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## Tourism trips

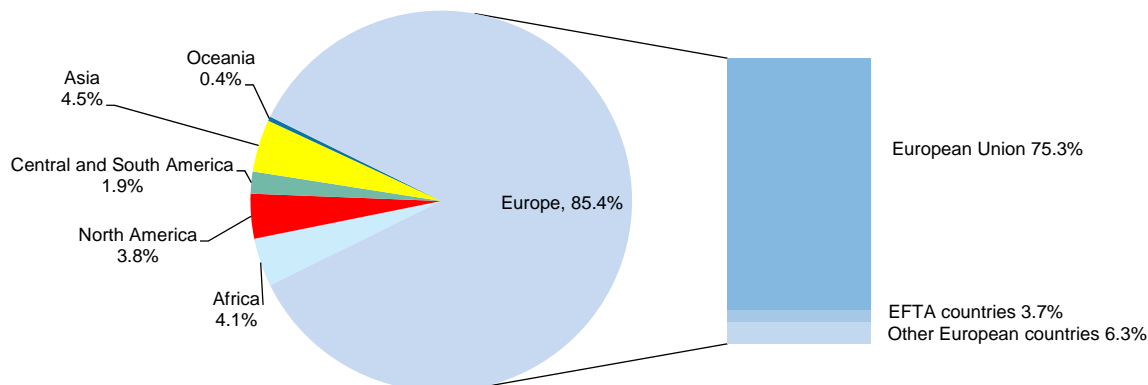
# In 2012, 85% of trips abroad by EU residents were in Europe

## Main means of transport: by car

In 2012, **EU28** residents made 1.2 billion trips of one night or more. Almost half of these trips (48%) were for holidays and leisure, 35% for visits to relatives and friends, 13% for business and 4% for other reasons. The average trip length was 5.2 nights. The most common means of transport for trips was private or rented cars<sup>1</sup> (65%), followed by air planes (15%), trains (12%), buses (6%) and water vessels (2%).

Of the number of total trips, 76% were made within the country of residence (domestic trips), while 24% were made outside (outbound trips). For these outbound trips, the main destination for EU28 residents was clearly **Europe** (85.4%), then followed **Asia** (4.5%), **Africa** (4.1%), **North America** (3.8%), **Central and South America** (1.9%) and **Oceania** (0.4%). More specifically, the top 3 destinations for outbound trips for residents of the **EU28** were **Spain, France and Italy**.

**Destinations for outbound trips of EU residents, 2012, (%)**



These figures come from an online [publication](#)<sup>2</sup>, **Tourism trips of Europeans**, from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. This publication has six chapters: characteristics of tourism trips, participation in tourism, top destinations, seasonality, expenditure and intra-EU tourism flows.

### Highest share of domestic trips for residents of Romania, Spain and Greece

The highest shares of trips of EU residents within their country (domestic trips) were observed in **Romania** (95%), **Spain** and **Greece** (both 92%), **Portugal** (90%) and **France** (89%). On the other hand, the largest proportions of trips abroad (outbound trips) were registered by residents of **Luxembourg** (97%), **Belgium** (78%), **Malta** (60%) and **Slovenia** (55%).

The average length of stay varied from more than seven nights for residents of **Greece** (7.5 nights), **Cyprus** (7.2) and **Belgium** (7.1) to less than four nights for residents of **Latvia** (3.1), **Finland** (3.4), **Denmark** (3.6) and **Hungary** (3.7).

## Residents of eleven Member States have Spain in their top three outbound destinations

In all **EU28** Member States, the top destination of outbound trips made by residents in 2012 was a neighboring or nearby country, except for residents of **Romania** (Italy was the top destination) and the **United Kingdom** (Spain).

Among the top three outbound destinations of trips, **Spain** was among the top three for residents of eleven Member States, **Germany** of ten Member States, **Italy** of nine, **France** of eight, the **United Kingdom** of seven and **Croatia** of four.

## Cars are the most common way of travelling for all Member States with shares ranging from 38% for residents of Romania to 84% for Slovenia

Cars were the main means of transport for trips in 2012 for all Member States except for **Malta**<sup>3</sup>, with the highest shares for residents of **Slovenia** (84% of all trips), **Portugal** (80%), **Spain** (78%), the **Czech Republic** (75%), **France** (73%) and **Hungary** (71%). For air transport, the highest proportions were observed for residents of **Malta** (57%), **Cyprus** (45%), **Ireland** (42%), **Luxembourg** (36%) and the **United Kingdom** (28%), and for rail **Romania** (17%), **France** (16%), **Germany** and the **United Kingdom** (both 14%). For buses, the largest shares were registered for residents of **Romania** (38%), **Bulgaria** (23%) and **Estonia** (21%), and for water transport **Malta** (43%), **Greece** (14%) and **Estonia** (13%).

