

AUSTRIA

INFO Round trip

Cross-country

Escape from
the city

Romantic

Castles and
palaces

Nature

National and
nature parks

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Petra Stolba, Austrian National Tourist Office



Holidays in Austria, that means hiking through breathtaking, stupendous landscapes, imbibing moments of utter stillness along the way, recharging with new vital energy. Holidays in Austria, that also means meandering in the soul-searching footsteps of great artists and savouring grandiloquent culinary delicacies. Yet holidays in Austria also means, more than anything else, encounters with human beings who dwell in this land, with their outgoing hospitality and their deepfelt warm-heartedness. Come on out: make a grand tour through Austria, discover the mighty mountain summits, the far ranging fields, the crystal-clear waters. Immerse yourself into the pulsating lifestyle of the cities, let yourself be enticed and enchanted by the art and the culture. Grant yourself a time-out, a breath of fresh air from hectic everyday life: enjoy the delicious specialties of each region. And experience a time that will go down in your own personal history as unforgettable. I wish you wonderful holidays in Austria.

Yours, Petra Stolba



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Taking an early morning swim -

for many the most exhilarating way of starting a day

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City walks

No less than three of the nine Austrian regional capitals have been celebrated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Just strolling through the charming centre of an historic town can bring centuries of history and its personal stories to life. Splendid buildings from the Gothic, Renaissance or Baroque traditions are huddled together along narrow cobblestone streets and medieval squares. Majestic palaces and parks serve as a constant reminder of the pomp and parade of the bygone days of the Imperial Monarchy. However, between these relics of former glories the city pulsates with newfound vitality; icons of modern architecture blend harmoniously with time-honoured cityscapes, luxurious shopping streets, quaint coffee-houses and the very best cultural events invite you to immerse yourself in the elegance and style that city life has to offer.

Vienna

Vienna has been honoured as a World Heritage Site twice, for its historic town centre and for the Baroque palace and park of Schönbrunn. Today's

cityscape owes its abundance of opulent buildings and countless cultural treasures to its former role as the official imperial residence. In Vienna a unique blend of architectural styles coalesce to create an enchanting cultural journey through all of architecture's major epochs. From the striking Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral, right at the heart of the city, to the exquisite Baroque architecture of the Hofburg, the former Imperial Residence of the Habsburgs. Then of course there is the monumental architecture of the Ringstrasse including the Parliament Building and the State Opera House, icons of the Historicism that characterised late 19th century architecture. It's not just the lively art and cultural scene with its countless museums and exhibitions that give Vienna its distinctive flair. It's also the Viennese coffeehouse tradition, the rustic 'Heurigen' (wine taverns) that lie at the outskirts of the city, the abundance of beautiful churches, not to mention the vibrant markets and shopping areas. Just as charming are the many green spaces

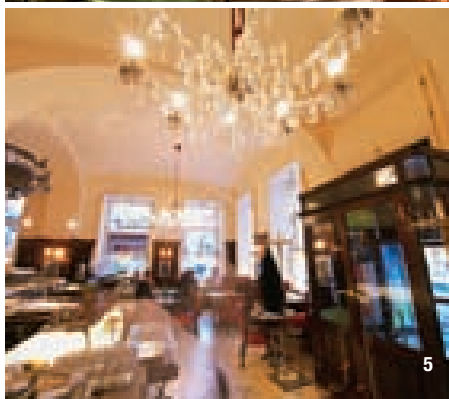
and recreational areas, unusual for a city of Vienna's size, including the extensive Wienerwald, the romantic Prater or the recreational paradise, Donauinsel.

T. +43 245 55, www.wien.info

Salzburg

In 1997 the Baroque old town of Salzburg, home to Mozart and the Festivals, was declared a World Heritage Site. An architectural treasure trove, the old town's quaint, narrow streets unite the many magnificent churches and palaces into a single historical work of art. Architectural delights include the splendid Baroque palaces of Mirabell and Hellbrunn, the Salzburg Cathedral, and the medieval Hohensalzburg fortress, situated high above the town. An absolute must for all visitors is Getreidegasse, a vibrant, bustling, narrow medieval style street, which is also the location of Mozart's birthplace. The town is famous amongst music and culture enthusiasts alike due to its rich cultural and musical programme. First and foremost is the annual summer programme, which includes the Salzburg Festival, the pinnacle of which is the performance of Hugo von Hofmannsthal's 'Jedermann' on the Domplatz, as well as the staging of Mozart's greatest operas in the Festival Hall.

T. +43 662 88 98 7-0, www.salzburg.info



Tips

★ Museums' Quarter in Vienna.

The Museums' Quarter is one of modern Vienna's most exciting and pulsating focal points. It is an absorbing symbiosis of museums, avant-garde architecture, events and exhibitions, trendy bars and innovative shops. www.mqw.at

★ **Kunsthau Graz.** Exhibition and event centre for modern art and culture. Exhibitions, guided visits and workshops. Extensive programme of workshops and dialogical tours. www.museum-joanneum.at

★ Museum der Moderne, Salzburg.

This building with its imposing architecture towers above the old town from its perch on Mönchsberg. Clad in marble, the building provides a spacious setting for art of the 20th and 21st centuries. The rooms of the museum's restaurant partially extend into the mountain.

www.museumdermoderne.at

- 1 **Blending traditional and modern: Sculpture by Stephan Balkenhol against the backdrop of the Salzburg Fortress**
- 2 **The Graz House of Art: an architectural masterpiece**
- 3 **Leaving cares behind**
- 4 **Aerial view of the Golden Dachl**
- 5 **A visit to a café is a must**

Graz

It was the fascinating combination of architecture that prompted UNESCO to declare Graz's historic town centre a World Heritage Site. From Gothic and Renaissance, through Baroque and Historicism, and including more modern forms. The town, characterized by a Mediterranean flair, boasts a wonderful medieval square. The Schlossberg, a hill that juts out from the heart of the city, houses the Graz Clock Tower, the town's landmark. Further places worth visiting are the Gothic Cathedral, Emperor Ferdinand II's Mausoleum or the Landhaus, with its Renaissance style arcaded courtyard, reminiscent of a Venetian Palazzo. Festivals such as the 'Styriarte' or 'Styrian Autumn' have become famous well outside of the region's borders.

T. +43 316 8075-15, www.graztourismus.at

Innsbruck

Even as you draw near to the town, Innsbruck's picturesque beauty and that of the majestic mountains that encircle it have already begun to work their magic. Within no time at all you'll discover that Innsbruck has much more to offer than simply mountains. You will gaze in amazement at the opulent treasures of the Renaissance Ambras Palace,

including the 'Golden Roof'. You will stand in silent contemplation in the Hofkirche with its impressive memorial to Emperor Maximilian I. Or you will simply enjoy the town's charming streets and passageways. Sports enthusiasts will marvel at the Bergisel Ski Jumping Stadium in Innsbruck; the 47 metre high café offers a fantastic view over the town. T. +43 512 59850, www.innsbruck.info

Linz

The Landstrasse runs through the heart of Linz, past narrow, idyllic lanes, and through the attractive Baroque main square; it's an outstanding shopping street with an expressly international flavour. Just a few short steps away is the Neue Dom, Austria's largest and second tallest church. The banks of the Danube, however, are quite different, scoring points for their modern architecture. On one the Ars Electronica Centre invites you to explore the fascinating world of multi-media experiments. On the opposite bank is the Lentos Museum, built from glass and dedicated to the art of the 19th and 20th centuries. Linz's local peak is the Pöstlingberg boasting the steepest adhesion railway in Europe, which takes you directly to the summit. On the top you'll be rewarded with a fantastic view over the >

Regional capitals



- 1 **Lentos Museum of Art in Linz**
- 2 **Southern Styria is famous for its excellent wines**



The nine provincial capitals

St. Pölten Capital of Lower Austria.
Population 50,000.

Eisenstadt Capital of Burgenland.
Population: 13,000.

Bregenz Capital of Vorarlberg.
Population 30,000.

Klagenfurt Capital of Carinthia.
Population 92,000.

Vienna Austria's capital city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Population: 1,700,000.

Salzburg Capital of the province of Salzburg and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Population: 150,000.

Graz Capital of the province of Styria and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Population: 245,000.

Innsbruck Capital of Tyrol.
Population: 140,000.

Linz Capital of Upper Austria.
Population: 190,000.

town, plus the chance to explore the oldest pilgrimage church in Upper Austria. Linz was declared Cultural Capital of Europe 2009.

T. +43 732 7070-1777, www.linz.at/tourismus

Klagenfurt

The capital of Austria's southernmost province is nestled on the scenic banks of the Wörthersee, and has been honoured many times for its picturesque historic town centre. The arcaded walkways, historic passages and courtyards are now home to boutiques, bars and pleasant beer gardens, which, coupled with a pleasing Mediterranean climate, give the city its unique feel. A simple stroll through the pretty streets and lanes is turned into a cultural experience by the Baroque and Jugendstil facades. Klagenfurt's emblem, the stone figure of the Lindwurm on Neuen Platz, acts as a reminder of the legend surrounding the city's beginnings. Also worth seeing are the 16th century cathedral, the Diocese Museum and Minimundus, miniature models of 150 of the most beautiful buildings in the world, all built true-to-scale.

T. +43 463 537 2223, www.info.klagenfurt.at

Bregenz

The ancient Romans settled in Bregenz more than 2,000 years ago. Today the townscape is fashioned around its medieval town centre and the Baroque St. Martins Tower, with its imposing onion dome. Nevertheless, Bregenz is also a mecca for modern architecture, the Kunsthaus (Art Gallery) on the shores of the lake being possibly the most impressive example. To the west of the town are the splendid shores of Lake Constance, and above it the local Pfänder mountain offers magnificent views out over the town and the lake. The Bregenz Festival and its

open-air floating stage at the edge of the lake has established itself as a cherished cultural attraction amongst music lovers throughout the world.

T. +43 5574 4959-0, www.bregenz.ws

Eisenstadt

Those who venture to Eisenstadt, the capital of Austria's easternmost province, will discover that one musician is present at every turn: Joseph Haydn. From the year 1761 Haydn was bandmaster to the Esterházy court for 40 years. Esterházy Palace, the emblem of Eisenstadt, is a major attraction with its stately halls hosting numerous concerts. Other reminders of the great composer include the 18th century Haydn Church, the Haydn Mausoleum, the Baroque Haydn House and the annual International Haydn Festival. For wine-lovers there are plenty of vineyards and 'Heurigen' nearby.

T. +43 2682 705-0, www.eisenstadt-tourism.at

St. Pölten

The youngest provincial capital in Austria boasts a long historical tradition; its municipal charter actually goes back to the 12th century, but St. Pölten really experienced its heyday in the 17th century. It possesses several delightful old town squares, the Herrenplatz, Rathausplatz, and Riemerplatz, adorned with beautiful Baroque and Jugendstil facades. The town hall, the Romanesque cathedral and the one-time Jugendstil synagogue are also well worth a visit. In contrast, take a look at the modern architecture of the Government Quarter and the Cultural District, the Festival Hall in particular.

T. +43 2742 353354, www.st-poelten.gv.at ●



2

Day trips

Austria's regional capitals are surrounded by enchanting, unspoilt countryside, making a day trip to explore your surroundings a real pleasure!

From culture to nature. The mountains are within short reach. Within a few minutes you have left a provincial capital and find yourself in picture postcard world of mountains and lakes. From west to east, from Bregenz to Vienna.

