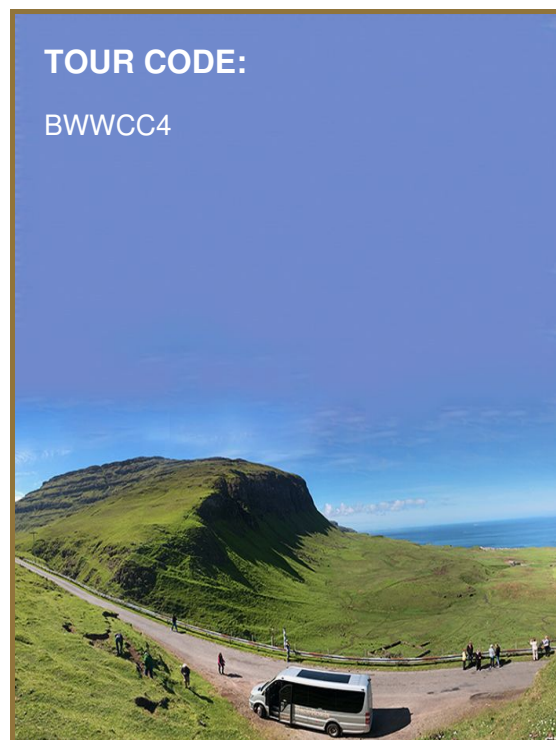




Back-Roads | Europe (BRT)

On this captivating journey through deep green valleys, past snow-dusted mountains and along an unforgettable coastline, we'll go high and low in search of Wales' most iconic sights. Join us as we walk the ancient lands of Celts and Romans, immersing ourselves in age-old local traditions as we go.



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

- ✓ Indulge in a traditional afternoon tea served in glorious surroundings
- ✓ Embark on a steam train ride through the spectacular scenery of the Rheidol Valley
- ✓ Discover the majestic Gothic architecture of the Bishop's Palace in St Davids

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Wales - GBP

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | CARDIFF (WALES)

After meeting the group in Wales' vibrant capital, we'll get to know one another over a delicious welcome dinner at the hotel. Accommodation: Parkgate Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Dinner

DAY 2 | CARDIFF – BRECON BEACONS

Following a hearty breakfast at our hotel we'll venture through the dramatic Welsh Valleys to Brecon Beacons National Park. We'll stop off at the impressive Caerleon Roman Fortress and Baths which date back to AD 74. Afterwards – if time allows – we'll delve into Welsh mining heritage at the Big Pit National Coal Museum. This evening, another delicious group dinner awaits us at our hotel. Accommodation: The Bear Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

✓ Dinner

DAY 3 | BRECON BEACONS – LLANGOLLEN – NORTH WALES

Today's itinerary will take us further north along the border regions of Mid Wales to Pontcysyllte Aqueduct: the longest and highest structure of its kind (and a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Next, we'll pass by the mesmerising Valle Crucis Abbey before pausing for an afternoon tea together at a charming local tearoom. Upon our arrival along the rugged North Welsh Coast, we'll have the evening to spend at our leisure. Accommodation: Empire Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 4 | NORTH WALES

There's plenty of free time to explore the nearby towns of Llandudno and Conwy today. How you choose to spend the day is up to you – but we recommend visiting the imposing Conwy Castle and taking a look at the medieval town walls. Later, you could uncover the self-proclaimed "smallest house in Great Britain" along the picturesque quay – which also plays host to an abundance of cosy cafes and traditional pubs perfect for spending a relaxing afternoon. Accommodation: Empire Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 5 | NORTH WALES – SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK – WEST WALES

Continuing our journey today, we'll have a brief photo opportunity at the village with the longest place name in Europe – Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch – before moving on to Caernarfon Castle. After exploring its impressive medieval battlements and uncovering fascinating historic tales, it's onwards to the Llanberis Slate Mine. Enjoy a demonstration and stroll around the museum, learning key facts about the Welsh slate industry. Finally, we'll journey through breathtaking Snowdonia National Park before discussing the day's events over a group dinner. Accommodation: The Falcondale (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Dinner

DAY 6 | WEST WALES – PEMBROKESHIRE

All aboard! Today we'll take in the stunning landscapes of the Rheidol Valley in comfort and style with a historic steam train ride. Travelling around horseshoe bends, through mountain tunnels and along cliff edges – there's no better way to discover the region's lush green pastures, glittering lakes and serene forests. Afterwards, we'll pay a visit to the National Wool Museum to learn more about the booming Welsh wool industry during the 19th century. Finally, our day will end in picturesque Pembrokeshire – where you'll have the evening to spend at your leisure. Accommodation: Wolfscastle Country Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast

DAY 7 | PEMBROKESHIRE, INCLUDING TENBY AND ST DAVIDS

This morning we'll admire the verdant rolling hills of the Welsh countryside as we set a course for the picture-perfect fishing village of Tenby. Perched on a headland and surrounded by Norman-built walls, we'll have time to explore the medieval village streets and array of cafes and stores at our own pace. Later, we'll stop off at lovely St Davids – Britain's smallest city – to discover the ruins of the magnificent Gothic Bishop's Palace. Upon returning to our hotel, we'll don our best outfits for tonight's final group dinner. Here's to an incredible journey! Accommodation: Wolfscastle Country Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Dinner

DAY 8 | PEMBROKESHIRE – CARDIFF

After breakfast, it's back to Cardiff we go! This morning we'll make the scenic drive south towards the capital, where we'll pay a visit to St Fagans National Museum of History – Wales' most popular heritage attraction – before our tour comes to a close.

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.