



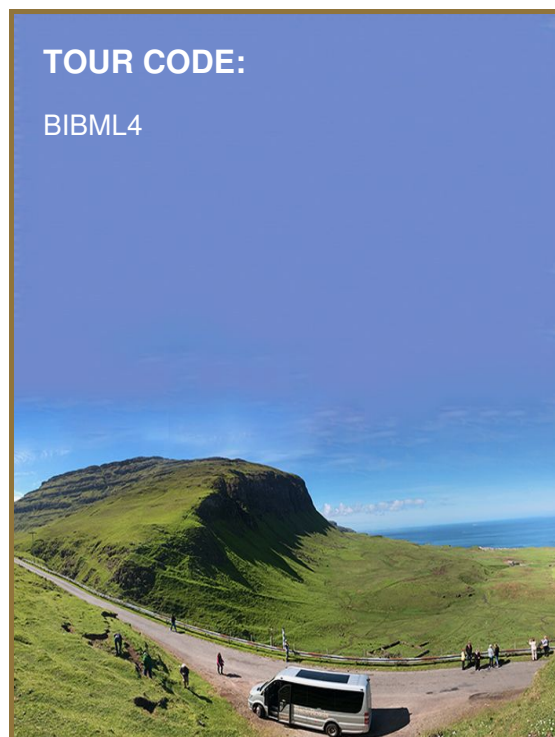
Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

East meets West and past meets present: Spain and Portugal offer a heady mix of treasures, from Arabic palaces and Roman temples to Catholic cathedrals and Jewish synagogues. Join us as we take to the scenic back roads on this journey into the heart of ancient Iberia.



TOUR CODE:

BIBML4



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

- ✓ Experience the historic charm of Córdoba, Granada, Úbeda, Estremoz and Ronda with stays in charming old town hotels
- ✓ Sample authentic jamón ibérico at a traditional farm in Sierra de Aracena
- ✓ Enjoy a traditional flamenco show in Seville
- ✓ Visit the spectacular Córdoba Mezquita – a UNESCO-protected mosque

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Spain - EUR
- Portugal - EUR

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | MADRID (SPAIN)

Our tour will begin in vibrant Madrid, where we'll meet the group and kick off our adventure with a delicious welcome dinner. Salud! Accommodation: Hotel Puerta Del Sol (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Dinner

DAY 2 | MADRID – TOLEDO

After breakfast, we'll board the mini-coach and head for Toledo - a beguiling riverside city where centuries of history come alive. A guided city tour and visits to the Monastery of San Juan de los Reyes and the Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca will help us get a grip on the area's unique cultural heritage before we retire to our hotel for the night. Accommodation: Hotel Carlos V (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 3 | TOLEDO – VALDEPEÑAS – CÓRDOBA

Today our journey will continue south across the vast plains of La Mancha towards Valdepeñas – where we'll pause to visit a local bodega for a wine tasting session and lunch. Appetites satisfied, we'll move on to beautiful Córdoba – our home for the next two nights. Accommodation: Las Casas de la Judería de Córdoba (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Lunch

DAY 4 | CÓRDOBA

Prepare to step back in time to the days of Islamic Iberia – a locally guided tour of Córdoba's Old Town awaits! After visiting the spectacular Mezquita (a UNESCO-protected mosque), you'll be free to explore the city at your own pace. Seek out hidden squares and local cafés, pamper yourself at a traditional hammam or simply sit back and marvel at the city's magnificent architecture – this afternoon is all about you. Accommodation: Las Casas de la Judería de Córdoba (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 5 | CÓRDOBA – ÚBEDA – GRANADA

Our next stop will be Úbeda, a World Heritage-listed town filled with spectacular Renaissance palaces. There will be just enough time to pause and taste some authentic Spanish olive oil before we move on to enchanting Granada. Accommodation: Sercotel Palacio de los Gamboa (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 6 | GRANADA

An energetic university city with an ancient past – Granada is truly magnificent. No visit would be complete without stepping foot in the ancient walled Alhambra fortress. One of the world's best examples of Islamic architecture, we'll enjoy a guided tour around a few sections of this intricately decorated complex. Then, the rest of the day is yours to explore Granada at your leisure. Accommodation: Sercotel Palacio de los Gamboa (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 7 | GRANADA – RONDA

You can rest assured that today's journey will be just as much fun as the destination! From Granada, our path will turn east as we make the scenic journey to the mountaintop city of Ronda, where we'll get our bearings on an orientation tour. Tonight, we'll come together for dinner in a local restaurant. Accommodation: Hotel Maestranza (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

 Dinner

DAY 8 | RONDA – GRAZALEMA, ARCOS AND JEREZ – SEVILLE

Today it's back on the road – with stops at the picturesque white villages of Grazalema and Arcos to look forward to. This afternoon we'll set our sights on Jerez – where we'll be treated to a sherry tasting session and tapas lunch at a local winery. Tonight, a traditional flamenco show will help us settle into Seville. Accommodation: Las Casas de la Judería (or similar)

MEALS:


 Breakfast

 Lunch

DAY 9 | SEVILLE

We've a full day to spend getting acquainted with the charismatic city of Seville. First, a locally guided walking tour and a visit to the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site of Alcázar of Seville. Then, the day is yours to spend at your leisure. Whether you want to seek out Roman ruins, hunt down Moorish mosaics or visit classical squares, there are plenty of historic sites to keep you occupied here. Feeling hungry? You could always sample some Andalucían specialities at one of the city's abundant bars... Accommodation: Las Casas de la Judería (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 10 | SEVILLE – SIERRA DE ARACENA

Back to nature today. After breakfast we'll make tracks to the Sierra de Aracena, an unspoilt mountain range peppered with castles, quaint villages and pastures. While we're here, we'll pay a visit a local pig farm – where we'll be lucky enough to taste some authentic jamón ibérico and local cheeses. Accommodation: Hotel Convento Aracena (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

DAY 11 | SIERRA DE ARACENA – MONSARAZ (PORTUGAL) – ESTREMOZ

Our first stop of the day will be Monsaraz, a charming Portuguese hilltop village with sweeping views of the Alqueva Dam. We'll take some time to explore its narrow streets before moving on to Estremoz for an afternoon of leisure time. Tonight, we'll raise a toast to our Iberian adventure over a farewell dinner. Accommodation: Pousada Castelo de Estremoz (or similar)

MEALS:

 Breakfast

 Dinner

DAY 12 | ESTREMOZ – ÉVORA – LISBON

Onwards to Évora, the capital of the Alentejo region. This afternoon will see our tour come to a close in postcard-perfect Lisbon.

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.