Graz Travel Guide

Graz - Austria's Charming Styrian Capital

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Things to do in Graz

Landmarks & Monuments

Graz is home to iconic structures that define the city's skyline and tell stories of centuries past. From the iconic Schlossberg to elegant town squares, these landmarks showcase the city's rich architectural heritage.



Must See

Schlossberg

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The iconic **Schlossberg** (Castle Hill) dominates Graz's skyline with its distinctive clock tower and fortress walls. A Romanesque castle was built here around 1125; later fortifications expanded it, Schlossberg is a natural hill of dolomite rock, with surviving fortress structures. Visitors can climb 260 steps or take the funicular railway to reach the summit. The site features the famous **Uhrturm** (clock tower), a symbol of the city, along with walking paths, a restaurant, and The Kasematten are former fortress vaults now used as an open-air performance venue.



Top Pick

Town Hall (Rathaus)

20 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Located in Hauptplatz, the magnificent **Town Hall** is a stunning example of historicist architecture (the present building dates from the 1890s). Its ornate façade features elaborate stonework, decorative elements, and a beautiful arcaded courtyard. The building serves as the administrative center of Graz and showcases intricate architectural details that reflect the city's prosperity during the Renaissance period. The façade has been meticulously restored to reveal its original splendor.



Top Pick

Hauptplatz (Main Square)

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Hauptplatz, the heart of Graz's old town, is a vibrant Renaissance square surrounded by colorful historic buildings. The square features cafes, restaurants, and shops, making it perfect for people-watching and soaking in the city atmosphere. The central fountain and arcaded buildings create a charming European ambiance. During Christmas and summer, the square hosts festive markets and cultural events.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit Schlossberg at sunset for stunning photography and city views
- Combine multiple attractions in the old town in one afternoon
- The funicular to Schlossberg operates year-round (small fee)
- Free access to Schlossberg grounds; paid entry for tower and tunnels

Museums & Galleries

Graz boasts world-class museums and galleries ranging from contemporary art to natural history, offering diverse cultural experiences for all interests.



Must See

Kunsthaus Graz

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The cutting-edge **Kunsthaus Graz** (Art Museum) is a striking architectural landmark with its blue biomorph-shaped facade. Designed by British architects Cook and Fournier, it showcases contemporary and modern art with rotating exhibitions. The museum features works by international and Austrian artists, interactive installations, and thought-provoking displays. Its distinctive "friendly alien" design has become an iconic symbol of modern Graz.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Eggenberg Palace Museum

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Schloss Eggenberg is a magnificent Baroque palace with Visitors explore a cycle of 24 historic state rooms, including the Planetary Room. The UNESCO World Heritage site features furniture, paintings, sculptures, weapons, and decorative arts spanning centuries. The palace's extensive gardens are a UNESCO site themselves, representing 17th-century landscape design with fountains, sculpture alleys, and historic plantings.



Top Pick

Styrian State Museum (Universalmuseum Joanneum)

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This renowned institution comprises multiple museums covering natural history, archaeology, paleontology, mineralogy, and regional history. The main building houses impressive prehistoric finds, Egyptian mummies, and dinosaur fossils. The museum's collections tell the story of Styrian culture from ancient times to the present, making it essential for understanding the region's heritage.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Many museums offer combined tickets for multiple locations
- Most museums have free entry during certain evening hours
- Download museum apps for interactive exhibits and detailed information
- Allow extra time for Eggenberg Palace's extensive grounds

Religious Sites

Graz's sacred architecture spans centuries, featuring stunning cathedrals, churches, and spiritual landmarks that reflect the city's religious heritage and architectural excellence.



Must See

Graz Cathedral (Dom)

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

The impressive **Dom**, Graz's cathedral, was built as a court chapel in the 15th century and elevated to cathedral status in 1786. Its exterior features remarkable The exterior Gottesplagenbild commemorates the plague, locusts and Turkish threat of 1480. The interior houses exquisite altarpieces, sculptures, and stained glass windows. The cathedral's austere Gothic style with Renaissance additions creates a uniquely beautiful sacred space in the heart of the old town.



Top Pick

Mausoleum of Emperor Ferdinand II

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

This extraordinary **Mausoleum**, commissioned by Emperor Ferdinand II, is an architectural masterpiece The complex represents the transition from Renaissance to Baroque, with Italian architectural influences. Commissioned in 1614, the building was completed in 1636 according to the cathedral parish; decoration followed later, it features an intricately decorated interior with marble, stucco, and religious art. The emperor's tomb is located in the lower chapel, while the upper chapel serves as a pilgrimage site. The ornate relief sculptures and artistic details showcase the wealth and taste of the Habsburg dynasty.



