



Enchanting Eastern England 2026

Trace your way along the East of England, where the North York Moors enthrall with sweeping vistas and university cities charm with centuries-old architecture. Discover the romance of this enchanting region as you glide along the glistening River Cam on a traditional punt, soak up the cosy chatter in a rustic pub with a freshly poured pint, and marvel at the grandeur of Sandringham Estate's picturesque house and gardens. This adventure is sure to capture your heart.





About your tour notes

These tour notes contain everything you need to know before your tour departs – from where to meet your fellow guests and local guide to what essentials to pack for your journey. We recommend you print this document out and bring it with you on your tour. Give a copy to loved ones at home so they can follow your adventure, too.

Important: please refresh this document as close to your departure as possible to ensure you're equipped with the latest information available.

Malmaison Edinburgh @ 18:00

1 Tower Pl, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 7BZ

Tower Suites by Blue Orchid @ 15:00

100 Minories, London, EC3N 1JY

Worth noting

For 12 & 26 July, and 04 October 2026 departures, you'll visit the breathtaking Burghley House & Gardens instead of Sandringham Estate.



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Tour highlights

- ✓ Call in at Sandringham Estate, private retreat of The Royal Family
- ✓ Experience a unique behind-the-scenes tour at Newmarket National Stud
- ✓ Delight in a traditional punting experience along the 'Backs' of Cambridge University

More inclusions

- ✓ 9 breakfasts, 5 dinners
- ✓ 9 nights in thoughtfully selected accommodation
- ✓ Luxury minicoach

Currencies you'll use

- Scotland - GBP
- England - GBP



Included meals

Breakfast (B) is included daily.

Some of your lunches and dinners are also included, either in hotels or local restaurants. These are indicated by (L) and (D) in the itinerary.

Please note that drinks will not always be included.

We will do our best to accommodate any specific dietary requirements you may have. Please ensure to make these clear to us before your tour begins so we can communicate them to our hotels, restaurants and suppliers.

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Your itinerary

Day 1 | Edinburgh (Scotland)

The historic Scottish city of Edinburgh is where we'll meet ahead of our incredible journey into Eastern England. Get to know your expert Tour Leader and travel companions better over tonight's delicious welcome meal.

Included today



Accommodation

Malmaison Edinburgh (or similar)



Meals

+ Dinner

Day 2 | Edinburgh – Alnwick – Durham – North York Moors (England)

This morning, we'll cross over into England to begin our tour of the fascinating and scenic eastern region of this enchanting country. Our first stop? Alnwick Castle – the majestic home of the Duke of Northumberland. Here, we'll admire some of the rooms that took a starring role in *Downton Abbey* and enjoy some free time to wander the serene gardens. Then, we'll move onto Durham, where we'll step inside the Cathedral: a magnificent Norman-style monument now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Following the visit, we drive to North York Moors where tonight, we'll come together for an included group dinner.

Included today



Accommodation

Gisborough Hall Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

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Day 3 | North York Moors – Whitby – North York Moors

This morning our road will carry us to the traditional seaside resort of Whitby – where a guided tour of the fascinating Captain Cook Museum awaits us. After, we'll visit Whitby Abbey, a 7th century Christian monastery that later became a Benedictine abbey. The abbey church claims its place overlooking the North Sea on the East Cliff. Tonight, we'll enjoy a delicious included dinner at our accommodation in the charming North York Moors district.

Included today



Accommodation

Gisborough Hall Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner

Day 4 | North York Moors – York – Peak District

We'll rewind back to the Middle Ages this morning with a visit to the delightful medieval city of York. Here we'll seek out the mystery-filled narrow streets (known as 'Snickelways') and timber-framed buildings of the famed Shambles – where there are plenty of photo opportunities to be claimed! Enjoy some free time to soak up the city's splendour and settle in for a spot of lunch at a cosy pub or local bistro. Finally, we'll continue to our accommodation in Buxton in the breathtaking Peak District – where the evening will be yours to enjoy as you please.

