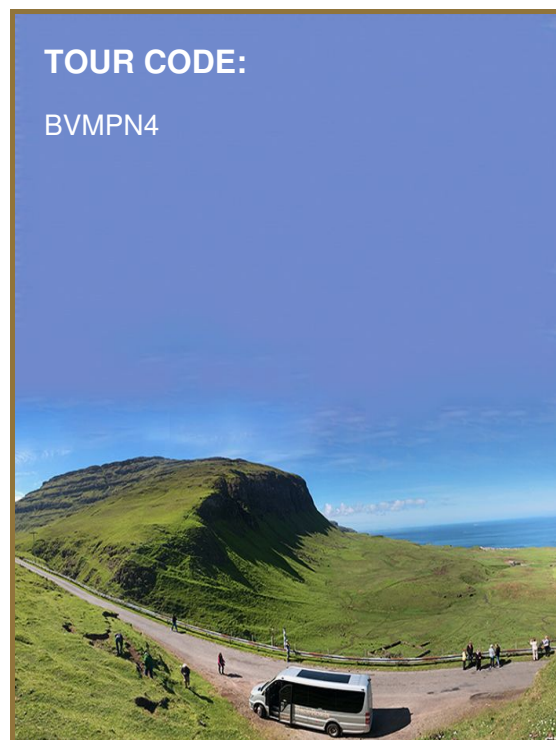




## Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Glasses glinting with bubbles and rich red wines; windows opening out on soaring mountain ranges and charming villages brimming with fragrant fields of flowers. Join us on a voyage through quintessential France – and discover the history, cuisine and landscapes that make this beautiful country unique.



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# Thank you for choosing **Back-Roads**

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Your extraordinary adventure awaits!

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## 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

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- ✓ Admire the exceptional 15th-century French architecture at the Hospices de Beaune
- ✓ Sample local fruit- and herb-infused confectionery at an artisan chocolaterie
- ✓ Indulge in a plenitude of local tastings as we travel through famed wine-growing regions Champagne and Burgundy

### TOUR CURRENCIES

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- France - EUR

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# Your itinerary

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## DAY 1 | PARIS (FRANCE)

After meeting the group in the vibrant capital of Paris, we'll begin our journey with a sumptuous welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Cheers to the exciting adventure ahead! Accommodation: Hôtel Provinces Opera (or similar)

### MEALS:

✓ Dinner

## DAY 2 | PARIS – REIMS – TROYES

After breakfast, we'll leisurely make our way to Reims – where we'll revel in the opportunity to tour the city's impressive Gothic cathedral. Then: we'll continue to the picturesque Champagne region, where we'll be treated to a delicious champagne tasting at a local vineyard. This evening we'll explore the romantic town of Troyes at our leisure – admiring the quaint cobbled streets and half-timbered houses as we seek out some delicious French cuisine for dinner. Accommodation: Hotel Le Royal (or similar)

### MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

## DAY 3 | TROYES

On the agenda today: an orientation tour of Troyes with our expert Tour Leader. After taking the opportunity to visit the bustling market, this fairytale town is yours to discover. A patchwork of narrow lantern-lit lanes and rustic 16th-century buildings, every twist and turn reveals a new sight or story. And on the menu this evening? Whatever takes your fancy! There's a plenitude of cosy cafes and intimate bistros to settle into for the night. Accommodation: Hotel Le Royal (or similar)

### MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

## DAY 4 | TROYES – CHABLIS – BEAUNE

This morning, we've an appointment to keep at La Cité du Vitrail. Here, on a guided tour, we'll discover the heritage of stained glass – from antiquity until the present day – witnessing the impressive beauty at eye level. Afterwards, our path leads us to Chablis where we'll swap fizz for the dry white wines of Chablis with an included tasting. This afternoon will bring us to Beaune – where you'll have plenty of time to explore the city's famous Gothic architecture before we reconvene for a sumptuous dinner. Accommodation: Hôtel de la Paix (or similar)

### MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Dinner

## DAY 5 | BEAUNE

Today we'll spend some more time in the beating heart of the Burgundy wine region with a visit to the Hospices de Beaune. Originally founded as a hospital for the poor by the Chancellor of Burgundy back in 1443, this unique building is now a museum – and an exceptional example of 15th-century French architecture. And then? The afternoon is yours for the taking! We recommend strolling the medieval ramparts for an alternative view of the town or visiting the local Burgundy wine museum. Accommodation: Hôtel de la Paix (or similar)

### MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast

## DAY 6 | BEAUNE – CHAMBÉRY

After breakfast we'll leave Beaune behind and set our sights on Chambéry – but first, we'll stop off at a family owned vineyard for a delicious picnic filled with local produce. After taking in the marvellous views of the surrounding vineyards over lunch, we'll be lucky enough to take a closer look around on a guided tour – with an included wine tasting session to boot. This evening will be ours to uncover the centuries-old history and exquisite local cuisine of Chambéry at our leisure. Accommodation: Hôtel des Princes (or similar)


### MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Lunch

## DAY 7 | CHAMBÉRY – ANNECY – CHAMBÉRY

We'll check off a tour highlight on day seven: the postcard-perfect alpine town of Annecy. Known for its Old Town, canals that rival those of Venice, the magnificent Lake Annecy, candy-coloured houses and cobbled streets – this lovely town is a must-visit while passing through southeastern France. Also on the cards today: a visit to a local fromagerie, where we'll learn everything there is to know about the region's cheese ripening process – a tradition that's been passed down from generation to generation. After visiting the cheese cellars, we'll have the chance to taste a sample or two. Back in Chambéry, we'll have the evening free to seek out a local restaurant for dinner or relax at our hand-picked accommodation. Accommodation: Hôtel des Princes (or similar)

### MEALS:

 Breakfast

## DAY 8 | CHAMBÉRY – BRIANÇON

A sweet treat's in store this morning as we indulge in a tasting at a local artisan chocolaterie. Inspired by nature and crafted using native fruits, herbs and honey – this is French confectionery at its finest! Later, we'll wind our way to the hilltop citadel of Briançon – a picturesque retreat surrounded by the towering mountain ranges of the French Alps. Tonight, we'll clink glasses over another delectable group dinner and enjoy some free time to relax in the fresh alpine air. Accommodation: Hotel Edelweiss (or similar)

### MEALS:

 Breakfast

 Dinner

## DAY 9 | BRIANÇON – SISTERON – GRÉOUX-LES-BAINS

Today alpine slopes will give way to rugged hills and wildflower meadows as we travel to Sisteron – where we'll stop to admire the extraordinary 12th-century Citadel. Continuing our journey through the charming French countryside, we'll end our day in the historic commune of Gréoux-les-Bains. Later, we'll round off the evening in style: with a farewell dinner to remember. Accommodation: Hôtel Villa Borghese (or similar)

### MEALS:

 Breakfast

 Dinner

## DAY 10 | GRÉOUX-LES-BAINS – ENTREVAUX – NICE

The last day of the tour will take us deeper into exquisite Provençal countryside as we press on to Entrevaux – one of the most beautiful villages in France. A picturesque medieval village along the River Var, we'll enjoy some free time to stroll the fortified walkways to the ancient Citadel – where we'll admire the panoramic views over the valley below. Then, it's onwards to the elite resort and shining capital of the French Riviera: Nice. After all, there's no better place to end our journey than alongside the clear waters of the Côte d'Azur!

### MEALS:

 Breakfast





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## Tour information

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### 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.

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# Other information

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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.backroadstouring.com/contact-us)

## 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.

## 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.



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# What to bring

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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.**