



London to Paris via the Channel Islands 2026

A patchwork of rich traditions and stirring stories awaits on this carefully curated adventure through Southern England, the Channel Islands and into Northern France. Feel the fresh sea breeze kiss your face along the wild coastlines of Sark and encounter echoes of the past in Jersey's wartime bunkers. Sink your teeth into sumptuous cheese-filled *galettes* at a local crêperie in Saint-Malo, then feast your eyes on the majestic medieval architecture of Mont Saint-Michel. This is a journey of deep cultural discovery... are you ready to be fully immersed?





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.

Wellington by Blue Orchid @ 18:00

71 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PA

Hotel Alexandrine Opéra @ 15:00

10 Rue de Moscou, Paris, 75008

Worth noting

Please note that some ferry departures are scheduled to leave very early in the morning. Bear in mind that timetables can also change at short notice, so there may be slight changes to your itinerary.



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Tour highlights

- ✓ Spend a day on beautiful Sark, the iconic 'Dark Sky Island'
- ✓ Explore the only part of the British Isles to be occupied during WWII
- ✓ Wander the enchanting island village of Mont Saint-Michel

More inclusions

- ✓ 11 breakfasts, 5 dinners
- ✓ 11 nights in thoughtfully selected accommodation
- ✓ Luxury minicoach and ferries to Guernsey, Sark, Jersey and Saint-Malo

Currencies you'll use

- England - GBP
- France - EUR



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 (England)

An epicenter of rich history and innovation, London is where we'll meet for the start of our incredible journey. Tonight, we'll get to know one another over a delicious welcome dinner.

Included today



Accommodation

Wellington by Blue Orchid (or similar)



Meals

+ Dinner

Day 2 | London – Winchester – Dorset

After breakfast, we'll travel to our first stop: the collegiate city of Winchester. Here, we'll take some time to tour the magnificent Gothic cathedral before exploring the city's old-worldly centre at our own pace. En route to our hotel, we'll visit the sublime Corfe Castle – a site with over 1,000 years of diverse history. Then, a delicious meal awaits us at our Dorset hotel.

Included today



Accommodation

Morton's Manor Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

Day 3 | Dorset – Guernsey (Channel Islands)

This morning, it's all aboard the ferry for the journey to Guernsey. When we arrive at St Peter Port, there will be free time to wander its charming, cobbled streets, marina and stores at your leisure. Tonight, we'll enjoy an included dinner together at the hotel.

Included today



Accommodation

Duke of Richmond Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

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Day 4 | Guernsey – Sark – Guernsey

The famous ‘Dark Sky Island’, Sark, will be our next stop – and here the day will be yours to spend as you please. No cars are allowed on the island, giving it a unique ‘olde worlde’ charm. Enjoy a leisurely walk to the various viewpoints around the island including the lighthouse and Pilcher Monument. Or embark on the strikingly beautiful walk along La Coupée to Little Sark. There’s even the option to admire the island’s captivating landscapes from aboard a horse-drawn carriage, if you’d prefer. After returning to Guernsey on the ferry, take the leisurely walk into town for dinner at a local restaurant or enjoy a relaxing evening at the hotel.

Included today



Accommodation

Duke of Richmond Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

Day 5 | Guernsey

Prepare for another day soaking up the delights of Guernsey, including a morning visit to the tiny but atmospheric Little Chapel. It’s the smallest chapel in Europe (seating just eight people!) and it’s wonderfully adorned with pebbles, seashells and colourful broken china. Later, we’ll delve into the island’s fascinating war history at the German Occupation Museum before heading back to our hotel for an evening of leisure.

Included today



Accommodation

Duke of Richmond Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 6 | Guernsey - Jersey

Today, we'll be waving goodbye to Guernsey and making the short ferry hop across to the equally as captivating Jersey. First up on the agenda when we arrive? An orientation walk around the beautiful harbour village of St Aubin – where we'll explore the Bulwarks, quaint streets and pubs at our leisure. Later, we will reconvene at the hotel and share stories of our day over an included dinner.

Included today



Accommodation

Hotel L'Horizon (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

Day 7 | Jersey

Today we'll uncover one of Western Europe's best-preserved Neolithic sites: La Hougue Bie. Stand inside the chamber of the passage grave and feel the heart of this centuries-old place of worship, before discovering more at the geology and archaeology museum. Then, we'll press on to the imposing Mont Orgueil Castle – a medieval fortress that has overlooked the beautiful fishing port of Gorey for more than 800 years. This afternoon you'll be free to relax before we move on again. Saint-Malo is coming up tomorrow!

