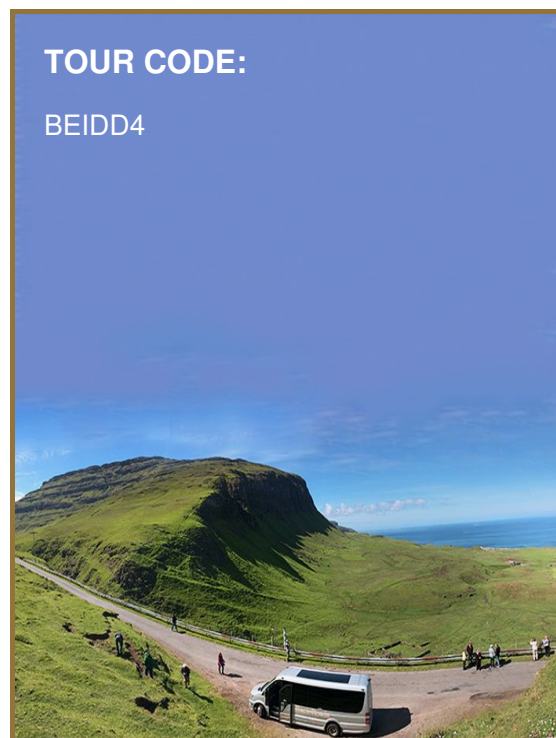




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

From north to south, this is one Irish journey that delves into the Emerald Isle's fascinating history, rich traditions and cultural heritage like no other. Starting with the legendary Giant's Causeway, our road will lead us to Ireland's rugged peninsulas, quaint villages and ancient landmarks – all while drawing on local knowledge to transport you to the heart of this captivating country.



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

- ✔ Discover Northern Ireland's history on a Black Cab Tour of Belfast's street art and political murals
- ✔ Set foot on the basalt columns of the legendary Giant's Causeway
- ✔ Be blessed with the 'gift of the gab' while visiting the iconic Blarney Castle
- ✔ Uncover the magnificent Cliffs of Moher – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Republic of Ireland - EUR
- Northern Ireland - GBP

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | DUBLIN (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

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: Ashling Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Dinner

DAY 2 | DUBLIN – BELFAST (NORTHERN IRELAND)

After breakfast, we'll make tracks to the fascinating Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre. Then, a visit to the Titanic Museum to discover the personal stories surrounding the infamous ship's fateful journey. After a history-filled day (a taste of what's to come), the evening will be yours to explore Belfast at your leisure.

Accommodation: Malone Lodge (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 3 | BELFAST – NORTH IRISH COAST (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

You don't have to delve deep into Northern Ireland's past to see its influences on contemporary culture – and this morning's Black Cab tour of Belfast's street art and political murals will serve as proof. After lunch, it's time to explore Ireland's natural geological wonder – the Giant's Causeway. Next, you'll settle into your hotel on the North Irish Coast and tuck into a delicious included dinner. Accommodation: Redcastle Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

✓ Dinner

DAY 4 | NORTH IRISH COAST – DERRY – NORTH IRISH COAST

After a morning spent exploring Londonderry's old city walls with a local guide, we'll board the mini-coach and head to the North Irish Coast for the day. At the Isle of Doagh, we'll pay a visit to the Famine Village and Visitor Centre to gain an insight into Irish life during the time of the Great Famine. We'll round off the day with some free time to relax back at the hotel. Accommodation: Redcastle Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 5 | NORTH IRISH COAST – COUNTY ROSCOMMON

More fascinating history is on the cards today! Kick things off with a visit to the Ulster American Folk Park, where we'll learn why two million Irish people sailed away to start a life in the New World. A visit to the Belleek Pottery Centre (the home of Ireland's oldest working fine china pottery) is on this afternoon's agenda, before moving on to County Roscommon, where we'll regroup for an included dinner. Accommodation: Kilronan Castle (or similar)

MEALS:

- ✓ Breakfast
- ✓ Dinner

DAY 6 | COUNTY ROSCOMMON – GALWAY

After breakfast, we'll pay a visit to the homestead of Dan O'Hara (he of the famous ballad), where we'll gain a unique insight into pre-famine life and culture. Then, it's time to turn our attention to the harbour city of Galway where we'll enjoy an evening of leisure. Accommodation: The Dean (or similar)

MEALS:

- ✓ Breakfast

DAY 7 | GALWAY

Today we'll see the likes of the Spanish Arch, Galway Cathedral and Eyre Square on an orientation tour of the city. Then: the afternoon will be yours to spend exploring brightly coloured pubs, tasting local seafood and listening to the ever-present assembly of tuneful street performers. Buzzing, bohemian and utterly charismatic, you're sure to fall for Galway's many charms! Accommodation: The Dean (or similar)

MEALS:

- ✓ Breakfast

DAY 8 | GALWAY – CLIFFS OF MOHER – DINGLE PENINSULA

Out of Galway and onwards to the karst landscapes of the Burren. Before we reach our accommodation in the Dingle Peninsula, we'll round off the day with a visit to the magnificent Cliffs of Moher – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that is bound to take your breath away. Tonight, share stories with your travel companions over an included dinner. Accommodation: Dingle Bennekers Hotel (or similar)


MEALS:

- ✓ Breakfast
- ✓ Dinner

DAY 9 | DINGLE PENINSULA

Today will begin at one of the Dingle Peninsula's most famous landmarks: the Gallarus Oratory, a unique stone chapel that resembles an upturned boat. After that, there's one more stop in store – the fascinating Blasket Centre, which celebrates the history of the beautiful Great Blasket Island. Upon our return to Dingle, we'll have plenty of free time to explore the quaint fishing port and dine at one of the many local restaurants at our leisure. Accommodation: Dingle Benzers Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 10 | DINGLE PENINSULA – COUNTY CORK

Peaks and lakes are on the menu today! First, we'll take in the views across the stunning Lakes of Killarney. Then, we have an appointment to keep with a true Irish icon: Blarney Castle. Legend has it that you'll be blessed with the 'gift of the gab' if you kiss the famous Blarney Stone – a block of limestone built into the castle's battlements. Tonight, we'll make the most of our new-found eloquence over dinner. Accommodation: Vienna Woods (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

 Dinner

DAY 11 | COUNTY CORK – KINSALE – COUNTY CORK

After boarding the mini-coach in County Cork, the port town of Kinsale will be our first stop of the day where we'll have some time to soak up fishing town's laid-back atmosphere. Then, it's time to turn our attention toward the world-renowned Jameson Distillery. After an afternoon tour and whiskey tasting, we'll return to the hotel to enjoy the evening at our leisure. Accommodation: Vienna Woods (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 12 | COUNTY CORK – KILKENNY

As we approach the final few chapters of the tour, we'll stop in to admire the delicate detailing of a traditional cottage orné. After that, it's time to spend the afternoon acquainting ourselves with Kilkenny – Ireland's 'most perfect' medieval city. Our Tour Leader will take us for a leisurely walk around town before we come together for our last hurrah: a delicious farewell dinner. What an adventure it's been! Accommodation: The Hibernian (or similar)

MEALS:


 Breakfast

 Dinner

DAY 13 | KILKENNY – DUBLIN

After breakfast, we'll return to cosmopolitan Dublin – 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.