Included today



Accommodation

Buxton Crescent Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 5 | Peak District – Chatsworth House – Peak District

This morning, we'll start with a visit to Eyam, where we'll learn the tragic story of the villagers who fell victim to the plague in the 1600s. Then, it's time to stretch our legs on a stroll around Chatsworth House, a grand stately home that is said to have inspired Jane Austen with its impressive architecture. In fact, Chatsworth featured in *Pride and Prejudice* as Pemberley, the home of Mr Darcy. We'll enjoy an audio tour of the lavish apartments and some free time to wander the exquisite gardens – before returning to the Peak District for an afternoon spent exploring at your leisure.

Included today



Accommodation

Buxton Crescent Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner

Day 6 | Peak District – Lincoln

Today we'll bid farewell to the picturesque Peak District as we journey onwards to the historic city of Lincoln. When we arrive, we'll visit Lincoln Castle: the formidable home to an original 1215 Magna Carta. Then, we'll explore the equally as spectacular Lincoln Cathedral – one of the best examples of medieval architecture in England. This evening is ours to spend exploring Lincoln's charming cobbled streets for some local fare or relaxing at our hand-picked accommodation.

Included today



Accommodation

The White Hart Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 7 | Lincoln

Today, you've got a whole free day to enjoy Lincoln at your leisure. Seek out a quaint tearoom for lunch, stroll the array of vintage boutiques and continue your discovery of the city's rich history. For dinner tonight, choose from one of the many cosy pubs in the city's old centre for a hearty English meal.

Included today



Accommodation

The White Hart Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

Day 8 | Lincoln – Sandringham Estate – Cambridge

We've a date with royalty today: Sandringham House is our first stop. The private residence of King Charles III, Sandringham is a magnificent stately home with picturesque gardens – and even a museum. After our insightful visit we'll move on to Cambridge: an iconic city filled with history and tradition. This evening, why not relax in one of its centuries-old pubs and soak up the old-world atmosphere.

Included today



Accommodation

Clayton Hotel Cambridge (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 9 | Cambridge

It's time to take to the water! This morning we'll enjoy an iconic punting experience along the 'Backs' of Cambridge University. Back on dry land, we'll embark on a guided walking tour with a local – spotting world-famous buildings such as The Wren Library and the Bridge of Sighs. The rest of the day is yours to explore the city further. Step inside colleges and chapels, museums and galleries – or simply indulge in a little retail therapy. Later, we'll look back on our magnificent journey and clink glasses over tonight's farewell dinner.

Included today



Accommodation

Clayton Hotel Cambridge (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner

Day 10 | Cambridge – Newmarket – London

There's time for one more behind-the-scenes tour today: prepare to delve into England's sporting heritage at Newmarket National Stud. On a guided tour of this working Thoroughbred stud farm, we'll gain a unique insight into Thoroughbred breeding and may have the opportunity to view some of the Stud's robust stallions in the paddocks. After that, we'll make tracks to London – where we'll say our final goodbyes.

Included today



Meals

+ Breakfast



Travel advice

Finances

Changing money

Cash: Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, some railway and tube stations, and at major hotels (though at a less favourable rate).

Credit cards: Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. American Express is only accepted in some larger establishments.

Cash machines: ATMS are widely available.

Tipping

Tipping is entirely at your discretion. If you feel you have received exceptional service, it is recommended that you tip £1-2/€ per day for Drivers and £4- 5/€ per day for Tour Leaders.

Insurance

Before travelling with Back-Roads Touring, it is compulsory for all guests to take out comprehensive travel insurance. Please ensure your insurance covers medical expenses (including repatriation), cancellation cover, loss or damage to baggage and personal effects, money and personal liability.

We recommend you carry your insurance details with you at all times. You may be asked to provide details of your medical insurance or a payment guarantee in some countries before medical assistance can be provided.

For more information, please see our [FAQ page](#).

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).

Passports and visas

Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your tour. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain



countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your tour's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

Please note: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

We advise you to either carry a photocopy of your passport (and visa, if applicable) with you while abroad, or to ensure that you leave a copy with relatives back at home. This will enable the local embassy or high commission to arrange a replacement if the original should be lost or stolen. If you do take copies with you on your tour, please ensure that you keep these separate from your original documents.

