatia, Finland, Germany, Slovenia, Spain** Anthony is a freelance writer and photographer who specialises in Spain, East and Southern Africa, the Arctic and the Middle East. When he's not writing for Lonely Planet, Anthony writes about and photographs Spain, Africa and the Middle East for newspapers and magazines in Australia, the UK and the US.

**Anita Isalska**

**France, Lithuania, Slovakia** Anita Isalska is a travel journalist, editor and copywriter. After several merry years as a staff writer and editor – a few of them in Lonely Planet's London office – Anita now works freelance between San Francisco, the UK and any Baltic bolthole with good wi-fi. Anita specialises in Eastern and Central Europe, Southeast Asia, France and off-beat travel. Read her stuff on [www.anitaalska.com](http://www.anitaalska.com).

**Vesna Maric**

**North Macedonia** Vesna has been a Lonely Planet author for nearly two decades, covering places as far and wide as Bolivia, Algeria, Sicily, Cyprus, Barcelona, London and Croatia, among others. Her latest work has been updating Florida, Greece and North Macedonia.

**Korina Miller**

**Greece** 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 [lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.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.

**MaSovaida Morgan**

**Estonia, Latvia** MaSovaida is a travel writer and multimedia storyteller whose wanderlust has taken her to more than 40 countries and all seven continents. Previously, she was Lonely Planet's Destination Editor for South America and Antarctica for four years and worked as an editor for newspapers and NGOs in the Middle East and United Kingdom. Follow her on Instagram @MaSovaida.

**Leonid Ragozin**

**Germany, Russia, Ukraine** Leonid Ragozin studied beach dynamics at Moscow State University, but for want of decent beaches in Russia, he switched to journalism and spent 12 years voyaging through different parts of the BBC, with a break for a four-year stint as a foreign correspondent for *Newsweek Russia*. Leonid is currently a freelance journalist focusing largely on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine (both his Lonely Planet destinations), which prompted him to leave

Moscow and find a new home in Riga.



### **Cristian Bonetto**

[Denmark](#), [Italy](#), [Sweden](#) Cristian has contributed to more than 30 Lonely Planet guides to date, including *New York City, Italy, Venice & the Veneto, Naples & the Amalfi Coast, Denmark, Copenhagen, Sweden and Singapore*. Lonely Planet work aside, his musings on travel, food, culture and design appear in numerous publications around the world, including *The Telegraph* (UK) and *Corriere del Mezzogiorno* (Italy). When not on the road, you'll find the reformed playwright

and TV scriptwriter slurping espresso in his beloved hometown, Melbourne. Follow him on Instagram: @rexcat75.



### **Stuart Butler**

[Albania](#), [Kosovo](#) Stuart has been writing for Lonely Planet for a decade and during this time he's come eye to eye with gorillas in the Congolese jungles, met a man with horns on his head who could lie in fire, huffed and puffed over snow bound Himalayan mountain passes, interviewed a king who could turn into a tree, and had his fortune told by a parrot. Oh, and he's met more than his fair share of self-proclaimed gods. When not on the road for Lonely Planet he lives on the beautiful beaches of Southwest France with his wife and two young children. He also works as a

photographer and was a finalist in both the 2015 and 2016 Travel Photographer of the Year Awards. In 2015 he walked for six weeks with a Maasai friend across part of Kenya's Maasai lands in order to gather material for a book he is writing (see [www.walkingwiththemaasai.com](http://www.walkingwiththemaasai.com)). His website is [www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com](http://www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com).



### **Kerry Christiani**

[Austria](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Portugal](#), [Switzerland](#) Kerry is an award-winning travel writer, photographer and Lonely Planet author, specialising in Central and Southern Europe. Based in Wales, she has authored/co-authored more than a dozen Lonely Planet titles. An adventure addict, she loves mountains, cold places and true wilderness. She features her latest work at <https://its-a-small-world.com> and tweets @kerrychristiani.



### **Gregor Clark**

[France](#), [Monaco](#), [Portugal](#) Gregor Clark 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. Titles include *Italy*,

*France, Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina, Portugal, Switzerland, Mexico, South America on a Shoestring, Montreal & Quebec City, France's Best Trips, New England's Best Trips*, cycling guides to Italy and California and coffee-table pictorials such as *Food Trails, The USA Book* and *The Lonely Planet Guide to the Middle of Nowhere*.



### **Peter Dragicevich**

[Bosnia & Hercegovina](#), [Croatia](#), [Italy](#), [Montenegro](#) After a successful career in niche newspaper and magazine publishing, both in his native New Zealand and in Australia, Peter finally gave in to Kiwi wanderlust, giving up staff jobs to chase his diverse roots around much of Europe. Over the last decade he's written literally dozens of guidebooks for Lonely Planet on an oddly disparate collection of countries, all of which he's come to love. He once again calls Auckland, New Zealand,

his home – although his current nomadic existence means he's often elsewhere.



### **Mark Elliott**

[Belgium](#), [the Netherlands](#) Mark Elliott had already lived and worked on five continents when, in the pre-Internet dark ages, he started writing travel guides. He has since authored (or co-authored) around 60 books including dozens for Lonely Planet. He also acts as a travel consultant, occasional tour leader, video presenter, speaker, interviewer and blues harmonicist.



## 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



### Alexis Averback

**Iceland, Italy (Rome), France** Alexis has travelled and lived all over the world, from Sri Lanka to Ecuador, Zanzibar and Antarctica. In recent years she's been living on the Greek island of Hydra and exploring her adopted homeland; sampling oysters in Brittany; and adventuring along Iceland's surreal lava fields, sparkling fjords and glacier tongues. A travel writer for more than two decades, Alexis has lived in Antarctica for a year, crossed the Pacific by sailboat and

written books on her journeys through Asia, Europe and the Americas. She's also a painter – visit [www.alexisaverback.com](http://www.alexisaverback.com) – and promotes travel and adventure on video and television. Alexis also wrote the Understand chapters.



### Mark Baker

**Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovenia** Mark 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. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter (@markbakerprague), and read his blog: [www.markbakerprague.com](http://www.markbakerprague.com).



### Greg Bloom

**Belarus, Moldova** Greg is a freelance writer, editor, tour guide and travel planner based out of Manila and Anilao, Philippines. Greg began his writing career in the late '90s in Ukraine, working as a journalist and later editor-in-chief of the *Kyiv Post*, an English-language weekly. As a freelance travel writer, he has contributed to some 40 Lonely Planet titles, mostly in Eastern Europe and Asia. In addition to writing, he organises customised adventure tours in north Palawan

and north Luzon (Philippines). Greg's travel articles have been published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *South China Morning Post*, BBC.com and the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, among many other publications. Accounts of his Lonely Planet trips over the years are at [www.mytrijournal.com/bloomblogs](http://www.mytrijournal.com/bloomblogs).

OVER MORE  
PAGE WRITERS

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