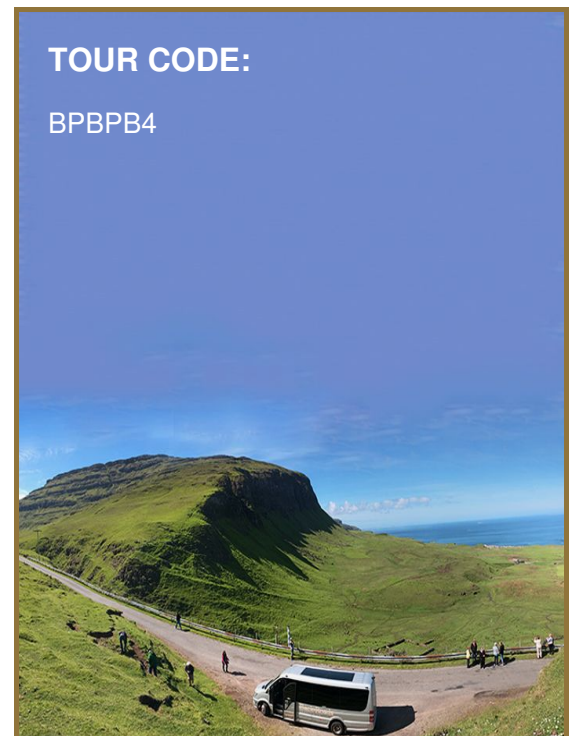




Blue-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Beginning in Porto, this evocative journey from Portugal through northern Spain's enchanting ancient towns and character-filled cities is one to be remembered. Join us as we follow our own pilgrimage of discovery along the Camino de Santiago and beyond – savouring tantalising flavours, uncovering centuries-old stories and venturing into breathtaking natural landscapes.



Thank you for choosing **Blue-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 BLUE-ROADS DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Immerse yourself in the enchanting UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town of Santiago de Compostela
- ✓ Savour a local wine tasting and locally prepared lunch in the heart of Spain's Castile & León region
- ✓ Admire the stunning natural landscape of Picos de Europa National Park

TOUR CURRENCIES

- Portugal - EUR
- Spain - EUR

Your itinerary

DAY 1 | PORTO (PORTUGAL)

A tangled maze of medieval walls and contemporary architecture hugging the banks of the mighty Rio Douro – our journey across the Camino will begin in the evocative Portuguese city of Porto. After we've settled into our hotel we'll get to know one another better over a sumptuous welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Here's to the adventure ahead! Accommodation: Catalonia Porto Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Dinner

DAY 2 | PORTO – VIANA DO CASTELO AND PONTE DE LIMA – SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (SPAIN)

After breakfast this morning, we'll board the mini-coach and leisurely make our way to picturesque Viana Do Castelo. Spend some time soaking up the magnificent views over the attractive riverfront and incredible neo-Byzantine Templo do Sagrado Coração de Jesus, before we continue to Ponte de Lima to see the ancient bridge (first constructed by the Romans in 1 AD). One of the oldest towns in Portugal, Ponte de Lima is a charmingly photogenic town located on the banks of the Lima River. We'll enjoy some free time this afternoon exploring the historic centre dotted with quaint cafes, vibrant flower gardens and sunny plazas at our leisure. Later, we'll continue to Santiago de Compostela – where we'll have the evening to explore the handsome city centre or relax at our hand-picked hotel. Accommodation: Hotel Compostela (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 3 | SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

The final stop on the famous Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail and alleged burial site of Saint James – Santiago de Compostela is steeped in fascinating history. We'll have the opportunity to delve deeper into this city's rich heritage and admire the magnificent stone architecture of the Old Town on a locally guided walking tour – taking in the likes of Plaza del Obradoiro, the Palacio de Raxoi and the Cathedral de Santiago as we go. Then: the rest of the afternoon is ours to explore at our own pace. This evening, we'll be free to indulge in some exquisite local seafood and savour the flavours of traditional Galician cuisine at a restaurant of our choosing. Accommodation: Hotel Compostela (or similar)

MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

DAY 4 | SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA – PONFERRADA – LEÓN

Today, we'll continue our journey to Ponferrada where we'll pay a visit to the impressive Castillo de los Templarios (Templars Castle). We'll travel back in time as we wander the walls of this giant fortress – built in 1178 to protect the pilgrims on their road to Santiago de Compostela. Following our visit, we'll venture into the city centre to enjoy lunch at our leisure. Continuing our journey into northern Castilla, we'll arrive at our final stop of the day: León. This evening, we'll enjoy some free time to seek out a local eatery amid the city's picturesque old quarter or relax at our hotel. Accommodation: Hotel Real Colegiata de San Isidoro (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

DAY 5 | LEÓN

We'll start our day with a walking tour of León – taking in the grand monuments, Gothic Cathedral and 10th-century Basilica de San Isidoro with a local guide. Following our in-depth tour, we'll venture into the vineyard-studded Castile and León countryside to sample some local wine and indulge in a delicious included lunch. Returning to León later this afternoon, we'll have the rest of the evening free to explore at our own pace. Accommodation: Hotel Real Colegiata de San Isidoro (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast

☑ Lunch

DAY 6 | LEÓN – PICOS DE EUROPA – CANTABRIA REGION

This morning, we'll leave the metropolis of León behind and journey into the mesmerising Picos de Europa National Park. Located in the Cantabrian Mountains, this vast expanse of towering snow-capped peaks and deep green valleys is an evocative sight to behold – and we'll enjoy many opportunities to take in the breathtaking views as we make our way to Parador de Fuente Dé. Once here, we'll savour an included lunch and enjoy more panoramic photo opportunities with a cable car ride to the Aliva viewpoint. After a spectacular day of exploring, we'll end our day in Cantabria region – where a final tantalising group meal awaits. Accommodation: Abba Comillas Hotel (or similar)

MEALS:

☑ Breakfast


☑ Lunch

☑ Dinner

DAY 7 | CANTABRIA REGION – SANTANDER – BILBAO

Before our tour comes to an end, we'll make a stop at the city of Santander to admire the scenery in style – by train! Soak up the sublime Magdalena Peninsula before we view the exterior of the emblematic Palacio de la Magdalena – one of the most prominent examples of civil architecture in northern Spain. After taking lunch at a local restaurant of your choosing, we'll continue on and wind up our day in Bilbao – where we'll say our goodbyes.

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 Blue-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.blueroadstouring.com/faqs

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team: www.blueroadstouring.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.blueroadstouring.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 Blue-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.