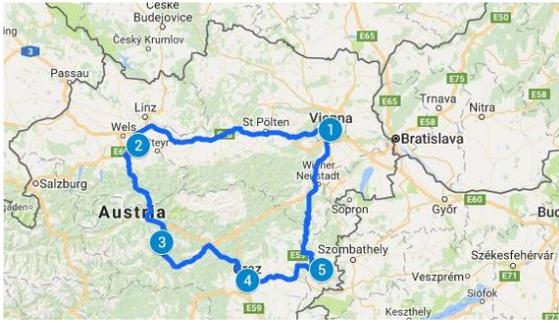




# DRIVE TO DISCOVER AUSTRIA

## AUSTRIAN WINE COUNTRY ROAD TRIP





Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Vienna to Krems	122 miles	2 hours 13 minutes
Krems to Styria	73 miles	1 hour 32 minutes
Styria to Graz	71 miles	1 hours 23 minutes
Graz to Burgenland	55 miles	1 hours 12 minutes
Burgenland to Vienna	100 miles	1 hours 41 minutes
<b>Total Distance Covered:</b>	<b>421 miles</b>	

If you're looking for one of the most scenic drives and the opportunity to experience Austrian wine country by car, then this charming itinerary will reward you with some of the world's finest wine, dining, and panoramic alpine views.

We highly recommend this driving tour of the best wineries in Austria. We suggest adding an additional driver to your rental car and switching off between designated drivers so that everyone in your party can have a chance to taste Austrian wine. On this route you'll enjoy stops in Vienna, Krems, Styria, Graz, and Burgenland. On this Austria wine country itinerary you will encounter idyllic, terraced vineyards in the Wachau valley, and sun-drenched Pannonian plains tracing the banks of the iconic Danube.

**TO/FROM: Vienna International Airport**

In this road trip guide, you'll begin your journey in Vienna and end your journey at Vienna's Airport.

**1. Vienna**

Vienna is Austria's wine capital, and it has the unique status of being the only world capital with significant wine production taking place within its city limits. The culinary and cultural renaissance happening in Vienna is exciting to wine lovers and foodies, which is why we've built time into our Austria wine country itinerary to allow you to linger in and explore this dynamic city. A few stops we recommend while exploring Vienna are a walking tour of Naschmarkt (an international outdoor market which has drawn crowds for nearly 500 years!), an evening taking in a show at the world-renowned Vienna State Opera, and a morning stroll through the MuseumsQuartier for your daily dose of Vienna's unique culture and climate.

**2. Krems**

From Austria, pilot your Vienna car rental west toward Krems. This drive 2+ hour drive will treat you to stunning views of rural Austria as you hug the banks of the Danube river. Glide through the Wachau valley where you'll cruise through idyllic, terraced vineyards. The Wachau Valley is one of Austria's most fascinating wine-growing areas and has been named a world heritage site by UNESCO. This narrow Danube valley between Melk and Krems offers 1,400 hectares of tidy, historic vineyards housed on steep terraces which sweep into the crystal waters of the Danube. Old harvest estates abound in Krems, a testament to Austrian wine culture and the great viticultural tradition of the region. Krems is also home to the well-known Lower Austria Wine Fair.

**3. Styria**

Sauvignon Blanc, the Styrian wine region's signature grape, awaits you. This gorgeous hilly region will treat the palate of visitors to crisp, elegant wines, and each of the three sub-regions within Styria offer specialized wines. Schilcher Rose, a beautiful expression of the shale terroir is dominant in the west, offering a spicy twist on the fresh flavors of the region, and the Sausal region along the South Styrian Wine Road (recommended), is renowned for aromatic Sauvignon Blanc and Gelber Muskateller varietals.

We recommend taking the South Styrian Wine Road in late morning or early afternoon, enjoying a few glasses of Sauvignon Blanc with a fresh lunch of fowl or fish and salad. The ripe red currant, white pepper, and lime notes of this region are sure to enhance a light, fresh local dish.

**4. Graz**

In Graz, we recommend spending the day touring castles and museums. Schloss Eggenberg is a stunning castle where you can (and should) book a private tour. It's known as the most significant Baroque palace complex in Styria, and it's a beautiful structure where you'll want to have a camera at-the-ready. The northern corner of the palace grounds is home to a planetary garden and lapidarium of roman stonework. There's also an archaeological museum here, and the palace itself houses a wonderful collection of medieval artwork and pieces which span the full five centuries of European art history.

**5. Melk**

While rugged alpine views flank Austria in the west, Burgenland in the easternmost corner of Austria, offers a unique opportunity to enjoy the sun-drenched Pannonian plain - the most iconic landscape of central Europe. If you have sweet tooth and have never tasted excellent dessert wines, the lakeside vineyards on the banks of Neusiedlersee may be your new favorite place on earth. Burgenland receives nearly 300 days a year of full sun, and the shallow lake moderates the warm climate here with daily mist coming off the water to cool the vines, making the region ideally suited to the sweet dessert varietals and wine-making process.

From Melk it's a charming 2 hour drive back to Vienna for your return flight. While this tour of the best wineries in Austria can be completed in 4 or 5 days, we encourage you to plan for at least a week for this drive through Austria's wine country. Touring in a rental car and leaving yourself with extra, unscheduled, time will allow you to take unplanned detours, or to get lost for an afternoon, driving west to visit the Alpine villages which are just a few hours away.