



Travel Guide: **Road trips in the Czech Republic & Austria**

Contents

Essential information

Quick glance: Suggested itineraries.....	2
Planning your trip.....	4
Driving in the Czech Republic and Austria.....	5

Places to visit: Czech Republic

Prague	6
Hluboka Castle	7
Holasovice	7
Cesky Krumlov.....	8
Trebon	9
Telc.....	9
Brno	10
Mikulov and South Moravian countryside.....	11

Places to visit: Austria

Vienna	12
Hallstatt.....	13
Salzburg	14

Quick glance: Suggested itineraries

Central Europe is a wonderful region to explore, especially by car. While the public transportation system is great and you can pretty much get to the main cities easily, driving gives you the flexibility and the ability to explore as much of the region as possible.

If you love visiting small towns and offbeat destinations, driving in the Czech Republic and Austria will be very rewarding. Here's a quick glance into some of the best road trip destinations in the area, as well as suggested itineraries for varying lengths of travel time.



[Tourist map: Use this Google map to plan your trip.](#)

Suggested 1-week itineraries:

Czech Republic only:

- Days 1-2 – stay and explore Prague
- Days 3-4 – drive to and explore Cesky Krumlov
- Days 5-7 – drive to and explore South Moravia

Austria only:

- Days 1-3 – stay and explore Vienna
- Days 4-5 – drive to and explore Hallstatt
- Days 6-7 – drive to and explore Salzburg

Best of Czech Republic and Austria:

- Days 1-2 – stay and explore Prague
- Day 3 – early morning drive to Cesky Krumlov; stay for the night
- Day 4 – leave Cesky Krumlov by noontime and drive to Hallstatt
- Day 5 – explore Hallstatt
- Days 6-7 – choose to drive to and explore either Salzburg or Vienna

Itinerary for 2 weeks (or more)

- Days 1-2 – Prague
- Day 3 – Drive from Prague to Cesky Krumlov; visit the towns along the way
- Days 4-5 – Cesky Krumlov
- Day 6 – Drive from Cesky Krumlov to Brno; visit the South Bohemian towns along the way
- Day 7 – Brno
- Days 8-9 – Mikulov and Lednice-Valtice
- Day 10-11 – Vienna
- Day 12 – Hallstatt
- Days 13-14 - Salzburg

Planning your trip

Use this checklist to plan your trip to the Czech Republic and Austria.

Money-saving tip!

Use the city links below to book your accommodations – they will lead you to real-time hotel deals with useful hotel information and travelers' reviews.

Pre-trip essential information

- ☐ [General visa information for travel to the Czech Republic](#)
- ☐ [Health information for travelers to the Czech Republic](#)
- ☐ [General visa information for travel to Austria](#)
- ☐ [Health information for travelers to Austria](#)
- ☐ [Get a travel insurance](#)

Getting there and around

- ☐ [Flights to Prague](#)
- ☐ [Bus routes across the Czech Republic](#)
- ☐ [Train routes across the Czech Republic](#)
- ☐ [Rental car locations in the Czech Republic](#)
- ☐ [Flights to Vienna](#)
- ☐ [Train routes across Austria](#)
- ☐ [Rental car locations in Vienna](#)
- ☐ [Rental car locations in Salzburg](#)

Real-time deals on hotels and holiday rentals

- ☐ [Prague](#)
- ☐ [Cesky Krumlov](#)
- ☐ [Brno](#)
- ☐ [Mikulov](#)
- ☐ [Vienna](#)
- ☐ [Hallstatt](#)
- ☐ [Salzburg](#)

Driving in the Czech Republic and Austria

Requirements for foreign drivers – International driving permit and your local driver's license. In general, this is a must when driving in a foreign country. You have to get your international driving permit in the same country that issued your driver's license, so ask your local automobile association how to get an IDP before you leave for your trip.

Rental car companies – [Check for rental car rates and pick-up locations in Prague here, and for Vienna here](#). If you need an automatic transmission car, make sure to reserve at least a month in advance as the Europe mostly drives manual transmission cars.

Toll stickers – If you want to use the tolled motorways, you will have to purchase a toll sticker. You can get this from border posts, post offices, and petrol stations. However, note that when we did this road trip itinerary, we didn't have to use any of the tolled motorways. Personally, the national roads that go through the towns and the countryside are just fine. Set your GPS (like Waze) to avoid tolls if you want to do the same. [Read more about Czech toll stickers here](#).

Parking – When driving around towns, look around for designated parking spaces. Check how long you can park your car and pay the necessary fees to avoid getting towed.

Don't drink and drive! It may be tempting to try out the country's world-class beers and wines, but have a designated driver who won't be drinking for the day.



