



*Expertly crafted small-group tours*



UP TO  
**18**  
GUESTS

**UK & EUROPE**  
**2026**

## Expertly crafted small-group tours



### Crafted for the *curious*

Imagine turning down a narrow, cobbled lane, the soft glow of dawn illuminating your window, the well-trodden tourist trail disappearing into the distance. This is where your journey begins.

Our small-group tours of the UK and Europe are crafted for the curious; for those who want more than to simply see somewhere. With us, you'll go beyond the surface and become a part of local life instead.

### Crafted for *connection*

Designed to connect you deeply with people and places, Back-Roads tours delve into local life in a way that larger tours simply cannot. The magic ingredient? Our devoted Tour Leaders, who can't wait to share the stories (and secrets!) of the places they call home.

Whether it's discovering Gothic tales of Dracula hidden within the cellars of Bran Castle or finding the best pub to join a lively Céilí in Galway – our Tour Leaders turn moments into memories.

### Crafted by the *experts*

Immersive small-group tours are our speciality – in fact, it's all we do. We've been honing our craft for almost 40 years (we've got the smile lines to prove it!), weaving together thoughtful journeys that put you at the heart of every experience.

Your personal tale of discovery is what drives us – that's why our tours unfold at a pace that allows you to uncover the soul of each and every place.

Turn the page to discover the Back-Roads Way...



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### *Connect* with a small group

Designed for up to 18 guests, our intimate tours invite you to experience Europe in a deeply personal way – carefully considered and always put first. Connecting with a small group will come easily, and all the stories and scrumptious local dishes you'll share along the way are what makes it so special.



### *Be* guided by the best

Here's our secret: supremely passionate, entirely unflappable and truly thoughtful Tour Leaders. These local experts own precious golden keys for each destination, unlocking unique and unexpected experiences. Warm and welcoming, their insider know-how, stirring stories and personal touches ensure your tour is genuinely and distinctively yours.



### *Soak* up every moment

Slow it down and soak it up. When you explore the scenic back roads, you're fully immersed. Hear the gentle hum of village life, feel the crisp coastal air on your cheeks, feast your eyes on a field of wildflowers. Travelling in luxury minicoaches, each twist and turn of the journey will widen your eyes with wonder – and every moment's a memory you'll want to pack in your suitcase and bring home.



### *Feel* like a local

It's not always about what you see; it's how you feel. That's why our enriching experiences connect you to the personal stories beyond the sights. From hands-on cookery classes to traditional crafts, you'll delve into the heart of each destination with the warmth and wit of the community beside you. With us, you won't just discover a local way of life – you'll become a part of it.



### *Go* beyond the surface

A pace carefully designed for discovery means you'll uncover the deeper layers of every location. Unearth the mysteries of the past. Reveal a region's true culture. And indulge in flavours that tell the rich tapestry of the land and its people. Back-Roads tours are created for the curious – but where your journey will take you is another tale entirely.

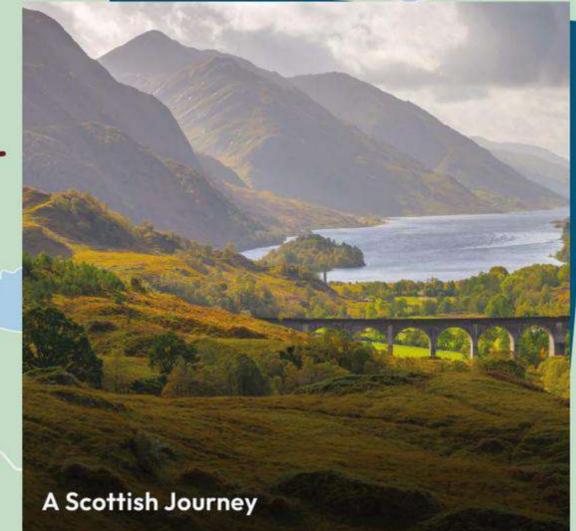


Crafted for those

*'feel like a local'*  
moments

# Where we go

The cities shown are where our tours begin and/or end.



# Connect with a small group

Our intimate tours are crafted for connection. Designed for a maximum of 18 guests, you'll join a mix of like-minded couples, friends and solo travellers with one shared goal: to discover deeper.



Crafting your personal travel tale is our speciality – that's why we're very proud of our **4.7-star rating** on Feefo from our wonderful guests.

## Connect with the people

Picture this: you're gathered around a table in a timeless Catalan courtyard, plates overflowing with vibrant tapas – crispy patatas bravas, salty Jamón Ibérico, and plump olives glistening with oil. You're clinking chilled glasses of Cava with newfound friends, laughter bubbling as you share tales of the day's adventures.

It's easy to connect on our small-group tours; conversations flow naturally, and friendships spark with every shared sip and story.

**“Just the right amount of people, it was like travelling with friends.”**

Ada N, London to Paris via the Channel Islands



## Connect with the places

Can you hear the tapping of a woodpecker along the mist-shrouded shores of Loch Lomond? Or feel the gentle Cornish breeze prickling your skin as night falls across the starry harbour? When you discover the back roads, there's a new surprise waiting around every corner.

With us, you'll explore Europe's scenic side in a luxury minicoach, leaving the tourist trail far behind. Watch as sun-warmed lavender fields transform into tiny Provence villages, where time stands still (and the Calissons d'Aix almond-shaped candies are a must-try!). Or listen to the cicadas hum their midday song as a powdery Tuscan path leads to a rustic, centuries-old winery.

**“Every day there was a “wow” moment that took my breath away.”**

Lynn D, Iberian Inspiration



## Connect more personally

If you've ever wondered how to pour the perfect pint of Guinness (it's all in the angle!) or what the Scots really stow beneath their kilts, our passionately local Tour Leaders have all the answers. With a depth of knowledge no Google map could ever match – and a tale for every turn in the journey – they unlock the spirit of each location.

Putting you first every step of the way, our expert Tour Leaders connect you deeply and personally to their home countries. And as we travel in small groups, they'll be sure to include those special moments that excite and inspire you.

**“Thanks to our Tour Leader, we not only saw the sights but truly experienced the heart and soul of each place we visited. This journey has left us with cherished memories and a deeper appreciation for the world around us.”**

Bruce H, Discover Portugal



# Thoughtfully selected accommodation

Where you stay isn't just a cosy spot to count sheep; it's a gateway to the spirit of a destination.

From drifting off to sleep beneath the ancient stone arches of a castle to waking to the distant chimes of a village church bell, we make sure you're fully immersed in the essence of every place – from start to finish.



## Las Casas de la Judería, Córdoba

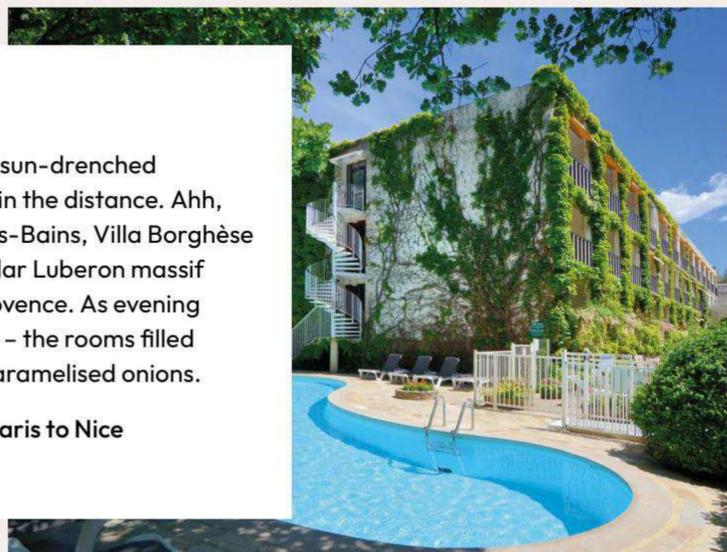
Step into Las Casas de la Judería's doorway and discover a world where time stands still. Set in five lovingly restored townhouses in the heart of Córdoba's historic Jewish Quarter, your stay here will truly feel like a jaunt into the past. The uniquely decorated rooms blend Moorish influence and Andalusian charm – and there's no better way to begin the day than with a freshly squeezed orange juice in its secluded, traditional courtyard.

**Tour:** Iberian Inspiration

## Villa Borghèse, Gréoux-les-Bains

A lavender-scented breeze drifts across the sun-drenched terrace as a thermal spring gently murmurs in the distance. Ahh, bliss. Nestled in the lovely town of Gréoux-les-Bains, Villa Borghèse offers sweeping panoramas of the spectacular Luberon massif and fields ablaze with the vivid shades of Provence. As evening descends, its fine-dining restaurant beckons – the rooms filled with the earthy musk of truffles and sweet caramelised onions.

**Tour:** Provence and the French Riviera and Paris to Nice through Vineyards and Mountains



## The Mulberry Inn, Denbighshire

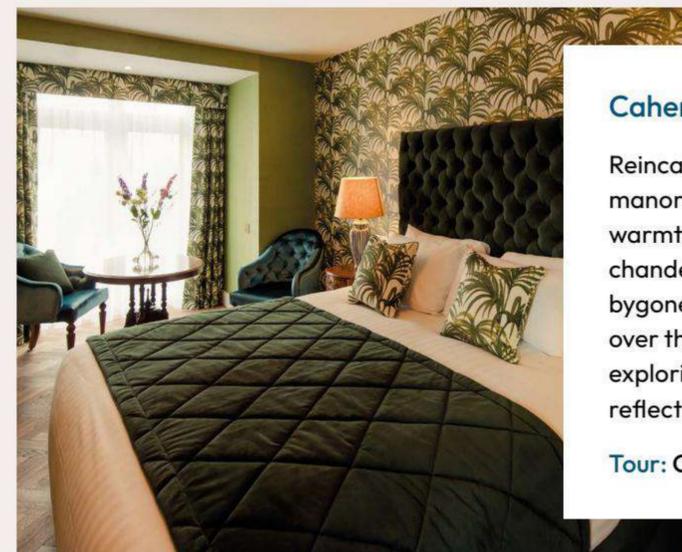
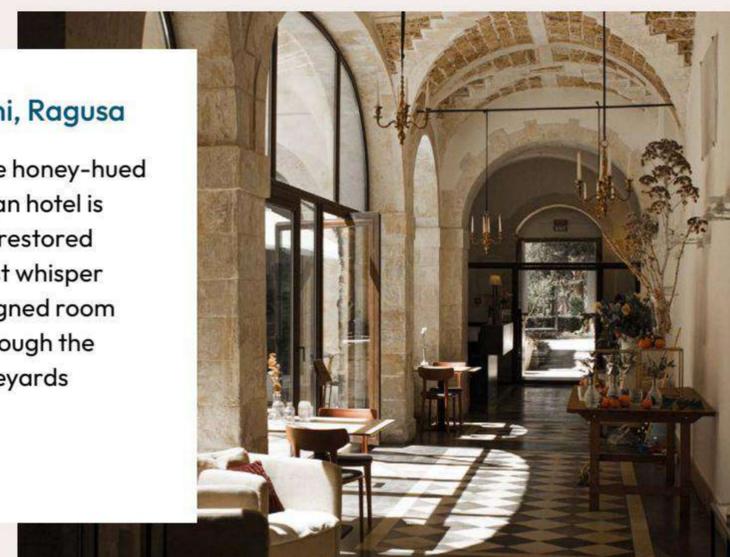
Tucked away in the heart of Wales' Ceiriog Valley, where the air is thick with the scent of wildflowers – The Mulberry Inn is a rustic bolthole brimming with effortless charm. Picture a crackling log fire, exposed-wood beams and deep, comfy armchairs – an irresistible invitation to unwind. It's also the perfect base to experience the soul-stirring magic of Snowdonia National Park (with the aroma of hearty Welsh stews awaiting your return).

