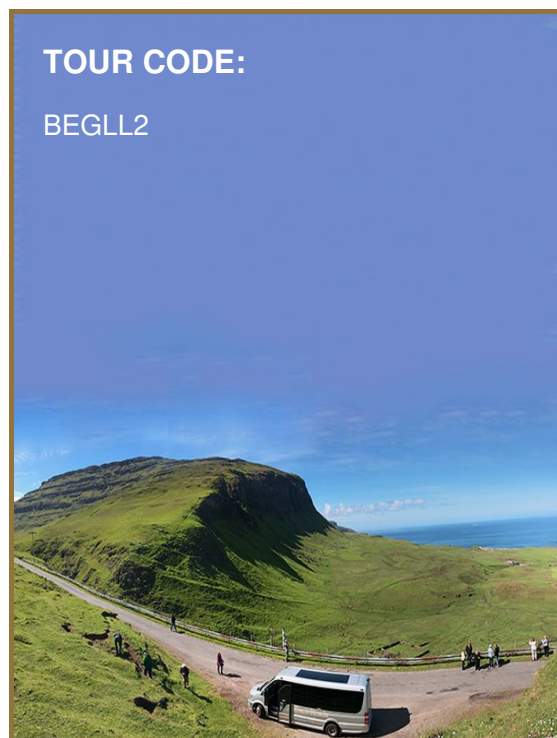




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Aromatic gardens, esteemed stately homes and charming countryside vistas – this leisurely tour of South East England's greatest gardens is certainly one for the photo books. From the romance of Sissinghurst Castle to the opulence of Hampton Court Palace, the historic city of Windsor and the iconic engineering of London's Kew Gardens – we'll take the back roads to uncover the best of this green and pleasant corner of England.



TOUR CODE:

BEGLL2

Thank you for choosing **Back-Roads**

Your extraordinary adventure awaits!

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.

THE BACK-ROADS DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Tour the incredible manor houses, castles and beautiful gardens of South East England
- ✓ Enjoy a guided tour of the historic Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew
- ✓ Stroll the spectacular grounds of Hampton Court Palace

TOUR CURRENCIES

- England - GBP

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | LONDON

After meeting the group at our London hotel, we'll get to know one another better over a delicious welcome meal. Accommodation: The Rochester by Blue Orchid (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Dinner

DAY 2 | LONDON – IGHTHAM MOTE – SCOTNEY CASTLE – ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Our tour of England's green and pleasant land will begin at 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. This afternoon we'll visit the charming Scotney Castle, where we'll take some time to wander the gardens before we end our delightful day in Tunbridge Wells. Tonight, there's another sumptuous group dinner on the agenda. Accommodation: The Spa Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Dinner

DAY 3 | ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS – SISSINGHURST CASTLE – GREAT DIXTER – 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 a naturalistic approach to planting at Great Dixter. Here, we'll tour the old timber-framed house that was once home to famous British gardener Christopher Lloyd – and explore the gardens that were his pride and joy. Accommodation: The Spa Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 4 | ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS – HEVER CASTLE – RHS GARDEN WISLEY – WINDSOR

After breakfast in Tunbridge Wells, we'll make tracks to the award-winning gardens of Hever Castle* – the childhood home of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn. This afternoon will see us wandering the tranquil RHS Garden Wisley, taking in the sounds of the water flowing through the rock garden and relaxing in the Alpine Meadow. Rich in history and royal tradition, Windsor will be our final stop of the day – where a hearty included meal awaits. *Tours departing on the 4th September 2022 will experience a full day at the RHS Wisley Flower Show and will be unable to visit Hever Castle due to time constraints. Accommodation: Castle Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Dinner

DAY 5 | WINDSOR

What better way to spend the day than discovering Windsor's regal highlights at your own pace? We'll have plenty of time to visit the Castle, 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. Accommodation: Castle Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast

DAY 6 | WINDSOR – THE SAVILL GARDEN – LONDON

This morning, we'll pay a visit to The Savill Garden in 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. After some free time wandering the exquisite gardens - we'll make our way back to London. Spending the evening exploring the capital's array of gastronomic options or relaxing at our hotel - we will look forward to tomorrow's exciting agenda. Accommodation: The Rochester by Blue Orchid (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast

DAY 7 | LONDON – HAMPTON COURT PALACE – LONDON

This morning we'll take a look around the splendid Hampton Court Palace and Gardens*. With 60 acres of exquisite formal gardens, three National Plant Collections and the world's oldest puzzle maze – we'll have plenty of free time to explore this world-famous estate. Following on from our visit, we've an appointment to keep at the Beefeater Gin Distillery – where a guided tour of the facility is in store. Tonight, is your last on tour so we suggest spending your free evening dining at one of the capital's fantastic restaurants. *Tours departing on the 3rd July 2022 will experience a full day at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show and will be unable to visit the Palace and Beefeater Gin Distillery due to time constraints. Accommodation: The Rochester by Blue Orchid (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 8 | LONDON – KEW GARDENS – LONDON

It may be our last day together, but there's still time to enjoy some more English treasures. This morning we'll take a stroll around the splendid Kew Gardens. The palm house, a jaw-dropping example of Victorian engineering, is sure to add a final flourish to that holiday photo album. We will say our farewells upon returning to the hotel.

MEALS:

 Breakfast



Tour information

Meals

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.

Other information

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:
www.backroadstouring.com/faqs

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team: www.backroadstouring.com/contact-us

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

Medication and mobility

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

www.backroadstouring.com/contact-us

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.

What to bring

Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Back-Roads 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 shoes/comfortable shoes |

OTHER THINGS TO PACK:

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

That's it!

We look forward to seeing you on tour.