Notable

Leech Church (Lechkirche)

20 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

The **Lech Church**. The early Gothic Leechkirche, dedicated to the Assumption of Mary, was probably completed in 1293. Its steep pitched roof, pointed arches, and stained glass windows exemplify authentic Gothic architecture. The interior features Gothic vaulting, ornate altarpieces, and historical religious artworks. The church's intimate atmosphere and architectural details make it a favorite among architecture enthusiasts and spiritual visitors alike.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Visit during morning hours for better light and fewer crowds
- Many churches offer free entry but donations are appreciated
- Respect dress codes when visiting sacred spaces
- Check service times before visiting if interested in attending mass

Neighborhoods & Districts

Graz's atmospheric medieval streets and charming neighborhoods reveal the city's character through winding lanes, colorful buildings, and hidden courtyards that transport visitors back in time.



Must See

Altstadt (Old Town)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The **Altstadt** is the historic core of Graz, featuring narrow winding streets, Renaissance buildings with decorative facades, and intimate courtyards. This UNESCO World Heritage Site showcases authentic medieval layout with burgher houses, wine taverns, and artisanal shops. The atmospheric streets connect major landmarks while offering countless opportunities to discover hidden galleries, cafes, and local character. Evening strolls reveal the district's romantic charm with candlelit restaurants and historic ambiance.



Top Pick

Münzgrabenstraße

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Münzgrabenstraße is a stunning street lined with Art Nouveau mansions featuring elaborate architectural details, ornate facades, and decorative sculptures. Walking this tree-lined boulevard, visitors experience the elegance and cultural wealth of turn-of-the-century Graz. The street connects key cultural institutions and remains one of the city's most beautiful addresses, perfect for photography and architectural appreciation.



Top Pick

Lendviertel (Artists' District)

1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The trendy **Lendviertel** district along the Mur River has transformed into a vibrant creative hub featuring galleries, independent shops, street art, and hip cafes. This bohemian neighborhood attracts artists, designers, and young professionals who have revitalized former industrial areas with colorful murals, boutiques, and innovative restaurants. The district perfectly blends Graz's artistic spirit with contemporary culture and alternative lifestyle.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Best explored on foot at a leisurely pace
- Visit during weekday mornings for authentic neighborhood atmosphere
- Stop at local coffee shops and wine taverns for insider experiences
- Street markets operate on weekends throughout the city

Parks & Gardens

Known as Austria's greenest city, Graz offers abundant parks, gardens, and riverside spaces perfect for relaxation, picnics, and outdoor activities throughout the year.



Must See

Mur Island (Insel in der Mur)

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

This innovative **floating island** in the Mur River is a modern architectural attraction designed by New York artist Vito Acconci. The organic shell-shaped structure features a café, amphitheater, and viewing platforms, offering unique perspectives of the city and river. The island symbolizes Graz's modern creativity and is free to access, making it an ideal spot for contemporary art appreciation and riverside relaxation with stunning architectural views.



Top Pick

Stadtpark

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The elegant **Stadtpark** (City Park) is Graz's largest urban green space, featuring manicured gardens, walking paths, historic monuments, and a lake. Established in the 19th century, the park provides peaceful respite from city bustle with mature trees, flower gardens, and scenic vistas. The park hosts cultural events, outdoor concerts, and serves as a popular spot for joggers, cyclists, and families with children seeking recreational space.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Eggenberg Palace Gardens

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

Map

The UNESCO-listed **Eggenberg gardens** The present park is principally a Romantic English landscape garden, transformed after 1820. The protected palace-and-park site covers approximately 17.9 hectares, the formal gardens feature tree alleys, sculpture galleries, fountains, and a menagerie area. The geometric layout and historical plantings showcase Renaissance garden philosophy. Visitors can stroll through themed sections, discover hidden grottos, and enjoy panoramic views of the Styrian countryside.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Pack a picnic for a relaxing afternoon in Stadtpark
- Visit Mur Island in late afternoon for sunset reflections
- Spring and early summer showcase peak blooming in gardens
- Cycling paths along the Mur River are excellent for casual exploration

Fountains & Public Art

Graz balances its medieval heritage with striking contemporary design, featuring innovative modern buildings, public art installations, and architectural experiments that define 21st-century urban spaces.



