



Carinthia

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Best Places to Stay

- » Arcotel Moser Verdino (p252)
- » Hotel Palais Porcia (p254)
- » Hotel Mosser (p258)
- » Holiday Inn (p259)
- » Villa Verdin (p269)

Best Places to Eat

- » Restaurant Maria Loretto (p254)
- » Sushi Rolls (p254)
- » Dolce Vita (p254)
- » Lagana (p259)
- » Stern (p259)

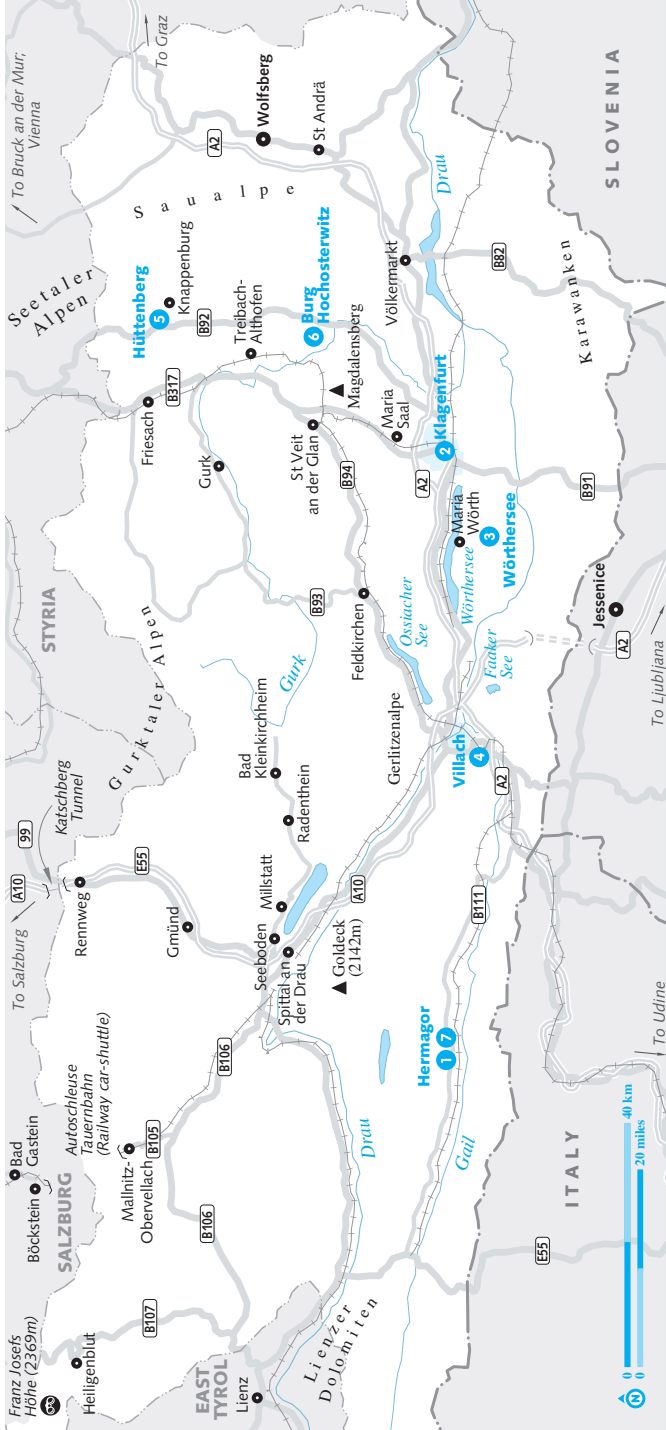
Why Go?

Few regions in Europe match the rugged beauty of Carinthia, and you'll find that travelling through it is often a serpentine journey in valleys and natural conduits. Carinthia can also, at times, seem larger than life: the spectacularly high peaks, the gouged valleys and the glistening lakes, not to forget the flamboyant show of opulence in the capital, Klagenfurt, and the popular resorts around the more famous of its 1270 pristine mountain lakes. The most popular of these lakes, like the large Wörthersee, have waters warmed to a comfortable swimming temperature by thermal springs.

Carinthia's deep medieval heritage is another attraction – celebrated in picturesque walled villages such as Friesach and Gmünd, and impressive castles like the hill-top fortress of Hochosterwitz. Many of the towns and villages nestled in Carinthia's rolling hills hold an annual summer festival, with roving performers coming from neighbouring Italy and Slovenia to take part alongside the locals.

When to Go

If you want to make the most of Carinthia's lakes and excellent mountain hiking, head to Carinthia in mid-summer. Not to be forgotten, though, is that in winter the province morphs into one of Austria's best ski regions. Because it gets more sunshine than elsewhere in Austria, lake temperatures are warmer and the ski season shorter. The shoulder season periods are less interesting here except for valley hiking or cycling. Despite a couple of gems, the museum landscape is fairly limited in Carinthia – the activities seasons are therefore the time to hit Carinthia.



Carinthia Highlights

- 1** Cycling through the mountainous wilds around **Hermagor** (p251)
- 2** Visiting the **Eboard Museum** (p250) in Klagenfurt and playing vintage pre-digital keyboards – 1300 in all, the largest collection in Europe
- 3** Swimming the shores of the **Wörthersee** (p251) and enjoying a lakeside meal

afterwards at **Restaurant Maria Loretto** (p254)

- 4** Stopping over in **Villach** (p258) for skiing in winter, splashy fun in summer in the lakes, or hiking in the mountains

- 5** Transporting yourself to the tranquil ambience of Tibet at the **Heinrich Harrer Museum** (p264) in Hüttenberg
- 6** Admiring the views from the top of **Burg**

- Hochosterwitz** (p265), a spectacular medieval castle
- 7** Winter skiing on Nussfeld at the top of the 6-km long **Millennium-Express cable car** (p262)