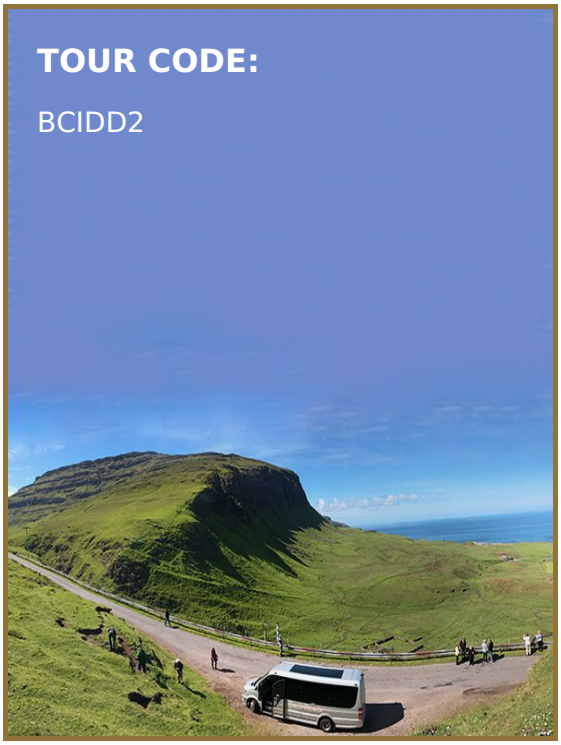


Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Views of spellbinding scenery. Stories of maritime towns and picture-book villages. Ancient castles steeped in history, and country inns full of character. The further we go into Southern Ireland's enchanting landscapes, the deeper you'll fall under its spell!





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

- Visit Molly Gallivan's Cottage and learn the story of a widow who supported her children by brewing illicit whiskey
- Discover a traditional Irish craft as you tour the famous House of Waterford Crystal
- Uncover the magnificent Cliffs of Moher – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Republic of Ireland - EUR

Your **itinerary**

DAY 1 | DUBLIN

Historic and full of character, Dublin is where we'll meet the group and begin our adventure. This evening is an opportunity to get to know one another over a delicious welcome dinner. Accommodation: The Iveagh Garden Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- Dinner

DAY 2 | DUBLIN – KILDARE – ENNIS

After breakfast, we'll hit the road to our first stop: County Kildare, where we've an appointment with the Irish National Stud. After being treated to a private tour and the chance to explore the fascinating museum, we'll move on to the award-winning gardens of Birr Castle Demesne. Take some time to wander around the grounds and admire the awe-inspiring science and engineering that has been invested in creating such a unique residence. This evening will see us checking into our hotel in Ennis, where we'll enjoy some free time to spend at our leisure. Accommodation: The Old Ground Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 3 | ENNIS – CLIFFS OF MOHER – KILLARNEY

First today: an orientation tour through Ennis' character-filled avenues, where we'll hear enthralling myths, mysteries and tales of rebellions and riots. Then: prepare to be amazed by the rugged natural beauty of the Cliffs of Moher. The keen-eyed among us – or perhaps just those who packed binoculars – may even spot a resident puffin or two. After an invigorating afternoon, we'll travel across the Shannon Estuary to Killarney: the gateway to the panoramic Ring of Kerry. Accommodation: The Cahernane House Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 4 | KILLARNEY – RING OF KERRY – KILLARNEY

This morning will see us begin our journey around the awe-inspiring Ring of Kerry. Our first stop of the day: the Skellig Experience, where we'll gain a fascinating insight into the lives of the early Christian monks that once broke bread at the Skellig Michael monastery. A real treat is in store upon our return to Killarney – where we'll enjoy a performance of traditional Irish music and dance at a Celtic Steps concert. Accommodation: The Cahernane House Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 5 | KILLARNEY – KENMARE – KINSALE

This morning we'll make our way to Molly Gallivan's Cottage – which, at first glance, appears to be an unassuming rustic farmhouse. But there's more to it than first meets the eye! More than 200 years ago, Mrs Gallivan supported her seven children by brewing illicit whiskey – and her home was, in fact, a clandestine pub. We'll learn stories of the enterprising Mrs Gallivan's antics before travelling onwards to the medieval town of Kinsale, where coastal views, cosy pubs and brightly coloured houses await us. Accommodation: Actons Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 6 | KINSALE

The cobbled streets that curve around Kinsale's pretty bay are just begging to be explored, so we'll spend this morning on a walking tour with a local guide. Bearings established, you'll be free to seek out the town's hidden treasures at your own pace. Hailed as the Gourmet Capital of Ireland – we recommend selecting a local restaurant for dinner to savour some delicious cuisine from the surrounding region. Accommodation: Actons Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- Breakfast

DAY 7 | KINSALE – WATERFORD – WEXFORD

This morning we'll move on to the charming waterfront town of Cobh. Interestingly, Cobh was the departure point for the last 123 passengers who boarded the Titanic – and you'll notice poignant markers of this as you make your way around. Later, we'll continue to Waterford. Dating back to Viking times, Waterford is Ireland's oldest city – with over 1,000 years' worth of history to explore. Gain a fascinating insight into how the city's famed crystal is made before we make our way to the medieval county town of Wexford for tonight's final meal with the group. Accommodation: Ferrycarrig Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner

DAY 8 | WEXFORD – DUBLIN

After breakfast, we’ll return to cosmopolitan Dublin – where we’ll say our goodbyes.

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 original documents.

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

Transport

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

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

Mental health and wellbeing

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

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

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

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

OTHER THINGS TO PACK:

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

That's it!

We look forward to seeing you on tour.