Prague

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 3-5 days

Go for: History and architecture, old world charm, beer and cafes

Points of Interest

City center – Charles Bridge, Prague castle complex, old town square, traditional shops

New town and Smichov – shopping, restaurants

Vinohrady and Karlín – cafes, restaurants

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Ventana Hotel](#) (double rooms start at USD 200/night)

Budget: [Chill Hill Apartments](#) (beds start at USD 20)

[Click here for real-time deals](#)

Eat and drink

Fine dining: [La Degustation Bohême Bourgeoise](#)

Local's recommendation: [Lokál Dlouhááá](#)

Traditional: [Cafe Savoy](#)

Café: [Café Svatého Václava](#)

Drinks: [U Kurelu](#)

Read more

- [Comprehensive guide to Prague neighborhoods](#)
- [Detailed itinerary for Prague with self-guided walking tour](#)



Hluboka Castle

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 3 hours; stop for lunch

Go for: Hluboka castle, Czech Republic's most beautiful castle

Holasovice

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 1 hour

Go for: Quick tour of a traditional European folk village (UNESCO World Heritage site)





Cesky Krumlov

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 days

Go for: Medieval castle town architecture and atmosphere, hiking around the Blansky forest, traditional Czech food and customs

Points of Interest

Town center – Cesky Krumlov castle complex, Monastery, Egon Schiele art centrum

Blansky forest – hiking to Klet', Divci kamen

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Hotel Bellevue](#) (double rooms start at USD 200/night)

Budget: [Travel Hostel](#) (beds start at USD 15)

[Click here for real-time deals](#)

Eat and drink

[Papa's Living Restaurant](#)

[Restaurant Konvice](#)

Read more

- [Comprehensive guide to Cesky Krumlov](#)
- [Walking tour: Cesky Krumlov old town](#)



Trebon

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 hours; stop for lunch

Go for: Well-preserved Renaissance town with beautiful town center; great Bohemian cuisine

Recommendations

Eat: [Restaurace Bily Jednorozec](#)

Stay: [Design Hotel Romantick](#)

Telc

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 hours; stop for early dinner

Go for: Quick tour of an Italian Renaissance castle town (town square is a UNESCO World Heritage)

Recommendations

Eat: [Zach Restaurant](#)

Stay: [Hotel Telc](#)





Brno

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 days

Go for: Modern architecture (Brno functionalism), coffee shops, restaurants, shopping, historical buildings

Points of Interest

Historical center – Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, Zelný trh and the underground labyrinth, Spilberk castle

Modern architecture – Villa Tugendhat, architectural trail

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Grandezza Hotel](#) (double rooms start at USD 170/night)

Budget: [Hostel Mitte](#) (beds start at USD 20)

[Click here for real-time deals](#)

Eat and drink

Traditional: [Restaurace Spalicek](#)

Casual / Comfort food: [Soul Bistro](#)

Cafés: [Café Podnebi](#), [Air Café](#), [V Melounovém cukru](#)

Read more

- [City break guide to Brno](#)



Mikulov and South Moravian countryside

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 3-5 days

Go for: Castle town, wine tasting and wine trails, biking and hiking, countryside relaxation

Points of Interest

Mikulov city center – Castle town, museums, wine cellars

Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape – hiking and biking trails; historical chateaux and monuments; vineyards; UNESCO Heritage site

Day trips from Mikulov – hiking in Klentnice; driving to Hradistek; swimming and fishing in Nove Mlyny

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Hotel Ryzlink](#) (double rooms start at USD 70/night)

Budget for groups: [Ubytovani Merlot](#) (quadruple rooms start at USD 100/night)

[Click here for real-time deals](#)

Eat and drink

Get wine: [Vinařské centrum](#)

Eat: [Sojka & Spol](#)

Read more

- [Travel guide to South Moravia](#)



Vienna

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 3-5 days

Go for: History and architecture, art and culture, food and cafes

Points of Interest

Historical sites and museums – Schonbrunn palace, Belvedere, Leopold Museum, old city center

With children – Prater

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Motel One Wien-Hauptbahnhof](#)
(double rooms start at USD 100/night)

Budget: [Vienna Hostel Ruthensteiner](#) (beds start at USD 20)

[Click here for real-time deals](#)

Eat and drink

Fine dining: [Restaurant Steirereck](#), [Loca](#)

Casual: [Ribs of Vienna](#)

Viennese cuisine: [Café Central](#)

Read more

- [Driving from Vienna to Salzburg](#)



Hallstatt

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 days

Go for: Quiet serene town, natural landscapes, hiking, skiing

Points of Interest

Town center – world's oldest salt mine, beautiful city views, historic town center, Lake Hallstatt, market square

Nearby places – Dachstein, Obertraun, skiing lodges, hiking trails

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Seehotel Grüner Baum](#) (double rooms start at USD 220/night)

Mid-range (stay in Obertraun across the lake): [Seehotel am Hallstätter See](#) (double rooms start at USD 120)

[Click here for real-time deals](#)

Eat and drink

Town specialties: [Seewirt Zauner](#)

Desserts: Cafe Bäckerei Konditorei
Maislinger, Gelateria Giovanni

Read more

- [Hallstatt travel guide](#)



Salzburg

Visiting

Recommended length of stay: 2-3 days

Go for: Historical spots, architecture, arts and culture

Points of Interest

Historical monuments – Hohensalzburg castle, Hellbrunn palace, Salzburg cathedral, St. Peter's abbey

Gardens – Mirabell Gardens

Museums – Salzburg museum, Panorama museum

Recommended accommodations

★**TOP PICK:** [Hotel Bristol](#) (double rooms start at USD 300/night)

Budget: [Motel One Salzburg-Sud](#) (double rooms start at USD 90)

[Click here for real-time deals](#)

Eat and drink

Fine dining: [St Peter Stiftskeller](#)

Austrian cuisine: [Barenwirt](#)



About this guide

Thank you for downloading this guide! I hope you find the information here useful and I wish you happy travels to the Czech Republic and Austria. Feel free to forward to friends!

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If you have more questions about travel in the area, send me an email (hello@littleholidays.net) and I'll be happy to help you!



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