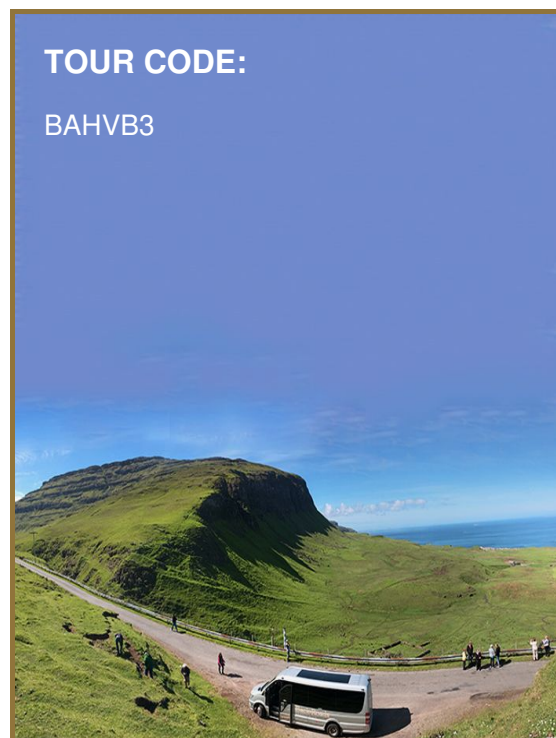




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Immerse yourself in the magic of Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary's most historic attractions and mesmerising landscapes. Starting in enchanting Vienna and finishing in cheerful Budapest, this multi-country adventure is filled with music, natural wonders, delicious foods and bustling markets – making it the ideal holiday for those seeking a taste of traditional Central Europe.



Thank you for choosing **Back-Roads**

Your extraordinary adventure awaits!

About your tour notes

These tour notes contain everything you need to know before your tour departs – from where to meet your fellow guests and local guide to what essentials to pack for your journey.

We recommend you print this document out and bring it with you on your tour. Give a copy to loved ones at home so they can follow your adventure, too.

IMPORTANT: please refresh this document as close to your departure as possible to ensure you're equipped with the latest information available.

THE BACK-ROADS DIFFERENCE

- ✔ Attend a soul-stirring classical concert at the Kursalon in Vienna
- ✔ Marvel at the captivating alpine beauty of Slovenia's Lake Bled
- ✔ Soak in the therapeutic waters of Hévíz Lake in Hungary

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Austria - EUR
- Slovenia - EUR
- Croatia - HRK
- Hungary - HUF

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | VIENNA (AUSTRIA)

A city filled with artistic and architectural masterpieces – we'll meet our Tour Leader and fellow travel companions in Austria's romantic capital of Vienna. Over an included welcome meal tonight, we'll get to know one another and clink glasses to the incredible adventure ahead. Accommodation: Hotel Post (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Dinner

DAY 2 | VIENNA

Our day will begin exploring magical Vienna, where we'll enjoy a walking tour of the town centre's most iconic landmarks with a local guide. Along the way, we'll have time to marvel at St Stephen's Cathedral, Hofburg Palace and Graben Street – before taking lunch at our leisure. The rest of the afternoon will be ours to enjoy an authentic Viennese coffee house or spent exploring the Museum Quarter before moving on to a local restaurant of our choosing. And this evening? We'll round off the day at the elegant Kursalon music hall, where we'll be treated to a classical concert featuring the masterpieces of Strauss and Mozart. Accommodation: Hotel Post (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 3 | VIENNA – PIBER – GRAZ

After breakfast, our first stop of the day will be Piber – where we've an appointment to keep at the Lipizzaner Stud, home to one of Europe's oldest purebred horses. Whilst we're here, we'll learn about the 400-year-old tradition of breeding these magnificent horses – and perhaps have the chance to see the foals with their mothers. Then: it's onwards to a nearby dairy, where we'll gain a fascinating insight into the cheesemaking process and have the opportunity to sample some local cheese, ham and wines. This afternoon, we'll set a course for Graz – enjoying a free evening to explore the bustling Hauptplatz (Old Town Square), narrow medieval streets lined with Renaissance architecture and abundance of local restaurants. Accommodation: Hotel Gollner (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 4 | GRAZ – LAKE BLEĐ (SLOVENIA) – LJUBLJANA

Farewell, Austria! Today our journey will continue into Slovenia as we set our sights on the awe-inspiring Lake Bled. Undeniably picturesque with a serene alpine vista, Lake Bled is sure to be one for the photo books! When we arrive, a unique experience awaits us at the castle: a visit to the famous Beehouse, which celebrates the Carniolan bee. After enjoying a tour and honey-tasting session, we'll move on to Ljubljana – where we'll have the evening free to walk the romantic cobbled streets in search of a local restaurant for dinner.

Accommodation: Urban Boutique Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 5 | LJUBLJANA

After breakfast, we'll enjoy an in-depth walking tour with a knowledgeable local guide. Along the way we'll pass the National Library, Preaeren Square and follow the Ljubljana River to the Three Bridges – before enjoying some free time to explore the city's medieval streets and quaint markets at our own pace. This afternoon, we'll try our hands at a Slovenian recipe or two during an included cookery class. The best part? We'll indulge in our delicious creations afterwards! Appetites satisfied, the evening will be yours to spend as you please.

Accommodation: Urban Boutique Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Dinner

DAY 6 | LJUBLJANA – NOVO MESTO – ZAGREB (CROATIA)

On today's agenda: a stop at Novo Mesto, a city situated on a picturesque bend of the Krka River. Following an included lunch, we'll embark on a guided city tour of Zagreb. Hear fascinating stories and legends from the locals who know them best as we visit the most historic areas of Croatia's capital. This evening is yours to spend relaxing at our hotel or dining at a delightful local restaurant. Accommodation: The Westin Zagreb (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Lunch

DAY 7 | ZAGREB – HÉVÍZ (HUNGARY)

Today we'll shake off any aches and pains with a visit to the biggest thermal lake in Europe: Hévíz. After lunch at our leisure, we'll have the chance to take a dip in the warm thermal waters conveniently located on our hotel's doorstep. With beautiful water lilies peppering the lake's surface – and humid air rising all around us – this truly is an unforgettable experience. Back on dry land, we'll regroup this evening for a farewell dinner. What an incredible week it's been! Accommodation: Ensana Thermal Hévíz Health Spa Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:


☑ Breakfast

☑ Dinner

DAY 8 | HÉVÍZ – TIHANY – BUDAPEST

Today, we'll make tracks to our final destination – enjoying a scenic drive along the picturesque Balaton Lake as we go. We'll make a brief photo stop at the Abbey of Tihany to admire the magnificent views, before moving on to vibrant Budapest – where our tour will come to a close.

MEALS:

 Breakfast



Tour information

Meals

INCLUDED MEALS

Breakfast (B) is included daily.

Some of your lunches and dinners are also included, either in hotels or local restaurants. These are indicated by (L) and (D) in the itinerary.

Please note that drinks will not always be included.

We will do our best to accommodate any specific dietary requirements you may have. Please ensure to make these clear to us before your tour begins so we can communicate them to our hotels, restaurants and suppliers.

Other information

Finances

CHANGING MONEY

CASH: Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, some railway and tube stations, and at major hotels (though at a less favourable rate).

CREDIT CARDS: Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. American Express is only accepted in some larger establishments.

CASH MACHINES: ATMS are widely available.

TIPPING

Tipping is entirely at your discretion. If you feel you have received exceptional service, it is recommended that you tip £1-2/€ per day for Drivers and £4- 5/€ per day for Tour Leaders.

Insurance

Before travelling with Back-Roads Touring, it is compulsory for all guests to take out comprehensive travel insurance. Please ensure your insurance covers medical expenses (including repatriation), cancellation cover, loss or damage to baggage and personal effects, money and personal liability.

We recommend you carry your insurance details with you at all times. You may be asked to provide details of your medical insurance or a payment guarantee in some countries before medical assistance can be provided.

For more information, please see our FAQ page:
www.backroadstouring.com/faqs

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team: www.backroadstouring.com/contact-us

Passports and visas

Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your tour. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your tour's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

PLEASE NOTE: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

We advise you to either carry a photocopy of your passport (and visa, if applicable) with you while abroad, or to ensure that you leave a copy with relatives back at home. This will enable the local embassy or high commission to arrange a replacement if the original should be lost or stolen. If you do take copies with you on your tour, please ensure that you keep these separate from your

Medication and mobility

Whilst on your tour, we want you to have the smoothest journey possible which requires some mobility conditions:

- You must be fit enough to get on and off the vehicle on a regular basis, and to walk around towns and villages or to attractions.
- You must be able to walk up and down stairs and use a shower over the bath.

Please note that, unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate mobility scooter or wheelchair users as we frequently stay in traditional-style hotels and the majority do not have lifts or ground-floor rooms.

If you take medicine for certain conditions, such as diabetes or heart problems, please carry it with you at all times.

Please declare any medical conditions you may have in advance of your tour. If you are in any doubt as to whether our tours are suitable for you, please contact our friendly Customer Service team:

www.backroadstouring.com/contact-us

Mental health and wellbeing

Culture shock, homesickness and periods of feeling down happen regardless of age. Be rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Tour Leader and Driver will do their utmost to make you smile.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call loved ones. Hearing a familiar voice whilst in an unfamiliar destination can help ground you and remind you you're not alone.
- Eat well. Nobody feels their best when they're hungry. There are plenty of nutritious culinary delights to be savoured along the road!
- Integrate with your fellow guests. The more you socialise with the group, the less likely you'll feel homesick.

Transport

We travel in premium mini-coaches equipped with comfortable seats, air conditioning and large windows for enjoying the view.

With far more flexibility than a standard-size coach, we're able to take the scenic route – winding through beautiful countryside to the heart of tiny villages and coastal towns.

What to bring

Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Back-Roads tours. What you pack will depend on the countries you're visiting as well as the time of year you plan to travel.

CLOTHING:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☑ Sun hat | ☑ Long-sleeved tops | ☑ Light jacket |
| ☑ Sunglasses | ☑ Short-sleeved tops | ☑ Waterproof jacket |
| ☑ Sleepwear | ☑ Shorts/skirts | ☑ Trousers |
| ☑ Warm jacket | ☑ Socks | ☑ Swimwear |
| ☑ Underwear | ☑ Smart casual evening wear | ☑ Walking shoes/comfortable shoes |

OTHER THINGS TO PACK:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ☑ Multi-use adapter plug | ☑ Toiletries | ☑ Camera |
| ☑ Batteries | ☑ Sunscreen | ☑ Towel |
| ☑ Umbrella | ☑ Reusable water bottle | ☑ Insect repellent |
| ☑ Any personal medication | ☑ Basic medical kit (including paracetamol, aspirin, plasters etc) | |

That's it!

We look forward to seeing you on tour.