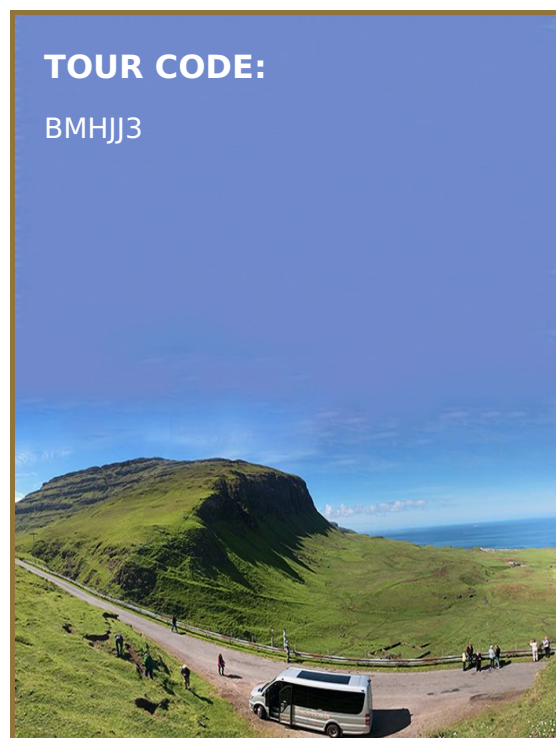
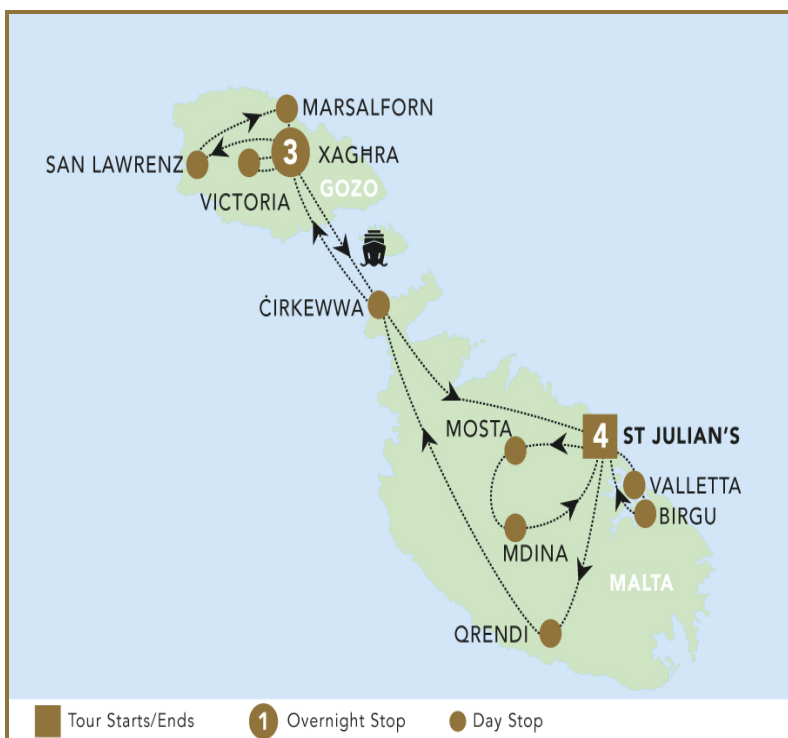




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Explore the wonders of Malta on this incredible tour – from the capital, Valletta, to the historically rich towns of Birgu and Mdina, and the villages of Gozo. Along the way you'll see picturesque harbours and indulge in cheese and wine tastings, with plenty of time to visit the hidden coves and beaches of this charming archipelago.