**Tour:** Highlights of Britain

## Hotel Antico Convento dei Cappuccini, Ragusa

Perched on a tranquil hilltop overlooking the honey-hued rooftops of Ragusa, this extra-special Sicilian hotel is a sanctuary steeped in history. Housed in a restored 16th-century convent, tales of centuries past whisper through its cloisters. Each thoughtfully designed room offers a glimpse into another time – and through the windows, a tapestry of olive groves and vineyards stretches as far as the eye can see.

**Tour:** Splendours of Sicily



## Cahernane House Hotel, Killarney

Reincarnated as a lavish hotel, this elegant 19th-century manor house still radiates with its original Victorian warmth. Sunlight floods through glass atriums, antique chandeliers gleam, and watchful portraits tell a story of bygone times. When the sun sets, a quiet stillness settles over the private grounds, a welcome retreat after a day exploring Killarney's wild beauty. It's a place to relax, reflect and simply be.

**Tour:** Corners of Southern Ireland

# Feel like a local

With us, you're not just a visitor...  
you're part of the local tapestry.

Whether you're chatting with local fruit farmers in a quaint French marketplace or clapping your hands to a local fiddle player's melodies in Galway, you're never watching from the sidelines; you're always at the centre of the scene.

We flow with the local rhythm of life, uncovering secrets and stories that reveal the heart of each destination – and making connections that last far beyond the final farewell.



## Sip homemade cider and calvados in Normandy

The Route du Cidre in Normandy? It's not just a road; it's a living, breathing cider-based saga – and the humble apple is its main character. Calling in at a local distillery, we'll sample a selection of crisp, chilled ciders and heady, amber-hued calvados. It's Normandy in a glass; a story in every sip. Santé to that!

**Tour:** La Belle France



## Unlock the secrets of Portugal's 'liquid gold'

Journey into the heart of rural Portugal, where terraced slopes meet winding river valleys. Here we'll visit a family owned olive grove near Tomar to discover the secrets behind Portugal's 'liquid gold' olive oil, from its careful cultivation to the first pressing. Give in to the smooth, peppery taste as it dances on your tongue. Delicioso!

**Tour:** Discover Portugal



## Get a taste of traditional Hungary at Hollókő village

Take a stroll through the centuries at the UNESCO World Heritage village of Hollókő, where each medieval street is a snapshot into Hungary's past. Buzzing with the living traditions of the native Palóc people, we'll even be welcomed into a local family's home to share a delicious lunch rich with regional flavours.

**Tour:** Explore Eastern Europe



## Dive into Catania's vibrant fish market

Catania's fish market – La Pescheria – is a feast for all the senses. Picture glistening swordfish laid out on ice, the briny scent of the sea mingling with the boisterous calls of vendors, and the sight of spiky urchins and mussels piled high. Just a skip from the grand Piazza del Duomo, it's a real slice of Sicilian life.

**Tour:** Splendours of Sicily



## Experience a real Scottish send-off in Dumfries

Our final night in the Scottish Borders is more than just a dinner; it's a joyful celebration of Scotland's spirit. Warm, hearty plates of haggis are served in abundance as the raw, resonant sound of bagpipes pulls at your heartstrings. This is a proper Scottish send-off that will stick with you long after the last notes fade.

**Tour:** Highlights of Britain

# Feed your curiosity

Step away from tourist traps and predictable menus. On a Back-Roads tour, food is an adventure in itself.

Feasting our way through the UK and Europe, each sip or bite reveals a story, a tradition and a connection. From rustling up a classic tagliatelle in Tuscany to experiencing a refined English afternoon tea, we'll feed not just our stomachs, but our curiosity too – for a true taste of the land and its culture.



Plaza de España, Seville

## Indulge in afternoon tea in the Cotswolds

A patchwork of England's past – stitched with honey-coloured stone – the Cotswolds are a place where the quiet grandeur of history and the enduring charm of a timeless countryside collide. Here we'll dig into an indulgent afternoon tea in a 15th-century family home, featuring steaming cuppas and plates laden with sweet treats. Go on, one more scone won't hurt...

**Tour:** Heart of England

## Whip up a traditional Greek lunch in Naxos

Roll up your sleeves! There's no better way to get a taste for Greek tradition than at a rural family farm on the charm-filled island of Naxos. Here – amid olive groves and herb gardens – we'll learn the local secrets behind Grecian cuisine, and the stories behind the staple dishes. This is one to impress your guests back home!

**Tour:** Greece: Legends and Landscapes

## Uncork the local sherry culture in Jerez

You've heard of an equilateral triangle, but have you ever heard of a Spanish sherry triangle? By the end of our tasting session in Jerez, you certainly will have! Welcome to a land of sun-drenched vineyards and cool, dark bodegas – where we'll step inside a local winery for a very special sherry sampling, complemented by tapas bursting with Andalusian flavours.

**Tour:** Iberian Inspiration

## Reveal the secrets of Tuscan cuisine

Shh... these culinary secrets have been kept under wraps for generations. Well, some of them anyway! We'll make our way through the gently rising hills and slender cypress trees of the Tuscan countryside for a masterclass in local cooking. Perhaps a pappa al pomodoro bread-and-basil filled tomato soup or a classic tagliatelle will be on the menu? Delizia!

**Tour:** Italian Indulgence

# Be guided by the best



Fluent in the language of local life, our Tour Leaders turn even the most ordinary of moments into extraordinary memories.

## Local experts

Think of our Tour Leaders as walking, talking encyclopedias of local lore – they don't just know the customs; they live them. Every tale or tip they share will peel back the layers of a location, revealing its true spirit.

## Uniquely talented

A delightfully quirky bunch bursting with unique talents, don't be surprised to be serenaded by a bagpipe or given an impromptu lesson on Viking ship burials. Sprinkling a little local stardust is their speciality!

## Skilled linguists

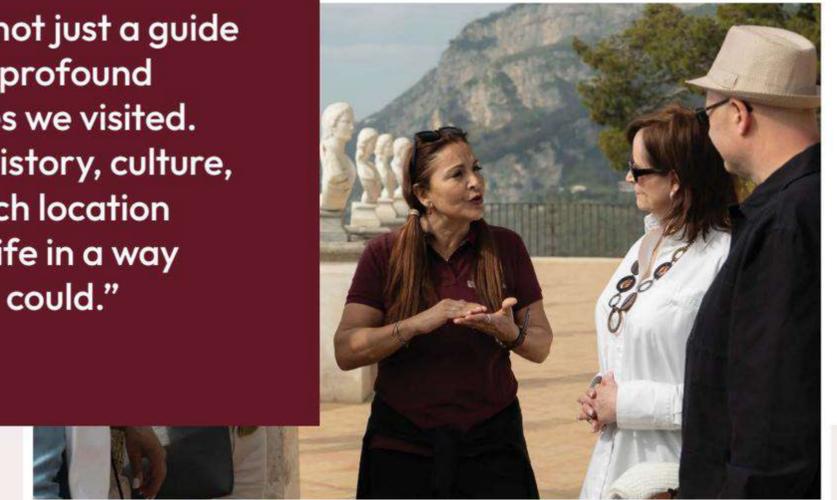
Between them, our Tour Leaders speak more languages than you can shake a phrasebook at – over 25, to be precise, including excellent English! They're the smooth operators who keep your journey flowing, turning language barriers into bridges.

## Seasoned guides

Many different paths have steered our Tour Leaders to their calling. But with decades of experience under their belts, they share a common dedication: you. Unfailingly warm, passionate and caring – know that your comfort and enjoyment are their guiding principles.

“Our Tour Leader was not just a guide but a storyteller with a profound connection to the places we visited. Their insights into the history, culture, and hidden gems of each location brought everything to life in a way that no guidebook ever could.”

Bruce H, Discover Portugal



## Maura Cahill

Can you share a highlight of one of your recent Emerald Isle tours?

“There were two gentlemen on tour that were bikers, so a big highlight for them was the Joey Dunlop Memorial Garden (which was not on the itinerary). They really appreciated going there and it was very special for them.”



## Nicholas Battaglia

What's your most memorable moment as a Tour Leader?

“I organised an aperitivo on the beach of Lake Maggiore with some wine, focaccia, cold cuts, and the truffles hunted the day before. It was not planned, and we had so much fun. It was so simple, but we stayed there laughing and having fun for hours.”



## Maxime Giron

How do you create authentic moments for your guests?

“To create an authentic moment, nothing beats chatting with locals to get the little story between the lines of the big history. And, on these occasions, language is never a problem because passion translates in every language!”

# Signature Moments

Welcome to our treasury of travel secrets – we call them our ‘Signature Moments’.

Whilst our tours are full of unique accommodation and unexpected experiences, these truly special moments are designed to deeply immerse you further into local life.



Boltaña, Spain

## A memory of monks past

Slumber where monks once pondered as we spend two nights at a former 17th-century monastery in the Pyrenees town of Boltaña. Set on the banks of the gently flowing Ara River, its rustic stone walls, soothing spa and grand restaurant offer the perfect place to reflect on those existential questions (how much tapas is too much tapas?).

**Tour:** Highlights of Northern Spain

**“Bilbao was very interesting. San Sebastián was beautiful. Local guides always made a big difference! The hotel in the monastery was magical.”**

Valerie O



Isle of Mull, Scotland

## A moment of Hebrides magic

Seemingly plucked from the pages of a storybook, the wild-and-wonderful Isle of Mull welcomes us for a night on our Scottish Journey tour. During our stay, we’ll hop across to nearby Iona: a tiny car-free island famed for its medieval abbey and tranquil atmosphere – where the only traffic jams are sheep related!

**Tour:** A Scottish Journey

**“Going through the beautiful Scottish landscapes, we were given ample opportunities to take pictures and see the details rather than just a blur whizzing by... I loved Iona and Mull.”**

Lesley L



Keep an eye out for our Signature Moments icon throughout the brochure – every tour has one!



Chianti, Italy

## A Tuscan farewell

You won’t want to leave Tuscany at all, if you can help it. But there’s no better place to finish than our home for the final night: a 15th-century farmhouse cradled by the Chianti and Valdarno countryside. And for those moments you’re not gazing at the scenery, an idyllic outdoor pool invites you in for a refreshing dip. Annnnd relax.

**Tour:** Tuscan Treats

**“My tour highlight was seeing the countryside of rural Tuscany. Amazing views, breathtaking.”**

Leane K



Krakow, Poland

## A dumpling discovery

From flour and fillings to little pockets of Polish joy – the dumplings of dreams await in Krakow! We’ll dive into the art of pierogi making under the watchful eyes of the local masters, before devouring our creations for dinner. Wonky or not, they all taste delicious to us.

**Tour:** Explore Eastern Europe

**“We had a fabulous tour. I particularly enjoyed making the dumplings.”**

Julie S



Kilronan Castle, Ireland

## A night of regal rest

Step into a period drama (minus the corsets, thankfully) at Kilronan Castle, a spectacular 18th-century fortress set within 50 acres of landscaped grounds. The castle houses elegant, chandelier-adorned rooms, and a luxurious spa – with an indoor pool – for being pampered like a prince or princess. You’ll be sure to snooze like royalty after this level of relaxation.

**Tour:** The Emerald Isle

**“The stay at Kilronan Castle is hard to beat.”**

Erika E



Honfleur, France

## A painter’s paradise

Ready to drop into the world of Monet? We’ll do just that with our two-night stopover in Honfleur – the charming port town that inspired a bevy of Impressionist artists. Its 17th-century harbour, half-timbered houses and narrow cobbled streets have sprung straight out of a painter’s canvas.

**Tour:** La Belle France

**“We enjoyed every day, but Honfleur was wonderful.”**

Paulina & Phil G

# Combinable tours

One week, you're enchanted by the mystical fairy pools of Skye, the next, you're swept away by the literary legacy of the Lake District.

For those seeking back-to-back adventures, we've crafted tours that connect effortlessly.

Many of our tours begin and end in the same city, so you can move from one to the next in just a day or two – making the absolute most of your time in Europe.

## United Kingdom



- Highlights of Britain +
- A Scottish Journey

## Spain and Portugal



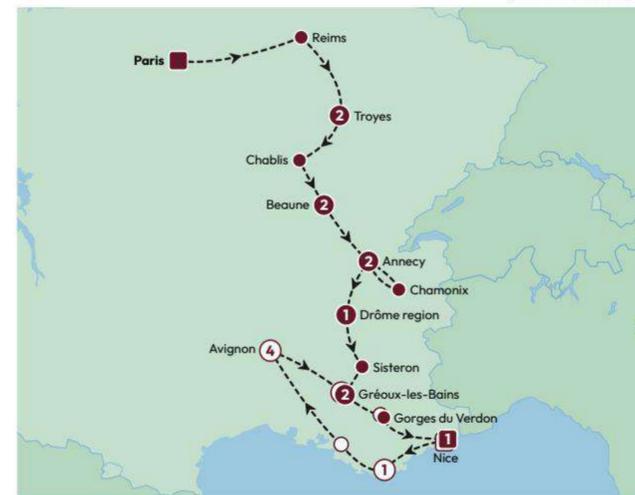
- Iberian Inspiration +
- Discover Portugal

## Italy and the Adriatic



- Italian Indulgence +
- Adriatic Discovery: Northern Italy, Slovenia and Croatia

## France



- Paris to Nice through Vineyards and Mountains +
- Provence and the French Riviera

## England



- Corners of Cornwall +
- Kent: Garden of England

# UK and Ireland

## The Emerald Isle

13 days | 12 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to October

Giant's Causeway, County Antrim



### Included meals: 18

- 12 breakfasts
- 6 dinners

### Combinable with:

- Corners of Southern Ireland

### What our guests say...

"Excellent Tour Leader Allen, superb driver, hotels were comfortable, and a variety of stops - tea plantation, Quaker's House, Land's End. Loved it all and no hesitation to recommend Back-Roads."

Pamela W, Corners of Cornwall

Land's End, Cornwall



Kilronan Castle, County Roscommon

### Tour summary:

Have you ever kissed a stone upside down for good luck? Or slumbered in the storied halls of an 18th-century castle? These are just some of the unique and unexpected experiences you'll relish on this Irish journey, with each encounter revealing more of the country's captivating heritage and culture. Inhale the salty sea air of the North Irish Coast, tap your toes to the ballad of Dan O'Hara and admire the intricate interiors of a traditional cottage orné. With us, you won't just discover a local way of life in the Emerald Isle - you'll become a part of it.

### Tour highlights:

- Follow the footsteps of giants at the edge of the world as you step onto the basalt columns of Giant's Causeway that span 60 million years in the making.
- Spot incredible art murals along the streets of Belfast during a guided tour with a local, who shares tales that bring Northern Ireland to life.
- Soak up the majestic scenery of the Cliffs of Moher - an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### ★ Signature Moment:

A night of regal rest - Step into a period drama (minus the corsets, thankfully) at Kilronan Castle, a spectacular 18th-century fortress set within 50 acres of landscaped grounds. You'll be sure to snooze like royalty after plenty of relaxation.

# Highlights of Britain

11 days | 10 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to October



Castle Howard, North Yorkshire



**Included meals: 15**

- 10 breakfasts
- 5 dinners

**Combinable with:**

- A Scottish Journey
- Enchanting Eastern England
- Corners of Cornwall

**Tour summary:**

Do you know where you're most likely to encounter a cursed gravestone, a fat rascal and Europe's longest place name? On this Great British adventure, of course! Delve into centuries of spellbinding stories and bewitching historical quirks as we roam the rich landscapes of England, Scotland and Wales. Slow down and soak it all up with us. We guarantee you'll have more than a few tales to tell when your journey comes to an end...

**Tour highlights:**

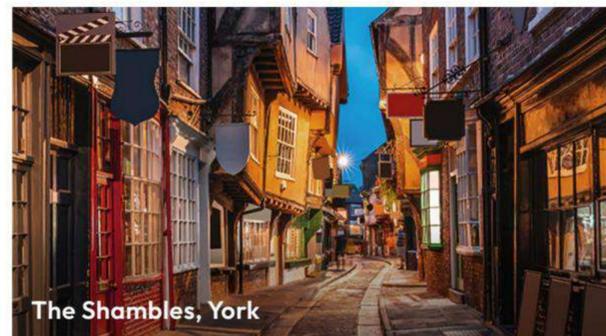
- Roam through the grounds of 17th-century Castle Howard like a duke or duchess, twirling through grand halls and vibrant gardens alike.
- Step back in time through the medieval streets that make up the maze of York's Shambles and Snickelways.
- Tap your toes to the iconic tunes of the Fab Four at Liverpool's Beatles Story Museum.

**★ Signature Moment:**

**A bagpiper's sweet melody** - Settle in your plush chair as a local bagpiper plays his tune just for us. The melodic notes will fill the room as we tuck into a feast of traditional Scottish dishes like haggis, neeps and tatties.



Edinburgh, Scotland



The Shambles, York

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Corners of Cornwall

8 days | 7 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to October



St Michael's Mount



**Included meals: 11**

- 7 breakfasts
- 4 dinners

**Combinable with:**

- Highlights of Britain
- Chelsea Flower Show
- Heart of England

**Tour summary:**

A land where sapphire sky meets turquoise sea, Cornwall is a true treasure. With its windswept moors that graze the horizon and winding country lanes that open up to postcard-perfect fishing villages, England's South West is waiting for you to carve your own story. Soak up the views of pristine golden bays, bustling harbours and wild coastlines as you go - all best enjoyed with a traditional Cornish pasty in hand, of course!

**Tour highlights:**

- Step back in time and imagine locals of the past sauntering through the Cornish port towns of Padstow and Port Isaac during short but sweet visits.
- Venture across rippling waters to the island of St Michael's Mount where a medieval fortress and panoramic views of sea and sky await.
- Admire the dramatic cliffs and wild shorelines of the jaw-dropping Jurassic Coast.

**★ Signature Moment:**

**A British cuppa** - Visit Britain's first tea plantation, Tregothnan Estate. Stroll through the estate's lush gardens, spotting favourite flowers and rare trees such as blossoming Camellia and the protected Wollemi Pine. Then, sample a selection of black teas along with a traditional English cream tea!



Tregothnan Estate, Truro

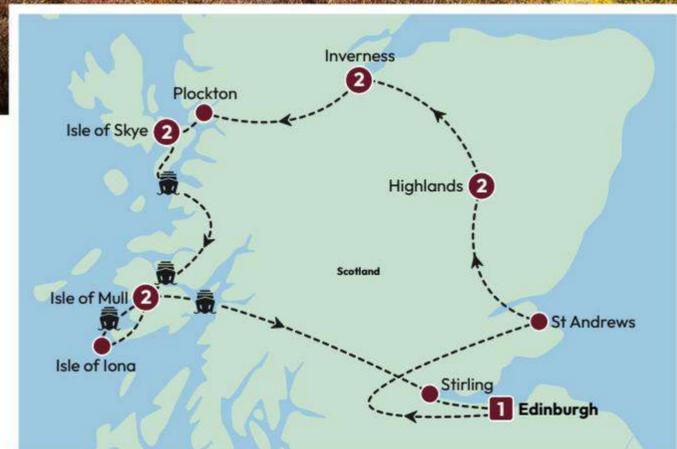
For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# A Scottish Journey

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to October



Culloden Monument, Inverness



**Included meals: 14**

- 9 breakfasts
- 5 dinners

**Combinable with:**

- Highlights of Britain
- Enchanting Eastern England
- Scotland: Lochs and Landscapes



Isle of Skye

**Tour summary:**

As soon as you step foot in Scotland, you'll be under its spell. Revelling in mystical monsters, snug glens and infamous battles, allow yourself to breathe deeply and take it all in. Bask at the edge of the world where sea meets sky. Wander through centuries-old cities filled with a vibrancy for life. And discover a locally owned whisky room filled with flavours beyond your imagination. Wherever the path through Scotland takes you, rest assured the memories made here will last a lifetime.

**Tour highlights:**

- Splash your tongue with a variety of whisky brands at Malt Rooms and discover local secrets behind sweet, smoked and fruity flavours that heighten your senses.
- Step into the past on the grounds of Culloden Battlefield and feel the ghosts of fallen soldiers surround you as a guide shares the horrors from the Jacobite Rising's final, tragic end.
- Unearth magical rock formations and tumbling cascades on the Isle of Skye.

**★ Signature Moment:**

A moment of Hebrides magic - Seemingly plucked from the pages of a storybook, the wild Isle of Skye welcomes us overnight. During our stay, we'll encounter many of its mythical wonders - from mesmerising mountains to otherworldly rock formations.

# Corners of Southern Ireland

7 days | 6 nights | Up to 18 guests | April to September



Cliffs of Moher, County Clare



**Included meals: 9**

- 6 breakfasts
- 3 dinners

**Combinable with:**

- The Emerald Isle

**Tour summary:**

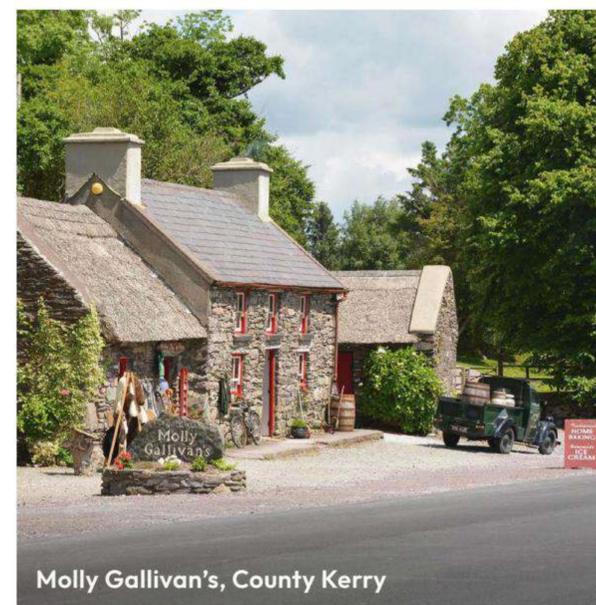
Weave your way through the rich tapestry of Ireland's southern corners on this unforgettable adventure. Gaze at the dramatic Cliffs of Moher, whose rugged rockface was formed over 300 million years ago. Transport yourself back to Viking times in Ireland's oldest city. Uncover the remarkable story of Molly Gullivan's entrepreneurship. Where spellbinding scenery and rich history meet, Ireland invites you to craft your own story as you explore its many wonders.

**Tour highlights:**

- Venture to Ireland's oldest city where we'll saunter through the House of Waterford Crystal, home to traditional crystal making.
- Feel the breeze flutter around you as we stand atop the Cliffs of Moher, taking in verdant fields and crashing waves.
- Soak up jaw-dropping scenery in the Ring of Kerry, stopping off at the Skellig Experience to hear stories of the early Christian monks who once lived here.

**★ Signature Moment:**

An illegal pub - Allow the ghost of Molly Gullivan - a canny widow and the landlady of an illegal pub - to welcome you with open arms. We can't promise Miss Molly herself, but a local expert will guide you through the intimate rooms as they spill stories from the 19th century - from turf cutting to traditional whiskey brewing!



Molly Gullivan's, County Kerry

# Chelsea Flower Show (Eastbound and Westbound)

8 days | 7 nights | Up to 18 guests | May

**Worth noting:** You can choose between two directions on this tour, Eastbound or Westbound.



Kew Gardens Waterlily House

## Tour summary:

Embark on an adventure through South East England's finest, where regal towns, show-stealing stately homes and manicured gardens meet. Bask in the warmer climes of Kew's magnificent Victorian palm house, feel the buzz of Windsor's medieval streets and indulge in the traditional flavours of afternoon tea. The jewel in your journey's crown? The RHS Chelsea Flower Show – bursting with kaleidoscopic colours and dazzling displays that invite you to be swept away by their beauty.