Top Pick

Domplatz Renovation

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

The modernized **Domplatz** (Cathedral Square) features cutting-edge architecture blending historic buildings with contemporary design elements. Recent renovations created interactive water features, modern paving, and artistic installations while preserving the historic cathedral. The square serves as a dynamic public space hosting events, markets, and cultural programs, demonstrating Graz's commitment to balancing tradition with innovation.



Notable

Grazer Congress

45 minutes Book Ahead

Map

The **Grazer Congress** (Convention Center) is an architectural marvel featuring a distinctive undulating glass façade designed by architect Pierre Charpin. The building hosts major conferences, exhibitions, and cultural events while serving as a contemporary icon in Graz's skyline. Its modern design contrasts beautifully with historic buildings, symbolizing the city's forward-thinking approach to urban development and cultural programming.

Tips for Fountains & Public Art

- Take photos of modern architecture during golden hour for best results
- Check event schedules for exhibitions and cultural programs
- Contrast ancient and modern on one walking tour

Tours & Activities

Enhance your Graz experience with guided tours, cultural activities, and specialized experiences led by knowledgeable locals and professional guides.



Top Pick Book Ahead

City Walking Tours

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

Guided walking tours led by expert historians and local guides reveal Graz's stories, hidden corners, and architectural secrets. Tour themes include Gothic heritage, Renaissance splendor, Art Nouveau treasures, modern architecture, and culinary traditions. Professional guides provide context, anecdotes, and insider knowledge that transform sightseeing into engaging storytelling, making history and culture come alive.



Top Pick Book Ahead

River Mur Boat Tours

1-2 hours Book Ahead

Scenic boat tours along the Mur River offer unique perspectives of the city's landmarks, bridges, and natural landscapes. These relaxing cruises showcase Graz from the water, featuring commentary on historical sites, architectural highlights, and cultural significance. Evening tours with dinner options are available, combining dining with sightseeing for memorable experiences along the picturesque riverbanks.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Culinary Tours & Wine Tastings

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Immerse yourself in Styrian gastronomy through **food tours** featuring local markets, traditional restaurants, and food artisan shops. Wine tasting tours showcase Styrian wines directly from local producers and wine taverns. Expert guides share recipes, traditions, and stories behind regional dishes, connecting food culture to history and landscape.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book tours in advance during peak season (May-September)
- Combine multiple tour types for comprehensive city exploration
- Private tours available for groups and customized itineraries
- Many tours include transportation and museum entry

Day Trips & Excursions

Explore the stunning Styrian countryside and nearby attractions easily accessible from Graz, offering natural beauty, wine regions, and cultural highlights within short distances.



Must See

Riegersburg Castle

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Perched dramatically on a volcanic hill, **Riegersburg Castle** is one of Austria's most impressive castles, featuring medieval architecture, armor collections, and panoramic countryside views. The 900-year-old fortress showcases both military and residential chambers, witch museum exhibits, and beautiful gardens. Reached by a slanted lift or on foot, this hilltop fortress (not a UNESCO site) offers fascinating tours exploring Austrian fortress architecture and regional history within 45 minutes of Graz.



Top Pick

Styrian Wine Country

4-6 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The picturesque **wine regions** south of Graz, particularly around Südsteiermark, are renowned for white wines in scenic rolling hills. Visit family-owned wineries offering tastings, cellar tours, and traditional meals in wine taverns. The landscape features terraced vineyards, charming villages, and scenic hiking trails. Wine routes connect numerous producers, allowing self-guided or organized tours through Austria's fastest-growing wine region.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Rent a car or arrange tours for convenient day trip access
- Best visited May-October for optimal weather and attractions
- Pack picnic items for vineyard and countryside visits
- Book winery visits in advance during harvest season

Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Graz, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).



