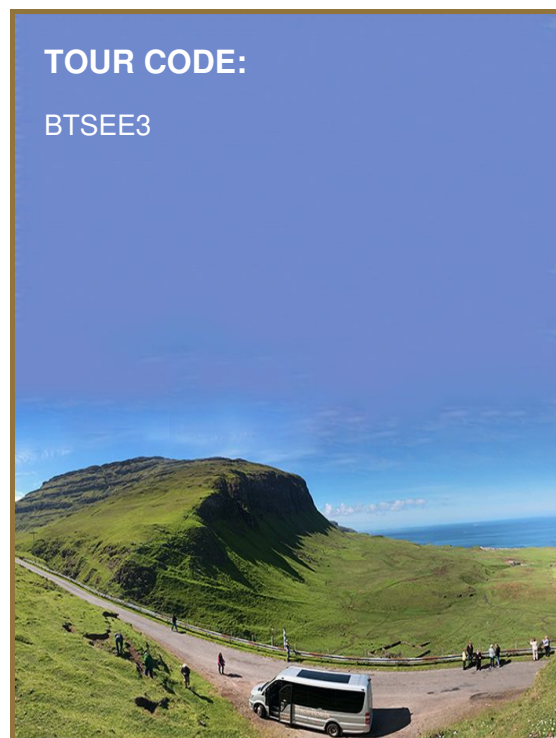




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Enchanting lochs, haunting glens and soaring mountains: Scotland is home to many diverse treasures. On this tour of the historic Borders and scenic Central Belt, we'll discover some of the country's most spectacular views, fascinating stories and long-standing traditions – all of which are to be found in lesser-visited locations off the beaten track. Ready to discover another side to Scotland? This is the trip for you.



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 soul-stirring views on a Highland safari in Perthshire
- ✓ Admire the stunning natural beauty of Loch Lomond aboard a scenic cruise
- ✓ Visit the 18th-century mill village of New Lanark, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Scotland - GBP

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | EDINBURGH (SCOTLAND)

A land of magnificent historical treasures and imagination-firing landscapes – we'll meet in Bonnie Scotland's picturesque capital. After settling into our hand-picked hotel, we'll get to know one another better over a deliciously hearty welcome meal. Here's to the incredible journey ahead! Accommodation: Malmaison Edinburgh City (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Dinner

DAY 2 | EDINBURGH – DOUNE – PERTHSHIRE

After a leisurely breakfast, we'll board the mini-coach and make our way to Doune – where a visit to the imposing Doune Castle awaits. After spending some time admiring the castle interior and views from the battlements, we'll roll through the spellbinding Sma' Glen en route to Perthshire – a region known for its picturesque lochs, looming mountain ranges and lush forests. Here we'll indulge in delicious smoked salmon tasting at Dunkeld Smokehouse, before having the evening free to explore our surrounds or relax at the hotel. Accommodation: The Royal George Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 3 | PERTHSHIRE

Today is one for the nature-lovers amongst us! After breakfast, we'll set off to explore the vastness of the highlands with a kilted safari ranger – going off-road through wild terrain to take in the area's spectacular mountain views. We may even be lucky enough to glimpse a golden eagle, mountain hare or grouse as we go. After an adventurous ride, we'll move on to the Red Deer Centre – where we'll have the opportunity to see Britain's largest native land mammal up close. Then: we'll return to the hotel for an afternoon of leisure time. Accommodation: The Royal George Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 4 | PERTHSHIRE– SCOTTISH CRANNOG CENTRE – LUSS

Today we've an appointment to keep at the Scottish Crannog Centre. Walking in the footsteps of the original Crannog dwellers, we'll immerse ourselves in a variety of craft, textile and cooking demonstrations – gaining a unique insight into Scotland's extensive and fascinating history. Following our visit, we have a whisky tasting session to look forward to at the postcard-perfect Glengoyne Distillery. Continuing our journey, we'll end the day along the western shore of Loch Lomond in the picturesque village of Luss – where a sumptuous group dinner awaits. Accommodation: Lodge on Loch Lomond (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☒ Breakfast
- ☒ Dinner

DAY 5 | LUSS – GLENCOE – LUSS

More breathtaking scenery is on the cards today as we take a day trip through the magnificent Glencoe valley. Sit back and enjoy the leisurely pace as we admire the towering mountain ranges formed by volcanic eruptions and glacial movement thousands of years ago. While we're here, we'll visit Glencoe Visitor Centre and learn the haunting story of the Glencoe Massacre of 1692. Afterwards, we'll savour an afternoon of leisure time when we return to Luss.

MEALS:

- ☒ Breakfast

DAY 6 | LUSS – NEW LANARK – SCOTTISH BORDERS

This morning, we'll round off our visit to Loch Lomond with a scenic loch cruise. After losing ourselves amidst the views of islands, mountains and trees, we'll head back to dry land for the journey to the Scottish Borders. Along the way, we'll make a stop in New Lanark. This 18th-century mill village was founded in the midst of the booming cotton industry (and is one of Scotland's six UNESCO World Heritage Sites of 'outstanding universal value'). A region steeped in history and ancient traditions, we'll savour a final group meal surrounded by the natural beauty of the Scottish Borders tonight. Accommodation: The Tontine Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☒ Breakfast
- ☒ Dinner

DAY 7 | SCOTTISH BORDERS – EDINBURGH

Before our tour comes to a close, we've a couple of historical stops to make. First: we'll pay a visit to Traquair House, the oldest inhabited house in Scotland before continuing on to Melrose Abbey – the final resting place of the heart of Robert the Bruce. Then: back to beautiful Edinburgh, where we'll say goodbye.

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.