## Tour highlights:

- Glide your fingers through a kaleidoscope of blooming flowers on a guided tour of Kew's Royal Botanic Gardens.
- Immerse yourself in the glitz and glam of the flower world at the annual RHS Chelsea Flower Show.
- Slumber overnight in the historic royal towns of Tunbridge Wells and Windsor.

### Included meals: 10

- 7 breakfasts
- 3 dinners

### Combinable with:

- Corners of Cornwall
- Heart of England

## ★ Signature Moment:

A private garden tour – Imagine the most beautiful garden – filled with verdant bushes, blooming flowers in all colours of the rainbow, and sleeping trees that stand tall. Welcome to the Savill Garden, where we'll watch the grounds come alive on a private tour.



Windsor Castle, Berkshire



Chelsea Flower Show, London

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Kent: The Garden of England

7 days | 6 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

- Discover over 1,400 years' worth of stories inside Canterbury Cathedral as a local guide leads us through its illustrious history.
- Journey into the past with visits to castles that have stood the test of time in Hever, Leeds, Dover and Sissinghurst.
- Savour some celebrated local beers at Shepherd Neame, Britain's oldest brewery.



## ★ Signature Moment:

A stately sleepover – Rest your feet in an individually decorated en-suite bedroom in the cosy Stable Courtyard at Leeds Castle and dine on local produce in the estate's 17th-century Castle View Restaurant.



Leeds Castle, Kent



# Scotland: Lochs and Landscapes

8 days | 7 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

- Watch the reflective surface of Loch Lomond change beneath the moving sky aboard a leisurely cruise.
- Meander through the cobbled pathways of 18th-century New Lanark, a UNESCO World Heritage Mill Village surrounding the calm River Clyde.
- Spot the Isle of Arran's favourite residents, such as golden eagles and stags, on a unique safari experience.

## ★ Signature Moment:

An idyllic island – Allow the mystical nature of island life wash over you during a two-night stay on Arran – a tranquil haven bursting with vast green landscapes and unique local history.



Isle of Arran

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Wonders of Wales

8 days | 7 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

- See hues of green everywhere as you settle in a classic steam train and amble through the Rheidol Valley – bag yourself a good seat!
- Rewind the clock to a time of towering columns and arched stained-glass windows at the ruins of St Davids Bishop’s Palace.
- Indulge in a traditional afternoon tea served in a delightful tearoom at the edge of Snowdonia National Park.

## ★ Signature Moment:

A coal miner’s tale - Dig deep into the past as we venture a mighty 300 feet underground for a tour of the Big Pit – a one-time working mine and UNESCO World Heritage Site – with a former coal miner.



Big Pit National Coal Museum



# Heart of England

6 days | 5 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

- Stroll where Shakespeare once wandered in Stratford-Upon-Avon, visiting the literary hero’s childhood home and final resting spot.
- Travel through time in Bath, where Roman and Georgian architecture blend together in a stunning and sophisticated way.
- Soak up centuries of intriguing stories on a walking tour with a local guide in historic Oxford.

## ★ Signature Moment:

A lady’s high tea - Cradle a warm china teacup in your hands as you sip on English tea in the comfort of a 15th-century family home nestled in the Cotswolds. Whilst you relax, your accommodating hostess will share tales of the local area.



The Cotswolds

# Enchanting Eastern England

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

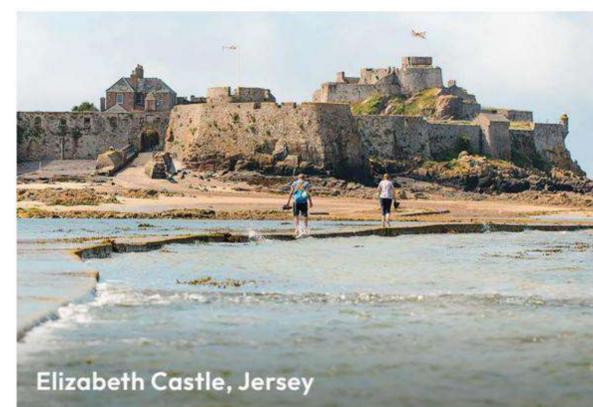
- Take to calm waters along the ‘Backs’ of Cambridge University and pass by entrancing architecture during a legendary punting experience.
- Stroll through the house and gardens of Sandringham Estate, where members of the Royal Family rest and rejuvenate.
- Feast your eyes on an original Magna Carta and stunning medieval architecture at Lincoln’s Castle and Cathedral.

## ★ Signature Moment:

A star-studded affair - Visit the heart of the thoroughbred industry at The National Stud in Newmarket where you’ll gain behind-the-scenes insight into England’s proud sporting history.



Newmarket Racecourse, Suffolk



Elizabeth Castle, Jersey

# London to Paris via the Channel Islands

12 days | 11 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

- Uncover the idyllic island of Guernsey, taking in captivating coastlines and cobbled streets, and learning of its occupation during WWII.
- Wander the ‘Dark Sky Island’, also known as Sark, for the day – roving through the car-free landscape to spot various viewpoints and monuments.
- Explore a true gem of the Normandy coast – the enchanting island village of Mont Saint-Michel.

## ★ Signature Moment:

A coastal fortress - Flip through the many chapters of 16th-century Elizabeth Castle during a leisurely visit, discovering the impressive grounds at your own pace.

# Italy and Malta



## What our guests say...

"An amazing combination of a knowledgeable, caring and bilingual Tour Leader, a fabulous driver and a well thought-out itinerary that allowed us to see and experience so much of Italy in two weeks."

Heather E, Italian Indulgence

Ravello, Italy

# Italian Indulgence

13 days | 12 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to November



Lake Como, Italy



### Included meals: 18

- 12 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 4 dinners

### Combinable with:

- Adriatic Discovery: Northern Italy, Slovenia and Croatia
- Vistas of Italy and Switzerland

### Tour summary:

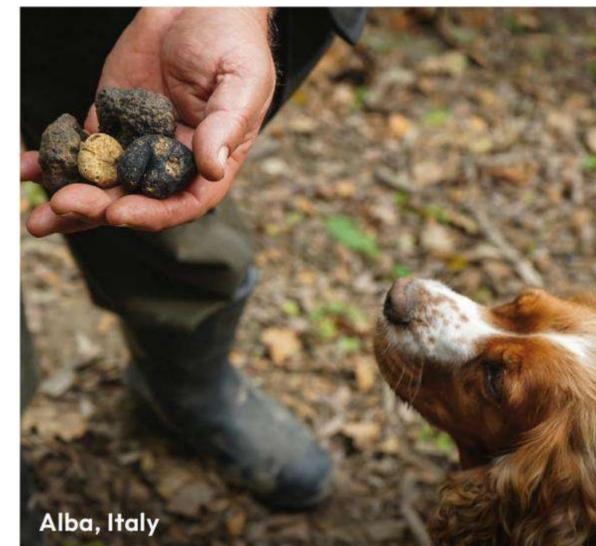
Have you ever met a white peacock, or found a truffle deep beneath the ground? This indulgent Italian adventure reveals a new discovery with every twist and turn. Ignite your imagination as blissful lakes invite you to linger, a sea of vines presents a silky Chianti wine, and terracotta towns dance with Renaissance tales. It's time to slow down and soak it all up – the journey won't last forever, but the memories certainly will.

### Tour highlights:

- Cinch your aprons and listen to a master of Tuscan cuisine as they teach you how to make a classic seasonal dish inside a rustic countryside villa.
- Cruise along the tranquil waters of Swiss-Italian Lake Maggiore, pointing out white-washed buildings and lush trees nestled on the Borromean Islands.
- Soak up the exquisite scenery and opulent atmosphere of Lake Como.

### ★ Signature Moment:

A private hunt - Meet your new favourite local guide – a truffle-hunting dog! Alongside their trifolau owner, we'll venture into the tree-clustered forests of Alba for a truffle hunt. Then, we'll have the opportunity to try the truffle ourselves – when in Rome! Or Alba...

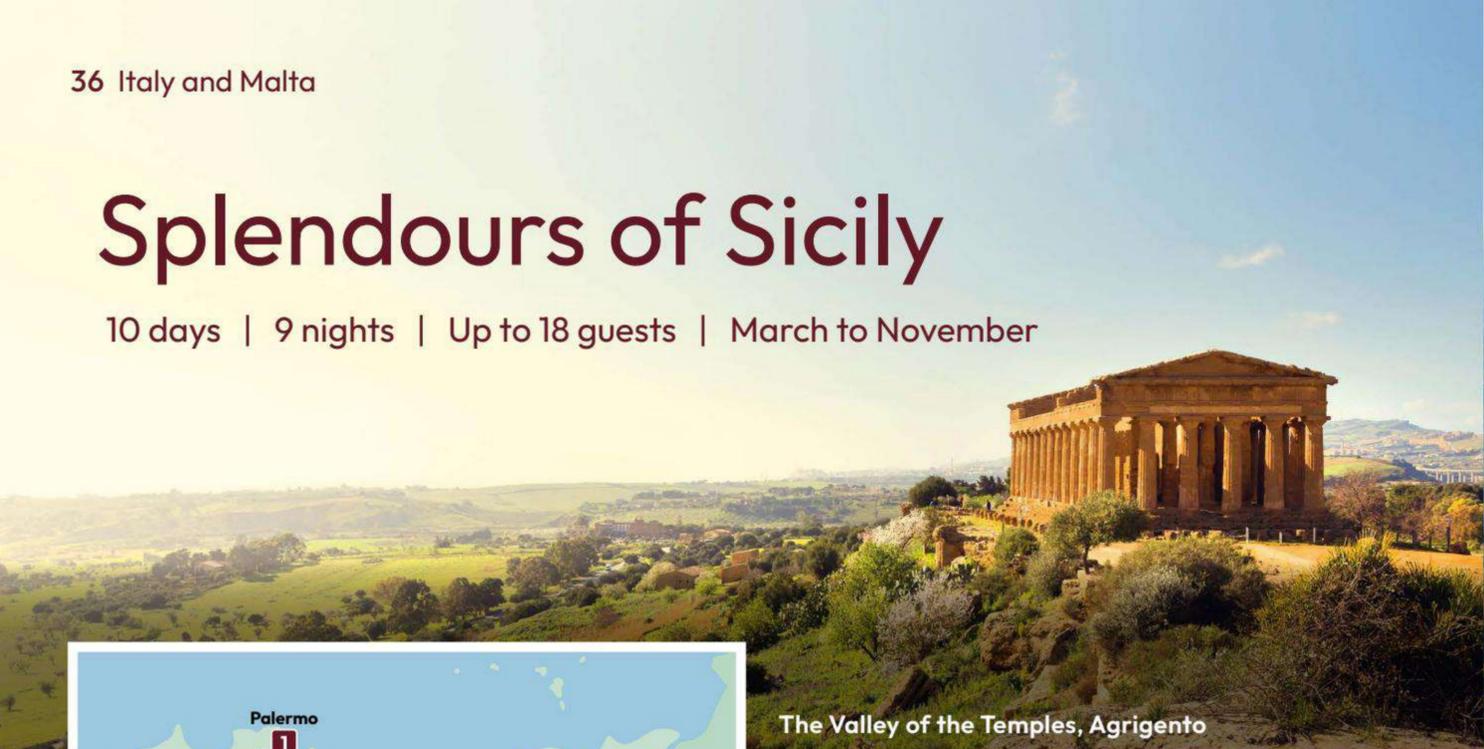


Alba, Italy

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Splendours of Sicily

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to November



The Valley of the Temples, Agrigento



**Included meals: 14**

- 9 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 3 dinners

**Tour summary:**

Nibble on freshly shaped cheese as buffaloes swing their tails in the distance. Step back to a time when ancient Greeks roamed the earth as their stories are spoken through locals. And witness the trembling glory that is Mount Etna – one of the most active volcanoes in the world. On this expertly crafted tour of splendid Sicily, every day begs a new journey, and a question... What memories will we carve on the cobbled paths before us?