Medication and mobility

Whilst on your tour, we want you to have the smoothest journey possible which requires x mobility conditions:

- You must be fit enough to get on and off the vehicle on a regular basis, and to walk around towns and villages or to attractions.
- You must be able to walk up and down stairs and use a shower over the bath.

Please note that, unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate mobility scooter or wheelchair users as we frequently stay in traditional-style hotels and the majority do not have lifts or ground-floor rooms.

If you take medicine for certain conditions, such as diabetes or heart problems, please carry it with you at all times.

Please declare any medical conditions you may have in advance of your tour. If you are in any doubt as to whether our tours are suitable for you, please contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).



Mental health and wellbeing

Culture shock, homesickness and periods of feeling down happen regardless of age. Be rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Tour Leader and Driver will do their utmost to make you smile.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call loved ones. Hearing a familiar voice whilst in an unfamiliar destination can help ground you and remind you you're not alone.
- Eat well. Nobody feels their best when they're hungry. There are plenty of nutritious culinary delights to be savoured along the road!
- Integrate with your fellow guests. The more you socialise with the group, the less likely you'll feel homesick.

Transport

We travel in premium mini-coaches equipped with comfortable seats, air conditioning and large windows for enjoying the view.

With far more flexibility than a standard-size coach, we're able to take the scenic route – winding through beautiful countryside to the heart of tiny villages and coastal towns.

Will I have regular access to Wi-Fi?

Most accommodation we stay in will offer free Wi-Fi as well as many restaurants and cafes you may visit. If you would like more regular internet access without large roaming fees, you can purchase a Back-Roads Touring eSIM [here](#).



What to Pack

Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Back-Roads Touring tours. What you pack will depend on the countries you're visiting as well as the time of year you plan to travel.

Clothing

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Sun hat | ✓ Long-sleeved tops | ✓ Light jacket |
| ✓ Sunglasses | ✓ Short-sleeved tops | ✓ Waterproof jacket |
| ✓ Sleepwear | ✓ Shorts/skirts | ✓ Trousers |
| ✓ Warm jacket | ✓ Socks | ✓ Swimwear |
| ✓ Underwear | ✓ Smart casual evening wear | ✓ Walking/comfortable shoes |

Other essentials

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ✓ Multi-use adapter plug | ✓ Toiletries | ✓ Camera |
| ✓ Batteries | ✓ Sunscreen | ✓ Towel |
| ✓ Umbrella | ✓ Reusable water bottle | ✓ Insect repellent |
| ✓ Any personal medication | ✓ Basic medical kit (paracetamol, aspirin, plasters etc) | |

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How much luggage can I bring

As we travel in mini-coaches, luggage space is limited. Here's what you can take with you on tour:



1 x suitcase



1 x small carry-on bag
(backpack or handbag)

If you have more luggage, please make arrangements to store it prior to joining the tour. **We are unable to carry extra luggage on the mini-coach.**

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FAQs

What's the weather like?

The weather in England is famously unpredictable! Generally, summer can be warm and sunny but rain and cloudy skies are still possible. Autumn and winter are cool, wet and windy. We suggest packing for changeable weather – layers, an umbrella and a trusty raincoat will be essential.

Which type of hotels will we stay in?

Our thoughtfully selected accommodation is full of charm and historic details – expect elegant country inns, grand town centre hotels and even the odd castle! For this reason, rooms vary in size, and most hotels don't have lifts – meaning you'll likely need to access your room via stairs. Porterage will be included wherever possible.

Although air conditioning is mostly unavailable in historic buildings, fans will be provided during hot spells. Most hotels have bathtubs with overhead showers (rather than walk-in showers), so you'll be able to enjoy a soak at the end of the day. It's common for kettles to be included in rooms in England, ready for you to make a refreshing cup of English tea!

Is there an option to do this tour in reverse?

Currently, this tour is available in one direction. We'll start our journey in majestic Edinburgh and trace our way down the East of England, before finishing our travels in vibrant London.

That's everything!

We can't wait to welcome you on tour.

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