

Austria's most scenic road trips

Hohe Tauern Circular Tour - 220 km (suggested duration 2 days)

St. Johann im Pongau – Grossglockner High Alpine Road – Heiligenblut – Obervellach – Bad Gastein – St. Johann i.P.

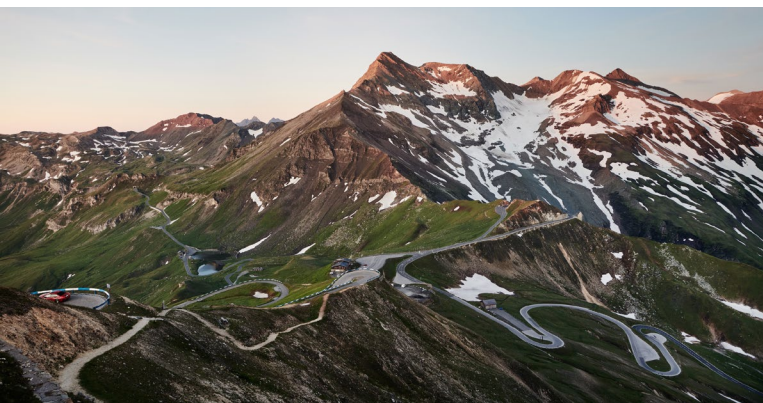


The trip starts in St. Johann im Pongau (50min south of Salzburg), and from here the route takes you through the breathtaking scenery of the Hohe Tauern National Park. First stop should be at the [Lichtensteinklamm](#), a spectacular gorge formed by the thunderous current of the waterfalls as they cut deep into the towering rock.

The next stop is Bruck (in SalzburgerLand) where the [Grossglockner High Alpine Road](#) (closed from October - May) starts – one of the most scenic roads in Austria. The mountain pass road with a total of 48 km and 36 turns leads deep into the centre of Austria's largest national park that extends across the provinces of Salzburg, Tirol and Carinthia. The highest point of the mountain road is the Edelweiss Spitze located at just above 2,500 m. The highlight of driving on the Grossglockner High is the [Kaiser-Franz-Josefs-Höhe](#). A visitor centre, observation tower and food outlets can be found here, all of which offer unique views of the snow-covered Grossglockner (Austria's highest mountain, and the 8 km glacial lobe Pasterze).

The High Alpine Road ends in the legendary mountain climber village [Heiligenblut](#). In Obervellach the magnificent Falkenstein Castle awaits before loading the car onto the train for the Tauernschleuse (tunnel) in Mallnitz.

After arrival in Böckstein the next stop is the [Gasteiner Tal](#) and the conveniently located spa resorts of Bad Hofgastein and Bad Gastein before returning to St. Johann.



Grossglockner High Alpine Road



Bad Gastein

Romantic Road - 400 km (suggested duration 8 days)

Salzburg – St. Wolfgang – Bad Ischl – Hallstatt – Traunsee – Stift St. Florian – Enns – Melk – Krems – Vienna



On a length of 400 km [Austria's most romantic road connects 14 unique cities and towns](#) off the motorway between Salzburg and Vienna. The route is lined with lake and mountain scenery, with castles, palaces, museums and monasteries offering exciting insights into the past as well as the cultural characteristics of the regions. The breath-taking mountain landscapes and lakes invite you to linger and discover. Austria's Romantic Road enchants its guests with culinary and cultural highlights and offers a relaxing journey through three UNESCO World Heritage regions.

In true romantic style, the road also takes you to some highly emotional and even fateful places. In [Bad Ischl](#), for example, Emperor Franz Joseph got engaged to Empress Sisi, and years later he met her here for the last time before she was murdered. In the village of [St. Wolfgang](#), directly on the shores of the popular Lake Wolfgang, you can find the backdrop of a famous Austrian operetta that also served as setting for various film adaptations. The [Salzkammergut](#), known as the Austrian Lake District, is in fact said to be one of the most beautiful areas in Austria, with breathtaking mountain scenery and deep blue lakes. The charming village of Hallstatt located on [Lake Hallstatt](#) is even a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Apart from picturesque scenery, the Romantic Road passes numerous cultural highlights. The mark of the Romans can be found here as they built camps that gave the names to today's cities of Wels and Enns. At some important and significant places in the area, the Augustinians and Benedictines founded impressive monasteries to demonstrate their power. The monasteries [St. Florian](#), Kremsmünster and Stift Göttweig can be visited and are remaining evidence of these earlier times. Once it reaches the Danube, the road gets to one of Europe's most beautiful river valleys – the Wachau. Following the river to the so-called [Schlögenger Schlinge](#), it takes a 180° turn, with mystic castles and ruins providing the romantic atmosphere along the way.

The final stop on your tour along Austria's Romantic Road, which should take you about 8 days in total, is [Vienna](#). The capital of Austria is bubbling with temptations. It begins with sweet treats at Demel and ends with an unbelievably charming walk around the gardens of Schönbrunn Palace, the residence of former Emperors.



Bad Ischl, Salzammergut



Schlögenger Schlinge