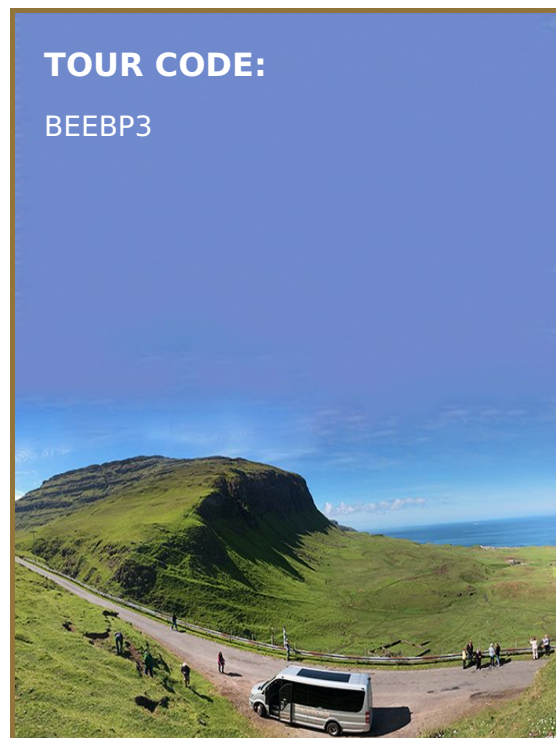




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

A land of ancient cities, time-honoured culinary customs and ever-changing landscapes, Eastern Europe rewards those ready to explore. Discover the highlights of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland on a memorable tour of this beautifully diverse region.



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

- ✓ Make authentic Polish pierogi dumplings at a traditional cookery class in Kraków
- ✓ Savour a sweet wine tasting in Hungary's world-famous Tokaj wine region
- ✓ Uncover the historic landmarks of UNESCO World Heritage-listed Český Krumlov

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Hungary - HUF
- Slovakia - EUR
- Poland - PLN
- Czech Republic - CZK

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)

A city filled with vibrance and culture – we'll meet the group in grand Budapest. After settling into our accommodation, we'll get to know our travel companions better over a sumptuous welcome dinner. Here's to the historic adventure ahead! Accommodation: Danubius Hotel Astoria (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Dinner

DAY 2 | BUDAPEST – HOLLÓKO – EGER

After breakfast, we'll make our way to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hollóko. After exploring this well-preserved traditional village, we'll have the opportunity to enjoy some Hungarian hospitality and sit down to a delicious homemade lunch with a local family. Later this afternoon, we'll move on to enchanting Eger – where we'll have the rest of the evening free to wander through the cobbled streets past beautiful Baroque buildings, quaint wine cellars and preserved Ottoman minarets. Accommodation: Hotel Korona (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

✓ Lunch

DAY 3 | EGER – TOKAJ AND KOŠICE (SLOVAKIA) – HIGH TATRAS

Today our road will carry us to Tokaj, where we'll have the opportunity to taste some of the region's world-famous wines. This relatively small wine region in north-eastern Hungary has been producing Tokaji Aszú for centuries – earning it a UNESCO World Heritage listing since 2002. Following our visit, we'll move on to the city of Košice in Slovakia. After a photo stop at the grand Spiš Castle, we'll set a course for our hotel in the heart of the magnificent High Tatras region. Tonight will be free to enjoy relaxing at our hotel or exploring the surrounding area at our leisure. Accommodation: Grand Hotel Praha (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 4 | HIGH TATRAS

After breakfast it's onwards to the mountain slopes, where we'll take in some marvellous views on a morning cable car ride. The High Tatras is the tallest range in the Carpathian Mountains and we'll enjoy the panoramic return journey to its second highest peak – Lomnický štít, with incredible views from the summit of course. When we're back on terra firma, we'll hit the road to a local farm – where a homemade cheese tasting session and light lunch await us. Then: it's back to the hotel for an evening spent at our leisure. Accommodation: Grand Hotel Praha (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Lunch

DAY 5 | HIGH TATRAS – WIELICZKA (POLAND) – KRAKÓW

Today we'll visit the extraordinary Wieliczka Salt Mine. Dating back to the 13th century, its otherworldly chandelier-lit chambers and chapels are all carved from salt. Ensure you're wearing comfortable attire for this activity – there's plenty of adventure to be had (descending 135 metres underground, discovering a 3k labyrinth of winding galleries and climbing 800 stairs)! After emerging back into the daylight, our final stop for the day will be Kraków: our home for the next two nights. A city filled with magnificent architecture and culinary delights, you'll have the evening to explore this historic city at your leisure – perhaps seeking out a local restaurant serving up steaming plates of kielbasa (sausage) or sampling a tipple of Polish vodka in a Gothic cellar. Accommodation: Hotel Polski pod Białym Orlem (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast

DAY 6 | KRAKÓW

Today we'll give Kraków our full attention on a locally guided city tour – taking in the likes of Wawel Royal Castle, the medieval St Mary's Basilica and historic Cloth Hall. Heads full of newfound knowledge, we'll have the afternoon to explore at our own pace – and lunch at a restaurant of our choosing. This evening we'll be treated to a pierogi making class, where we'll learn how to cook classic Polish dumplings – and sample our creations for this evening's dinner. Accommodation: Hotel Polski pod Białym Orlem (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Dinner

DAY 7 | KRAKÓW – AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU – OLOMOUC (CZECH REPUBLIC)

We'll take a guided tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp today – a sobering reminder of the atrocities committed by the Nazis in WWII. After a moving visit, we'll continue on to the Czech city of Olomouc – a majestic city dotted with Baroque fountains, 18th-century religious sculptures and remarkable historic buildings. We'll have the evening free to explore the city's highlights, including the Romanesque Bishop's Palace, St Wenceslas Cathedral and Town Hall, before seeking out a local restaurant for dinner at our leisure. Accommodation: Hotel Arigone (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 8 | OLOMOUC – BRNO AND TREBON – Ceský KRUMLOV

This morning we'll continue our journey to Brno, the Czech Republic's second largest city – where our Tour Leader will show us the sights. Following that, we'll move on to charming Trebon – a town that's home to a 17th-century Renaissance château complex. We'll round off the day in the picturesque town of Ceský Krumlov – where we'll have the evening to explore at our own pace or enjoy some relaxation time back at our hotel. Accommodation: Hotel Grand (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 9 | Ceský KRUMLOV

This morning we'll explore Ceský Krumlov's cobbled streets on a walking tour with a local guide – taking in the vast castle and its spectacular interiors as we go. Built in the 13th century, Ceský Krumlov Castle features a stunning mix of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture – as well as panoramic views over the Old Town and Vltava River below. Following our in-depth tour, we'll have the afternoon to take in the town's historic sites at our own pace. This evening, we'll come together for our last hurrah – a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. What better way to toast our incredible tour? Accommodation: Hotel Grand (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Dinner

DAY 10 | Ceský KRUMLOV – TÁBOR – PRAGUE

The last day of the tour will begin with a visit to Tábor – where a decadent tasting at the Museum of Chocolate and Marzipan awaits. We'll have the opportunity to observe the confectioners at work and create our very own gourmet souvenir, before we move on to captivating Prague – where we'll say our goodbyes this afternoon.

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

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.**