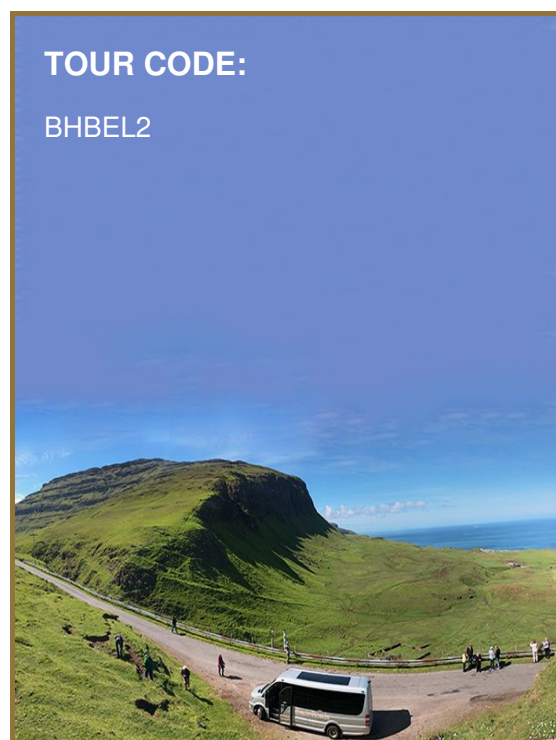




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Join us for a classic Back-Roads journey that delves deep into Britain's fascinating history and culture. In England we'll trace the footsteps of famous writers and poets, uncovering the scenic countryside that inspired their greatest works. While in North Wales and Scotland, our journey will take in evocative scenery and dramatic castles – immersing ourselves in age-old traditions as we go. Experience it all on this unforgettable 11-day journey.



TOUR CODE:

BHBEL2

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 Britain's literary greats at Beatrix Potter's Hill Top Farm and Rydal Mount – William Wordsworth's family home
- ✓ Explore some of Britain's most spectacular regions including the Cotswolds, Snowdonia National Park, the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District
- ✓ Wander through the medieval Shambles and Snickelways of York
- ✓ Immerse yourself in the grandeur and opulence of Castle Howard

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Scotland - GBP
- England - GBP
- Wales - GBP

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | EDINBURGH

The handsome city of Edinburgh is where we'll meet for the start of our incredible journey. Tonight, we'll get to know one another over a delicious welcome dinner. Accommodation: Eden Locke Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Dinner

DAY 2 | EDINBURGH – SCOTTISH BORDERS

After breakfast, we'll leave the Scottish capital behind us and head to the majestic 15th-century Rosslyn Chapel. Next we'll stop at Abbotsford mansion, the refined former home of Sir Walter Scott, before settling in the Scottish Borders for the evening where there's a cultural treat in store! A traditional haggis dinner and bagpipe demonstration will provide us with a grand ending to the night. Accommodation: Woodland House Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

✓ Dinner

DAY 3 | SCOTTISH BORDERS – LAKE DISTRICT

Today we'll visit Birdoswald Roman Fort in Cumbria. Located on the longest continuous stretch of Hadrian's Wall, here we'll take some time to uncover centuries-old history and admire the awe-inspiring vistas. Finally we'll travel on to the spectacular Lake District – a fitting conclusion to a day of stunning scenery. Accommodation: Low Wood Bay Resort & Spa (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 4 | LAKE DISTRICT

What better way to spend the day than discovering the Lake District's historic highlights? Our first stop on the shores of Lake Windermere will be Beatrix Potter's Hill Top Farm – the place where she wrote many of her beloved children's stories. Next we'll visit the charming Rydal Mount and Gardens, the historic family home of William Wordsworth. Later, a scenic lake cruise awaits. We'll take to the water to soak up this breathtaking setting before returning to our accommodation for a group dinner. Accommodation: Low Wood Bay Resort & Spa (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

✓ Dinner

DAY 5 | LAKE DISTRICT – CASTLE HOWARD – YORK

Today our path will take us through Yorkshire Dales National Park, passing by rivers, tiny villages and centuries-old stone walls. Then we'll rewind to the glory days of the English country estate with a self-guided tour of the magnificent Castle Howard. We'll conclude the day in the elegant city of York. Accommodation: Churchill Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 6 | YORK

We've a full day to spend getting to grips with York, starting with an orientation tour of the Old Town. There are centuries of history to uncover along the medieval Shambles and Snickelways – and plenty of photo opportunities to be claimed! This evening is ours to spend at leisure in town or back at the hotel. Accommodation: Churchill Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 7 | YORK – LIVERPOOL – DENBIGHSHIRE

Today's itinerary has a distinctly musical theme. After breakfast, we'll leave York behind us and move on to Liverpool – the welcoming (and fiercely proud) city that gave birth to The Beatles. What better way to get into the 'Beatlemania' spirit than a visit to The Beatles Story museum? Toes still tapping, we'll round off the day in Denbighshire where we'll dine as a group. Accommodation: The Mulberry Inn (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

 Dinner

DAY 8 | DENBIGHSHIRE – SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK – DENBIGHSHIRE

Prepare for a soul-stirring sight this morning – the magnificent Snowdonia National Park (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) is our next stop. Boasting 823 square miles of captivatingly diverse landscapes, Snowdonia National Park is an area steeped in culture and local history. We'll spend the day exploring the park together before returning to the hotel, with the evening to spend at our leisure. Accommodation: The Mulberry Inn (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 9 | DENBIGHSHIRE – WORCESTER – COTSWOLDS

We'll discover more about the crusades of saints and kings on a visit of Worcester Cathedral. Then: it's off to the Cotswolds, where we'll spend some time exploring charming villages full of honey-coloured cottages. This evening is ours to spend as we please. Accommodation: Three Ways House Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 10 | COTSWOLDS – STRATFORD-UPON-AVON – COTSWOLDS

There will be plenty of time to enjoy this morning at your leisure before we board the mini-coach and make tracks to Stratford-upon-Avon – the picturesque Tudor market town where William Shakespeare was born. We'll have some time to follow in the Bard's footsteps before returning to the Cotswolds for a final group dinner. Accommodation: Three Ways House Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Dinner

DAY 11 | COTSWOLDS – OXFORD – LONDON

After breakfast, we'll leave the Cotswolds behind us and set a course for the 'dreaming spires' of Oxford, where we'll enjoy a walking tour of this medieval university city with our Back-Roads Tour Leader. Our tour will conclude upon arrival in London, where it's time to say our goodbyes.



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.