Caylend★★★★★ 4.8 (676)

1-2 hours

Map

Caylend is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.8★ from 676 reviews. Located at Stigergasse 1, 8020 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: Closed
- Friday: Closed
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed



Mohrenwirt Graz★★★★★ 4.8 (1,036)

1-2 hours

Map

Mohrenwirt Graz is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.8★ from 1036 reviews. Located at Mariahilfer Str. 16, 8020 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Francis★★★★★ 4.8 (250)

1-2 hours

Map

Francis is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.8★ from 250 reviews. Located at Franziskanerpl. 13, 8010 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed



Bon Bon★★★★★ 4.8 (657)

1-2 hours

Map

Bon Bon is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.8★ from 657 reviews. Located at Moserhofgasse 46, 8010 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Arravané★★★★★ 4.8 (217)

1-2 hours

Map

Arravané is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.8★ from 217 reviews. Located at Conrad-von-Hötzendorf-Straße 84, 8010 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed



Knusperhäuschen★★★★★ 4.7 (2,135)

1-2 hours

Map

Knusperhäuschen is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.7★ from 2135 reviews. Located at Straßganger Str. 429, 8054 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM



dreizehn by Gauster★★★★★ 4.7 (1,094)

1-2 hours

Map

dreizehn by Gauster is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.7★ from 1094 reviews. Located at Franziskanerpl. 13, 8010 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed



Der Steirer★★★★★ 4.6 (4,960)

1-2 hours

Map

Der Steirer is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.6★ from 4960 reviews. Located at Belgiergasse 1, 8020 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM



Glöckl Bräu★★★★★ 4.6 (5,577)

1-2 hours

Map

Glöckl Bräu is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.6★ from 5577 reviews. Located at Glockenspielpl. 2-3, 8010 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM



El Gaucho at Landhaus★★★★★ 4.6 (3,193)

1-2 hours

Map

El Gaucho at Landhaus is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.6★ from 3193 reviews. Located at Landhausgasse 1, 8010 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM



HUMMEL★★★★★ 4.6 (978)

1-2 hours

Map

HUMMEL | Mezze Bar - Brunch - levantinische Küche is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.6★ from 978 reviews. Located at Mariahilfer Str. 12, 8020 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Gasthaus Stainzerbauer★★★★★ 4.6 (1,020)

1-2 hours

Map

Gasthaus Stainzerbauer is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.6★ from 1020 reviews. Located at Bürgergasse 4, 8010 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Landhauskeller★★★★★ 4.5 (2,228)

1-2 hours

Map

Landhauskeller is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.5★ from 2228 reviews. Located at Schmiedgasse 9, 8010 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed



Operncafé - Cafe★★★★★ 4.5 (2,684)

1-2 hours

Map

Operncafé - Cafe | Brasserie | Restaurant - Graz is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.5★ from 2684 reviews. Located at Opernring 22, 8010 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 7:30 PM



Gasthaus Lendplatzl★★★★★ 4.5 (2,147)

1-2 hours

Map

Gasthaus Lendplatzl is a highly-rated restaurant in Graz, rated 4.5★ from 2147 reviews. Located at Lendpl. 11, 8020 Graz, Austria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed

Practical Information

Best Months to Visit

May-June: Perfect spring weather, parks in full bloom, cultural festivals begin. Temperatures 18-25°C (64-77°F).

September-October: Warm summer lingers with occasional rain, fewer tourists than summer. Temperatures 15-20°C (59-68°F). Ideal for wine harvest season visits.

December: Magical Christmas markets, festive atmosphere, holiday decorations. Temperatures 0-5°C (32-41°F).

Peak season (July-August): Warmest weather (20-27°C / 68-81°F), most crowded, hotel prices highest.

Winter (November-February): Cold and occasional snow (temps -2 to 4°C / 28-39°F). Fewer tourists, lower prices, but reduced hours for some attractions.

Getting Around Graz

Public Transport: Excellent tram and bus network operated by HOLDING Graz. Purchase single tickets or multi-day passes from kiosks or vending machines. Day cards provide unlimited travel for groups or frequent riders.

Bicycle: Graz is extremely bike-friendly with extensive cycling infrastructure. Rent bikes from numerous shops or use public bike-sharing system. Most attractions accessible via flat, dedicated cycle paths.

Walking: The compact old town is best explored on foot. All major attractions within 20-minute walk radius. Streets are well-marked with tourist signage.

Taxis & Ride-sharing: Taxis readily available at stations and can be summoned by phone. Uber and local apps operate in Graz.

Airport: Graz Airport (GRZ) located 10km south. Accessible by shuttle bus, taxi, or rental car (20-30 minutes to city center).

Train: Excellent rail connections to Vienna (2.5 hours), Salzburg (3 hours), and other European cities. Main station is walking distance from old town.