**Tour highlights:**

- Witness the sights of Palermo during a locally guided walking tour and learn how Sicilians bravely protected their home from the Mafia.
- From sweet treats like cannoli and almonds to the classic staple of cheese and wine – nibble and sip the tastes of Sicily to satiate the senses.
- Discover the fascinating history behind the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Valley of Temples.

**★ Signature Moment:**

A sweet delight – Visit Prestipino, the oldest pâtisserie in Catania, and discover the classic Sicilian dessert that effortlessly mixes crunch and creaminess. We'll create our own cannoli whilst being guided by a master pastry chef – yum!



Prestipino, Catania

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Tuscan Treats

8 days | 7 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to November



Volterra, Italy



**Included meals: 11**

- 7 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 3 dinners

**Tour summary:**

Picture a place where each sun-dappled street leads to a new and surprising discovery. Where golden-lit towns burst with medieval treasures, and sheer, rugged coasts send shivers down your spine. A soft breeze whispers through a neat row of olive trees, and a gently simmering ragù fills the air at every turn. This is more than a tour of Tuscany; it's an invitation to experience Italy with all your senses.

**Tour highlights:**

- Unleash all your senses during a Tuscan cooking class, where a local chef will spill recipe secrets against a calming Chianti backdrop.
- Graze on handcrafted pecorino cheese during a tasting at a delightful local farm's shop in Pienza featuring sweeping countryside views.
- Explore the mysterious town of Volterra, including strolling its medieval ramparts.

**★ Signature Moment:**

A Tuscan farewell – You won't want to leave Tuscany, if you can help it. But there's no better place to finish than our home for the final night: a 15th-century farmhouse cradled by the Chianti and Valdarno countryside.



Fattoria Degli Usignoli, San Donato Fronsano



Pienza

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.



# Vistas of Italy and Switzerland

9 days | 8 nights | Up to 18 guests

### Tour highlights:

- Behold the magic of Italian mask decorating as a local artisan works wonders during a demonstration in the heart of Venice.
- Test your culinary skills at a rustic farmhouse in the Franciacorta region, where a local will share recipe secrets – then, taste your own creations!
- Experience scenic train journeys on two of the great alpine railways: the Bernina Express and the Glacier Express.



### ★ Signature Moment:

A scenic train ride - All aboard the Bernina Express! Wind through landscapes on railway tracks that claim the crown for being the highest in Europe, spotting many natural phenomena along the way.



# Malta Highlights

8 days | 7 nights | Up to 18 guests

### Tour highlights:

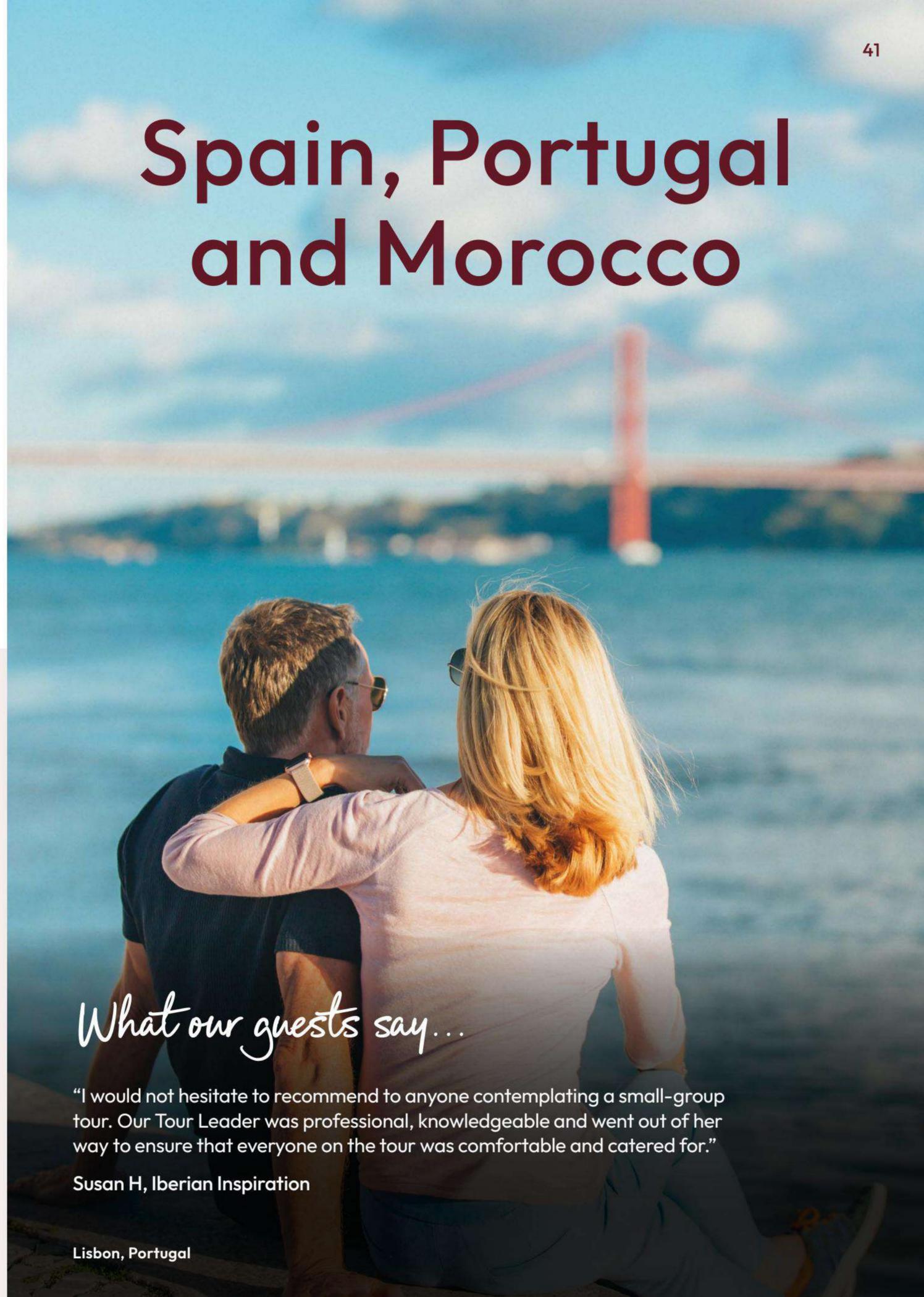
- Wander through the maze of streets lined with beautiful Baroque architecture and hear tales of Valletta's unique setting from a local guide.
- Discover Mdina's story through its architectural journey as a local guide recounts the silent city's ancient reign.
- Savour an indulgent Maltese wine tasting at a local wine estate nestled just outside historic Mdina.

### ★ Signature Moment:

A Blue Grotto - Take to the cobalt-hued waters of the Mediterranean Sea as we embark on a short boat ride to the mouth of Blue Grotto, steered by a seasoned local fisherman. Fancy making a splash whilst you're here? Jump in!



# Spain, Portugal and Morocco



*What our guests say...*

"I would not hesitate to recommend to anyone contemplating a small-group tour. Our Tour Leader was professional, knowledgeable and went out of her way to ensure that everyone on the tour was comfortable and catered for."

Susan H, Iberian Inspiration

Lisbon, Portugal

# Iberian Inspiration

12 days | 11 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to November



Córdoba Mezquita

## Tour summary:

Sevillian sun-ripened tomato gazpacho, crispy Jamón Ibérico croquettes, crispy Jamón Ibérico croquettes, flaky Portuguese pasteis de nata... Take your taste buds on a tantalising journey as we trace the scenic back roads of Spain and Portugal! Not just a culinary adventure, our path will reveal a heady mix of historical riches – from the Alhambra’s mesmerising mosaics to the eye-catching Islamic arches of Córdoba’s Mezquita. Are you ready to immerse yourself in the captivating stories and scrumptious local dishes of ancient Iberia?

## Tour highlights:

- Try freshly cured Jamón Ibérico in the cellars of a local farm where pigs happily frolic in Sierra de Aracena.
- Feel the burning passion of a traditional flamenco show at the Museo del Baile Flamenco in Seville.
- Be blown away by the exquisite beauty of the Córdoba Mezquita – a UNESCO-protected mosque.

## ★ Signature Moment:

**A starry wine bodega** - Feel all five senses tingle as the scent of smooth wine lingers in the air during a guided tour of La Bodega de las Estrellas. Sample full-bodied flavours alongside a lunch prepared by our host family using local ingredients, as you relax underneath the winery’s shaded patio.



La Bodega de las Estrellas

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Discover Portugal

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to November



Douro River, Porto

## Tour summary:

Uncover Portugal’s true essence as we journey from vibrant Lisbon to the cinematic Douro Valley and beyond – taking in world-famous pilgrimage sites, sumptuous local cuisine and staggering landscapes as we go. Weave your own travel tale as you discover cosy hole-in-the-wall eateries along cobblestone alleys and seek out the perfect pastel de nata in medieval cities, sip on distinguished wines among lush olive groves and feel the power of the Atlantic Ocean fill up your lungs. It’s all here, waiting to become a part of your story.

## Tour highlights:

- Cruise along the Douro River on a traditional rabelo boat and experience the region’s majestic beauty up close.
- Learn how Bordaleiras sheep’s milk transforms into cheese during a tasting at a farm near Viseu.
- Visit the famed University of Coimbra followed by a stroll through the city’s medieval, cobblestone streets.

## ★ Signature Moment:

**A cinematic stay** - Spend two nights at the Cooking & Nature Emotional Hotel in Alvados, slumbering in one of 12 individually designed rooms that take inspiration from cinematic masterpieces. We’ll also enjoy a hands-on cookery class! Prepare your senses for rustic recipes you’ll desire long after your final bite...



Alvados

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Highlights of Northern Spain

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests | April to October



Davalillo Castle, La Rioja

## Tour summary:

Which treasures lie in the pathways that follow rugged mountains, and through the alleyways of quaint towns with pretty names? This is a journey of two parts. The first: an interwoven ten-day adventure of Northern Spain, bursting with life and brimming with flavours that will stretch beyond your wildest imagination. And second: the discovery of something about yourself – whether it's a new favourite wine, or a town you'd never thought to visit that becomes your personal highlight. Are you ready for your next chapter?

## Tour highlights:

- Master the art of Spanish cuisine with a traditional cooking class in Pamplona.
- Spend two evenings in the gastronomic capital, San Sebastián, filling your stomachs with delicious Basque recipes.
- Amble through low archways and vast grottoes on a journey through Cardona's underground salt mines.



Hotel Monasterio de Boltaña

## Signature Moment:

**A memory of monks past** – Slumber where monks once pondered as we spend two nights at a former 17th-century monastery in the Pyrenees town of Boltaña. Its rustic stone walls, soothing spa and grand restaurant offer the perfect setting to reflect.



San Sebastián

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# A Taste of the Camino: Porto to Bilbao

7 days | 6 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

- Slow the pace in Santiago de Compostela as you weave along the narrow streets of its UNESCO-listed Old Town.
- Compare the subtle notes of León wine over a homecooked lunch in a historic wine cellar.
- Gaze in awe at the majestic mountains of the soul-stirring Picos de Europa National Park.



## Signature Moment:

**A skyward ascension** – Ascend 753 metres to the panoramic peaks of Picos de Europa on the Fuente Dé cable car – a glorious mountain range home to animals such as the brown bear and Iberian wolf! Pack your binoculars to help you spot these curious creatures.



