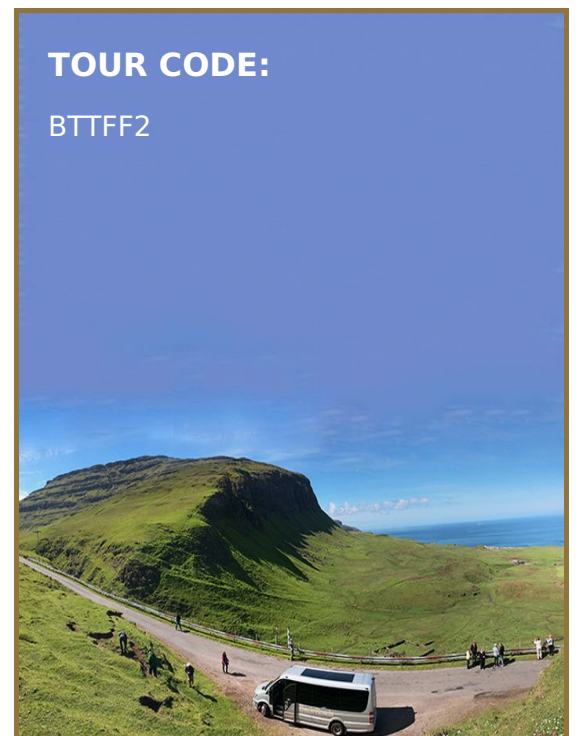




Blue-Roads | Europe (BRT)

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 **Blue-Roads**

Thank you for choosing to travel with Back-Roads Touring. We can't wait for you to join us on the mini-coach!

About Your Tour Notes

These tour notes contain everything you need to know before your tour departs - including where to meet, what to bring with you and what you can expect to do on each day of your itinerary. You can also print this document out, use it as a checklist and bring it with you on tour.

Please Note: We recommend that you refresh this document one week before your tour departs to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and itinerary information available.

THE BLUE-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 farm in Pienza

TOUR CURRENCIES

+ Italy -

Your Itinerary

DAY 1 | FLORENCE

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: Albergo San Martino (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: Albergo San Martino (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 concluding the day's events at our hotel. Accommodation: Hotel San Lino (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 5 | VOLTERRA – SAN GIMIGNANO – 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 farm 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 – CHIANTI

After breakfast, it's all aboard the mini-coach as we press on to the delightful Chianti region. We'll wind our way through heavenly countryside before joining 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: Fattoria degli Usignoli (or similar)

MEALS:

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

DAY 8 | CHIANTI – FLORENCE

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

MEALS:

Breakfast

Lunch



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.

Blue-Roads Travel App



Why not check in for your tour using the Back-Roads app?

This handy tool allows you to view your bookings, check your itinerary, see tour maps and more – making it the perfect travel companion for your Back-Roads trip.

How to Download the Back-Roads app

1. Launch the App Store or Google Play on your device
2. Search 'Back-Roads' and click 'OK'
3. Select the Back-Roads app in the search results
4. Click the download/install button
5. The app should be installed in your device's applications page

Other Information

Finances

CHANGING MONEY

CASH: Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, 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

SPENDING MONEY

Naturally, everyone's spending varies. Many of your meals are included in the price of your tour, so this just leaves a few meals and your personal spending to budget for.

Tips for the Tour Leader and Driver are not included. Tipping is entirely at your discretion; however, 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

You will need to take out full travel insurance before travelling with Back-Roads Touring. Please ensure that you have adequate medical, personal effects and cancellation cover.

We recommend that 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.

Your insurance company may not assist you with your claim if the instructions given in the policy have not been followed.

Passports and Visas

We advise you either to 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 trip, please ensure that you keep these separate from your original documents.

It is your responsibility to obtain any visas necessary to enable you to travel in Europe or Asia. Contact your local consular office for more information.

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

Suggested Packing List

Wondering what to take with you on tour? Our packing list can be used as a guide.

Please Note: What you pack will depend on the countries you're visiting and the time of year you plan to travel.

The following is a suggested clothing list only, based on our experience:

- Sun hat
- Long-sleeved tops
- Light jacket
- Smart casual evening wear
- Sunglasses
- Short-sleeved tops
- Waterproof jacket and umbrella
- Sleepwear
- Shorts/skirts
- Trousers
- Warm jacket
- Walking shoes/comfortable shoes
- Swimwear and towel

Other things to pack:

- Multi-use travel adapter
- Phone
- Paracetamol or aspirin
- Camera
- Personal medication
- Batteries
- Sunscreen

OPTIONALS TO CONSIDER:

- Motion sickness tablets
- Lip balm
- Anti-diarrhoea tablets
- Sewing kit

That's it!

**We look forward to seeing you
on tour.**