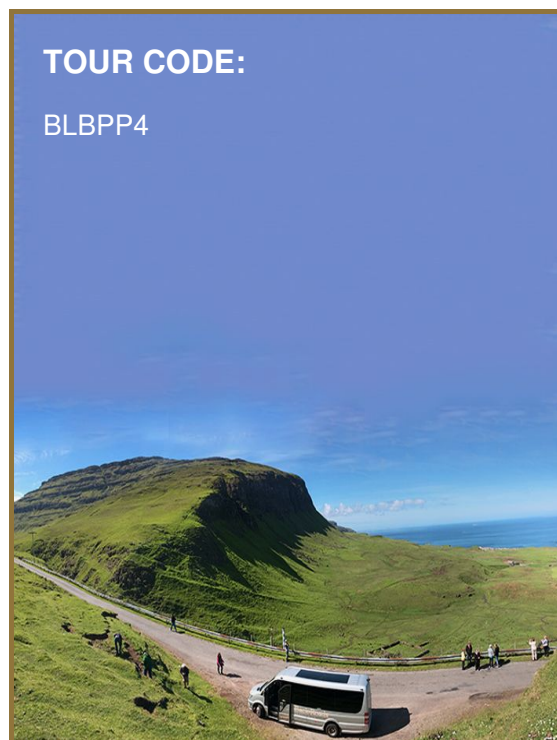




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Step into a land of renowned artists and royal crusaders, hilltop monasteries and valley castles. This tour takes us from France's dramatic northern shores to château-sprinkled countryside, breaking off to see WWII sites, explore centuries-old villages and sample home-grown delicacies.



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

- ✓ Wander the enchanting island village of Mont Saint-Michel
- ✓ Enjoy a tasting session at a local winery in the Loire Valley
- ✓ Be inspired by the vivid colours of Claude Monet's estate in Giverny

TOUR CURRENCIES

- France - EUR

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | PARIS (FRANCE)

Welcome to the City of Lights. After meeting the group at our hotel, we'll get to know each other over a sumptuous welcome dinner. Bon appétit! Accommodation: Best Western Hôtel Ronceray-Opéra (or similar)

MEALS:

 Dinner

DAY 2 | PARIS – HONFLEUR

Our first impressions of France will be formed in Giverny at the home of Claude Monet - one of the world's most celebrated artists. The vivid colours in every room paint a picture of his life, and the surrounding gardens host flowers in every shade. Our home for the next two nights will be the charming port town of Honfleur - which you may recognise as the subject of a fair few Impressionist paintings. We'll spend the evening at our leisure, soaking up the rugged maritime atmosphere of this quaint town. Accommodation: Hôtel l'Écrin (or similar)


MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 3 | HONFLEUR – NORMANDY – HONFLEUR

This morning we'll visit Honfleur's bustling market and wander past its historic buildings and 17th-century harbour on an orientation tour. Then: we'll track the Route du Cidre in Normandy, pausing at a local calvados producer to sample the fruits of the region's orchards. From cool, crisp ciders to heady, amber-hued calvados – it makes for a delicious end to our day of exploration! Back in Honfleur, we'll have the evening to spend at our leisure. Accommodation: Hôtel l'Écrin (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 4 | HONFLEUR – NORMANDY BEACHES AND BAYEUX – ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS

Today we'll turn our attention to the windswept shoreline of the Normandy beaches, where we'll visit the sites of the 1944 D-Day landings. Afterwards, there's the opportunity to pay a poignant visit to the American Cemetery and Memorial at Colleville-sur-Mer, where we'll take some time to reflect on history overlooking Omaha Beach. An awe-inspiring Tapestry awaits in Bayeux and after taking some time to inspect this masterpiece, we'll move on to Arromanches-les-Bains – our home for the night and setting for tonight's included dinner.

Accommodation: Les Villas d'Arromanches (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☒ Breakfast
- ☒ Dinner

DAY 5 | ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS – MONT SAINT-MICHEL AND DOL-DE-BRETAGNE – DINAN

This morning we'll drive on to the enchanting Mont Saint-Michel, crossing the walkway to wander the buzzing island village and explore the Abbey. As we make our way to Dinan, we'll stop off for a photo opportunity at Dol-de-Bretagne – where we'll see the famous Menhir de Champ-Dolent. Tonight, an included dinner awaits us in a traditional Breton crêperie. Accommodation: Hôtel Le d'Avaugour (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☒ Breakfast
- ☒ Dinner

DAY 6 | DINAN

Today is yours to spend however you wish in the medieval town of Dinan. Wander cobbled streets lined with half-timbered houses, take a closer look at the Basilique St-Sauveur, visit the old bridge or stroll along the Rance River – whatever you decide, you certainly won't be short of things to do! Accommodation: Hôtel Le d'Avaugour (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☒ Breakfast

DAY 7 | DINAN – ANGERS – CHINON

Today will find us deep in fairytale territory as we travel towards the Loire Valley. Here, the landscape's skyline is peppered with the turrets of castles. Our first port of call will be Angers, which was once the medieval stronghold of the Plantagenet kings. After spending some time absorbing the history of the castle, we'll move on to Chinon - where we'll dine together at a local restaurant. Accommodation: Best Western Hôtel de France (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☒ Breakfast
- ☒ Dinner

DAY 8 | CHINON – CHÂTEAU DE VILLANDRY – CHINON

Next stop: Château de Villandry. Famous for its impeccably manicured gardens and architectural elegance - this mesmerising château is one of the last built during the Renaissance in the Loire Valley. Taking in so much beauty is thirsty work, so on our way back to Chinon we'll enjoy a detour at a local winery where we'll sample a delicious glass or two. Accommodation: Best Western Hôtel de France (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 9 | CHINON – CHÂTEAU DE CHENONCEAU AND AMBOISE – MONTLOUIS-SUR-LOIRE

Today's château? One of the Loire Valley's finest: Château de Chenonceau. Here we'll take some time to stroll through the idyllic gardens and explore the fascinating museum. We'll make a brief stop in Amboise - the town where Leonardo da Vinci lived out the last years of his life. This evening, we'll enjoy a delicious final dinner together. Accommodation: Château de la Bourdaisière (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

 Dinner

DAY 10 | MONTLOUIS-SUR-LOIRE – CHARTRES – PARIS

Before we say our final goodbyes, we'll have the opportunity to visit the medieval city of Chartres. The celebrated Chartres Cathedral is believed to be one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in France – and it's a beautiful image to take with us back to Paris.

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.