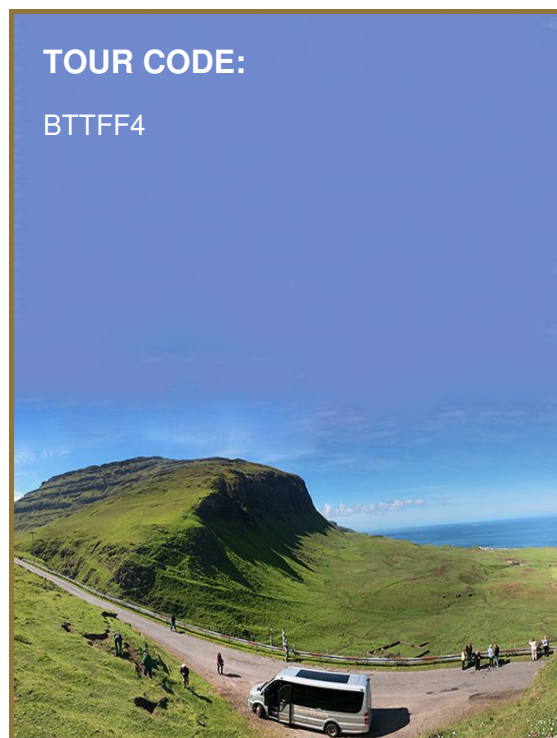




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

A wonderful blend of idyllic countryside and ancient towns, beautiful architecture and delectable food, Tuscany makes for an unforgettable holiday destination. On this leisurely tour we'll seek out world-renowned treasures, explore hidden gems and become culinary connoisseurs as we fall head over heels for this exquisite Italian region.



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

- ✓ Explore the mysterious medieval town of Volterra
- ✓ Unlock the secrets of Tuscan cuisine with a cooking class set amongst the romantic Chianti region
- ✓ Indulge in a delectable cheese and wine tasting at a local shop in Pienza

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Italy - EUR

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | FLORENCE (ITALY)

Welcome to the birthplace of the Renaissance and the romantic capital of Tuscany. After meeting the group at our hotel, we'll get to know each other over a delicious welcome meal. Accommodation: Hotel Roma (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Dinner

DAY 2 | FLORENCE – LUCCA

Our journey will begin with an in-depth walking tour of Florence. A local guide will bring the city alive as we stroll by the likes of the Duomo, Piazza della Repubblica and the Ponte Vecchio. After lunch, we'll set a course for lovely Lucca – where cobbled streets, red-roofed buildings, fascinating history and fine architecture await us. This evening we'll be free to explore Lucca at our leisure. Accommodation: Hotel La Luna (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 3 | LUCCA – CINQUE TERRE – LUCCA

A rocky coastline dotted with candy-coloured villages – today, we'll turn our attention to the awe-inspiring Italian Riviera! After winding our way along this sublime stretch of shoreline, we'll find ourselves in Cinque Terre: a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Having spent some time getting to know the area with our expert Tour Leader, we'll return to Lucca for an evening spent at our leisure. Accommodation: Hotel La Luna (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 4 | LUCCA – PISA – VOLTERRA

Infamous and impossible to miss, the Leaning Tower of Pisa makes for a staggering first port of call today. There will be plenty of time for photographing this iconic landmark as we explore the Campo dei Miracoli at our own pace. After a leisurely lunch, our attention will turn to the magnificent medieval ramparts of Volterra. We'll spend some time exploring this mysterious town before discussing the day's events over an evening meal together. Accommodation: Hotel San Lino (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Dinner

DAY 5 | VOLTERRA – SAN GIMIGNANO AND SIENA – PIENZA

Today we'll make tracks to San Gimignano: home to a magnificent piazza, meandering stepped streets and some beautifully preserved architecture. While we're here, we'll sample some exquisite creations of a local gelato maker – before we're treated to an indulgent Tuscan wine tasting. Before the day concludes, we'll pay a visit to medieval Siena – an open-air museum of Gothic architecture and home to the magnificent Duomo. After taking in the town's historic sights on an orientation tour, we'll journey onwards to Pienza – our home for the night. Accommodation: Hotel Corsignano (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 6 | PIENZA

Pienza's timeless charm and enchanting rural backdrop makes for a serene spot to spend this morning exploring at our leisure. Later, we'll sample some handcrafted cheese and world-class wines at a delightful local shop with sweeping views over the surrounding countryside. This evening is ours to spend as we wish. Accommodation: Hotel Corsignano (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 7 | PIENZA – RURAL TUSCANY

After breakfast, it's all aboard the mini-coach as we wind our way through the delightful Chianti countryside on our way to a regional cookery class. After learning some local recipes from our host, we'll have the chance to tuck into our creations for lunch. Buon appetito! The afternoon will be ours to enjoy at our leisure before we reconvene for a final dinner together. Accommodation: Villa Il Palagio (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Lunch

☑ Dinner

DAY 8 | RURAL TUSCANY – FLORENCE

Before returning to enchanting Florence, we'll stop off at a local oil mill for a guided tour and olive oil tasting. All in all, it's a fitting end to a tour celebrating the natural beauty and culinary traditions of Tuscany.

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.