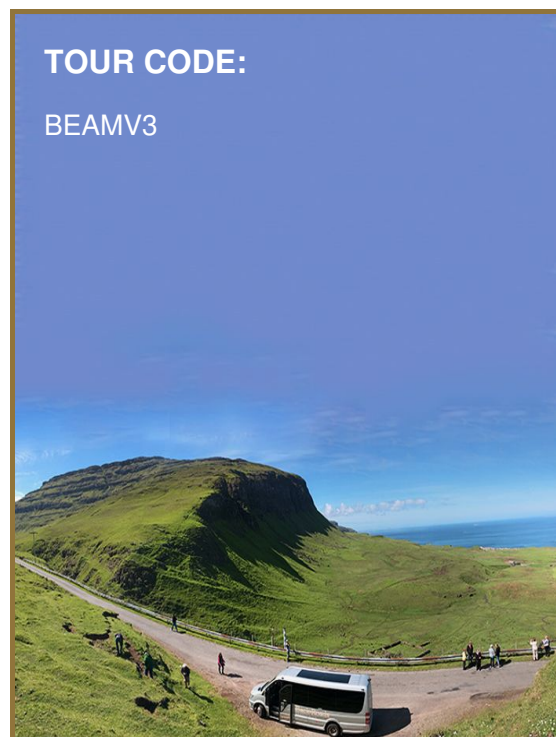




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Fall head over heels for Austria's deep valleys and sparkling blue lakes on this leisurely sojourn through enchanting alpine villages, charming Baroque cities and fascinating castles. If the breathtaking scenery doesn't capture your heart, the delicious local cuisine certainly will!



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

- ✓ Enjoy a train ride on the SchafbergBahn, a cog railway that has been in operation since 1893
- ✓ Immerse yourself in the fairytale charm of Salzburg
- ✓ Indulge in a local cheese tasting session within the majestic Salzkammergut region

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Germany - EUR
- Austria - EUR

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | MUNICH (GERMANY)

The Bavarian capital of Munich is where we'll begin our journey through this picturesque and historic country. After meeting our Tour Leader and fellow travellers at the hotel, we'll clink glasses over a sumptuous welcome dinner. Accommodation: Hotel Drei Löwen (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Dinner

DAY 2 | MUNICH – TEGERNSEE – ZELL AM SEE (AUSTRIA)

After this morning's breakfast, we'll move on to the picturesque lakeside town of Tegernsee and get better acquainted with the alpine lake on a scenic boat trip. Our next stop will be the village of Leebberghof, where we'll have some free time to admire the beautiful views and enjoy lunch at our leisure. We'll end our day in the delightful town of Zell am See – filled with majestic mountain landscapes and complete with its own shimmering blue lake. This evening is free to explore the multiple restaurants in town or relax at your leisure back at the hotel. Accommodation: Hotel St Georg (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 3 | ZELL AM SEE

Roll up those sleeves! Our day will begin with an included cookery class. A local expert will demonstrate how to make Austrian delicacies kaspresknödel (cheese dumplings) and apple strudel using fresh farm produce. When we've learnt the tricks of the trade, we'll try our hand at making the delicious treats ourselves – with the chance to taste the fruits of our labour for lunch. Following that, we'll have the afternoon to delve deeper into Zell am See. We recommend taking the impressive cable car to the summit of Mt Schmittenhöhe or enjoying some boutique shopping in town. The evening is yours to spend at your leisure relaxing at the hotel or sampling the region's delicacies at a local restaurant. Accommodation: Hotel St Georg (or similar)

MEALS:


✓ Breakfast

✓ Lunch

DAY 4 | ZELL AM SEE – BERCHTESGADEN (GERMANY) – SALZBURG (AUSTRIA)

Today, we'll head back over the border into Germany for a stop at Berchtesgaden. While we're here, we'll visit Hitler's famous Eagle's Nest, which is perched high at the top of a mountain peak overlooking the quaint Bavarian town. After wandering the very rooms where Hitler and other Nazi party officials entertained foreign diplomats and held banquets, we'll travel back down the mountain towards our next stop: Salzburg. Nestled below steep hills on the banks of the Salzach River – Salzburg is a charming city with many medieval delights to uncover. At your leisure, enjoy the evening exploring the Baroque buildings and array of restaurants within the romantic Altstadt (Old Town). Accommodation: Goldenes Theaterhotel Salzburg (or similar)


MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 5 | SALZBURG

Today you'll be free to experience the fairytale atmosphere of Salzburg and explore its spectacular Baroque sights at your own pace. The birthplace of Mozart, the impressive Hohensalzburg Fortress, Salzburg Cathedral and St Peter's Abbey are all great places to start! This evening we'll come together to enjoy dinner at a restaurant in the refined city centre, followed by a Mozart concert at the atmospheric Mirabell Palace – a frequented venue of the influential composer and his family. Accommodation: Goldenes Theaterhotel Salzburg (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

 Dinner

DAY 6 | SALZBURG – SCHAFBERGBAHN – TAUPLITZ

Today we'll board an old-fashioned cogwheel train and take the SchafbergBahn up to the top of the Schafberg mountain – soaking up some fantastic views of the Salzkammergut region along the way. Then, it's on to a quaint local farm where traditional cheeses are made. After enjoying a cheese tasting session we'll continue to the picture-perfect ski resort town of Tauplitz. Tonight, we'll enjoy some free time to settle in a local restaurant for a spot of dinner or relax at the hotel. Accommodation: Hotel Der Seebacherhof (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 7 | TAUPLITZ – ADMONT AND AMSTETTEN – WACHAU

After our breakfast in idyllic Tauplitz our road will take us to Admont Abbey: the oldest remaining monastery in Styria. We'll take some time to explore the mesmerising Baroque architecture, art and breathtaking monastic library. Our next stop will be the village of Admont where we'll have some free time to savour lunch at our leisure. Exploring is thirsty work – so it's only fitting that our next stop in Amstetten will be a local distillery! While we're here, we'll gain an insight into the cider-making process, and – of course – have a chance to taste it for ourselves. Tonight, we'll dine in the beautiful Wachau Valley for our final dinner together. Accommodation: Hotel Zum Schwarzen Bären (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Dinner

DAY 8 | WACHAU – TULLN AN DER DONAU – VIENNA

Our last day together will see us travelling to Tulln an der Donau, a historic town teeming with parks and gardens where you'll be free to lunch where you choose. Then: our tour will come to a close in buzzing Vienna, with its captivating blend of Baroque architecture, imperial palaces and musical masterpieces.

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

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 | ☑ 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.