



Chelsea Flower Show (Westbound) 2025

Embark on an adventure through South East England's finest, where regal towns, show-stealing stately homes and manicured gardens meet. Bask in the warmer climes of Kew's magnificent Victorian palm house, feel the buzz of Windsor's medieval streets and indulge in the traditional flavours of afternoon tea. The jewel in your journey's crown? The RHS Chelsea Flower Show – bursting with kaleidoscopic colours and dazzling displays that invite you to be swept away by their beauty.





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.

Tower Suites by Blue Orchid @ 18:00

100 Minories, London, EC3N 1JY

Tower Suites by Blue Orchid @ 13:00

100 Minories, London, EC3N 1JY

Worth noting

You can choose between two directions on this tour: Westbound or Eastbound. Simply view and select your preferred route by clicking on the buttons above! Our 2025 Westbound tours departing on the 18 and 19 May will visit the Chelsea Flower Show on an exclusive Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Member day. This provides guests with special access to flower displays in their prime. If you join our Westbound tour on the 21 or 22 May, you will enjoy a private tour of Ightham Mote's serene gardens instead of The Savill Garden.



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Tour highlights

- Wander the fabulous show gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- Tour the historic and beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew
- Enjoy overnight stays in historic royal towns Tunbridge Wells and Windsor

More inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- 7 nights in thoughtfully selected accommodation
- Luxury minicoach

Currencies you'll use

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 | London

Our tour of England's green and pleasant land will begin in the country's iconic capital. After meeting the group at our London hotel, we'll get to know one another better over a delicious welcome meal.

Included today

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| ● Accommodation | ● Meals |
| Tower Suites by Blue | Dinner |
| Orchid (or similar) | |

Day 2 | London

After breakfast, our day will begin with a visit to the splendid Kew Gardens. The palm house, a jaw-dropping example of Victorian engineering, is sure to add a flourish to that holiday photo album. Then, the afternoon will be ours to spend exploring the capital or relaxing back at the hotel. Be sure to recharge those batteries in anticipation for tomorrow's exciting agenda!

Included today

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| ● Accommodation | ● Meals |
| Tower Suites by Blue | Breakfast |
| Orchid (or similar) | |

Day 3 | London

Today the RHS Chelsea Flower Show will be yours to enjoy. From the world-famous show gardens to the astounding floral displays on offer in Chelsea's Great Pavilion – this truly spectacular event showcases the very best of garden design and is sure to be a highlight of our trip.

Included today

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| ● Accommodation | ● Meals |
| Tower Suites by Blue | Breakfast |
| Orchid (or similar) | |



Day 4 | Windsor

Today, we'll pay a visit to The Savill Garden of Windsor Great Park. As we walk through the themed gardens, be sure to keep an eye out for an array of rare plants from around the world. Then: the rich history and royal traditions of Windsor await! Tonight, we'll reconvene at the hotel for a delicious group meal.

Included today

● Accommodation	● Meals
Sir Christopher	Breakfast
Wren (or similar)	Dinner

Day 5 | Windsor

What better way to spend the day than discovering Windsor's regal highlights at our own pace? We'll have plenty of time to visit the Castle (a working royal palace, so just check the opening times in advance), wander the picturesque riverside and sample a delicious afternoon tea at one of the tearooms around town. After a full day of exploring, choose from one of the many cosy pubs and eateries – and enjoy an evening spent at your leisure.

Included today

● Accommodation	● Meals
Sir Christopher	Breakfast
Wren (or similar)	

Day 6 | Royal Tunbridge Wells

After breakfast in Windsor, we'll make tracks to the tranquil RHS Garden Wisley, where we'll take in the sounds of the water flowing through the rock garden and enjoy the serene Alpine Meadow. This afternoon will see us wandering the award-winning gardens of Hever Castle – the childhood home of Henry VIII's second queen, Anne Boleyn. We'll rest our head in historic Tunbridge Wells tonight.

Included today

● Accommodation	● Meals
Royal Wells Hotel (or similar)	Breakfast



Day 7 | Royal Tunbridge Wells

This morning our road will turn east to Sissinghurst Castle Garden, an iconic retreat that's renowned for its romantic design and colourful rose arrangements. Then, we'll swap sculpted layouts for the quaint, rustic charm of Great Dixter: the family home of famed English gardener Christopher Lloyd. Here we'll discover how the sublime arts-and-crafts-style gardens inspired Lloyd throughout his career – with time to admire the estate's vibrant grounds and historic architecture. Tonight, we'll clink glasses over a farewell dinner back in Tunbridge Wells.

Included today

● Accommodation	● Meals
Royal Wells Hotel (or similar)	Breakfast
	Dinner

Day 8 | London

For our final day, we'll have the opportunity to visit one of the most unique manor houses in Kent: Ightham Mote. This medieval house dates back over 700 years and can only be reached via an ancient stone bridge that stretches over its very own moat. Then: it's back to London, where our tour will come to a close.

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

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ● Sun hat | ● Long-sleeved tops | ● Light jacket |
| ● Sunglasses | ● Short-sleeved tops | ● Waterproof jacket |
| ● Sleepwear | ● Shorts/skirts | ● Trousers |
| ● Warm jacket | ● Socks | |



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!

How long will we spend at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Kew Gardens?

We'll dedicate an entire day to the magnificent Flower Show, and another full day exploring the world-famous Kew Gardens. While both visits do not include a guided tour, your expert Tour Leader will orient you and assist with any questions you may have. Then, you're free to experience these wonderful sites at your own pace.

That's everything!

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We can't wait to welcome you on tour.

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