Across Vorarlberg

Bregenz is the starting point for a marvellous mountain tour by car in the province of Vorarlberg. Starting at Feldkirch and Bludenz your tour takes you to the Montafon and over the Silvretta Alpine Highway, one of the most impressive panorama highways in the Alps, to the Paznau Valley in Tirol. From St. Anton am Arlberg, the journey continues over the Arlberg Pass and the Flexen Pass to the glamorous Ski resort of Lech am Arlberg. The return trip to Bregenz takes you through the Bregenz Woods, and past Schwarzenberg with its houses typical for the region.

Around Innsbruck

Leaving Innsbruck in a south-westerly direction, you'll reach the tiny villages of Natters and Mutters in the sunny Mittelgebirge, and further on, Sellrain and the beautiful Sellrain Valley. Especially attractive is the winding stretch between Kühtai and Ötz in the Ötztal. You continue via Nassereith and Telfs in the Mieminger Plateau nature reserve to Seefeld, another of the region's jewels, and via Zirl to arrive back in Innsbruck.

Around Salzburg

From Salzburg the road leads east, passing through the town of Hof into the enchanting Salzkammergut. Continuing along the banks of the Fuschlsee, the road takes you to Fuschl, and from here towards St. Gilgen on the edge of Wolfgangsee. Near Strobl it's worth making an excursion to St. Wolfgang. Continuing eastwards the road takes you to Bad Ischl, the former Imperial Summer Residence and via Bad Goisern to the Hallstätter See. The idyllic environs around Hallstatt have been designated a World Heritage Site. From here it's on to Obertraun. Among the notable attractions here are the historical salt mines. Places to see on your return: Gosau (Gosau Lakes), the Gschütt pass, Abtenau (Lammeröfen Ravine), Golling (Water falls) und Hallein (Salt mine).

Around Graz

The trip from Graz takes you over the Schilcher Wine Trail to Stainz. From here you travel to Kitzeck, the highest wine growing area in Europe, where you can visit the first Styrian Wine Museum. The drive continues along the picturesque South Styrian Wine Road (www.suedsteirischeweinstrasse.at) to the towns of Leutschach and Gamlitz. Next is Leibnitz (Seggau castle – see page 12) by way of Ehrenhausen. Bad Radkersburg follows with its historical old town. On the return you will travel through the Genuss Region of the Styrian

volcano land (see p. 7) past Klösch, Kapfenstein and Feldbach. Here you might take a side trip to Riegersburg (see p. 11). The motorway A2 takes you back to Graz.

Around Vienna

To reach Vienna's local mountains, Rax, Schneeberg and Hohe Wand you leave the city on the Südbahn. Take the exit Wöllersdorf and continue towards Piesting, Pernitz, until the little town of Gutenstein. Passing through the romantic Höllental to Reichenau and Gloggnitz. Here starts the spectacular railway line over the Semmering pass built in the 19th century, which was distinguished as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. Back to the road, and leaving Gloggnitz, the road takes you to Puchberg and a highly recommended trip on the mountain railway; it takes you right to the summit of the Schneeberg. Between Maiersdorf and Stollhof a toll road takes you to the plateau of the Hohe Wand. Travelling back towards the motorway and Vienna, don't forget to stop in Dreistetten to take a look at the ruins of Starhemberg Castle. ●



Five round trips

Around Vorarlberg (approx. 280 km, summer only)

Around Innsbruck (approx. 140 km)

Around Salzburg (approx. 170 km)

Around Graz (approx. 170 km)

Around Vienna (approx. 240 km)



On the road

The best routes and excursions through magnificent mountain passes, past spectacular lakes and through beautiful old towns; here the journey itself is the reward!

Imagine it. You are coasting through the luxurious Austrian countryside, the car engine purring gently as you go. Only a few moments ago you were in a small alpine village at the bottom of a valley, enjoying a coffee and a generous piece of apple strudel whilst studying the map. Now you're following the alpine road as it takes you to a breathtaking altitude.

All of a sudden you are presented with a spectacular view of awe-inspiring mountain ranges reaching out as far as the eye can see. You overtake a cyclist with care, quietly pleased with yourself for having chosen a more comfortable mode of transport to explore Austria. From the map you can see that there is a lake on the other side of the mountain whose banks will undoubtedly provide a magnificent spot for a picnic. After all, here the journey itself is more important than actually getting there!

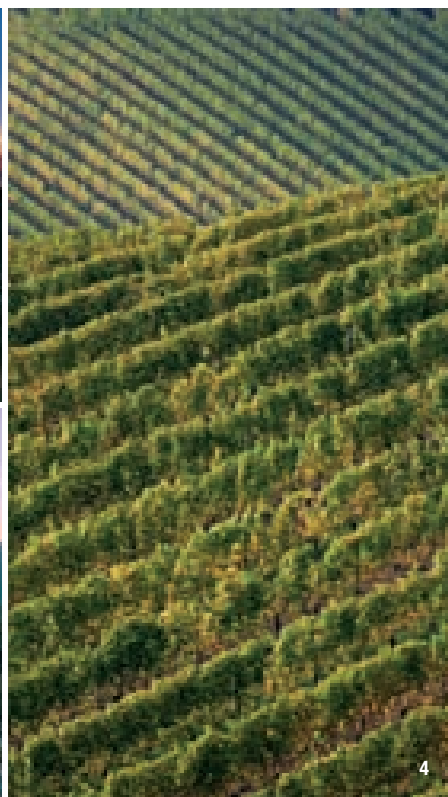
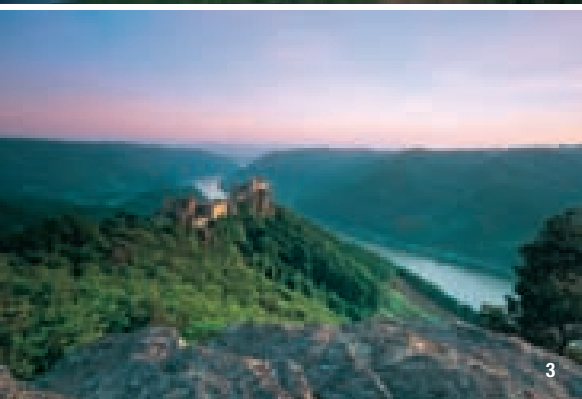
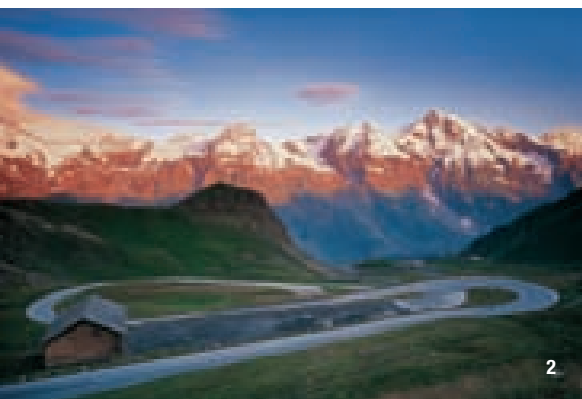
Grossglockner High Alpine Road

Famed for a fabulously scenic route that meanders through the Hohe Tauern National Park, the Grossglockner High Alpine Road is probably the most well known stretch of road in Austria. (See chapter on National Parks). A mere 48 km long drive along the Pass leads you to an altitude difference of over 1,500 metres. And you'll pass through different climatic and vegetation zones; from meadows and forests, through mountain pastures and past alpine mountain tops, to the timeless glacial ice flows that flank Austria's highest mountain, the magnificent 3,798 metre Grossglockner. The highest point on the pass is the Hochtort at 2,505 metres. Here you'll find the Visitors Centre as well as paths with panoramic views leading through the mountainous alpine landscape directly to the glacier's foothills. The road is a dream for motorcyclists as well as cyclists who love a serious sporting challenge.

What is more, you will find exhibitions, information boards and nature trails all the way along the Grossglockner High Alpine Road. The road is open from May through October, and is closed at night. www.grossglockner.at

Carinthian Lake Tour

If you were to describe Carinthia it would be as a region exemplified by superb lakes surrounded on all sides by awe-inspiring mountains (see p.22). The excursion starts in Klagenfurt, following the northern bank of the legendary Wörthersee to Pörtlach, a famous tourist resort. From here you travel north to Moosburg and the Moosburg ponds, past Feldkirchen and on to the magnificent Ossiacher See. Take a short detour along the Gerlitz Alpine Road near Bodensdorf, which takes you to an altitude of 1,800 meters, and you'll be rewarded with a fabulous view over the whole of central Carinthia. From the southern end of the Ossiacher See, continue northwards taking in the crystal-clear waters of the Ahrntalsee and the Brennsee before continuing on to the Millstättersee. The monastery in Millstatt (p.14) and the Renaissance Porcia Castle (p.10) are both well worth a visit. After that, continue onwards towards



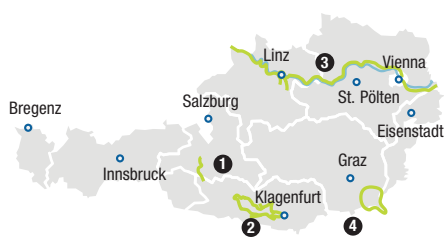
Tip

* The Styrian volcano area

A trip through this extremely appealing landscape is recommended to all connoisseurs of wine and fans of typical regional specialties. The area extends between Schwarzau in the west and Kapfenstein in the east.

The area is noted for its idyllic rural eating establishments with excellent cuisine, as well as wine taverns, and wine growers producing exquisite local wines. Together with specialised manufacturers and museums the area has formed a collective to protect and promote the uniqueness of this section of Styria. www.vulkanland.at

- 1 Lakeside holidays at the Wörthersee
- 2 The Grossglockner High Alpine Road
- 3 The castle ruins of Aggstein overlook the Wachau valley
- 4 Austria's vineyards produce fine wines



Some of the best tours

- 1 Grossglockner High Alpine Road**
A breathtaking stretch of road winding from Bruck in Salzburg to Heiligenblut in Carinthia.
Distance: 48 km
- 2 Carinthian Lake Tour**
From Klagenfurt to Ossiacher See, Millstätter See, Faaker See and Wörthersee. *Distance: 270 km*
- 3 Along the Danube**
Follow the Danube from Passau to Hainburg, taking in the Wachau and Vienna on the way.
Distance: 445 km
- 4 The Styrian volcano area**
Distance: 100 km

Villach. From here you can take the Villach Alpine Road (toll-road) to a height of 1,732 metres into the Dobratsch Mountains. It's more than worth it for the fantastic view you'll get from the road over Villach, the Julian Alps and the imposing southern face of the Dobratsch. Onwards to the shimmering turquoise waters of the Faaker See, you take in Maria Gail and the majestic interior of its parish church, before returning to the Wörthersee and the celebrated towns of Velden and Maria Wörth. Then continue to the unpretentious Keutschacher See. Another detour worth taking is a trip to the Pyramidenkogel viewing tower to enjoy the superb view that stretches all the way from the Karawanken Alps to Hohe Tauern. Finally it's back to Klagenfurt, passing through Viktring (see p.14) on the way.

Along the Danube

The journey along the Danube basin starts in Passau, a charming town on the border between Austria and Germany. The first attraction along the way the 'Donauschlinge' (an oxbow) near Schlögen. From here it's past Wilhering Monastery to Linz, the capital of Upper Austria. Here the road leaves the Danube, for a short diversion to

St. Florian with its imposing monastery, through the ancient Roman town of Enns and on towards Steyr, a small town with a historic city centre. Passing through the small fishing village of Grein the route takes you to the start of the Wachau, celebrated as a UNESCO world heritage site. It is a particularly beautiful section of the route, replete with vineyards, apricot trees and quaint little villages, and resplendent with monasteries and ruins towering high above the Danube. The abbeys in Melk, Göttweig and Krems are especially impressive, and just outside of Krems you'll find the beautiful and romantic villages of Spitz, Weissenkirchen and Dürnstein, the latter complete with its famous ruins. Leaving the Wachau, and just before the road takes you to the capital and all of the sights that it has to offer, don't miss Klosterneuburg and its abbey, at the gates of Vienna. Leaving Vienna once more, follow the Danube eastwards towards Hainburg, a small town on the edge of the Donau-Auen National Park (p.18). It's here that the Danube leaves Austrian territory once again. Before you get there, explore the archaeological Roman ruins of Petronell Carnuntum, (p 25). For more information on many of the monasteries along the way see page 14. >

Excursions



- 1 **Kitzbühel in Tirol**
- 2 **The marmot is native to the Alps**
- 3 **The Hohe Tauern National Park**
- 4 **The Galzig train in St. Anton am Arlberg**
- 5 **Elegance and style at Lake Neusiedl:
The trendy Mole West**

Around and about the 'Wilder Kaiser'

Your journey begins in Kufstein, the proverbial 'Pearl of Tirol', renowned for its enchanting historic centre. From here you set out for Ebbs, towards the idyllic Walchsee. If you have time for a little excursion, take the turning in Griesenau onto the Griesener Alm (toll road). The route continues to St. Johann in Tirol, passing through Kirchdorf on the way. From here it is not far to Kitzbühel, the holiday destination known for its vibrant town centre. Nestled at the foot of the majestic Wilder Kaiser are the delightful Tirolean villages of Going, Ellmau and Scheffau. From here you can reach Hintersteiner See, a charming lake that lies at an altitude of 882 metres. The road then passes through the tiny villages of Söll and Kirchbichl before reaching Mariastein with its church, famous as a place of pilgrimage, before bringing you back to Kufstein once again.

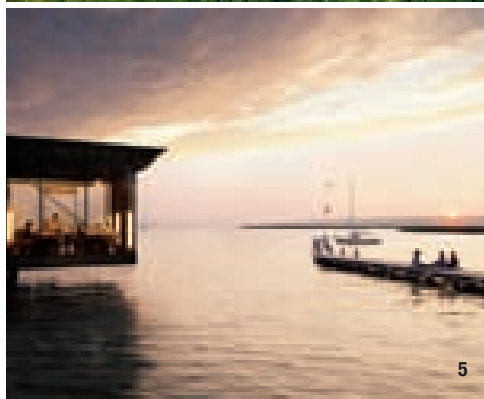
Hohe Tauern Tour

Your excursion starts in St. Johann im Pongau; from here the route takes you through the breathtaking scenery of the Hohe Tauern National Park (p.19). Not far away from here is the 'Liechtensteinklamm', a spectacular gorge formed

by the thunderous current of the waterfalls as they cut deep into the towering rock. The next stop is the Gasteiner Tal (Valley) and the superbly located cure and health centres of Bad Hofgastein and Bad Gastein (p.21). In Böckstein load your car onto the train and take the Tauernschleuse (tunnel), located in the heart of the Hohe Tauern National Park, to Mallnitz in Carinthia. In Obervellach the magnificent Falkenstein Castle awaits you before the route takes you on to Kolbnitz in the Mölltal. Just outside of Spittal an der Drau and Porcia Castle (p. 12) take a minute to explore Teurnia, a Roman archaeological site. From the medieval town of Gmünd the next stop is St. Michael im Lungau, which can be reached by way of the Katschbergpass. Close by you'll find two treasures of days gone by; Moosham Castle and Mauterndorf Castle – see the chapter on Castles and Palaces for more details. The roundtrip continues back to St. Johann via the Radstädter Tauernpass, passing through the small walled-town of Radstadt.

Around the Wölzer Tauern

From the shopping town of Liezen the road takes you to the Putterersee in Aigen, Styria's warmest alpine moor lake. The lake is beautifully



Tip

* Experience Vorarlberg's highest peaks

Starting in Bludenz this round trip takes you through the Montafon. By way of Schruns-Tschagguns, St. Gallenkirch, Gortipohl and Gaschurn you travel past Partenen on the Silvretta High Alpine toll road, one of the most beautiful panorama highways in the Alps. It is 22.3 km long and over more than 30 switchbacks it leads to the 2,032 high Bieler Summit. The Silvretta water reservoir is here and the view of the mountains is breathtaking. The trip continues to Galtür and Ischgl and over the imposing Trisanna Bridge to the upscale ski resorts of St. Anton and St. Christoph am Arlberg. This is followed by the 1,793 metre high Arlberg mountain pass. You return to Bludenz by way of Bergdorfer Stuben and Klösterle through the Kloster Valley.

located, nestled as it is between the mountains of the Ennstal, in the Grimming mountain range. From the picturesque town of Irnding the road continues to Donnersbach – from here a short detour onto the 1,600 metre high Planneralm is really worth the effort. The Erzherzog-Johann-Strasse with its perfect panoramic views takes you from the Ennstal and over the Sölkpass, in the mountains of the Niederen Tauern and through the Sölktaal Nature Reserve. Once on the other side, head for Oberzeiring, where you have the chance to visit a disused silver-mine, passing by the towns of Schöder and Oberwölz on the way. Continuing northwards the road takes you, by way of Mörderbrugg, to Hohentauern. A detour taking in the crystal-clear waters of the Scheibelseen, which lie 1,700 metres above sea level, is highly recommended. From here the road takes you back to Liezen, passing through Rottenmann on the way. If you still have time, take a short excursion to Strechau Castle, which is nearby.

Across the 'Puszta', the lowland plains of Burgenland

From Vienna the road takes you via Schwechat and Bruck an der Leitha to the Neusiedlersee, a lake

encircled by broad swathes of reeds. The lake is part of the Neusiedler See – Seewinkel National Park, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage, "Fertő-Neusiedler See." (p. 18). From Neusiedl am See head for Mönchhof. Highly recommended is a trip to the fabulous Baroque Halbturm Castle, which regularly puts on interesting exhibitions (p. 10). Next stop is the Seewinkel with its countless lakes and ponds, passing through Frauenkirchen and St. Andrä am Zicksee on the way. A number of internationally recognised winegrowers have settled in the Seewinkel area, around for instance the idyllic villages of Apetlon or Illmitz.

The route begins then to wind its way back to Podersdorf, a surfers' paradise, through Neusiedl am See, beautifully located on the west bank of the lake, and on towards the wine producing town of Rust with its outstanding architecture. From Rust the next stop is St. Margarethen; opera festivals are performed here in the Roman Quarry during the summer months. From Eisenstadt, the capital of Burgenland, the journey back to Vienna leads you through Loretto with its beautiful pilgrimage church, and Laxenburg Palace. ●



Some of the best tours

- 1 Around and about the 'Wilder Kaiser'**
A trip around the Wilder Kaiser mountains departing from Kufstein in Tirol.
Distance: 90 km
- 2 Hohe Tauern Tour**
From St. Johann im Pongau to Spittal an der Drau then on to Eben im Pongau and Radstadt.
Distance: 270 km
- 3 Around the Wölzer Tauern**
A round-trip setting out from Liezen in Styria through the Sölktaaler Nature Reserve.
Distance: 200 km
- 4 Across the 'Puszta', the lowland plains of Burgenland**
Roundtrip from Vienna to Neusiedlersee, the Seewinkel and Eisenstadt.
Distance: 220 km
- 5 Experience Vorarlberg's highest peaks**
Round trip from Bludenz by way of Silvretta and the Arlberg.
Distance: 140 km

Castles & palaces



Audience with the Emperor

Austria is filled with magnificent castles and palaces, grandiose witnesses of a bygone era.

A tall, slim figure wanders in and out between the trees, long dark hair plaited into a natural crown. Tiny feet in narrow laced-up boots move restlessly over the gravel pathways of the palace park at Schönbrunn. It's the year 1860 and we're hard on the heels of the young Empress Elisabeth I, the legendary 'Sisi', wife of the emperor Franz Josef. What if we were to go further back in time? Perhaps venture back to the deep Middle Ages, when mighty castles were built throughout the land, impressive stone fortifications to keep the enemy out. With a dash of imagination history comes alive. It speaks of knights and minnesingers, of emperors and empresses and princes and princesses.

Vienna

The Hofburg: today the official residence of the Austrian President, until 1918 it was the residence of the Emperor of Austria. The oldest part was constructed in the 13th century. The buildings house

numerous museums, including the Imperial Silver Collection, the Sisi museum, the Spanish Riding School and the National Library and Prunksaal. www.hofburg.wien.info

Belvedere Palace: once the summer residence of Prince Eugen of Savoy, is a Baroque palace consisting of the Upper and the Lower Belvedere. The Belvedere is also home to the Austrian Gallery. www.belvedere.at

Schönbrunn Palace: see shaded box

Burgenland

Schloss Esterházy: Esterházy Palace: 17th century Baroque residence, includes the stately Haydn-Hall that regularly hosts concerts; symbol of Eisenstadt. www.esterhazy.at/schloss-esterhazy/

Forchtenstein Castle: near Mattersburg; an imposing fortress originating from the Middle Ages, houses 20,000 exhibits and an armoury. www.burgforchtenstein.at

- 1 **Gardens of Mirabell Palace in Salzburg**
- 2 **The Palm House in the Burggarten of the Vienna Hofburg palace**
- 3 **In the Schönbrunn Zoo**
- 4 **Anif Castle near Salzburg**

Güssing Castle: built in the 11th century it is the oldest castle in Burgenland and contains a museum housing 5,000 exhibits; bell tower with panoramic view. www.burggussing.info

Halbturn Castle: close to Neusiedl am See; a Baroque construction from the time of Empress Maria Theresia, with palace gardens, the palace wine cellars and exhibition. www.schlosshalbturn.at

Lockenhaus Castle in central Burgenland: built around the year 1200 complete with hotel for an overnight stay, robber-baron banquets, events and castle tours. www.ritterburg.at

Carinthia

Schlossberg Griffen: near Völkermarkt, 12th century castle ruins, complete with stalactite caves. www.griffen.at/schlossberg.html

Hochosterwitz Castle: see shaded box

Landskron Castle: beautiful ruins of a large castle near Villach, includes a bird of prey exhibition and a



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4

Tips

★ Vienna, Schönbrunn Palace

Imperial Palace, complete with its spacious palace gardens, is one of the most important Baroque estates in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Up until 1918 it was the Imperial Summer Residence. It contains the Imperial Apartments and boasts the oldest zoo in the world, which today is considered one of the most modern in Europe. www.schoenbrunn.at

★ Carinthia, Hochosterwitz Castle

East of St. Veit, the symbol of Carinthia. First mentioned in 860. It has an extraordinary structure with 14 towers. There is also a castle museum. www.burg-hochosterwitz.or.at

★ Lower Austria, Rosenberg Castle

A lavishly decorated Renaissance castle near Horn. Attractions include a bird of prey display and a tournament ground. www.rosenburg.at

'Monkey-Mountain' with its free-roaming monkeys. www.burg-landeskron.at

Porcia Castle: in Spittal an der Drau is one of the most important Renaissance structures north of the Alps. Theatre performances during the summer months.

Sommereg Castle: majestically overlooks the Millstätter See near Seeboden. Lovingly restored, it also contains a torture museum and a Medieval Knight's Festival every August. www.sommereg.at

Strassburg Castle: lies north of St. Veit. Built in the 12th century, former seat of the Carinthian bishopric; now contains an ethnographic and a hunting museum. www.bistum-gurk.at/Strassburg/strassburg.htm

Wolfsberg castle: built in the 12th cent., Tudor-style adaptations. www.schloss-wolfsberg.at

Lower Austria

Aggstein Castle: castle ruins on the banks of the Danube in the Wachau. A favourite tourist destination with a magnificent view. www.ruineaggstein.at

Dürnstein Castle: the English King Richard the Lionhearted was imprisoned here in the former castle during the 12th century.

Grafeneg Castle: near Krems is an important example of architectural Historicism; hosts numerous cultural events. www.grafeneg.at

Greillenstein Castle: a small Renaissance castle situated near Horn, includes an arcaded courtyard and hosts exhibitions, events and 'ghost-tours' during the evenings. www.greillenstein.at

Heidenreichstein Castle: in the 'Waldviertel' is a medieval moated castle and is accessed via a drawbridge. www.heidenreichstein.at

Schloss Hof: near Hainburg was the Summer Residence of Prince Eugen of Savoy; contains a ballroom, the state apartments, and a Baroque garden terrace complete with pavilions and fountains. www.schlosshof.at

Artstetten Castle: Artstetten. Picturesque castle of medieval origin, museum. www.schloss-artstetten.at

Kreuzenstein Castle: has medieval origins and was rebuilt in the 19th century. Popular tourist destination near Vienna, bird of prey displays. www.kreuzenstein.com

Orth Castle, Orth an der Donau: In the Danube Marshlands National Park. Permanent multimedia display "DonAUräume," observation tower and open air exhibition "castle island" with typical animals and plants from the marshlands.

Rappottenstein Castle: near Zwettl, one of Austria's best-preserved castles, sections of the structure from the Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance

periods. Cultural events are held in summer. www.burg-rappottenstein.at

Riegersburg Castle: near Hardegg is the most important Baroque palace in Lower Austria. With state apartments and historic palace kitchens. www.riegersburg-hardegg.com

Rosenburg Castle: see shaded box

Schallaburg: splendid Renaissance palace near Melk, arcaded courtyard with terracotta decorations and exhibition centre. www.schallaburg.at

Weitra Palace: near Zwettl, Renaissance palace with arcaded courtyard, palace theatre and brewing museum. www.schloss-weitra.at

Upper Austria

Aistersheim Water Palace: one of the most beautiful and largest water palaces in Austria.

Clam Castle: one of the best-preserved 12th century castles in Austria, situated near Perg. Museum and concerts. www.clam.at/burg-clam

Greinburg Castle: Renaissance castle overlooking the Danube with exhibition rooms and maritime museum. www.schloss-greinberg.at

The Kaiservilla: in Bad Ischl was the summer residence of Emperor Franz Joseph 1 and 'Sisi' - Empress Elizabeth 1. www.kaiservilla.at >

Castles & palaces



The Baroque Lambert Castle: is the descendant of a castle that was erected on the site in 980. Today it is home to the largest library in Austria.

Linz Palace: overlooks the old town in Linz. Today it houses the Upper Austrian regional museum.

www.schlossmuseum.at

Ort Castle: the symbol of the town of Gmunden, situated on the banks of the Traunsee, with a Renaissance period arcaded courtyard.

www.schlossort.gmunden.at

The Imperial Castle in Wels: was built in 776 and it was here that Emperor Maximilian died in 1519. Today the building houses a bakery museum.

SalzburgerLand

Finstergrün Castle: near Tamsweg is a romantic, 12th century castle. Today it is home to a youth hostel. www.burg-finstergruen.at

Goldegg Castle: near St. Johann im Pongau, with its 16th century Knight's Hall and events area.

www.schlossgoldegg.at

Hellbrunn Palace: was built in the 17th century and is located in the town of Salzburg; palace gardens with late Renaissance fountains and mechanical theatre with water driven figures. www.hellbrunn.at

Hohensalzburg Fortress: a genuine symbol of the town of Salzburg and one of the largest surviving fortresses in central Europe. Built in the 11th century, the fortress offers a magnificent view over the town. www.hohensalzburg.com

The imposing Hohenwerfen Fortress: near Werfen was built in the Middle Ages as a fortress for the Archbishop. Today, attractions at this show castle include falconry displays, an armoury, and dungeons.

Mauterndorf Castle: West of Tamsweg, built in the 13th century, houses a countryside museum.

www.museum-joanneum.at

Mirabell Palace: built in 1606, boasts beautiful palace gardens and lies in the heart of Salzburg.

Styria

Eggenberg Palace: Baroque palace in Graz, stately rooms, a park in the style of an English garden, the Alte Galerie. Also houses the pre and early history collections of the Landesmuseum Joanneum.

www.museum-joanneum.at/eggenberg

Gallenstein Castle: near Liezen, wonderful view of the St. Gallen Valley. Cultural events.

www.gde-st.gallen.istsuper.com

Herberstein Palace: a Renaissance palace with a historic garden, museum and zoo, to the East of Weiz. www.herberstein.co.at

Oberkapfenberg Castle: near Kapfenberg dates back to the 13th century. Includes birds of prey show, exhibition of historic weapons, historical displays, medieval events and activities. www.narrenfreiheit.at

Riegersburg Castle: Near Feldbach, famous bulwark during the Turkish Siege. Birds of prey display, witch museum and exhibitions. www.riegersburg.com

Strechau Castle: Middle age castle rebuilt in the Renaissance arcaded courtyard, ceiling paintings, events. www.burg-strechau.at

Seggau Castle: Near Leibnitz, baroque rooms, 300 year-old wine cellar. www.seggau.com

Stainz castle: Stainz. Baroque and Renaissance origin. Hunting museum. www.schloss.stainz.at

Tirol

Ambras Palace: is a Renaissance palace overlooking Innsbruck, boasting the 'Spanish Hall' with its magnificent artwork; branch of the Art History Museum of Vienna with many art treasures, exhibitions and

exhibition rooms, palace gardens in the style of an English garden. www.khm.at/schloss-ambras.at

The Innsbruck Hofburg: is the former seat of the ruling Princes of Tirol and was remodelled into a Baroque palace by Empress Maria Theresia. Grand staterooms, exhibition and event spaces, Imperial Apartments and palace gardens.

www.hofburg-innsbruck.at

Kufstein fortress: The city's landmark, first mentioned in the 13th century has the largest open-air organ in the world. Regular cultural events. www.festung.kufstein.at

Landeck Castle: 13th century castle that also functioned as a legal court and administrative centre. Houses a Local History Museum and Gallery.

www.schlosslandeck.at

Tratzberg Palace: near Jenbach counts as one of the most beautiful late-Gothic, early Renaissance palaces in Europe. The Habsburgersaal contains the oldest known painting depicting the Habsburg family tree. www.schloss-tratzberg.com

Vorarlberg

Schattenburg Castle: the symbol of Feldkirch; viewing tower; local museum. www.schattenburg.at

Hohenems Castle: 16th century Renaissance; parts of the Songs of the Nibelung manuscripts were discovered here; also hosts exhibitions and cultural events. www.palast-hohenems.at

Castle ruins Tosters: 13th century ruined castle near Feldkirch, with viewing tower.

Castle ruins Gebhardsberg: an 18th century pilgrim church now stands in the middle of the ruins. ●

1 Schallaburg Castle in Lower Austria is an art and exhibition centre



Pure Indulgence

Wining, dining and culture!

These routes will take you to the sunny side of life.

What would a country be without its rural traditions? In Austria a number of regions have got together to create themed routes that invite our guests to explore the vibrant history of the country. With gastronomic delights right on the roadside!

Cheese Trail

The cheese trail takes you on its tasty way through the Bregenz Woods. You travel to alpine dairies, to farms, to artisans and to the cheese merchants. Especially noteworthy is the cheese cellar in Lingenau.

Popular attractions are the cheese house in Andelsbach as well as the alpine dairy school and the producer of whey cosmetics, Metzler in Egg. The cheese route in the Bregenzerwald is not so much a single route, but more a network dedicated to the preservation of regional distinctiveness and expertise. There are also events, presentations and guided tours. www.kaesestrasse.at

Museum Trail

The roads that wind through the 'Mühlviertel' lead you through the romantic countryside, but also take you back in time. No less than 31 tourist destinations brought together by the Museum Route give the visitor a glimpse at life and work in the region in a bygone era. A fine network of roads crisscross the area, stretching from Pelmburg to Kerschbaum.

The open-air museum in Pelmburg brings to life centuries of rural living and farming heritage, and Kerschbaum operates a horse-drawn railway between May and October, as well as on Sundays in the run-up to Christmas.

Lying at the heart of the region is Freistadt with its castle museum. To the west, the road takes you to Bad Leonfelden and the School Museum where you to soak up four centuries of school history. In Kefermarkt, to the south of Freistadt, you can marvel at its famous 15th century winged altar, a work that is considered to be one of the most important Gothic examples in the German-speaking world. www.museumsstrasse.at

Cider Trail

The route takes its name from 'Birnenmost', a refreshing amber-coloured cider drink with a mild, fruity taste. The route zigzags through the 'Mostviertel', the largest continuous area of pear orchards in the whole of Europe. It stretches from the town of Haag in the far west of Lower Austria to Amstetten, taking in 29 cider inns, 21 'Heurigen', inns specialising in 'Most', and 24 farms where you can buy produce directly along the way.

The town of Haag is home to the 'Mostviertel' museum, and in Amstetten there's a farm museum

2 Mostgeschnetzeltes – a specialty of Upper Austria

3 The whey cosmetics manufacture in Egg

complete with 17,000 artefacts and exhibits on display. Best of all is the panoramic stretch between Behamberg and Kürnberg, Ertl and Seitenstetten. In the latter make sure you visit the exquisite monastery - see p.15 for more details. Neuhofen and Euratsfeld also offer fantastic views out over the rolling countryside, with its gentle, undulating hills and scattered hamlets.

www.moststrasse.at ●



Culture and culinary tours

1 Cheese Trail

Takes you through the Bregenzerwald in the North of Vorarlberg. Distance: 70 km.

2 Museum Trail

Meandering through the 'Mühlviertel' in Upper Austria. Distance: 160km.

3 Cider Trail

Through the hills of the 'Mostviertel' in the west of Lower Austria. Distance: 200 km.

Convents and monasteries



Close to Heaven

*The gates of the old walls are wide open.
They are jewels of ecclesiastical art, in their own meditative sphere.*

The faster the pace of life becomes, the more the longing for a place of peace and contemplation grows. Austria's abbeys, convents and monasteries are, however, more than just centuries-old edifices in the whirlpools of time. They preserve the culture of bygone epochs, are treasuries of architecture and art, and collect the knowledge of centuries in their magnificent libraries. They opened their gates long ago, and invite you to take a tour inside their venerable walls, to pause, and sometimes even to stay the night. When it comes to monasteries, you really are spoilt for choice! The "Klösterreich" is an association of monasteries and abbeys which open their doors to visitors. The monastery gardens are often very beautiful, with flowers and medicinal herbs, which instil a sense of peace in the visitor. www.kloesterreich.at

Vienna

Capuchin Abbey: Imperial Vaults of Habsburg Emperors. www.kaisergruft.at

Schottenstift: A 12th century Benedictine Abbey and a 17th century church. The museum possesses art from across the centuries. www.schottenstift.at

Burgenland

Franciscan Monastery Güssing: 17th century monastery with a valuable library collection.

Loretto Abbey: Founded by the Servite Order in the 17th century. Near Eisenstadt. Maria pilgrimage site, a Baroque construction from the 17th –18th century with cloister. www.martinus.at/loretto

Franciscan Monastery St. Michael: in Eisenstadt, 17th century, the Esterházy family crypt, Haydn's Organ and diocesan museum.

Frauenkirchen: Pilgrimage village with 17th cent. basilica and Franciscan monastery.

Carinthia

Benedictine Abbey St. Paul: See box for details.

Millstatt: Former Benedictine Abbey, founded in

1 **Melk Abbey - a UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site**

2 **Restaurant at the Benedictine Abbey St. Paul with classical cross-vault**

3 **Detail of the Hofburg Imperial Palace, Vienna**

the 10th century, complete with Romanesque cloister and museum. www.stiftsmuseum.at

Viktring Monastery: 12th century Cistercian monastery, monumental Romanesque Abbey Church with a 14th century Baroque altar and stained glass windows. www.stiftviktring.at

Lower Austria

Altenburg Monastery: A sumptuously decorated, 12th century Baroque monastery, with ceiling frescos, a library, and crypt.

www.stift-altenburg.at

Göttweig Abbey: 11th century Baroque abbey with a museum, an Imperial Wing, concert performances plus a magnificent view over the Danube and the Wachau. Retreats possible. The stretch from Göttweig to Melk is part of the Austrian 'Camino de Santiago' pilgrimage. www.stiftgoettweig.or.at

Herzogenburg Abbey: Superbly furnished Augustinian canonical monastery and Baroque abbey



2



3

Tips

★ Lower Austria.

Academy in the Geras abbey

Countless artistic, recreational and creative courses take place in this 800-year-old Premonstratensian abbey. The seminars are conducted by experienced artists. www.akademiegeras.at

★ Carinthia.

St. Paul Benedictine abbey

Located in Lavanttal this abbey has valuable artistic treasures. The Basilica from the 12th century provides facilities for retreats. www.stiftstpaul.at

★ Upper Austria.

Kremsmünster abbey

One of the most important Baroque abbeys in Austria, founded in the year 777. Artistic art treasures with the Tassilo grail from the eighth century. Observatory. www.stift-kremsmuenster.at

church. Contains important art collection with an emphasis on the Middle Ages and the Gothic.

www.stift-herzogenburg.at

Klosterneuburg Monastery: Commanding 12th century monastery at the gates of Vienna. Impressive art treasures including the 12th century 'Verdun Altar', a wine cellar and events.

www.stift-klosterneuburg.at

Lilienfeld Abbey: Early 13th century Cistercian abbey, counts as the largest monastery in Austria.

Cloister, library and chapter house.

www.stift-lilienfeld.at

Melk Abbey: Main exemplar of the Austrian Baroque. Showrooms, library, frescos and art treasures.

www.stiftmelk.at

Seitenstetten Abbey: 12th century Baroque abbey with a Gothic church, gallery, and extensive gardens, including a rose garden.

www.stift-seitenstetten.at

Zwettl Monastery: 12th century Cistercian monastery located in the 'Waldviertel'. The monastery buildings are an architectural amalgamation stretching from the Middle Ages, through the Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque.

Heiligenkreuz Abbey: near Vienna. Cistercian abbey, founded in 1133. www.stift-heiligenkreuz.org

Upper Austria

Schlägl Monastery: Small, pretty 13th century monastery in Aigen-Schlägl with a Baroque library.

www.stift-schlaegl.at

Kremsmünster Abbey: See box for details.

Lambach Monastery: 11th century Benedictine monastery, with Baroque rooms, early-Romanesque frescos, and archive and collections. Including guest wing and rooms.

www.stift-lambach.at

Schlierbach Monastery: 14th century Cistercian monastery with an impressive abbey church and library, houses the 14th century 'Schlierbacher Madonna'; monastery also produces its own cheese, 'Schlierbacher Klosterkäse'.

www.stift-schlierbach.at

St. Florian Abbey: 11th cent. Augustinian canonical abbey, renovated into one of Austria's finest Baroque buildings. Gracefully carved choir stalls, a library and an inn.

www.stift-st-florian.at

Wilhering Abbey: 12th century abbey with a superb rococo church.

www.stiftwilhering.at

SalzburgerLand

Michaelbeuern Abbey: 8th century Benedictine Abbey, art treasures, cloister, special exhibitions, Baroque library. www.abtei-michaelbeuern.at

Nonnberg Abbey: 8th century nunnery, considered the longest continually functioning example North of the Alps. Nestled at the foot of the Hohensalzburg fortress it has a Gothic basilica. Baroness von Trapp – made famous through the musical 'The Sound of Music' – taught at the convent school.

St. Peter Abbey: Located in the town of Salzburg and founded in the 7th century, it is the oldest abbey in the German-speaking region. With a high-Romanesque abbey church and the oldest library in Austria. www.stift-stpeter.at

Styria

Admont Abbey: 11th century Benedictine monastery with world's largest monastic library, art and natural history museums and a contemporary art collection. Its church was Austria's first neo-Gothic religious building. www.stiftadmont.at

Rein Abbey: 12th century Baroque edifice, the oldest standing Cistercian monastery in the world. Archaeological finds from the Roman period. www.stift-rein.at

Seckau Abbey: 12th century abbey with Renaissance architecture added in the 16th and 17th centuries and a Baroque basilica. www.abtei-seckau.at

St. Lambrecht Abbey: 11th century Benedictine abbey with Gothic church, frescos and museum containing art history and folklore collections. www.stift-stlambrecht.at

Vorau Abbey: 12th century Augustinian canonical monastery with Baroque church and one of Austria's most exquisite libraries. www.stift-vorau.at

Tirol

Stams Abbey: 13th century Cistercian monastery, renovated in a Baroque style. There's also an abbey church complete with a Prince's Crypt. There is a schnapps distillery on site and concerts are also held here. www.stiftstams.at

Vorarlberg

St. Gerold Provost: In the biosphere park Großes Walsertal is an exhibition and event centre with a wine cellar. www.propstei-stgerold.at

Mehrerau Abbey: Founded in the 11th century. Cistercian convent since 1854. Baroque library with incunabulums and handwritten manuscripts. www.mehrerau.at ●



A Musical Extravaganza

The classics and opera, jazz and the contemporary: There's music everywhere!

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was just six years old when he first performed in front of Empress Maria Theresia. When he finished he climbed up onto her lap and gave her a kiss, or so the story goes. A charming Austrian-style encore! During the many musical events in Austria, only on a rare occasion will it end in a kiss from the musician. Nevertheless, you can always expect a first-class experience, regardless of whether it's a concert in the rooms of a Baroque palace, at the Opera House, in the Festival Hall in Salzburg, or at an open-air Jazz festival. Those who surrender themselves to the music are sure to be kissed in the end, at the very least by Euterpe, the muse of music!

Vienna

Resonances: A festival dedicated to old music. January. <http://konzerthaus.at/konzerthaus/festivals/resonanzen>

Osterklang Wien: 'Sound of Easter' festival, music from modern to Baroque. www.theater-wien.at

Vienna Festival: May to June, with broad cultural programme. www.festwochen.at

Vienna Jazz Festival: June/Jul. www.viennajazz.org
Music Film Festival at the town hall square: operas and concerts, free entry, July to August.

Modern Vienna Festival: festival for contemporary music in November every year. www.wienmodern.at

Vienna's most important musical addresses:

State Opera: www.wiener-staatsoper.at

Volksoper: www.volksoper.at

Musikverein: www.musikverein-wien.at

Konzerthaus: www.konzerthaus.at

Theater an der Wien: www.theater-wien.at

Raimundtheater, Ronacher: www.musicalvienna.at

The Vienna Boys' Choir: www.wsk.at

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra:

www.wienerphilharmoniker.at

Haus der Musik: www.hdm.at

Burgenland

International Guitar Festival: Rust, April.

<http://guitarfestivalrust.v4m.net>

Annual jazz, rock and pop festivals in Wiesen: from July through September.

www.wiesen.at

1 Musical summer in the Grafenegg castle park

2 Bregenz Spring

3 Violin from Mozart's time, Austrian National Library

Passion plays at the Roman quarry in

St. Margarethen: July/August 2011, www.passio.at

Novarock: Nickelsdorf. Rock-music festival, June.

www.novarock.at

Mörbisch Lake Festival: Operetta festival, July/

August. www.seefestspiele-moerbisch.at

Haydn Festival: Eisenstadt, August,

www.haydnfestival.at

Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival: July.

www.kammermusikfest.at

Liszt Festival Raiding: Numerous performances on the occasion of the composer's 200th birthday (see shaded box)

Carinthia

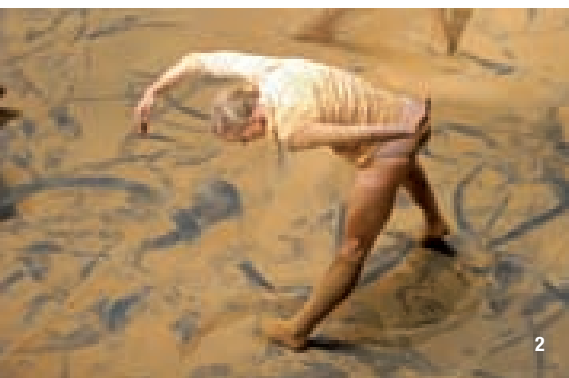
International Music Festival: Millstaat, from May until October. www.musikwochen.com

St. Paul Culture Summer: Benedictine Monastery of St. Paul, May through August. www.kuso-stpaul.at

Wörthersee Classics: in June.

www.woertherseeclassics.com

Trigonale: Festival dedicated to old music, St. Veit an der Glan, June and July. www.trigonale.com



Tips

In the footsteps of the great masters.

★ **Ludwig van Beethoven.** Numerous apartments in Vienna and Baden bei Wien.

★ **Joseph Haydn.** Birthplace in Rohrau, Lower Austria, residence and museum in Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt, Burgenland.

★ **Franz Liszt.** On the occasion of Liszt's 200th birthday 4 concert cycles take place at his birthplace Raiding (Burgenland): January, March, June, October 2011. www.lisztomania.at

★ **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.** Birthplace in Getreidegasse, and residence on Makartplatz, both in Salzburg, plus residences in Vienna.

★ **Franz Schubert.** Vienna was both his birthplace and final residence.

Salzburg Festival: July and August.

www.salzburgfestival.at

'Jazz Autumn': in October and November.

www.jazz-herbst.at

Paul Hofhaimer Days: Radstadt, festival for old and new Musik. July. www.daszentrum.at

Jazz at the lake: Hof bei Salzburg. June - August,

www.hofonline.at

Styria

Bergwelle: Mariazell, Music Festival from June-August. www.bergwelle.at

Styriarte: Styrian Festival in Graz, June and July.

www.styriarte.com

Neuberg Culture Days: Concerts and recitals, July.

www.neuberger-kulturtage.org

Mid Europe, Wind Orchestra Festival: Takes place in Schladming during July. www.mideurope.at

Jazz Summer: Graz, during July and August.

www.jazzsommer.at

International Week of Old Music: Krieglach,

September. www.fux-studio.at

Tirol

Tirolean Easter Festival: in Hall in Tirol/Innsbruck, www.osterfestival.at

Tirolean Festival: Performances of some of the great operas in Erl during July. www.tiroler-festspiele.at

Innsbruck Festival of Old Music: Festival dedicated to Old Music, during August. www.altemusik.at

Ambras Palace Concerts: Concerts held in Schloss Ambras in Innsbruck during July. www.altemusik.at

Kitzbühel Summer Concerts: in Kitzbühel, during August. www.kitzbueheler-sommerkonzerte.at

Klangspuren Schwaz: Contemporary music festival during September www.klangspuren.at

Vorarlberg

Schubertiade: March-May: Hohenems, June, August, September: Schwarzenberg. www.schubertiade.at

Bregenz Spring Festival: Dance festival in April/May. www.bregenzerfruehling.at

Feldkirch Festival: May/June. www.feldkirchfestival.at

Montafon Summer Festival: March – May From Classic and Jazz to music for the kids. Held at various locations in July.

www.stand-montafon.at/kultur/sommer

Bregenz Festival: Takes place in July and August.

www.bregenzerfestspiele.com ●

Carinthian Summer: Ossiach and Villach, during July and August. www.carinthischersommer.at

Brahms Musical Summer: in Pörschach. <http://gesellschaft.brahmscompetition.org>

Lower Austria

Grafenegg Music Festival: May to September. www.grafenegg.at

"glatt und verkehrt": Music festival in Krems and Göttweig. July 15 - August 1.

www.glattundverkehrt.at

International Organ Festival: Zwettl Abbey in June and July. www.stift-zwettl.at/orgelfest.htm

Opern Air Gars: Opera festival in the castle, July to Aug. www.opernair.at

Chopin Festival: In Kartause Gaming during August. www.kartause.at

Allegro Vivo: Chamber music festival during August and September. www.allegro-vivo.at

„Wellenklänge“: Lunz am See, Music Festival in July. www.wellenklaenge.at

Upper Austria

Schubert Festival in Steyr: May.

www.steyr.info/schubertfestivalinsteyr/

Abbey concerts: In the monasteries of St. Florian, Kremsmünster, Lambach and Engelszell during June and July. www.stiftskonzerte.at

Lehár Festival: In Bad Ischl during July and August. www.leharfestival.at

Attersee Classical Festival: Classic Festival in Attersee, July and August. www.atterseeklassik.at

Danube Festival: Baroque music festival at historic locations, during July and August.

www.donaufestwochen.at

Gmunden Festival: Gmunden, July through September. www.festwochen-gmunden.at

International Bruckner Festival: 'Classically different', Linz, September/October. www.brucknerhaus.at

Ars Electronica: art and technology, Linz, September. www.aec.at

SalzburgerLand

Snow Jazz Gastein: Jazz in the mountains, Gastein, during March. www.jazzgastein.com

Diabelli Summer: Festival by Mattsee, dedicated to music stretching from the Renaissance to the present day. June to September. www.diabellisommer.at

Jazz Festival Saalenfeld: During August. www.jazzsaalfelden.at

SALZBURG CITY: A week of Mozart in the Mozarteum: January. www.mozarteum.at, Easter

Festival: www.osterfestspiele-salzburg.at,

Whitsun & Baroque Festival: www.salzburgfestival.at,

at, Fortress concerts: From Easter until October, www.mozartfestival.at/festungskonzerte.html

Nature and national parks

Tips

Carinthia, SalzburgerLand, Tirol

★ Hohe Tauern National Park

Covering an area of 1,800 square kilometres the National Park Hohe Tauern is the largest national park in Central Europe and set apart by its outstanding natural beauty. The picturesque simplicity of this alpine landscape is fashioned by ancient woodlands, lush alpine meadows, craggy mountains and some of Austria's most impressive peaks.

In various villages, e.g. Matri, Mittersill and Heiligenblut nature-watch tours to different kinds of deer, bearded vultures, golden eagles, chamois and marmots are offered.

www.hohetauern.at



Back to nature

Seven internationally recognised National Parks and countless nature reserves protect Austria's unique natural environment.

High up, nearing the summit of a 3,000-metre peak is an eagle, soaring gracefully, cutting the air with his powerful wings. No matter which direction he looks all he can see are wooded mountain slopes, rugged outcrops and leviathan glacial peaks jutting up towards the heavens. In between, lush green meadows flourish, roaring waterfalls plunge over rocks and babbling mountain brooks meander down through scenic gorges. The ecosystems in Austria's national parks and nature reserves have been left untouched, over thousands of years. They not only provide a secure habitat for innumerable species of plants and animals but also welcome hikers and those looking to recharge their batteries.

Burgenland

Neusiedler See - Seewinkel National Park

Heart of the UNESCO World Heritage site Fertő-Neusiedler Lake. In 1993 the picturesque environs of this steppe lake with its delicate wetland reed beds,

salt-water ponds and flood-meadows was selected as the only steppe national park in Central Europe. The national park straddles the border between Austria and Hungary, connecting the two countries, and boasts an enormous diversity of flora and fauna. Around 300 species of birds have made this their home and favourite breeding ground. The park can be explored on foot, by bike, from the saddle or by horse and trap. www.nationalpark-neusiedlersee.org

Carinthia

Nockberge National Park. It is the rolling hills of the mountain landscape that fashion the natural scenery of this National Park. The starting point for hikers can be reached via the 34 km long Nockalmstrasse which has frequent information stands dotted along the route. The region has been declared a protected area by the World Conservation Union.

www.nationalparknockberge.at

1 In the Gesäuse National Park

2 Near Grossarl, in the Hohe Tauern National Park

Lower Austria

Donauauen National Park. Just outside the gates of Vienna lies one of the last great, undeveloped flood plains in central Europe. The plain offers ideal living conditions to countless species of animals and plants. This pictorial idyll can be explored on foot, by bike or with a boat. www.donauauen.at

Thayatal National Park. This park is located at the border with the Czech Republic. It has an intricate, densely wooded terrain. Countless species of animals and plants, some of them very rare, like the black stork, are at home in the Thayatal. Castles and ruins dominate this magnificent national park, where the waters of the Thaya forged the natural landscape. www.np-thayatal.at

Ötscher-Tormäuer Nature Reserve. The Ötscher mountain massif lies at the very heart of this hill-walking paradise in the 'Mostviertel'. Many of nature's wonders are on display; the breathtaking Ötschergräben valley – a magnificent ravine hewn out of the rock, waterfalls, caves and undulating mountain



pastures. One group of particularly special inhabitants are brown bears that were reintroduced to the area at the end of the 1980s. www.naturpark-oetscher.at

Upper Austria

Kalkalpen National Park. The largest protected woodland in Austria shelters many species of flora and fauna, and provides a protective habitat for such rare animals as the lonesome lynx. Guided tours of the cave system allow you to explore the underground world of the Kalkalpen. On the surface the captivating landscape extends to the echelons of high alpine terrain and parts can be explored on horseback, by bike or in a horse and trap. www.kalkalpen.at

Styria

Gesäuse National Park. The remarkable landscape of this National Park in northern Styria was formed by the roaring waters of the Enns River that runs through the rocky canyon of the Gesäuse. Wooded slopes thin out to become mountain pastures, which in turn merge into a high alpine mountain landscape, offering a variegated habitat for the diverse animal and plant species that are at home here. Besides hiking and climbing we have a terrific insider's tip – whitewater rafting is one of the

activities offered here. www.nationalpark.co.at

Styrian Eisenwurzen Nature Reserve. This European Geopark in the northern Kalkalpen offers one of the most variegated landscapes in the whole of Austria. Steep cliffs, deep gorges and canyon-like valleys typify the landscape just as much as the deep woodlands and lush meadows and pastures. Get an insight into the 250 million years of evolutionary history of the Eisenwurzen from the Geo Trail Cave tours, horseriding and water sports are common in this area. www.eisenwurzen.com

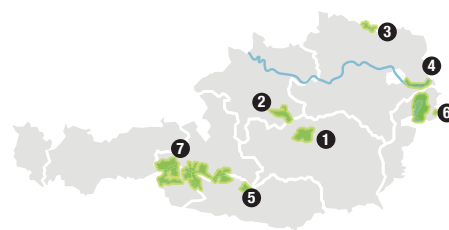
Information on all Styrian nature parks at: www.steiermark.com/naturparke.

SalzburgerLand

Riedingtal Nature Park. Jagged cirques, gentle valleys, and naturally farmed mountain pastures are the unique features of this nature park. Countless wonderful hikes in this protected landscape lead to crystal clear alpine lakes. Ascending the surrounding summits requires training and sure footing but the breathtaking views in the direction of the Großglockner make it worthwhile. Typical alpine flora such as Enzian, alpine roses and mountain clove spice are a few of the rare, protected plants in this area. www.naturpark-riedingtal.at

Tirol

Tirolean Lechtal Nature Reserve. We're sure the impressive natural beauty of the landscape surrounding the Lech River, the only remaining undeveloped river in Central Europe, will captivate you. The nature reserve lies in the northern Kalkalpen, nestled between the Allgäuer Mountains and the Lechtal Alps. The Lech River, its branches and its extensive flood plains carved and shaped the magnificent landscape area can be explored on foot or by bike. www.natur.tirol.at ●



The Austrian National Parks

- 1 Gesäuse, 2 Kalkalpen,
- 3 Thayatal, 4 Donauauen, 5 Nockberge,
- 6 Neusiedler See - Seewinkel National Park,
- 7 Hohe Tauern National Park



Body and Soul

Warm thermal waters that massage the skin, relaxation and rejuvenation for the body and clear alpine air at the door. Physical wellbeing can be this agreeable!

During the 1940s the gold mines in Bad Gastein were opened up, in the hope that they would sparkle and glimmer with gold once more. However, it was not precious metal that the workers came across, but something much more valuable – health and wellbeing! Lung disorders and aching joints appeared to melt away in the hot air of the thermal tunnels, and so, the Gasteiner Heilstollen (healing tunnels) were born! Many regions of Austria have similar stories. Most are about hot springs that bubble up from the earth's core, supplying the thermal spas with their healing waters. Here places of relaxation and rejuvenation have developed, places that encourage wellbeing and offer a place to recharge the batteries. A treasure trove fit for a king. Fortunately in Austria, it's the guest who is king!

Vienna

Vienna is the only capital city in the world that can claim its own thermal spa. **Oberlaa**, to the south of the city, offers thermal baths, a wellness area and a centre for 'Life Energy': the perfect surroundings for a little time out. www.therme-oberlaa.at

Burgenland

The thermal spas in Burgenland have some of the oldest and richest traditions in the whole of Austria. In its wealth of wellness parks and health temples, the healing spring waters are used to create a veritable feast for the senses. More details at: www.thermenwelt.at. The most popular thermal spas include the thermal spas in **Bad Tatzmannsdorf** – www.burgenlandtherme.at, the Sonnentherme in **Lutzmannsburg** – www.sonnentherme.at – with its unique specialisation in catering for babies and small children - www.sonnentherme.at; Reiter's family

- 1 **The Stegersbach Balance Resort**
- 2 **De-energizing and relaxing at an Austrian spa**
- 3 **Warm thermal water works wonders**

spa in **Stegersbach**, which boasts the largest golf course in Austria – www.dietherme.at; **Bad Sauerbrunn**, whose healing spring waters work wonders on the skeletal and muscular systems – www.dieheiltherme.at – and the new **St.Martins Therme & Lodge** – www.stmartins.at – close to Neusiedler See – Seewinkel National Park.

Carinthia

More than 60 curative spas located in the vicinity of **Villach** and **Bad Kleinkirchheim** in Carinthia lend this traditional winter sports region a superb added extra. Indeed the ancient Romans seemed to agree; more than 2000 years ago they were enthusiastic guests at the Resort Warmbad Villach, Austria's southernmost thermal spa. Six sources provide healing spring waters that are particularly suitable for musculoskeletal therapies (see: www.warmbad.com). Austria's highest health resort – **Bad Bleiberg** – lies at an altitude of 920



Tips

* The 'Best Health Austria' seal

Wellbeing with quality guaranteed! Austrian wellness centres, health resorts and cure establishments that display this seal of approval really are the best of the best. After all, if it's health and wellbeing that you are promised, that's exactly what you should get. www.besthealthaustria.com

* Alpine Wellness.

Health, fitness and pampering by the ton! We set the highest quality standards for authentic high altitude wellness hotels and regions; specialist environmental, organic, and relaxation hotels in the Alps. www.alpinewellness.com

* **Fit and relaxed.** 55 four and five star complexes dedicated to healthy eating, exercise, relaxation and beauty treatments have committed themselves to the philosophy of 'Schlank und Schön' (Slim and Beautiful). www.schlankundschoen.at

enough, it's blessed with a tremendous view of the giant glaciers of the Hohe Tauern National Park. www.alpentherme.com. The health thermal bath **Bad Vigaun** is fed by undiluted thermal mineral water from a depth of 1,345 metres. www.bad-vigaun.at. Apart from a stunning view the new brine spa Amadé in Alpenmarkt has several pools and a huge looping slide, www.thermeamade.at.

Styria

If you are in search of recreation Styria will be a good choice. Peat, salt and thermal springs are the base products for a broad recreative programme, which can be enjoyed in 9 thermal spas, numerous health and wellness hotels and the Styrian Alpine Wellness Hotels. www.steiermark.com/wellness

Tirol

The largest and most modern thermal spa in the province is the Aquadome in **Längenfeld**, whose spectacular glass structure was transposed upon the 50,000 square metre plot in an outstanding architectural fashion. www.aquadome.at. Then there's the health resort of **Bad Häring**, with its sulphurous mineral spring water and idyllic setting, nestled between the Kitzbühler Alps and the Wilder Kaiser. See www.haering.at. Find out more about health and wellness in Tirol at: www.wellness.tirol.at

Vorarlberg

Vorarlberg's wellness and well-being hotels combine health remedies from nature (such as peat in the health hotel **Bad Reuthe** – www.badreuthe.at) with pampering for body, soul and spirit. Glass, wood, and a view to nature are the distinctive features of the countless well-being oases in the style of modern Vorarlberg architecture. ●

metres, in the south of Carinthia. Both the mineral rich waters and the bracing climate see to it that you'll feel on top of the world here. www.bad-bleiberg.at

Lower Austria

The **Therme Laa** – www.therme-laa.at has a beautifully designed thermal complex complete with its own health centre and luxurious spa area with ambient lighting and underwater music. Similarly, **Xundheitswelt** in the 'Waldviertel' dedicates itself completely to whole body health and wellbeing. See www.xundheitswelt.at for further information.

A total of six establishments have been brought together under the auspices of the **moor spa in Harbach** – www.moorheilbad-harbach.at – and the **Gross Gerungs**, 'heart and circulation centre' – www.herz-kreislauf.at. **Bad Vöslau** and **Baden bei Wien** are two of Lower Austria's most popular health resorts, principally due to their proximity to Vienna. www.roemertherme.at. The **Linsberg Asia Spa** in Bad Erlach combines Far-Eastern Philosophy with Asian Design. www.linsbergasia.at. The Ybbstal brine spa has several pools offering also kids the opportunity to enjoy the brine's special healing effect.

Upper Austria

Wellbeing and relaxation can be celebrated here in Austria in just about every way imaginable. Choose between a touch of Caribbean bliss in the **Therme Geinberg**, a Kneipp cure with the Sister's of Maria in **Aspach** or submerge yourself completely in the soothing waters of the Eurotherme Resort in **Bad Schallerbach** – www.eurothermen.at – an extensive thermal complex offering cures and the Acapulco water park. See: www.therme-geinberg.at; www.kneippen.at; www.eurotherme.at. There's also the somewhat new **Therme Lebensquell** in the 'Mühlviertel', or the imperial Kaiser Therme in **Bad Ischl**; www.eurothermen.at. In **Bad Hall** you'll find the most concentrated iodine-spring in Central Europe, an ideal treatment for a number of complaints. www.eurothermen.at

SalzburgerLand

The **Bad Gastein Felsentherme** – www.felsentherme.com – offers bathing, and relaxation, all at an altitude of 1,100 metres. There's a 'Panorama Wellness' area with a spectacular view out over the Alps. The Alpentherme **Gastein** is Europe's most modern alpine health and recreation resort; if that's not



Longing for Lakes

Crystal-clear mountain lakes, pure bathing pleasure and countless of nature's gems invite you to lie back and relax in or on their cooling waters.

Austria's lakes shimmer blue and green in the warm sunlight, later silver and gold as the sun slowly sets. One of the greatest masters of colour, Gustav Klimt, spent years in the summer resorts on the Attersee, finding inspiration in the picturesque beauty of the Salzkammergut. However, you don't have to be an artist to succumb to the dazzling array of Austria's lakes. They are living areas, recreational areas and the splendour of nature all rolled into one. From the crystal-clear water of secluded mountain lakes, surrounded on all sides by monumental mountains, to warm steppe lakes, ringed by a wetland area of reed beds and filled with the surfers' colourful sails. Austria's lakes invite you to pause on the lakeside and to dive under the glassy surface. You can even drink it if you want; many of these lakes taste just as good as they look, and the water is of drinking quality.

Burgenland

Lake Neusiedl is often dubbed 'Vienna's coastline'. When you're lying on its bank on a hot summer's day, watching the countless surfers, sailors and

swimmers go by, it doesn't take much imagination to think you are at the seashore. The lake, belonging to the largest in Austria is even a bit salty. It is not deep, however. With a maximum depth of 1.8 metres it does beat one record, however; that of being the warmest lake in the whole of Austria, with a pleasing 300 days of sunshine per year. It also offers perfect conditions for numerous species of birds that breed in the broad reed fringe. The countryside around the Neusiedlersee forms part of the Neusiedlersee National Park, a UNESCO designated World Heritage Site. The National Park itself comprises the 45 salt-water ponds. www.neusiedlersee.com

Carinthia

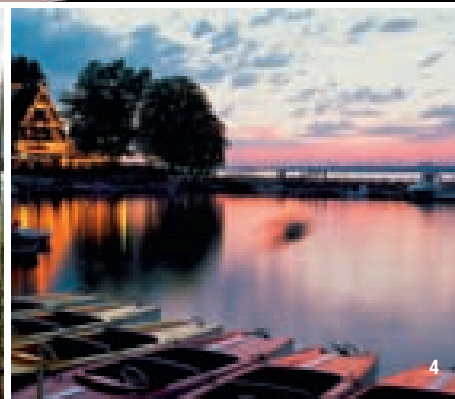
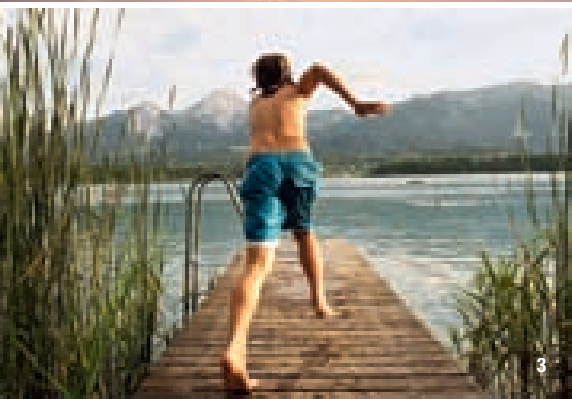
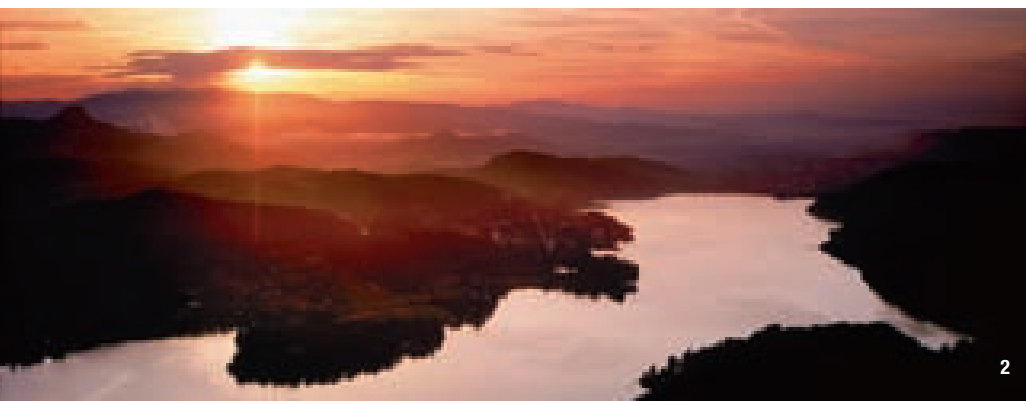
The Carinthian Lakes have long been a synonym for a crystal-clear summer paradise. From June through September the 44 warm water bathing lakes in Austria's most southern province turn the region into a paradise for water nymphs. With a total surface area of 50 square km, Austria's most well known lakes are: The **Wörthersee** – www.woerthersee.com

- 1 Lake Achensee in Tirol
- 2 Sunrise over lake Wörthersee
- 3 Ready for a dive into the Faaker See
- 4 Lake Constance near Bregenz

– with its sophisticated holiday resorts, the deep **Millstätter See** – www.millstaettersee.at, the **Ossiacher See** – www.ossiachersee.net –, its banks partly under the protection of a nature reserve, and the **Weissensee**, lying at an altitude of 930 metres. Like all of the Carinthian lakes they are beautifully situated in a wonderful landscape, with mountains as a backdrop and blessed with many hours of sunlight. There are also other real gems, like the **Faaker See** – www.faakersee.com – with its idyllic island feature, the **Pressegger See** with its panoramic view of the mountains and the warm-water **Klopeiner See** – www.klopeinersee.at. Find out more about Carinthia's lakes at: www.wasserreich.at

Lower Austria

The crystal-clear **Lunzer See** in the 'Mostviertel' is the only natural lake in Lower Austria, www.lunz.at. An excursion that is always recommended is a visit to the **Erlaufsee**, on the border with Styria - you can reach it with the Museumsbahn (heritage railway) from Mariazell. Wildly romantic, encircled with trees



Tips

Where great artists roamed

Johannes Brahms previously spent his holidays in the enchanting landscape around Altaussee. He was in good company. Friedrich Torberg, Arthur Schnitzler, Hugo von Hofmannsthal all spent time in the area. The 'Via Artis' (Artists Trail) takes you around Altaussee and the Grundlsee, informing visitors of today about the prominent holidaymakers of a bygone era. Only a stone's throw away is the Attersee where art enthusiasts can follow in the tracks of Gustav Klimt on the Artists Trail. Or perhaps take a tour of the places where Klimt spent his summer holidays. 24 panels display information about the time Klimt spent in the region. Guided tours start at the information office in Schörfling.

and watched over by the Dobra Ruins are the Kamp lakes in the 'Waldviertel'. www.lunzensee.at

Upper Austria

Thinking of Upper Austrian lakes, you will immediately conjure up an image of the scenic Salzkammergut, because it is here that the biggest and brightest gems are located. The two largest lakes are the **Attersee**, loved by water-sports enthusiasts, and the Traunsee, overlooked by the arresting **Traunstein** Mountain. The warmest lakes of the Upper Austrian Salzkammergut are the beautifully located **Mondsee**, and its neighbour the **Irrsee**, which stands under an environmental conservation order. The three moor lakes of the Oberinnviertel Lake District, the **Holzöstersee**, the **Höllersee** and the **Heratingersee** are situated within the stunning landscape of the Ibmer Moor. With their mild temperatures they are suitable for swimming before the summer bathing season gets into full swing. Find further details at: www.attersee.at, www.traunsee.at, www.mondsee.at, www.zellammos.at. Find out more about lakes in Upper Austria: www.wasser.info

Salzburger Land

In the Salzburg part of the Salzkammergut three lakes spring immediately to mind, the **Wolfgangsee**, the **Fuschlsee** and its little brother the **Hintersee**. From

the **Zeller See**, nestled between the mountains, you get a magnificent view of the austere giants of the Hohe Tauern National Park. And for those who would like to stay in Salzburg for some sightseeing, it's not far to the **Grabensee**, **Mattsee**, **Obertrumer See** or to the warm waters of the **Wallersee**. www.wolfgangsee.at, www.fuschlseeregion.com

Styria

The scenic highlight of the 'Green Heart of Austria', as Styria is affectionately called, are the lakes in the Styrian section of the Salzkammergut, principally the **Altaussee** – www.altaussee.at – and the **Grundlsee** www.grundlsee.at. Close by is the **Toplitzsee**, www.toplitzsee.at. Not far from Bruck an der Mur is the **Grüner See** – www.tragoess-gruenersee.at, with crystal clear water. A popular destination is the **Stubenberg Lake** directly on the Styrian Apple Road – www.stubenbergsee.at

Tirol

Where else can you splash around in clean waters, before looking up to see colossal mountains towering above you? For example at the **Achensee** – www.achensee.com, a beautiful lake that was carved out by glaciers, or the crystal-clear waters of the **Plansee** in the northwest of Tirol and its connected lake **Heiterwangersee**. Then there is the

lovely **Schwarzsee** near Kitzbühel, the **Walchsee** just north of Kitzbühel, the **Thiersee**, or the only lake in East Tirol, the **Tristachersee** at the foot of the Dolomites. The countryside around many of these lakes offers the perfect habitat for many species of animal and plant life and needs to be protected; this is true of the countryside surrounding the **Vilsalpsee** near Tannheim, which is covered by an environmental conservation order, whilst the **Hintersteiner See** lies within the Wilder Kaiser nature reserve. More about lakes and watercourses in Tirol at: www.wasser.tirol.at

Vorarlberg

Lake Constance, the third-largest lake in Central Europe extends out to border on three countries, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. From the Pfänder, Bregenz's local mountain, you get a wonderful view over the lake. Significantly smaller, but perfectly romantic is the emerald green **Seewaldsee**; despite its depth and the fact that it is located at a height of 1,200 metres, it still retains a pleasant bathing temperature. www.bodensee-vorarlberg.com ●



Kids and Teens

A family holiday is a holiday with the kids, not about the kids. And, of course, a whole load of fun for those little princes and princesses!

Maybe they'll choose to amble through magical, illuminated caves, filled with stalactites and stalagmites, or watch Romans fight their gruesome battles. Perhaps they'll want to play Cowboys and Indians in the Wild West Town, feed the animals at the zoo or holler themselves hoarse in the thrilling nature and adventure parks. Those who still have the impression that children are obliged to go hiking in Austria are a little behind the times. Every one of Austria's regions is a genuine paradise for little travellers and explorers. And what about the grown-ups? When they see the fun and frolics that the little ones are enjoying, there'll be no stopping them from diving in to get a piece of the action too. So on your marks, get set, go!

Vienna

Vienna Prater: See box for further details.

Schönbrunn: Specially designed children's tours through the palace, numerous attractions including a labyrinth and a large zoo. www.schoenbrunn.at/kinder

ZOOM Children's Museum: Children can investigate, marvel and participate in numerous exhibitions and events. www.kindermuseum.at

Haus des Meeres: Houses flora and fauna of the deep, with aquariums etc. www.haus-des-meeres.at

Burgenland

Forchtenstein Castle: On the weekends throughout July kids get the chance to discover the medieval world of knights and castles. www.forchtenstein.at

Sonnentherme Lutzmannsburg: Family spa resort specialised in entertaining babies and small children; houses the longest indoor slide in Europe. www.sonnentherme.at

Family Park: A 100,000 m² park in St. Margarethen with fairy-tale forest, farm, recreational castle and adventure island. www.familypark.at

Museum at Lackenbach castle: "Along the traces of Nature" - a creative adventure world. www.naturspur.at

- 1 Fun for big and little
- 2 Roman knights in Carnuntum
- 3 Play station on the Lower Austrian Adventure Trail

Carinthia

Terra Mystica: Bad Bleiberg, multi media adventure caves to explore, plus show mine. www.terra-mystica.at

BIOS Adventure World: Hohe Tauern National Park, over 80 laboratory stations show natural phenomena. www.bios-hohetauern.at

Obir Stalactite Caves: Show caves in Bad Eisenkappel; during the magical light and audio show the stones start to speak and the dragon who lives in the cave comes back to life. www.hoehlen.at

Rosegg Family Adventure: A castle with its own waxwork display, castle ruins to explore, a zoo and a labyrinth. Open from May until October. www.roseggonline.at, www.keltenwelt.at

Minimundus: Klagenfurt's top attraction, miniature models of 150 of the most beautiful buildings in the world, all built true-to-scale. www.minimundus.at



2



3

Tips

★ Vienna. Vienna Prater

A green oasis with a historical tradition; in the 'Wurstelprater' amusement park nostalgia meets the present day. Also has a sizeable planetarium. www.prater.at, www.planetarium-wien.at

★ Lower Austria. Carnuntum

Travel back in time to the days of the ancient Romans in this archaeological park. April 16 - Nov. 15: Exhibition "Conquest and Discovery". www.carnuntum.co.at

★ Styria.

The Glacier train on the Dachstein

takes you to special attractions: The spectacular lookout platform Sky Walk and the 'Ice Palace', where you can have fun throwing huge ice crystals in a glacial crevasse. www.dachsteingletscher.at

Styria

Erzberg Adventure: The Schauberg facility, the biggest Taxi in the World, live detonations.

www.abenteuer-erzberg.at

Elfenberg: Mautern: Wild animal park with summer tobogganing, birds of prey shows and adventure park. www.elfenberg.at

Gröbmung Adventure Park: The largest climbing centre in Austria, various parcours, www.abenteurpark.at

Hohentauern Adventure Park: Cave and cliff face adventure park, water trails, woodland nature trails and a prehistoric stilted village. www.keltenberg.at

Katerloch Stalactite Caves: Dürntal near Weiz. Magnificent show cave, with the most stalactites and stalagmites anywhere in Austria. April - October. www.katerloch.at

Altaussee Salt Mine: Salt mine with slides. www.salzwellen.at

Styrassic Park: Near Gleichberg with over 60 life-size dinosaurs. www.styrassicpark.at

Stübing open air museum: antique farming, adventures for children. www.stuebing.at

Tirol

Fisser Flitzer: Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis. Summer fun park with summer tobogganing through the adventure worlds. www.fisserflitzer.at

Hexenwasser Hochsöll: Adventure park. Interactive stations with a focus on woodland and water, a bare-foot trail and traditional arts and crafts. Open from May until October. www.hexenwasser.at

Ötztal Umhausen: Archaeological park exploring life and work in the Neolithic period. The park also stages Stone Age festivals. Open from May until October. www.oetztal.at

Innsbruck: Alpine zoo with 2000 animals and displays of flora and fauna of the Alps. www.alpenzoo.at

Area 47: Innovative nature and adventure park in the Oetz valley. www.area47.at

Vorarlberg

Montafon Recreational Park: Schruns-Tschagguns, Vorarlberg's largest leisure park, includes a water park and many other activities. May to October. www.aktivpark-montafon.at

Inatura: Dornbirn. An interactive exhibition that stimulates all the senses and lets you explore Vorarlberg's natural world. www.inatura.at

Alpine Coaster Golm: Adventure train between Latschau and Vadans. 2.6km, 44 jumps. www.golm.at ●

Lower Austria

Carnuntum: See box for further details.

Museum for Pre-history: In Asparn an der Zaya. Pre-history to play with; adopts a hands-on approach to experience history for yourself, with exhibitions, events and workshops. www.urgeschichte.com

Ötscherland Express: Narrow gauge steam engine train from Kienberg/Gaming to Lunz/See. Tel. +43 741652191

Hohe Wand Nature Park: Fun and play mountain with skywalk and petting zoo. www.naturpark-hohewand.at

"Betty Bernstein": Children's programme in museums, castles and national parks along the Amber Road. www.betty-bernstein.at

Amethyst World at Maissau: The World's largest open amethyst lode. Visitors can scrape themselves. www.amethystwelt.at

Upper Austria

Dachstein Caves: Obertraun. Giant ice caves, mammoth and stalactite caves, www.dachsteinwelterbe.at

Hirschalm Fairytale Park: In Unterweissenbach, with 40 mystical fairytale and game stations. www.hirschalm.at

Hallstatt Salt Mines: An exciting escapade through the oldest salt mine in the world. www.salzwellen.at

Children's Museum: Schloss Walchen,

Vöcklamarkt. www.kinderweltemuseum.at

Steyr: Narrow-gauge railway. www.steyr.info/steyrtalmuseumsbahn

Kopfing: treetop exploration trail. www.baumkronenweg.at

SalzburgerLand

Giant Ice Caves in Werfen: The largest ice caverns in the world. www.eisriesenwelt.at

Strasswalchen Fun Park: Pleasure park, adventure park and fairytale playground all rolled into one! www.erlebnispark.at

Pan for Gold in Rauris: Learn to pan for gold in the mountain brook. Mineral hunts for children. Open from June until October. www.goldsuchen.at

Königsleiten Observatory: Planetarium with entertaining shows, a 'planet theatre', a planet trail and children's visits. www.sternwarte-koenigsleiten.com

Game Park and Children's Adventure Park Ferleiten: 20,000 square metres of wildlife park plus recreation and adventure areas for the kids. www.wildpark-ferleiten.at

Worlds of salt: Hallein/Bad Dürrenberg: trip to the salt mine. www.salzwellen.at



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LANDKARTEPROMOEGE 2010/11



www.arlberg.net

Lech T +43.(0)55 83.21 61-0

Zürs T +43.(0)55 83.22 45

Stuben T +43.(0)55 82.39 90

St. Christoph am Arlberg T +43.(0)54 46.22 69-0

St. Anton am Arlberg T +43.(0)54 46.22 69-0