3 DAYS
GRAZ
CITY BREAK

Day 1. Arrival & Schlossberg

Arrive in Graz — Austria's second-largest city and capital of Styria, a UNESCO World Heritage City of remarkable Renaissance and Baroque architecture, known as the 'City of Design' (since 2011 a UNESCO City of Design). Graz has one of the best-preserved historic city centres in Central Europe, with over 1,000 listed buildings — and is also a world leader in contemporary architecture and design. Take the lift through the Schlossberg (Clock Tower Hill, 473 m) — the rocky hill rising from the city centre, topped by the landmark Uhrturm (Clock Tower, 1265) and offering extraordinary panoramic views over the city's terracotta rooftops. Explore the historic Hauptplatz (main square) with the baroque Rathaus and the adjacent Herrengasse. Overnight in Graz.

Day 2. Kunsthaus & Eggenberg Palace

After breakfast, visit the Kunsthaus Graz — the extraordinary 'Friendly Alien' building (by Peter Cook and Colin Fournier, 2003), a spectacular biomorphic building of dark blue acrylic plates that seems to have landed in the historic city from another era, housing an outstanding programme of contemporary art. Morning also at the Landeszeughaus — the Styrian Armoury, the world's largest intact historic armoury (1645), with a staggering collection of 32,000 weapons and suits of armour for 28,000 soldiers, exactly as arranged in the 17th century. Afternoon: Schloss Eggenberg — a UNESCO World Heritage Site 3 km west of Graz, a magnificent 17th-century Baroque palace with 365 windows, 24 state rooms and extraordinary Flemish tapestries, surrounded by a deer park. Overnight in Graz.

Day 3. Styrian Wine Country & Departure

Morning excursion to the Styrian Wine Route (Steirische Weinstraße) — the rolling South Styrian hills (Südsteiermark), often called the 'Tuscany of Austria', a landscape of steep vineyard terraces producing some of Austria's finest white wines (Sauvignon Blanc, Welschriesling). Wine tasting at a traditional Buschenschank (Styrian wine tavern). Return to Graz and transfer to Graz Airport or Graz Hauptbahnhof for onward travel.

Must see ATTRACTIONS

The Clock Tower

Eggenberg Palace

The Landeszeughaus

ACCOMMODATIONS
Options

Graz

★★★★★
Hotel Wiesler Graz
Grand Hotel Wiesler Graz
Hotel Daniel Graz

★★★★
NH Hotel Graz
Mercure Hotel Graz City
Radisson Blu Hotel Graz

★★★
ibis Graz Hauptbahnhof
Hotel Ibis Graz City
Hotel Augarten Graz

Must try FOOD

Backhendl
(Styrian Fried Chicken)

A specialty of Viennese cuisine since the 18th century, it consists of prepared and spiced portions of chicken, which are breaded and crispy deep fried; often served with potato salad dressed in pumpkin seed oil and a lemon wedge on the side.

Käferbohnensalat
(Scarlet Runner Bean Salad)

One of the most traditional dishes from the Austrian state of Styria, this simple salad consists of soaked and cooked scarlet runner beans flavored with vinegar, pumpkin seed oil, onions, salt, pepper and a pinch of sugar; hard-boiled eggs, corn or tomatoes are sometimes added.

Zotter Chocolate

Zotter is the largest and coolest chocolate maker in Austria; making everything in-house, it offers over 400 different kinds of superb chocolate, with flavors ranging from the traditional to the outright whacky – a real must-try even for those lacking a sweet tooth.

RESTAURANT Options

Halal Certified

Graz

1. Al Madina Graz – Moroccan halal restaurant near the Hauptplatz, couscous and tagines
2. Istanbul Graz – Turkish halal grill near the Graz Hauptbahnhof, kebabs and pide popular with the Turkish community
3. Taj Mahal Graz – Indian halal restaurant near the Kunsthaus, curry and biryani menu
4. Medina Graz – North African halal cuisine near the Schlossberg, shawarma and mezze
5. Halal Grill Graz – Pakistani halal fast food near the Karl-Franzens-Universität, popular with students