Fuente Dé cable car, Picos de Europa



# Majestic Morocco

13 days | 12 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

- Drift off in luxurious comfort for two nights with a stay in a traditional riad in historic Fes.
- Learn how to cook sumptuous Moroccan tagine at a local women's co-operative in Ait Benhaddou.
- Delve into ancient tales whilst exploring the ruins of the once-bustling Roman stronghold of Volubilis with a local guide.

## Signature Moment:

**A Saharan adventure** – Feast beneath the evening sky, surrounded by the golden dunes of the largest hot desert in the world. You'll savour the blend of rich spices as Moroccan melodies entwine in the air, and fall asleep to the quiet sounds of the Berber camp.



The Sahara Desert

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# France and Battlefields

## Paris to Nice through Vineyards and Mountains

12 days | 11 nights | Up to 18 guests | April to October



Lake Annecy, Haute-Savoie



### Included meals: 17

- 11 breakfasts
- 1 lunches
- 5 dinners

### Combinable with:

- Provence and the French Riviera

### Tour summary:

Glasses glinting with shimmering bubbles, windows opening out onto soaring mountain ranges and rustic villages enveloped in the sweet scent of fresh lavender... This leisurely voyage through quintessential France is guaranteed to ignite all your senses! From uncovering tales of heroism in medieval Reims to savouring the plumpness of Burgundy's juicy grapes, you'll discover what makes this belle country so unique. Are you ready to become fully immersed in local French life?

### Tour highlights:

- Gaze at the 15th-century Hospice de Beaune, once a hospital for the poor and now a dedicated work of art that unveils the past.
- Journey through the renowned wine regions of Champagne, Burgundy and Chablis, comparing indulgent notes during tastings along the way.
- Feast your eyes on breathtaking scenes of soaring peaks and glittering lakes in Annecy and Chamonix.

## What our guests say...

"Charlie, our Tour Leader, made sure there was a good balance between exploring and having some necessary downtime. He has really good knowledge of French history and life. Our driver, Ewan, was so good at his job and great company to boot. Definitely the best land tour we've done - and we've done quite a few!"

Anthony H, Jewels of Southwest France

Saint-Émilion, Nouvelle-Aquitaine



Fromagerie du Val d'Aillon

### ★ Signature Moment:

A French Alp fromagerie - Enlighten all your senses with a cheese tasting at Fromagerie Les Aillons - a local dairy shop that has stood the test of time. Learn the secrets behind the making process and splash your tongue with some of the region's favourite wine. Santé!



Burgundy

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# La Belle France

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests | April to October



Mont Saint Michel, Normandy



**Included meals: 14**

- 9 breakfasts
- 5 dinners

### Tour summary:

Dive into a land of renowned artists and royal crusaders, hilltop monasteries and valley castles – this ten-day journey takes us from France’s dramatic northern shores to its château-sprinkled countryside. Along the way, indulge in fresh seafood and revel in the delights of the Loire’s vineyards. You’ll meander through elegant villages rich with stories of epic battles, curious myths and mighty legends, and pause for a moment of reflection at Normandy’s beaches, where tales of war endure. France’s timeless beauty and captivating history awaits – what memories will you create?

### Tour highlights:

- Draw your eyes to the glittering rainbow that is Claude Monet’s private home in Giverny – an Impressionist’s delight!
- Follow the path to Mont Saint-Michel to discover an island of medieval buildings, turreted towers and everlasting sea views.
- Savour the flavours of local wines with a tasting session in the romantic Loire Valley.

### ★ Signature Moment:

A painter’s paradise – Ready to drop into the world of Monet? We’ll do just that with our two-night stopover in Honfleur – the charming port town that inspired a bevy of Impressionist artists.



Honfleur, Normandy

# Provence and the French Riviera

8 days | 7 nights | Up to 18 guests

### Tour highlights:

- Be transported to a place of glittering lakes, steep cliffs and verdant trees at Gorges du Verdon – aka the ‘Grand Canyon of Europe’.
- Wander through a maze of captivating art at the Carrières de Lumières show in Les Baux-de-Provence, where every corner reveals a new discovery.
- Snooze overnight in the French Riviera, enjoying its relaxed atmosphere and coastal charms.



### ★ Signature Moment:

A picnic in the grove – Tuck into a picnic with a twist – it’s olive themed! After a wander through a local farm, we’ll sample olive oils blended with various flavours alongside a view of the peaceful Alpilles mountains.



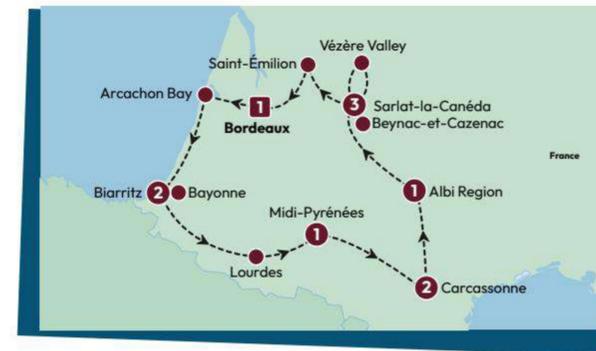
Les Baux-de-Provence, Les Alpilles

# Jewels of Southwest France

11 days | 10 nights | Up to 18 guests

### Tour highlights:

- Take your time exploring Carcassonne – a fascinating ancient citadel with passageways that lure you deep into the past.
- Nibble, sip and relish a mix of traditional French cuisine and wine, from plump Arcachon Bay oysters to full-bodied Bordeaux reds.
- Admire the famous prehistoric paintings of the UNESCO-protected Lascaux Cave at Lascaux II.



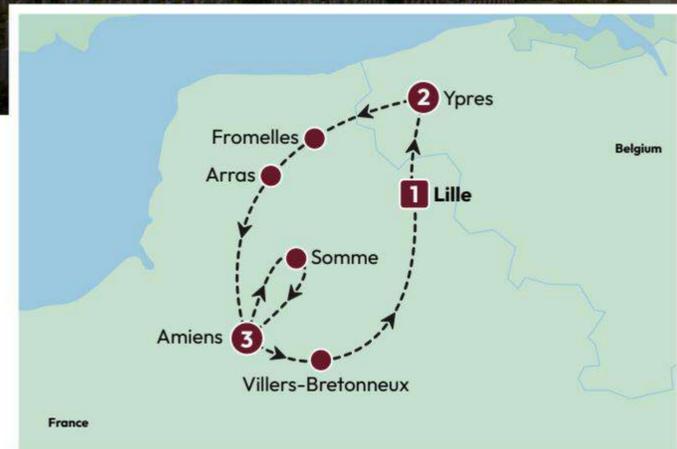
Périgord

### ★ Signature Moment:

A hunt for truffles – Usually found on elegant menus in high-end restaurants, you’ll discover the black truffle’s origins in Périgord at a local farm. Afterwards, sip a glass of wine crafted with freshly picked truffles – savouring its walnut flavours for as long as possible.

# ANZAC on the Western Front: Dawn Service (Northbound and Southbound)

7 days | 6 nights | Up to 18 guests | April



Villers-Bretonneux, Hauts-de-France

## Tour summary:

This ANZAC tour has been carefully designed to connect you to the past – and with any ancestors who may have fought and died during the Great War. Encounter tales of the soldiers who courageously captured the Messines Ridge at Passchendaele. Breathe in the scent of damp earth as you delve into the Wellington Quarries' twisting tunnels. And pay your respects at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service as the sun begins to rise over the heroes laid to rest in Villers-Bretonneux. Join us and uncover not just their stories, but perhaps a few hidden narratives of your own.

## Tour highlights:

- Explore notable sites where ANZAC soldiers fought and were laid to rest, paying your respects to those who served Australia and New Zealand with pride.
- Discover heroic tales from the Western Front during an in-depth visit to the Hooze Crater Museum.
- Visit the Wellington Quarries – a network of underground tunnels dug by the New Zealand Tunnelling Company.

## ★ Signature Moment:

**A dawn memory** – Arise early to experience a beautiful ANZAC Day Dawn Service. As the first golden light of the day spills across Villers-Bretonneux, stand in silent company alongside locals and visitors alike as you honour our fallen heroes.



Messines Ridge NZ Memorial, Mesen, Belgium

## Included meals: 8

- 6 breakfasts
- 2 dinners

# WWI Battlefields

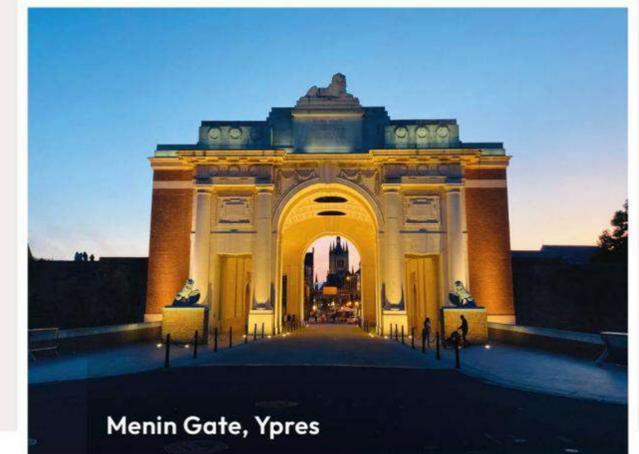
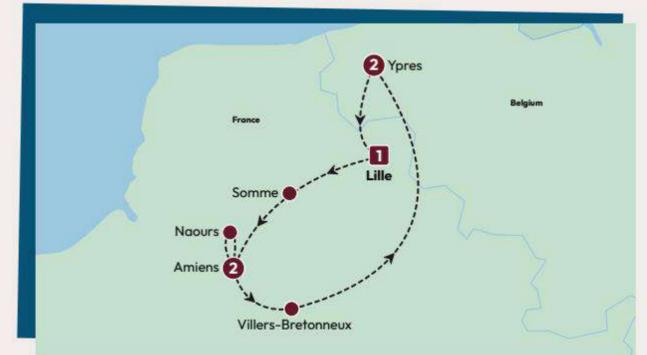
6 days | 5 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

- Visit significant sites where WWI soldiers are laid to rest and pay your respects to those who served their country with pride.
- Witness the Last Post, the traditional final salute to the fallen, at atmospheric Menin Gate in Ypres.
- Uncover stories of fallen Australian and British soldiers at the poignant Museum of the Battle of Fromelles.

## ★ Signature Moment:

**An underground city** – Plunge deep below the soil to the Underground City of Naours. We'll be joined by an expert guide, who'll lead us through the cave networks to discover the unique markings of soldiers who took refuge here during WWI.



Menin Gate, Ypres

# ANZAC on the Western Front

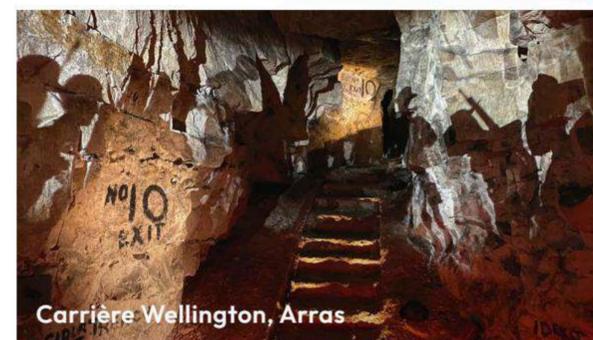
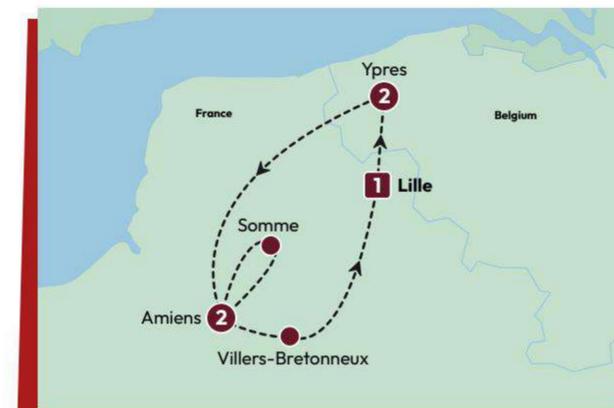
6 days | 5 nights | Up to 18 guests

## Tour highlights:

- Explore notable sites where ANZAC soldiers fought and were laid to rest, paying your respects to those who served Australia and New Zealand with pride.
- Discover heroic tales from the Western Front during an in-depth visit to the Hooze Crater Museum.
- Visit the Wellington Quarries – a network of underground tunnels dug by the New Zealand Tunnelling Company.

