

What should I, as a tour guide, keep in mind in Dürnstein?

- Dürnstein is a living town, not a museum. As tour guides, it is our responsibility to make our guests aware of this and to behave accordingly. If a car, moped, motorcycle, cyclist, etc. is passing by, we draw our guests' attention to it and step aside. Residents, hotel guests, and delivery vehicles have every right to use Dürnstein's main street.
- We try, as much as possible in this confined space, not to stand in the middle of the street with our guests.
- If several groups start at the same time from the boat landing stage, it is advisable to briefly coordinate with fellow guides and use different routes into town (Anzuggasse, Malerwinkel, the path along the federal road). It is also sensible not to stop in the middle of the towpath, but rather move to the side or, for example, go to the playground. From there, there is a particularly beautiful view of the castle ruins and the town.
- We try not to speak or shout too loudly during the tour.
- Most houses in Dürnstein are privately owned. One may not simply walk into courtyards; the residents' privacy must be respected. (Since there will again be many guests with a different cultural background arriving by ship this year, this point is particularly important. Our guests must be especially sensitized to this – including the fact that not everyone wants to be photographed.)
- The courtyard of Dürnstein Abbey is open to visitors. However, there are restrictions to observe: at the request of Herzogenburg Abbey (the owner), we are not permitted to guide groups through the inner courtyard unless the group also visits the exhibition. We may, however, give explanations outside in front of the portal and allow guests to explore the courtyard on their own. It is also always good to mention the small souvenir shop in the corner of the courtyard. The church can only be visited as part of the complete exhibition tour.
- It is also not desired that we take our groups into the cemetery. It is still in use, and many residents of Dürnstein feel disturbed when groups gather there. It remains a place of peace and remembrance for the deceased.
- During the grape-ripening season, it is very tempting for guests to taste the grapes. "What harm does it do if I take just one grape?" – a lot, because it usually doesn't stop at one. If every guest thinks this way, the vineyards will soon be empty. In addition, the fruit cluster is then "injured," making it easier for mold or other diseases to develop. If we do not want winegrowers to fence in their vineyards, we too are responsible for making this clear to our guests.
- The restroom at parking lot P1 is subject to a fee (€1). It has already been observed that a guide stood in the doorway and held it open for all guests. This is not permitted and may be reported.
- One final request: we are currently trying to make Dürnstein's residents aware that not every guide is licensed, and that groups guided by us are much easier to monitor than unguided groups. Please wear your badges visibly! We want residents to be able to clearly distinguish certified guides from illegal guides.