



Upper Austria

Includes »

Linz.....	153
St Florian.....	162
The Traunviertel.....	164
Steyr.....	164
Bad Hall.....	166
Nationalpark Kalkalpen.....	166
Wels.....	167
The Mühlviertel.....	168
Freistadt.....	168
Braunau am Inn.....	170

Best Places to Eat

- » k.u.k. Hofbäckerei (p159)
- » Herberstein (p159)
- » Knapp am Eck (p165)
- » Löwenkeller (p168)
- » Orangerie im Schlosspark (p165)

Best Places to Stay

- » Spitz Hotel (p158)
- » Schlossbrauerei Weinberg (p170)
- » Gästehaus Stift St Florian (p163)
- » Hotel Christkindlwirt (p165)
- » Gangl (p167)

Why Go?

Upper Austria may not have the in-your-face splendour of the Tyrolean Alps or Vienna's imperial palaces. But, as locals delight in telling you, it has a taste of all that is great about Austria. For starters, the mighty Danube and a rich musical heritage, old-world coffee houses and castle-topped medieval towns, resplendent Augustinian abbeys and spas. And the best bit, they whisper, is that nobody really knows it.

It's true. Beyond the high-tech museums and avant-garde galleries of Linz lies a land in miniature waiting to be unwrapped. Each layer reveals new surprises: from rustic farmhouses serving home-grown *Most* (cider) to the limestone pinnacles of the Kalkalpen where the elusive lynx roams. Be it the mist-enshrouded hills rippling towards the Czech Republic or wheat fields fading into a watercolour distance at dusk – these landscapes have a quiet, lingering beauty all of their own.

When to Go

Upper Austria has a temperate climate, with milder winters than many other parts of Austria. Visit in spring to see the orchards in blossom and for a celebration of Schubert in Steyr; the town that inspired his sprightly *Trout Quintet*. Summer is a fine time to cycle along the Danube and through the countryside. Come in September for cutting-edge technology festivals and free riverside concerts in Linz. In winter there are glittering Christmas markets galore, as well as cross-country skiing in the Nationalpark Kalkalpen.



Upper Austria Highlights

- 1 Play with pixels and converse with intelligent robots at **Ars Electronica Center** (p153) in Linz
- 2 Be smitten by the storybook lanes and fast-flowing rivers of **Steyr** (p164)
- 3 Walk and sleep high above the treetops at the

Baumkronenweg (p171) in Kopfing

4 Hike through the rugged limestone wilderness of **Nationalpark Kalkalpen** (p166), Austria's second-biggest national park

5 Drift away in a Caribbean lagoon, daiquiri in hand, at **Therme Geinberg** (p171)

6 Be amazed by the grace of St Florian's **Augustinian abbey** (p163)

7 Journey to the darkest depths of Austria's past at **KZ Mauthausen** (p164) concentration camp