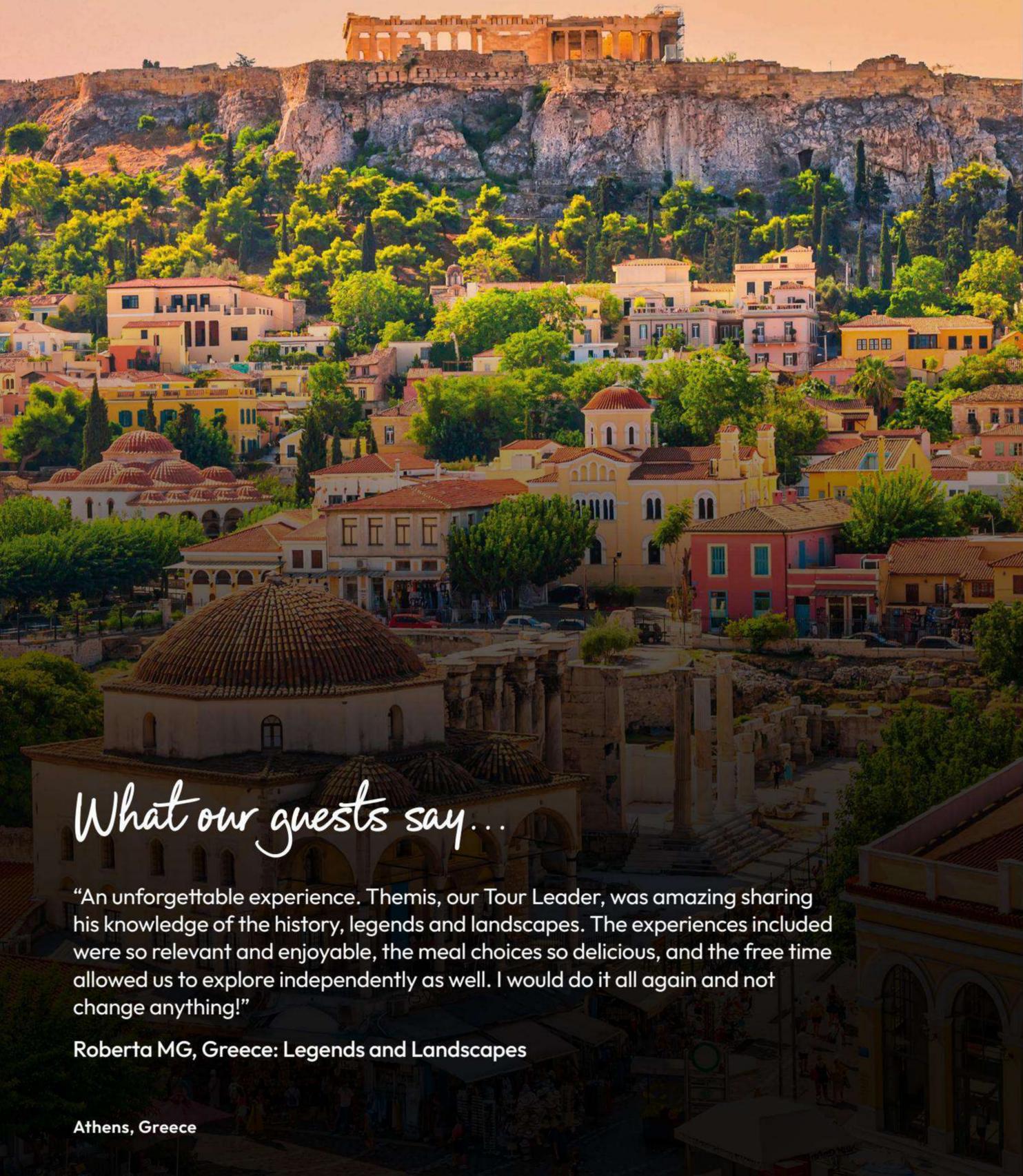
## ★ Signature Moment:

**A soldier's war home** – Deep below the cobblestones of Arras lies a network of underground tunnels specifically dug by ANZAC soldiers as temporary barracks. With an expert as our guide, we'll trace our fingers across rough walls and hear the whisperings of their stories.



Carrière Wellington, Arras

# The Adriatic



## What our guests say...

"An unforgettable experience. Themis, our Tour Leader, was amazing sharing his knowledge of the history, legends and landscapes. The experiences included were so relevant and enjoyable, the meal choices so delicious, and the free time allowed us to explore independently as well. I would do it all again and not change anything!"

Roberta MG, Greece: Legends and Landscapes

Athens, Greece

# Greece: Legends and Landscapes

12 days | 11 nights | Up to 18 guests | March to October



### Included meals: 17

- 11 breakfasts
- 1 lunches
- 5 dinners



### Signature Moment:

A Greek port of call - Our heads will softly hit the pillow in the fishing town of Gytheio for two nights, where turquoise water laps against rocking sailboats and the scent of baked fish wafts through the air.



Gytheio, Greece



The Erechtheion, Acropolis, Athens

### Tour summary:

Step into a world of myth and magic – where ancient art and culture flourished, philosophy was founded and gods were made. From awe-inspiring archaeological sites to sleepy towns and coastal treasures, Greece rewards with every twist in the journey. Shrouded in secrets and stories, the legend lives on in this 12-day adventure.

### Tour highlights:

- Roll up your sleeves and learn from the masters of Greek cuisine during a traditional cooking class.
- Explore Naxos – the most fertile island in the Cyclades, filled with with fragrant valleys and ancient monuments.
- Step into a world of ancient oracles and olive groves during a visit to UNESCO World Heritage Site, Delphi.



Delphi, Greece

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Adriatic Discovery: Northern Italy, Slovenia and Croatia

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests | April to November



Lake Bled, Slovenia

## Tour summary:

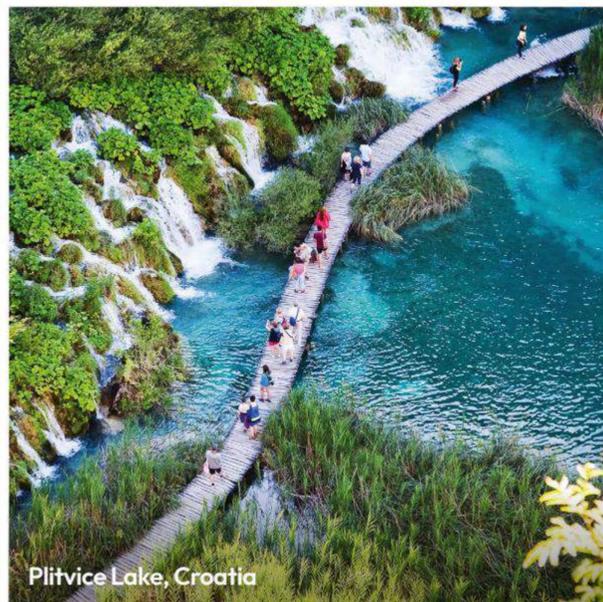
Lakes like turquoise gemstones, local wines that dance with flavour and picture-perfect Riviera-style villages await – get ready to be enraptured by the beautiful diversity of Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. Carve your path through these Adriatic wonders as you uncover the remains of medieval frescoes, spy cascading waterfalls, and share stories with artists that call this region home. What hidden secrets will you discover?

## Tour highlights:

- Sip an array of signature wines during a tasting experience at Bassano del Grappa's Poli Grappa Museum.
- Dive into local life in lovely Rovinj, a quaint coastal town with stunning Italianate architecture.
- Amble across wooden walkways through the enchanting Plitvice Lakes National Park.

## ★ Signature Moment:

A storybook island – As the warmth of the sun mingles with a soft breeze, venture to tiny Bled Island in a pletna – a traditional handmade boat. Once on the island, there'll be time to saunter through its magnificent 17th-century chapel built upon ground originally dedicated to the ancient Slavic goddess, Ziva.



Plitvice Lake, Croatia

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Croatia and the Dalmatian Coast

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests | April to November



Kotor, Montenegro

## Tour summary:

Embark on a voyage through South Croatia and Montenegro, where terracotta roofs glow in the light of golden sunsets and azure waters caress the shores of tranquil islands. Whether it's sampling local sizzling seafood dishes, meandering through timeless cobblestone streets or soaking in the beauty of cascading waterfalls, this ten-day adventure will leave you with everlasting memories.

## Tour highlights:

- Cruise through the glittering waters of the Bay of Kotor to the mysterious man-made island of Our Lady of the Rocks.
- Test your cooking skills during a class in Korčula, transforming a blend of ingredients into some delicious Croatian dishes.
- Explore the mesmerising ancient city of Dubrovnik where every cobblestone street has a secret to tell.

## ★ Signature Moment:

An unfamiliar natural beauty – Awaken all your senses with an enchanting visit to Krka National Park, Plitvice's lesser-known sibling. During our amble through the park's walkways, a local guide will point out energetic waterfalls and calm lakes, sharing facts at every twist and turn.



Korčula, Croatia

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Scandinavia

## Norway: Fjords and Glaciers

9 days | 8 nights | Up to 18 guests | May to September

Geiranger, Norway



### Included meals: 13

- 8 breakfasts
- 4 dinners

### Tour summary:

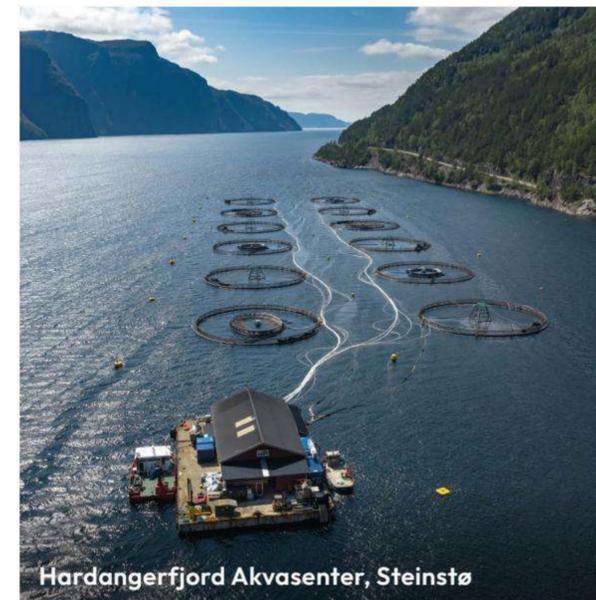
Imagine a place where powerful waterfalls tumble like reams of silk over colossal cliffsides, a world-famous railway snakes its way through dramatic valleys, and vast glaciers rumble with legends of centuries past – this is the Norway you’ve been dreaming of. With its fresh salmon delicacies and unique local beers, pastel-hued facades and remarkable medieval stave churches, Norway’s distinctive character is sure to stir the soul.

### Tour highlights:

- Hop aboard one of the world’s most scenic train experiences – the Flåm Railway – to admire craggy mountain lines, cascading waterfall vistas and verdant valleys.
- Cast your eyes up to the powerful, steep hills around you as we sail through the calm, turquoise waters of Geirangerfjord.
- Venture in a Troll car to the foot of the Briksdal Glacier to marvel at its untameable power and beauty.

### ★ Signature Moment:

**A farm in the sea** - Visit Hardangerfjord Akvasenter in Steinlø – a traditional Norwegian salmon farm. Follow schools of salmon whipping through waves as a local farmer shares insight into their life cycle. Then we’ll sample fresh salmon dishes for lunch – it doesn’t get better than this!



Hardangerfjord Akvasenter, Steinlø

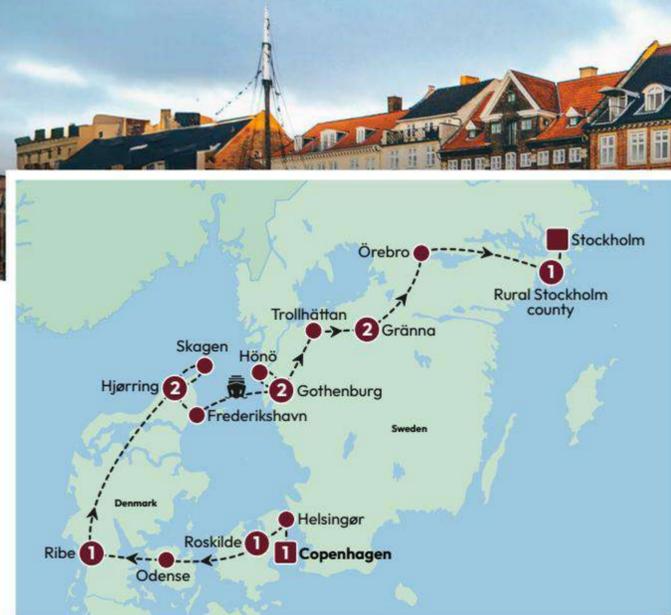
## What our guests say...

“Our enthusiastic Tour Leader, Shabby, and excellent driver, Si, made sure we experienced and learned so much. We travelled almost 1000 miles in comfort with many interesting stops and walks. Certainly the best way to discover the wonders of Norway!”

Marilyn H, Norway: Fjords and Glaciers

# A Scandinavian Journey: Denmark to Sweden

11 days | 10 nights | Up to 18 guests | May to September



## Included meals: 14

- 10 breakfasts
- 4 dinners



Skagen, Denmark



Copenhagen, Denmark

## Tour summary:

Immerse yourself in a region of myths and legends – where footsteps from bygone eras echo in fabled castles, bracing sea air swells through quaint coastal towns, and insightful museums overflow with fascinating artefacts. Step into the script of Shakespeare's Hamlet, feel the power exuding from thousand-year-old Viking ships and share inspiration with local artisans on this spectacular tour. By sea and by land, Scandinavia's stories are woven – and now, your own tale awaits.

## Tour highlights:

- Put your literary caps on for a visit to Kronborg Castle and spot similarities between its magnificent halls and those of Shakespeare's Elsinore in Hamlet.
- Sway along soft canal waves aboard a boat as we journey to our final stop – Sweden's eclectic and passionate capital, Stockholm.
- Travel back in time as you discover genuine Viking ships at The Viking Ship Museum.

## ★ Signature Moment:

A place where oceans meet – Venture to Denmark's northernmost town called Skagen, whose story began in the Middle Ages. Catch glimpses of its fishing history as you wander along its coastline and discover unique monuments that have stood the test of time.

For full details, up-to-date availability, pricing and reviews, please see our website.

# Central and Eastern Europe



## What our guests say...

"Loved the tour, especially enjoyed the activities: cheese, alphorn, beer and chocolate making. The Tour Leader, Melinda, was very knowledgeable on all things Swiss and couldn't have been more accommodating to the group."

Annemaree S, Mountains, Valleys and Lakes of Switzerland

Bernese Oberland, Switzerland

# Explore Eastern Europe

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests | April to October



Český Krumlov, Czech Republic



**Included meals: 14**

- 9 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 3 dinners



Krakow, Poland

**Tour summary:**

A land of ancient cities, time-honoured culinary customs and ever-changing landscapes, Eastern Europe rewards those ready to explore. Picture pastel-hued Old Towns frozen in time and hearty local cuisine crafted with love and tradition. Add soaring mountains that graze the sky like fragments of giant crystals, and you'll soon find yourself drawn to this beautifully diverse region. Ready to dive in?

**Tour highlights:**

- Sip a variety of white wines at a family-owned winery surrounded by fragrant vineyards in Tokaj.
- Encounter a blend of Baroque and Renaissance architecture in the UNESCO World Heritage town Český Krumlov.
- Descend around 800 steps and unearth a subterranean labyrinth at the Wieliczka Salt Mine.

**★ Signature Moment:**

A dumpling discovery - From flour and fillings to little pockets of Polish joy - the dumplings of dreams await in Krakow! We'll dive into the art of pierogi making under the watchful eyes of the local masters, before devouring our creations for dinner. Wonky or not, they all taste delicious to us.

# Romania: Mountains to Monasteries

9 days | 8 nights | Up to 18 guests | May to September



Viscri, Romania



**Included meals: 13**

- 8 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 2 dinners



Bran Castle, Romania

**Tour summary:**

Majestic mountains, fabled castles and rustic medieval villages await on this storybook journey through Romania. Our spellbinding adventure will take us from the elegant streets of Bucharest to the dramatic forests of Transylvania, where mountain ridges sculpt the landscape, castle spires pierce the sky and half-timbered houses transport us back in time. What stories will be written into the pages of your Romanian fairytale?

**Tour highlights:**

- Relish the sweet taste of homemade brandy during a local distillery tour.
- Discover Transylvanian charm among the medieval streets of Brasov, nestled at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains.
- Count how many colours you spot in the shimmering medieval city of Sighisoara.

**★ Signature Moment:**

A vampiric fortress - Welcome to Bran Castle - the stronghold that presides with Gothic glory atop a hill in the heart of Transylvania. Will you feel the presence of Dracula's watchful eye lurking in the shadows during our guided tour?

# Alpine Escape: Germany, Austria and Italy

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests | May to October



**Included meals: 12**

- 9 breakfasts
- 3 dinners



Vaduz, Liechtenstein

Lake Constance, Germany

**Tour summary:**

When was the last time you filled your lungs with crisp mountain air, indulged in a glass of locally produced wine (or two) and ambled through knots of colourful streets? Well, now's your chance to write your next travel tale. Get ready to be inspired by the towering Dolomites whose jagged peaks graze the sky like giant hands reaching up from the earth. Uncover the romance of Verona with its infamous balcony that tells a story of love and loss. And pause at Lake Constance, whose water glistens like millions of turquoise gemstones. This enchanting trio of countries is waiting for you.

**Tour highlights:**

- Discover the cobbled streets, lively squares and romantic tales of Verona during a guided tour.
- Drift through the calming, blue waters of Lake Constance, visiting UNESCO site Unteruhldingen along the way.
- Snooze for two nights in the magnificent Cortina d'Ampezzo, proudly known as the Queen of the Dolomites.

**Signature Moment:**

A small yet mighty nation - Venture to Liechtenstein for an afternoon of discovery, where Vaduz is yours for the taking on a scenic train tour. Glimpse distant vineyards. Soak up panoramic views at 12th-century Vaduz Castle. And spend some free time strolling through the old town.

# Mountains, Valleys and Lakes of Switzerland

10 days | 9 nights | Up to 18 guests

**Tour highlights:**

- Be blown away by the majestic alpine views from Mt. Jungfrau: the 'Top of Europe'.
- Nibble on a variety of handmade cheeses after wandering through a local cheese factory in Eisedeln.
- Relish vast panoramic views of the Bernese Oberland as you stand in the regal presence of 12th-century Thun Castle.

**Signature Moment:**

A musical maker - Meet a local musical genius in the form of an alphorn maker during a leisurely stop in Eggiwil, who'll share secrets behind the Swiss national symbol. You may even have the chance to play the long red pine instrument yourself!



Eggiwil, Switzerland

# A Journey through Germany

9 days | 8 nights | Up to 18 guests

**Tour highlights:**

- Settle in for a moment among the towering, snow-dusted peaks of the Ammergau Alps.
- Saunter through various fairytale medieval towns filled with quaint homes and charming markets.
- Sample various regional specialties, from local cheeses to homemade sweets, at Freiburg's farmer's market.



Weltenburg Abbey, Germany

**Signature Moment:**

A monastic brewery - Peek into the past to the humble beginnings of the world's first monastic brewery, dating back almost one thousand years. Our local guide will share the brewery's oldest secrets as we compare flavours during a tasting of award-winning beers.

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# Loyalty discounts

Have you travelled with us before? We love welcoming back a familiar face! Or perhaps you're looking to book more than one tour? Either way, we offer two great loyalty savings:



**Returning Guest discount** – save \$150 AUD or \$165 NZD per person if you have travelled with us before.



**Multi-Tour discount** – save \$150 AUD or \$165 NZD per person if you are booking more than one tour.



Our loyalty discounts are a little thank you for choosing to explore with us. Simply contact our lovely Customer Service team to take advantage of them.

# Frequently asked questions

## Travelling with us

### I have some health issues. Will this be a problem?

If you can manage your health issue(s) without needing additional care or facilities, and they do not present a risk to others, this shouldn't be a problem. If you're not sure, please check our Terms & Conditions (under the 'Dietary, Health and Special Requirement' section) or contact your travel agent or our friendly Customer Service team.

## Our accommodation

### Do your hotels have lifts (elevators)?

Our thoughtfully selected accommodation is full of charm and historic details. For this reason, most hotels don't have lifts – meaning you'll likely need to access your room via stairs. If you have any mobility concerns, we'll just need a quick self-assessment to check the tour will be suitable for you.

### What star rating are your hotels?

You'll stay in 3- and 4-star accommodation – including elegant country inns, grand town centre hotels and even the odd castle! We prioritise quality and local character over official ratings, but rooms will always come with en suite bathrooms.

### Will I share a room if I'm travelling alone?

We don't pair solo travellers for room sharing – instead we offer a very reasonable single supplement rate of 25% on all our tours, giving you space to relax at the end of a day's exploring.

### Can you arrange pre- and post-tour accommodation?

Yes, we can arrange extra nights in your arrival or departure city. Bear in mind that all tours start at 6pm on day one, so you may not need pre-tour accommodation – but spending a few extra days in your starting city is a great way to explore (and help banish jetlag before your tour begins!). Since most of our tours finish in the early evening, we recommend flying home the next day, just to be safe. Any questions at all, please contact our Customer Service team or your travel agent.

## Your peace of mind

### Are your tours always guaranteed to run?

We usually guarantee a tour when we have at least seven guests booked. To check, find the tour you're interested in on our website, then click on the 'Check Prices & Book' button and look out for the 'G' icon. Our Customer Service team or your travel agent will also be able to help.

### How much driving can I expect?

We keep our minicoach time to a minimum, and when we do drive, we take the most beautiful route wherever possible. Of course, some days involve longer stretches, but we aim for no more than four hours behind the wheel. Think of it as a moving postcard!

### What is and isn't included in a Back-Roads tour?

These are included in the overall price:

- Selected breakfasts, lunches and dinners – listed as (B), (L) and (D) in the itineraries
- Entrance fees to sites listed within the itinerary

Costs that are not covered include:

- Airfares
- Transfers, unless specified in the listed inclusions
- Meals not specified in the listed inclusions
- Driver/Tour Leader gratuity (given at your discretion)
- Social drinks
- Personal items
- Incidental expenses (such as hotel room service charges)
- Laundry costs
- Shipping charges for the return of purchases made
- Charges for the return of property lost on tour
- Pre- and post-tour accommodation

### How much luggage can I bring?

As we travel in minicoaches, luggage space is limited. You can bring the following:



1 x suitcase



1 x small carry-on bag (backpack or handbag)

If you have more than this, please store it before joining your tour. We are unable to carry extra luggage on the minicoach.

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