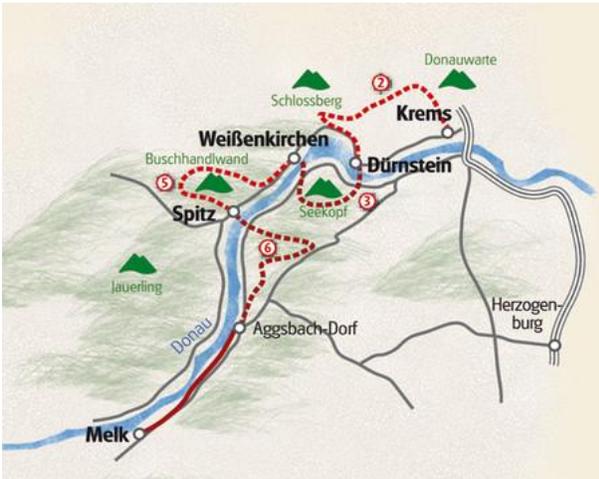




Austria 2019

Wachau – Walking along the Danube

Self guided tour 7-nights



Moderate – 7 nights

Here in Wachau the Danube is even more beautiful than elsewhere. The mild climate and steep hills make it ideal territory for wine and fruit growing. A varied walking tour leads past steep rocks, across soft hills and through scented vineyards. Little hamlets dot the landscape and apart from the famous wine delicious apricot specialties belong to the outstanding regional specialties.

Medium difficulty: You walk mainly on good trails and some paved vineyard paths. Depending on the route, you can make the stages more comfortable or more challenging. The peaks in the Wachau region are not high, but steep in places. Surefootedness therefore is required in some places. This week offers a perfect blend of nature, culture and culinary delight.

Dog friendly: On this particular walking tour you have the option of bringing your “four-legged friend”. When booking, simply let us know the breed and size of your dog. Possible additional costs are payable locally on site.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Individual arrival at Krems / Stein

Nice little town, easy to get there from Vienna by boat or train.

Day 2: High up into the vineyards and to the ruins of fortress Dürnstein

Details: approx. 4.5 hours | 12 km | ↑ 500 m ↓ 490 m.

Walk up into the vineyards to the tower with view on blue Danube, the city Krems and impressive monastery Goettweig. Cross the hills to ruin Duernstein or take the picturesque Talgrabensteig via Talweg to Duernstein.

Day 3: Walking Dürnstein – Weißenkirchen “Heart of Wachau”

Details: approx. 4.5 hours | 12 km | ↑ 500 m ↓ 490 m.

Take the ferry from Duernstein to Rossatz. Continue past the largest apricot growing area of Austria, on old tracks up to Seekopf with stunning views to the Alps. Optional take a walk along Danube through orchards to the ferry.

Day 4: Rest day in Weißenkirchen “Wachauer Dolce Vita”

Surrounded by sunny vineyards and green forests the mighty gothic parish church of Weißenkirchen is remarkable sight. The wine grower villages Joching, Woesendorf and St. Michael form together with Weißenkirchen the biggest wine grower community in Wachau. Visit museums, beautiful walking trails or take a boat tour on Danube. Enjoy a glass of Wachauer wine in one of the wine taverns.

Day 5: Weißenkirchen - Spitz “Observation platform Buschandlwand”

Details: approx. 4 to 5 hours | 12 km | ↑ 520 m ↓ 510 m.

Leave Weißenkirchen via the wine trail, past picturesque wine cellars to the climb up to Seiber. Walk through the forest at first quite steep to Buschandlwand where an observation platform allows stunning panorama views. An alternative route passes through vineyards to the famous wine grower community Spitz an der Donau.

Day 6: Spitz - Melk “Ruin Aggsbach”

Details: approx. 4.5 to 5.5 hours | 14 km | ↑ 570 m ↓ 550 m.

Cross the Danube by ferry to Maria Langegg. Here you follow St. Jacob’s trail to ruin Aggsbach. Visit the fortress with scenic views across the Danube valley and stop for a snack. Down you walk to Aggsbach where you catch the coach to Melk.

