



2023

Annual Travel Survey

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Introduction

In June 2023, Cheval Collection conducted its annual survey to better understand our customers' travel patterns in the coming 12 months, with an emphasis on the destinations where we currently operate: London, Edinburgh and Dubai.

Against a backdrop of rising interest rates and steep increases in the cost of living, we were curious to discover how resilient demand for travel would be in a world where covid-related restrictions no longer apply.

Respondents were questioned on their attitudes to domestic versus international travel, how likely they would be to travel with the wider family (multi-generational travel), and about their behaviours when booking. The survey also dug deeper into questions around sustainability as the volume of travel continues to return to – and in some cases has already surpassed – its 2019 peak.

The survey received almost 2,200 responses over a period of 12 days.





Respondents

There were **2,183 respondents** to the survey, of which **74%** were resident in the **United Kingdom**, followed by **10.3%** in **North America**. The remaining responses come from more than 60 different countries.

Regions	Responses	%	Age Ranges	Count	%
United Kingdom	1,618	74.1%	18 - 24	26	1.2%
North America	224	10.3%	25 - 34	192	8.8%
Continental Europe	153	7.0%	35 - 44	381	17.5%
Asia	61	2.8%	45 - 54	566	25.9%
Middle East	56	2.6%	55 - 64	653	29.9%
Australia/NZ	38	1.7%	65 - 74	310	14.2%
Other	33	1.5%	75+	55	2.5%

45% **985** respondents have previously stayed in at least one Cheval property. Of those, **263** guests have stayed in two or more properties.

55% **1,198** have not stayed at a Cheval property



Domestic leisure appetite **grows**

Despite the end of all covid-related travel restrictions, 60% of respondents are planning three or more domestic leisure trips in the next 12 months, up from 52% one year ago

When asked about the number of planned trips in the next 12 months

2023

3%

of respondents are not planning any domestic trips

37%

of respondents are planning between **one** and **two** domestic trips

41%

of respondents are planning between **three** and **four** domestic trips

19%

of respondents are planning **five** or **more** domestic trips in the next 12 months

2022

4%

of respondents were not planning any domestic trips

44%

of respondents were planning between **one** and **two** domestic trips

38%

of respondents were planning between **three** and **four** domestic trips

14%

of respondents were planning **five** or **more** domestic trips in the following 12 months





International travel intent decreasing

The percentage of respondents planning three or more international leisure trips has **declined to 16%**, compared to 32% in 2022. Over 20% of the audience is not planning on any international travel in the next 12 months.

When asked about the number of planned international trips in the next 12 months

2023

21%
of respondents are not planning any international trips

63%
of respondents are planning between **one** and **two** international trips

13%
of respondents are planning between **three** and **four** international trips

3%
of respondents are planning **five** or **more** international trips in the next 12 months

2022

10%
of respondents were not planning any international trips

58%
of respondents were planning between **one** and **two** international trips

25%
of respondents were planning between **three** and **four** international trips

7%
of respondents were planning **five** or **more** international trips in the following 12 months

When asked about upcoming **multi-generational trips**, **60%** of the audience responded to say that they would be **travelling with the wider family** in the next 12 months.



Accommodation & destination preferences

Of the 2,183 respondents, **78%** are likely to book accommodation in **London** in the next 12 months. More than half, **51.2%**, are likely to book accommodation in **Edinburgh**, and **16%** are likely to book a stay in **Dubai**.

When about their accommodation preferences

86% of respondents would be likely to book a **hotel**

77% of respondents will also consider a **serviced apartment**



Traveller behaviour when booking

When asked about their preferences when booking accommodation



37.7%
of respondents

will book the cheapest rate even if it is non-refundable



51.5%
of respondents

will wait for sales periods or special promotions before booking
(e.g Black Friday)



34.5%
of respondents

will look at a property's social media profiles before booking



34.8%
of respondents

will book with a provider that has an attractive loyalty programme





Importance of sustainability among travellers **increases to 70%**

When asked about the importance of sustainability when booking accommodation, **11.6%** of respondents considered this to be **very important or required (if travelling on business)**.

58.9% of respondents said sustainability was **moderately important**, and almost **27%** said it was **not important**. When broken down by age, the percentage of respondents replying 'very or moderately important' was very similar.

In 2022, **fewer than 25% of guests considered sustainability** as part of their booking process. For the **2023** results, this had **increased to more than 70%** who considered issues of sustainability as **moderately or very important**. The 2023 results were similar irrespective of the age of the respondent.

% of respondents by age range on sustainability

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Moderately important	65%	59%	56%	59%	59%	62%	55%
Very important	8%	13%	16%	12%	10%	9%	13%
Interesting but not important	19%	21%	20%	23%	23%	21%	29%
Not important	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	5%	2%
Did not respond	4%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%



Cost of living impact and destination nostalgia

When asked how the recent increases in the cost of living had impacted their booking behaviour or travelling plans for the next 12 months

53%
of respondents are considering reducing the number of trips taken

82%
of respondents are very likely or somewhat likely to avoid peak travel periods to cut costs

62%
of respondents are very or somewhat likely to choose cheaper accommodation

35%
of respondents are very or somewhat likely to book a 'bleisure' trip combining remote working days with a personal leisure trip

Traveller behaviour	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Not likely at all
Reduce the number of trips	14%	39%	32%	16%
Avoid peak travel periods	41%	41%	13%	5%
Cheaper accommodation	13%	49%	30%	9%
Combine workdays with a leisure trip	12%	23%	20%	45%

The **nostalgia element of travel** appears to be strong, with **more than 62%** very likely to return to their favourite destinations in the next 12 months.



Traveller research process when **booking**

Respondents indicated that, when booking accommodation, they would almost always **consult the property's own website (96% very or somewhat likely)**.

They would also search out **guest reviews**, with **92%** very or somewhat likely to do so. Reviews were more likely to be consulted than the **travel press**, however **71%** of respondents still said they were very or somewhat likely to do so.

Just **under 57%** said they would consult a property's **social media channels**.

Survey Methodology: Cheval sent emails to its marketing database on the 1st of June 2023 inviting recipients to take part in an online survey about their expected travel patterns for the coming 12 months. Cheval's social media audience was also invited to participate in several online posts. We received a total of 2,183 responses before the survey closed on Sunday the 12th of June.

All those who responded were entered into a prize draw to win a complimentary two-night stay in a Cheval Residence or Maison of their choice in London, Edinburgh or Dubai.