### Trips (business and holiday) made by EU residents\*, 2012

	Total trips, thousands	Domestic trips, %	Outbound trips, %	Ave. length of trips (nights)	Top 3 destinations for outbound trips		
<b>EU28**</b>	<b>1 196 054</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>Spain</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Italy</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	12 354	22.5	77.5	7.1	France	Spain	Netherlands
<b>Bulgaria</b>	3 576	86.9	13.1	4.4	Greece	Turkey	Germany
<b>Czech Republic</b>	32 858	81.8	18.2	4.1	Slovakia	Croatia	Italy
<b>Denmark</b>	29 164	73.4	26.6	3.6	Germany	Sweden	Spain
<b>Germany</b>	247 524	66.6	33.4	5.1	Austria	Italy	Spain
<b>Estonia</b>	2 908	60.6	39.4	4.0	Finland	Sweden	Russia
<b>Ireland</b>	11 592	50.2	49.8	5.3	UK	Spain	France
<b>Greece</b>	7 087	91.8	8.2	7.5	Albania	UK	Germany
<b>Spain</b>	135 648	92.0	8.0	4.7	France	Portugal	Italy
<b>France</b>	225 025	89.0	11.0	5.5	Spain	Italy	Germany
<b>Croatia</b>	8 737	69.3	30.7	5.1	Bosnia/Herzeg.	Germany	Italy
<b>Italy</b>	66 030	78.0	22.0	6.1	France	Spain	UK
<b>Cyprus</b>	2 545	53.8	46.2	7.2	Greece	UK	Russia
<b>Latvia</b>	5 194	73.1	26.9	3.1	Lithuania	Estonia	Germany
<b>Lithuania</b>	4 223	59.6	40.4	4.7	Latvia	UK	Belarus
<b>Luxembourg</b>	1 628	3.0	97.0	6.7	France	Germany	Belgium
<b>Hungary</b>	18 494	78.1	21.9	3.7	Germany	Austria	Romania
<b>Malta</b>	510	40.2	59.8	5.8	Italy	UK	Spain
<b>Netherlands</b>	46 494	61.6	38.4	6.0	Germany	France	Spain
<b>Austria</b>	21 922	50.0	50.0	4.8	Germany	Italy	Croatia
<b>Poland</b>	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
<b>Portugal</b>	14 031	90.3	9.7	4.2	Spain	France	UK
<b>Romania</b>	16 824	95.4	4.6	4.3	Italy	Bulgaria	Greece
<b>Slovenia</b>	4 539	45.5	54.5	4.2	Croatia	Italy	Austria
<b>Slovakia</b>	7 166	62.5	37.5	5.3	Czech Republic	Croatia	Hungary
<b>Finland</b>	39 966	77.4	22.6	3.4	Estonia	Sweden	Spain
<b>Sweden</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>United Kingdom</b>	161 113	68.5	31.5	5.5	Spain	France	USA

: Data not available

u unreliable

\* Aged 15 years and over

\*\* EU28 calculated using estimates for Sweden

## Trips made by EU residents\* by main means of transport, 2012, % of total trips

	Cars (private or hired) <sup>1</sup>	Air planes	Train	Bus or coach	Water vessels	Other (e.g. bicycle)
<b>EU28**</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	58.5	26.2	9.1	4.7	1.2	u
<b>Bulgaria</b>	66.7	4.7	4.7	23.4	0.0	u
<b>Czech Republic</b>	75.2	5.8	8.1	10.4	0.0	0.6
<b>Denmark</b>	61.8	17.5	12.0	4.7	0.9	3.1
<b>Germany</b>	60.5	16.5	14.1	4.8	1.4	2.8
<b>Estonia</b>	47.0	14.3	(3.5)	21.1	12.7	u
<b>Ireland</b>	46.2	42.1	4.2	3.6	3.5	0.4
<b>Greece</b>	66.0	8.4	1.2	9.9	13.8	0.8
<b>Spain</b>	78.0	10.7	4.7	5.5	0.9	0.3
<b>France</b>	73.3	8.6	15.6	1.7	0.4	0.3
<b>Croatia</b>	68.7	6.3	4.6	16.9	2.3	(1.2)
<b>Italy</b>	58.1	21.9	9.4	4.8	3.0	2.7
<b>Cyprus</b>	51.4	44.5	-	2.4	1.7	u
<b>Latvia</b>	64.1	9.7	4.0	19.5	2.3	u
<b>Lithuania</b>	67.3	18.8	3.3	9.1	1.2	(0.3)
<b>Luxembourg</b>	47.6	35.8	10.3	4.4	0.8	1.0
<b>Hungary</b>	70.5	6.3	10.2	12.5	u	0.4
<b>Malta<sup>3</sup></b>	0.0	57.2	-	0.0	42.8	0.0
<b>Netherlands</b>	67.0	16.2	10.5	2.7	0.9	2.7
<b>Austria</b>	61.1	19.4	11.9	6.4	u	1.0
<b>Poland</b>	u	u	u	u	u	u
<b>Portugal</b>	79.6	8.0	3.5	7.3	0.4	1.2
<b>Romania</b>	38.5	1.4	16.7	38.1	u	5.3
<b>Slovenia</b>	83.8	7.1	2.3	5.8	(0.6)	u
<b>Slovakia</b>	58.4	12.2	10.7	18.4	u	u
<b>Finland</b>	61.6	14.4	10.2	4.2	9.5	(0.2)
<b>Sweden</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>United Kingdom</b>	50.8	28.3	13.5	4.1	3.0	0.3

: Data not available

- Not applicable

u unreliable

( ) reduced reliability

\* Aged 15 years and over

\*\* EU28 calculated using estimates for Sweden

1. This group includes predominantly cars, but also other motor vehicles, such as motorcycles, mobile homes and mini vans.
2. For more information see the Statistics explained article on the Eurostat website:  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php?title=Tourism\\_trips\\_of\\_Europeans&stable=0&redirect=no](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php?title=Tourism_trips_of_Europeans&stable=0&redirect=no)  
 The chapters on expenditure and intra-EU tourism flows will become available shortly.
3. Domestic trips in Malta are travel between the two islands (Malta and Gozo) and the only means of transport available is by ferry.

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