Included today



Accommodation

Hotel L'Horizon (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 8 | Jersey – Saint-Malo (France)

Elizabeth Castle has played a huge role in Jersey's history for more than 400 years. Choose to take the Castle Ferry or walk out along the causeway at low tide. Then, enjoy some free time to explore the grounds at your leisure – uncover wartime bunkers, marvel at the hermitage where Saint Helier is thought to have lived, and take part in living history demonstrations. Later this afternoon, we'll swap Britain for France as we sail into the dramatic port town of St-Malo. Be tempted by an array of restaurants in the town centre and savour some downtime relaxing in the fresh coastal air.

Included today



Accommodation

La Maison des Armateurs (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

Day 9 | Saint-Malo

Saint-Malo's labyrinthine streets are best explored on foot, so we'll begin today with an orientation walk with our expert Tour Leader. Then, the rest of the afternoon is yours to wander the medieval ramparts surrounding the town, visit the cathedral or enjoy a walk in the sunshine along Bon-Secours Beach. This evening, take the opportunity to indulge in some classic French cuisine. *Bon appétit!*

Included today



Accommodation

La Maison des Armateurs (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 10 | Saint-Malo – Dinan – Mont Saint-Michel – Saint-Malo

Today we journey to Dinan, a quaint town nestled upon a hilltop overlooking the Rance Valley. After spending some time exploring its medieval walls, cobblestone streets and half-timbered houses, we'll wind our way along the coast of Normandy to magical Mont Saint-Michel – a rocky islet topped with a medieval monastery. Here we'll have some free time to explore the abbey and Logis Tiphaine Museum before finding lunch in the island village. This afternoon, we'll return to Saint-Malo for an evening of leisure.

Included today



Accommodation

La Maison des Armateurs (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

Day 11 | Saint-Malo – Fougères – Maintenon

Our morning begins with a visit to the Château de Fougères, the largest medieval castle in Europe. It features 13 majestic towers, beautiful gardens and is surrounded by the River Nançon. Following a stop for lunch in the Old Town, we then journey to Maintenon. Tonight, we'll regroup at the hotel and enjoy one final dinner together.

Included today



Accommodation

Castel Maintenon (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

Day 12 | Maintenon – Chartres – Paris

We'll end our tour with a trip to the Cathedral of Chartres – a UNESCO World Heritage Site and beautifully preserved example of Gothic architecture. Our final stop will be Paris, where we'll say '*au revoir*'.

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 | |

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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

How long is the ferry ride from Dorset to Guernsey?

The timings of ferries will differ depending on the day's schedule. However, a typical crossing between Dover and Guernsey usually takes around three hours. The crossings are usually smooth and scenic, although wet and windy weather can impact them at certain times of the year.

What time will we be leaving and arriving for the ferries?

It's not uncommon for ferry schedules to change at the last minute and, unfortunately, this is out of our control. It could mean a few earlier starts and later finishes than you might be expecting but we'll always warn you about these in advance where possible.

Will I need cash in the local currency of Guernsey and Jersey?

You can pay in British Pounds Sterling in all the Channel Islands and many places will also accept credit/debit cards. ATMs are easy to find in Jersey and Guernsey, although they may dispense cash in the local Pounds Sterling which can be tricky to change to Euros when you arrive in France.

How much walking can I expect to do?

Many of the Channel Islands' impressive castles, charming seaside villages and spectacular viewpoints are tucked away in more remote areas. Access is often via steep but scenic paths or steps, so we'd recommend packing your comfiest pair of walking shoes. You'll always have the option to skip more challenging walks and enjoy some extra free time, too.



I have family history on the Islands. Are we able to visit any spots of personal significance?

Have a chat with your Tour Leader at the start of your tour and they'll do their best to add any extra stops to your itinerary. While we love helping our groups explore personal connections at specific historic sites or local archives on the Islands, it's not always possible depending on the timings of the ferries.

What time does the tour finish in Paris?

Paris may be one of the most beautiful cities in Europe but it's also one of the busiest. While we aim to arrive in the city by 3pm on the last day of your tour, it's a good idea to allow some extra time for traffic delays – especially if you're heading onwards to the airport or train station.

That's everything!

We can't wait to welcome you on tour.

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