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

- ✓ Uncover the rich history and magnificent Baroque architecture of Valletta with a local guide
- ✓ Enjoy a scenic cruise around the breathtaking Blue Grotto
- ✓ Explore the fortified medieval city of Mdina

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Malta - EUR

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | ST JULIAN'S (MALTA)

We'll meet the group in the picturesque resort town of St Julian's and get to know one another over a delicious welcome meal. Welcome to Malta! Accommodation: The George Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Dinner

DAY 2 | ST JULIAN'S – MOSTA AND MDINA – ST JULIAN'S

We'll begin our second day together with a visit to the stunning Mosta Church, before we move on to the beautiful wilderness of the Buskett Gardens. Enjoy some free time wandering the only woodland area in Malta before we continue to the island's old capital: Mdina, also known as the 'silent city'. Here we'll explore the extraordinary mix of medieval and Baroque architecture with a local guide and have some free time to enjoy lunch at our leisure. On this afternoon's agenda: an indulgent wine tasting at a local winery. You'll find it difficult to find a bottle of Maltese wine back home, so we recommend purchasing a bottle before we return to St Julian's for an evening spent relaxing at our hotel or exploring the array of restaurants and waterfront bars. Accommodation: The George Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 3 | ST JULIAN'S – VALLETTA AND BIRGU – ST JULIAN'S

Our third day of exploration will begin with a locally guided walking tour of Valletta. We'll stroll by the New Parliament Building, Upper Barrakka Gardens, Grand Harbour and Grandmaster's Palace, uncovering the tiny capital's rich history as we go. Then, we'll enjoy free time to wander the stunning Baroque architecture of St John's Co-Cathedral. For lunch, we'll savour a traditional Maltese Ftira meal. Continuing on, we'll visit the oldest area in Malta: Birgu – commonly referred to as Città Vittoriosa (Victorious City). We'll enjoy a walking tour through the city's ancient narrow streets with a local guide – visiting the likes of the Inquisitor's Palace and panoramic Gardjola Gardens. After a full day, enjoy an evening spent at your leisure back in St Julian's. Accommodation: The George Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Lunch

DAY 4 | ST JULIAN'S

Today is yours to spend entirely at your leisure. You may want to explore on a harbour cruise around the ports of Valletta – a natural treasure trove for photographers. Alternatively, you could spend the day enjoying the stunning views from our hotel's rooftop terrace or relaxing by the swimming pool. This evening, we recommend venturing out in search of a waterfront alfresco restaurant for some delicious local seafood. Accommodation: The George Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 5 | ST JULIAN'S – QRENDI AND CIRKEWWA – XAGHRA (GOZO)

Today's agenda begins with a stop at the Hagar Qim temples, where we'll have the opportunity to explore this remarkable site with a local guide. Then, we'll journey onwards the mesmerising Blue Grotto. Enjoy a locally guided boat trip around the phosphorescent coloured bays and complex of limestone caves – before continuing on to the ferry point at Cirkewwa, with a photo stop at Popeye's Village along the way. After a speedboat transfer to Gozo, the evening in Xaghra will be ours to spend exploring at our own pace. Accommodation: The Cornucopia Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 6 | XAGHRA – VICTORIA – XAGHRA

Today we'll visit the spectacular megalithic temple complex of Ggantija – the most ancient temples in Malta and boasting an ancient history that's older than the pyramids of Egypt. After moving on to the imposing Old Citadel in Victoria – the ancient fortified city that can be seen from almost anywhere on Gozo, we'll enjoy a delectable Maltese lunch. After stopping off for a photo or two at the peaceful village of Sannat, we'll round off the day with a visit to the Dreams of Horses Farm. There, we'll observe a cheese making demonstration followed by a guided tour around the equestrian therapy centre with a member of the team, learning how horse therapy comforts people. Later, an evening of leisure time is in store for us back at the hotel. Accommodation: The Cornucopia Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Lunch

DAY 7 | XAGHRA – SAN LAWRENZ AND MARSALFORN – XAGHRA

We may be nearing the end of our journey, but there's still plenty to explore! First, we'll stop to visit Fungus Rock – an islet off the coast of San Lawrenz that holds a peculiar history. After hearing the stories from our local guide, we'll move on to the unusual Xwejni Salt Pans. A 350-year-old checkerboard of rock-cut salt pans, the production of sea salt here has been passed from generation to generation and is a fascinating sight to behold. Before returning to Xaghra, we'll make a refreshing stop at Xwejni Bay for a dip in the crystal-clear water. Later, we'll come together for one last dinner together, sharing stories of the week's adventures. Accommodation: The Cornucopia Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Dinner

DAY 8 | XAGHRA – ST JULIAN'S (MALTA)

After a final breakfast and leisurely morning, we'll catch the ferry back to St Julian's – where our tour will end later 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.**