✈ Airport Transfer

Graz Airport (GRZ) to city center:

- **City Bus 630:** Bus 630 runs via Puntigam to Zentralfriedhof; change to tram 5 for central Graz, check Holding Graz for the current fare
- **S-Bahn train (S1):** Direct service from the airport station to Graz Hauptbahnhof in about 10 minutes (an ordinary regional train fare applies)
- **Taxi:** Around 15-20 minutes to the city center, ask for a quote or use an app for the fare
- **Private transfer:** Pre-booked door-to-door service to central Graz in about 15 minutes, the price depends on the operator, so get a quote

Shopping in Graz

Fashion & Boutiques: Lendviertel features independent boutiques with designer clothing. Herrengasse and Auergasse in old town offer local shops and international brands. Altstadt passages hide artisanal shops selling handmade items.

Markets: The main farmers' markets are Kaiser-Josef-Platz and Lendplatz, Monday–Saturday, 06:00–13:00. Weekend farmers' markets showcase Styrian specialties including pumpkin oil, wines, and cheeses.

Souvenirs: Traditional Austrian items including lederhosen, dirndls, crystal, and wood carvings available throughout old town.

Food & Wine: Specialty shops sell Styrian wines, pumpkin oil, speck (bacon), and strudel. Department stores (Kastner & Öhler, Humanic) offer full shopping ranges.

Bargaining: Not customary in shops. Markets may allow modest negotiation for multiple items. Fixed prices standard in retail establishments.

Annual Events & Festivals

February: Steirischer Frühling (Styrian Spring) - avant-garde arts festival featuring experimental theater, music, dance.

Diagonale took place on 18–23 March 2026. Diagonale Film Festival - important Austrian film festival showcasing contemporary cinema.

June: Steirischer Herbst preview events, summer outdoor concerts begin in parks.

July-August: Open-air cinema series, river festivals, Schlossbergfest (castle hill festival), outdoor theater.

September: Steirischer Herbst (Styrian Autumn) - major festival featuring art, music, theater, literature (4 weeks).

October: 72-hour Festival - contemporary art event, film festival, cultural programs.

November-December: Christmas markets throughout city (Hauptplatz, Schlossbergplatz), festive lights, holiday concerts.

Public Holidays: January 1 (New Year), Easter Monday, May 1 (Labor), In 2026, Ascension was 14 May and Corpus Christi was 4 June; dates change annually, August 15 (Assumption), October 26 (National), November 1 (All Saints), December 25-26 (Christmas).

Sample Day-by-Day Itineraries

Day 1 - Historic Graz Essentials
Morning: Climb Schlossberg via funicular for panoramic views. Explore castle grounds and tunnels (2 hours). Lunch at mountain café. Afternoon: Descend and wander narrow streets of Altstadt, stopping at shop windows and small cafes. Visit Graz Cathedral and appreciate exterior frescoes (1 hour). Evening: Dinner at traditional wine tavern in old town, enjoy Styrian specialties.

Day 2 - Art & Culture
Morning: Visit Kunsthaus Graz, exploring contemporary art exhibitions (2 hours). Coffee break at museum café. Afternoon: Tour Universalmuseum Joanneum's natural history and paleontology sections (2 hours). Stroll through Münzgrabenstraße

admiring Art Nouveau mansions. Evening: Catch cultural event at theater or concert hall, check schedule in advance.

Day 3 - Baroque Splendor & Countryside
Morning: Day trip to Eggenberg Palace. Explore opulent rooms, then wander UNESCO gardens for 2-3 hours. Lunch at palace restaurant. Afternoon: Drive to nearby wine village or relax in palace gardens. Evening: Return to Graz for riverside sunset walk along Mur, visit Mur Island.

Day 4 - Modern & Alternative Graz
Morning: Explore Lendviertel galleries, boutiques, and street art (1.5 hours). Coffee at trendy local café. Browse independent shops and artist studios. Tour modern Domplatz features. Evening: Dinner at contemporary restaurant in Lendviertel, experience city's creative culture.

Day 5 - Nature & Relaxation
Morning: Bike ride along Mur River path through green corridor. Stop at riverside cafes. Afternoon: Picnic in Stadtpark, rent boats on the small lake (2 hours). Leisurely walk through different park sections. Visit any missed museums or attractions. Evening: Sunset views from Schlossberg or peaceful evening stroll through illuminated old town.

Instagram & Photography Locations

Schlossberg Clock Tower: Most iconic Graz image. Shoot from Hauptplatz at sunset for dramatic backlighting. Golden hour (30 minutes before sunset) provides perfect light. Night shots show beautiful illumination.

