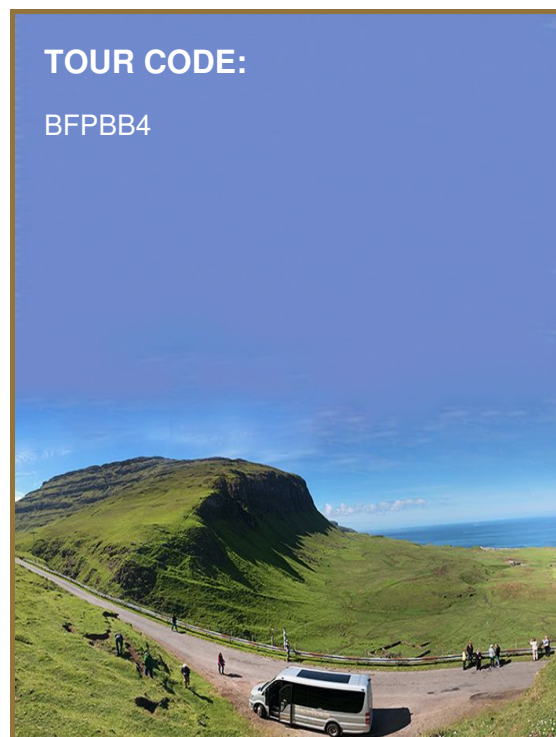




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

The enchanting Italian region of Puglia is famous for its historic cities, quaint fishing villages and exquisite cuisine. From Naples to Bari, Lecce, Martina Franca, Matera and back again, we'll delve into the area's many splendours – touring historic towns, discovering local traditions and indulging in a tasting or two along the way.



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

- ✓ Immerse yourself in the fascinating history of the Sassi di Matera cave dwellings
- ✓ Sample the rich flavours of Manduria's famous Primitivo wines with a local tasting
- ✓ Explore the awe-inspiring expanse of Castellana Caves

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Italy - EUR

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | NAPLES (ITALY)

A hub of intoxicating culture and historic masterpieces – we'll meet the group in the vibrant city of Naples. After settling in, tonight we'll have the opportunity to get to know one another over a delicious welcome meal.

Accommodation: Palazzo Salgar (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Dinner

DAY 2 | NAPLES – ANDRIA – BARI

After breakfast, we'll board the mini-coach and hit the road to the first stop of our journey: Andria. Whilst we're here, a local expert will reveal how mozzarella and burrata are made – and we'll have the chance to taste both delicious cheeses before we move on to bustling Bari. First, we'll uncover the city's seaside charms and rich history with a local guide. Then, we'll enjoy the rest of the evening to delve into the vibrant food scene at our leisure. As the birthplace of orecchiette pasta, we recommend sampling the local hand-made delicacy in one of the trattorias of Bari's Old Town. Accommodation: Hotel Excelsior Bari (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 3 | BARI – OSTUNI – LECCE

Today, we'll leave Bari behind as we make tracks to Ostuni – also known as the 'White City' thanks to its plenitude of white-washed houses. Upon arrival, we'll learn the secrets behind some traditional cuisine at a cooking demonstration and savour our sumptuous creations for lunch. Appetites satiated, we'll move on to magnificent Lecce where we'll enjoy an in-depth walking tour. Resplendent church facades and intricately detailed gargoyles – our local guide will take us around the exquisite Baroque architecture that gives the city its distinctive character. Later, the evening is ours to explore. Accommodation: Hotel Santa Chiara (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

✓ Lunch

DAY 4 | LECCE – GALLIPOLI – LECCE

This morning, we've an appointment to keep at an underground olive mill museum in the historic fishing port of Gallipoli. Here, we'll uncover the age-old technique of how local farmers extracted 'green gold' to be exported across Europe. Then, we'll enjoy some free time to wander at our leisure - before returning to Lecce. Impressive sandstone buildings, upmarket boutiques, winding alleyways and spectacular piazzas await. Accommodation: Hotel Santa Chiara (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 5 | LECCE – MANDURIA – MARTINA FRANCA - ITRIA VALLEY

Today, we'll make our way into the stunning Manduria region. We'll savour a tasting of the region's famous Primitivo wine - a unique blend that draws its intense flavours and deep colours from the region's indigenous grapes. Following that, we'll move on to the striking town of Martina Franca where we'll savour some time to ourselves, before travelling to Itria Valley. This evening, we'll clink glasses over an included meal and share stories of our day. Accommodation: Hotel Il Palmento (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Dinner

DAY 6 | ITRIA VALLEY – ALBEROBELLO – CASTELLANA CAVES – ITRIA VALLEY

Our first stop of the day will be Alberobello - a UNESCO World Heritage site that's famous for its charming cone-topped trulli. After learning more about the limestone buildings on a locally guided walking tour, we'll move on to the spellbinding Castellana Caves. This expansive cave system boasts a unique landscape of stalactites and stalagmites that have formed over 2 million years. You'll have some free time to explore at your own pace - however visiting the breathtaking Grotta Bianca is a must! Accommodation: Hotel Il Palmento (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 7 | ITRIA VALLEY – ALTAMURA – MATERA

This morning we'll explore the medieval streets of Altamura with a local guide - with an included bread tasting session at a quaint local bakery to round off our visit. Then, our journey continues onwards to the mesmerising city of Matera: the jewel of the Basilicata region. We'll embark on a walking tour of the ancient Sassi cave dwellings - with our local guide providing a fascinating insight into Matera's extraordinary history. Later, we'll enjoy some relaxation time back at our hotel - before coming together for tonight's final group dinner. Accommodation: Matera Hotel Sassi (or similar)

MEALS:


☑ Breakfast

☑ Dinner

DAY 8 | MATERA – NAPLES

After a leisurely breakfast, we'll say goodbye to beautiful Matera as we hit the road again. Coming full circle this afternoon – our tour will end in Naples.

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.