Day 7: Melk – Krems “Danube Cruise”

Visit the impressive monastery with beautiful grounds before you board the Danube boat. During the cruise to Krems you pass the highlights of the week, see all the vineyards as well as Spitz and Durnstein.

Day 8: Individual departure or additional nights

Tour Character

You walk mainly on good trails and some paved vineyard paths. Depending on the route, you can make the stages more comfortable or more challenging. The peaks in the Wachau region are not high, but steep in places. This week offers a perfect blend of nature, culture and culinary delight.

PRICES AND DATES 2019

Tour can start any day from 6th April to 12th October 2019

€530 per person sharing	Season 1	(4 Apr – 19 May & 19 Aug - 8 Sept)
€580 per person sharing	Season 2	(3 – 30 June & 9 – 22 Sept)
€630 per person sharing	Season 3	(29 Apr – 2 June, 1 July – 18 Aug & 23 Sept - 12 Oct)

Single Supplement - €175

Halfboard surcharge - €180 (optional)

4 night tour option available also; please email us for more details info@irishways.com

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 x overnights of partly 4*, mainly 3* hotels, country hotels; including breakfast
- Luggage transfer
- Wine tasting
- Boat tour Melk — Krems (*)
- Carefully elaborated route
- Detailed documentation
- Service Hotline

(*) boat cruise is only possible starting from mid April otherwise a bus ride is organized as an alternative

Not included in the tour price:

- 2 x ferry over the Danube (approx. €6-7 from Mid April only)
- Bus from Aggsdorf to Melk (approx. €6-7)

Optional Extras:

Tour upgrade available also

Additional night in Krems (3*):**

€60 per person sharing - season 1 & 2:

€65 per person sharing - season 3:

+€30 single room supplement

WHAT TO BRING

Your enjoyment of your walking holiday will be greatly helped by having the right gear. The following list should help you in planning your packing for your trip.

Footwear: Good footwear is vital for a happy walking holiday! We recommend waterproof, breathable, walking boots with good ankle support. Boots which are “broken in” (i.e. not brand new), teamed with **well fitting hiking socks** will keep your feet snug and dry and help to avoid blisters.

Hiking Clothes

We recommend the “onion look” of layering clothing as the best protection against heat/cold:

- Base Layer –this layer should not retain moisture but transport it away from the skin (there are lots of “wick away” fabrics now on the market.
- Insulation layer – this layer should stop you from losing body heat – fleece is ideal
- Outer Layer – this layer should keep you dry even in a downpour! A waterproof, breathable jacket and over-trousers are as important as your comfy boots. You should bear in mind that clothing tends to lose its “waterproofness” over time so if you have had your gear for many years it might be time to treat yourself with a trip to an outdoor store!
- Walking trousers/ shorts (avoid denim)
- Warm hat and gloves for chilly mornings or high mountains
- Sun hat
- Walking stick/pole (a great help on uneven terrain)

Daypack - a small comfortable rucksack to carry the bits and pieces you will need during the day:

- Water bottle/flask
- Moleskin/plasters/”second skin” – ward off any impending blisters before they become a problem!
- Sun screen
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Waterproof map case
- Mobile phone

GENERAL INFORMATION

Money - The unit of currency is the Euro (€), 100 cent = € 1.

Travel Insurance - It is essential to take out holiday insurance to cover cancellation, personal accident, illness, or loss of possessions.

Travel

By Air:

From Airport Vienna-Schwechat by CAT train into Vienna then change to REX (regional express train) to Krems. Please see www.oebb.at for more details.

From Airport Linz-Hörsching (Ryan Air) you take a taxi to the station in Linz, then take a train to St. Pölten (see below).

By Train:

From Vienna (station Franz-Josef-Bahnhof) to Krems: duration approximately 1 hour; see www.oebb.at

From St. Pölten to Krems: duration approx. 30 - 45 min. The distance from the station to the first hotel can be covered walking in a couple of minutes. Please see the website of the Austrian Railway Company OEBB: www.oebb.at for more details for planning your trip. (Also in English)