Mur Island at Sunset: Capture the organic architecture reflecting in water. Best photographed from north bridge (Murkanal) during golden hour. Evening reflections create stunning mirror images.

Altstadt Narrow Streets: Early morning light creates dramatic shadows on colorful facades. Winding cobblestone streets photograph beautifully with people for scale and atmosphere. Avoid midday harsh shadows.

Kunsthaus (Blue Building): Most photogenic from across the river or from Murinsel. Afternoon light best for color saturation. Reflections in wet streets create artistic compositions.

Cathedral Dome Interior: Capture intricate vaulting and light filtering through stained glass. Early morning provides best interior lighting without harsh shadows.

Art Nouveau Mansions: Münzgrabenstraße architectural details photograph beautifully. Morning light creates sharp detail. Close-up detail shots of ornate facades are striking.

Eggenberg Palace Gardens: Formal garden geometry best captured from elevated viewpoints. Spring (tulips) and fall (colors) offer seasonal photographic advantages.

Domplatz Modern Water Features: Capture interaction between historic cathedral and contemporary elements. Evening illumination highlights the contrast beautifully.

Lendviertel Street Art: Constantly changing murals. Visit regularly for new photo opportunities. Golden hour provides dramatic side-lighting of large wall paintings.

Electricity & Utilities

Voltage: Austria uses 230V AC with 50Hz frequency (standard for Europe).

Plug Types: European Type C (two round pins) and Austria uses Type F grounded sockets, compatible with Type C Europlugs; Type F has side earth clips. Most hotels have additional Type F sockets available.

Adapters: Essential for non-European devices. Dual voltage adapters (110-240V) recommended for charging electronics. Most hotels provide adapters at reception if needed.

Phone Compatibility: Austria uses GSM/4G networks. European phones work seamlessly. Consider local SIM cards or roaming packages with home providers.

Outlet Availability: Most hotels provide USB charging ports and additional outlets. Hostels and budget accommodations may have limited outlets; power strips useful.

Must-Try Dishes & Dining Tips

Regional Specialties: *Styrian Pumpkin Soup* - creamy autumn favorite with pumpkin seed oil drizzle. *Steirerkas* - pungent local cheese. *Speck* - smoked bacon served as appetizer. *Steirisches Kernöl* - pumpkin seed oil used in salads and cooking.

Traditional Dishes: *Schnitzel* - breaded meat cutlet served with lemon. *Erdäpfelpuffer* - potato pancakes with applesauce. *Stelze* - roasted pork knuckle. *Wiener Schnitzel* - Austrian classic.

Desserts: *Apfelstrudel* - apple pastry roll with vanilla sauce. *Sachertorte* - chocolate cake with apricot jam. *Potica* - Slovenian-influenced spiral pastry.

Wine Tradition: *Sturm* - partially fermented new wine (September-November specialty). Styrian white wines, especially Sauvignon Blancs and Grüner Veltliners, pair perfectly with local cuisine.

Dining Customs: Lunch (midday) is main meal. Dinner eaten 6-9pm. Tipping 5-10% standard for good service (rounding up acceptable). Many restaurants close 2-5pm between lunch and dinner service.

Restaurant Types: *Stube* - cozy traditional tavern. *Gasthaus* - pub-style restaurant. *Würstelstand* - sausage vendors with standing area.

Tourist Passes

Graz Card

The **Graz Card** provides unlimited public transportation plus free or reduced admission to major attractions including Kunsthaus Graz, Schloss Eggenberg, museums, and visitor attractions. Includes discounts at restaurants, shops, and cultural venues. Available for 24, 48, or 72-hour periods. Family and group rates available. Represents excellent value for tourists planning multiple visits.

www.graztourismus.at

Austrian Railways Pass (Öbb-Vorteilspass)

The **The product is ÖBB Vorteilscard, an annual discount card offering 50% off ÖBB Standard tickets.** Annual membership reduces ticket prices; check the ÖBB website for the current price and discount. Useful for visiting Riegersburg Castle, wine regions, or other Austrian destinations accessible by train. Available for frequent travelers considering multiple excursions.

www.oebb.at

Museum Pass Austria

The **Museum Pass Austria** grants free admission to hundreds of museums nationwide, including all major Graz institutions (Kunsthaus, Joanneum, Eggenberg). Valid for 31 days of use. Excellent value for culture enthusiasts planning extensive museum visits. Digital and physical cards available with immediate online activation.

www.museumpass.at