

The Who, What, When, Where & How of Visiting Breweries

- 🍺 **WHERE** are the breweries you want to visit located? Are they on the main drag or hidden away in an industrial park? Is there good signage? You may need to call the brewery in advance and get clear directions. A few minutes on the phone can save you time and needless frustration. Some breweries are a bit out of the way, but usually worth the journey once you “discover” them!
- 🍺 **WHEN** can you visit? Once you know where you are going, you should check the company’s website or call them to find out if and when they give tours. Many breweries nowadays give public tours, however, these are often scheduled to specific times of day and days of the week. Don’t plan a trip to visit a brewery without making sure they are going to be open for visitors that day. Showing up only to find the brewery or tasting room is closed can be a total bummer and a waste of time and energy. Even if the website lists certain dates and times, for tours and visit, it is always a good idea to call in advance to make sure there is not a special event or holiday closing. For instance, in Europe, and other parts of the world, the holidays are different than in the US; and many businesses tend to close down for European holidays.
- 🍺 **HOW** are you getting there? Most likely you are hoping to enjoy some samples as a reward for your journey, and while some of us have the luxury of a designated driver, many of us are not so fortunate. Is there public transportation? Can you walk, take a bus, train, bike, etc? This is another thing you can ask the brewery about when you call them. Is this a popular brewery laden location? If so, is there a regular tour bus that frequents the brewery you are hoping to check out? While you may not have planned to be part of a public group tour, this will allow you to partake without the issue of driving and also have the added bonus of meeting other beer lovers like yourself. If not, and you are in the US, you might want to consider a designated driver service which you can find on line. These companies will drive you in your own vehicle and usually at a better rate than a cab or limo service. Another option is to break down and hire a cab.

🍺 **WHAT** is it going to cost? Plan your budget. Many breweries charge for tours, but include tastings. Will you want to buy other beers that aren't part of the included tasting? And if you are one of those "been there, done that, got the T shirt" folks, you need to account for that as well. Also, are you going to purchase some brews to take home as souvenirs? If so, find out if they sell bottles/cans and/or growlers. Regarding growlers, do they only fill theirs or can you bring your own. Make sure to be aware of any possible restrictions on growler sizes in that state.

🍺 **WHO** are you visiting? What do you know about their beer? Researching a bit before the tour will let you get the most out of your visit. After a little research you may have specific questions that may or may not be part of what is covered in the tour, but you can always ask your guide during or after. Also, are there rare or collectible beers that you can only get at the brewery?

What else? A few last words here:

- 🍺 **DRINK** water - before, during and after. Hydrating will allow you to go longer and experience more of what you are out there for without suffering for your art.
- 🍺 **EAT.** We agree, beer is liquid bread, but find yourself a brewpub and grab some grub while you are at it. You need fortification for your "work".
- 🍺 **PACK** - bringing home the stash. See our article [To Ship or To Schlep](#) (on our website) to learn how to properly pack your beer to come home with you on a plane.
- 🍺 **PLAN.** Use our handy brewery tour worksheet(next page) to organize & plan your trip
- 🍺 **GO!** Have Fun! Cheers!

Bon Beer Voyage Brewery Tour Planner Worksheet

Brewery Name: _____

Web Address: _____ Phone: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Notes on Location: _____

Tasting Room: Yes No

Tasting Room Open Hours/Days: _____

Is the Brewery Open to the Public? Yes No

Brewery Open Hours/Days: _____

Do they do Tours? Yes No Walk-ins OK for Tours? Yes No

Reservations Needed or Suggested: Yes No

Brewery Tour Schedule: _____

Cost of Tour: \$ _____ Are Tasters included with Price? Yes No

Do They Accept Credit Cards? Yes No if yes MC Visa AMEX Other _____

Do They Sell Bottles/Cans direct to the Public? Yes No

Do They do Fill Growlers? Yes No Size Limit on Growler? Yes _____ oz No

Do They Fill other Brewery Growlers? Yes No

Transport Company Info: _____

Questions/Notes for Brewer, Staff etc:

Beers I Want to Taste: _____

Tasting Notes:

