



Burgenland

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Why Go?

Burgenland is all but the typical Austria you hear of or read about, as soaring mountains, glacial lakes and bombastic architecture are *not* the reasons for coming here. Even the jewel in its crown – Neusiedler See – has dried up and disappeared several times in its natural history, most recently in the mid-19th century.

What Burgenland does have is wine – wine in abundance – and the aquatic outdoors, especially around the reedy shores of the Neusiedler See (Europe's second-largest steppe lake). Around the Neusiedler See-Seewinkel National Park, a bike path takes you along this shore through a landscape humming and buzzing with birdlife, and even through Hungary before you re-emerge in Austria. In the south of the province, where you find a few interesting castles and museums, a car is useful. Burgenland is very low-key, but a place where you can relax lakeside or in rolling landscapes.

Best Places to Eat

- » Mooslechners Bürgerhaus (p144)
- » Weingut Gabriel (p145)
- » Zur Dankbarkeit (p148)
- » Burg Güssing (p149)

Best Places to Stay

- » Mooslechners Bürgerhaus (p144)
- » Weingut & Weingasthof Kloster am Spitz (p146)
- » St Martins Therme & Lodge (p147)
- » Hotel-Restaurant Pannonia (p147)
- » Burg Bernstein (p149)

When to Go

Burgenland, especially the Neusiedler See region in the north, is only worth visiting during the main April to October period. At other times of year much of the province goes into winter hibernation and its prime attraction – the outdoors – becomes cold, grey and windswept. Two exceptions to this are St Martins Therme (St Martin's Spa) in Frauenkirchen, with its sauna, thermal pool and other spa facilities; and the capital Eisenstadt, which has a cultural focus.



Burgenland Highlights

- 1 Sipping wines and supping in one of the pretty **Heurigen** (wine tavern; p145) in Rust, or one of the other towns dotted across Burgenland
- 2 Swimming, splashing or sailing in the **Neusiedler See** (p143), Austria's slurping steppe lake
- 3 Cycling at a leisurely pace through the **Neusiedler See-Seewinkel National Park** (p148), a haven for bird life
- 4 Revelling in the views from Eisenstadt's **Bergkirche** (p141) after completing the Stations of the Cross
- 5 Taking in the thermal waters at Frauenkirchen's **St Martins Therme & Lodge** (p147)
- 6 Exploring the castles set in rolling hills in and around **Lockenhaus** (p149)