Salzburg
Indulge in Mozart and celestial architecture (p218)

Innsbruck
Enjoy culture infused with Tyrolean nature (p286)

Eisriesenwelt
Drop into this glittering ice empire (p243)

Krimmler Wasserfälle
Austria's spectacular 360m high waterfall (p255)

Pinzgauer Spaziergang
Walk one of Austria's great alpine trails (p253)

Grossglockner Road
Europe's sensational alpine drive (p247)
Vienna
Explore Vienna's imperial palaces (p56)

The Wachau
Hike, dine or cycle in the valley (p116)

Stift Melk
Austria's glorious Benedictine abbey (p125)

Hallstätter See
Dip into refreshing Salzkammergut lakes (p202)

Admont
Fascinating exhibitions set in historic architecture (p193)

Semmeringbahn
Ride the spectacular railway to Semmering (p139)
This itinerary is ideal for getting a taste of classic Austria. It begins with three days in **Vienna** soaking up the atmosphere of coffee houses and taking in the top sights.

Board the train on day four and cross the Semmering Pass on one of Europe’s finest railway journeys. If you like spa hotels and summer hiking (or winter skiing), alight in **Semmering** for an overnight stop. In summer take in the picturesque surroundings and fresh air on a walk before setting off for **Graz** late on day five or early on day six. In winter in Graz immerse yourself in the cultural scene, catching a performance or visiting a museum or two, and enjoying the local cuisine and nightlife. In summer don’t miss Schloss Eggenberg.

After exploring Graz, the **wine roads** in the south or one of the surrounding sights, board the train by day nine for **Schladming**. In Schladming, visit the Skywalk and glacier, staying overnight (longer in winter for snow sports) before finishing the classic trip in **Salzburg** and (in summer) the nearby **Wolfgangsee**.
Get a taste of Mozart’s Salzburg combined with magnificent lakes on this itinerary. Begin the trip in Salzburg and spend three days exploring the city, taking in big draws like the Festung Hohensalzburg. Make an excursion to the Italianate Schloss Hellbrunn and another to Salzwelten Salzburg in Hallein for a taste of the historic salt works.

From Salzburg the road goes south to the most popular and gently picturesque of the lakes in the Salzkammergut, the Wolfgangsee, where the summertime swimming, walking and cycling are splendid. Explore the lesser-known towns on hikes or rides over the next three to four days.

From St Wolfgang or St Gilgen on the lake it’s a short bus hop to Bad Ischl, an excellent base for exploring other lakes in the Salzkammergut over the next three days. The most spectacular of these is the Hallstätter See, with Hallstatt or the quieter (but less historic) Obertraun perfect for overnighting. Near Obertraun, take in the ice caves on a cable-car ride and do one of the hikes in the area. Around Hallstatt you can visit another of the excellent salt works.

This trip brings together cities with spectacular scenery. Begin a trip with three days of exploring Vienna, making sure you take in either Schloss Belvedere or Schloss Schönbrunn, before heading west along the Danube Valley to Krems an der Donau, where you can enjoy good food, visit a couple of museums and tour the region. Don’t miss the abbey in Melk, also a good place for easy hiking in summer.

On day seven (a day or two earlier in winter), continue the trip to Linz for an overnight stay in this industrial city with exciting museums such as the Lentos Kunstmuseum. The trail to Hallstatt and the lakes of the Salzkammergut on day eight will restore the feel for the picturesque landscape after Linz.

From Hallstatt you have a choice of travelling to Salzburg for the many cultural sights and crossing through Germany to Innsbruck, or bypassing Salzburg and stopping over in picturesque Zell am See before continuing to Innsbruck, where you can choose between culture, hiking trails (summer) or skiing (winter).
Kick off with a few days in laid-back **Innsbruck**. Stroll the lanes of the historic Altstadt (old town), taking in its galleries, Habsburg treasures and upbeat nightlife. On the third day, you might opt to take the futuristic funicular to the Nordkette, or head out to Olympic ski jump, Bergisel. From Innsbruck, go south for scenic skiing in the Stubai Glacier or west to the exquisite baroque abbey in Stams.

Day five leads you further west to the spectacularly rugged Ötztal, where you can dip into prehistory at Ötzi Dorf and thermal waters at Aqua Dome spa. Spend the next couple of days rafting near Landeck, exploring the Rosengartenschlucht gorge at Imst, or hiking and skiing in St Anton am Arlberg.

In week two, retrace your steps to Innsbruck and swing east. Factor in a day to tour the pristine medieval town of Hall in Tirol and Swarovski Kristallwelten, the heart of the Swarovski crystal empire in Wattens. The alpine scenery of the Zillertal will keep you occupied with outdoor activities for a few days. Finish your adventure in fortress-topped Kufstein and the legendary mountains of Kitzbühel.

Consider combining this short itinerary with other adventures to put together a longer trip. Begin the trip in **Graz** and plan three or four days to get to know the city, its sights and its culinary delights. Explore the lively eating and drinking scenes or the formal cultural scene. On the fourth day take an excursion along the south Styrian wine roads, a Tuscan-like landscape hugging the Slovenian border with vineyards at every bend. You might like to spend a fifth day at one of the places easily accessible from Graz.

A train takes you to Klagenfurt via **Leoben** where you can break the journey for a few hours and check out its Museums-Centre Leoben. The remaining five days can be divided between the Carinthian towns of Klagenfurt and Wörthersee, Villach or Spittal an der Drau, all towns with a sprinkling of sights and good opportunities for activities nearby. Towns such as **Hermagor** in the Gail Valley have great cycling, hiking and (in winter) skiing possibilities at Nassfeld.

For a food, wine and culture focus, plan more time around Graz in Styria. For swimming and other activities, plan more time for Carinthia.
Anthony Haywood

Coordinating Author, Vienna, Styria, The Salzkammergut, Carinthia

Born in Fremantle, Western Australia, Anthony pulled anchor early on to hitchhike in Europe, the US and North Africa. Aberystwyth in Wales and Ealing in London were his wintering grounds in those days. He later studied comparative literature and Russian. In the 1990s, fresh from a spell in post-Soviet, pre-anything Moscow, Anthony moved to Germany and became a frequent traveller to Austria. Expeditions along the urban rifts of Vienna later gave way to long journeys into the other cities and regions of Austria. Some of those were to update earlier editions of this book. Anthony is a freelance journalist and writer. His publications include numerous Lonely Planet guidebooks, a cultural history of Siberia, travel articles, short stories and translations. Anthony also wrote the Understand and Survival Guide sections, and most of the Plan Your Trip section of this guide.

Kerry Christiani

Upper Austria, Salzburg & Salzburgerland, Tyrol & Vorarlberg

Kerry’s first encounter with real snow in Tyrol 15 years ago sparked her enduring love affair with the Austrian Alps, and she’s been coming back ever since. For this edition, she road-tested Mozart and Maria trails in Salzburg, sweated out rare 40°C temperatures in the Alps and climbed (almost) every mountain. Kerry is an award-winning travel writer, and has authored/coauthored some 20 guidebooks, including Lonely Planet’s Switzerland, Germany and France.

Kerry also wrote the Eat & Drink Like a Local and Austria Outdoors chapters for this edition. She tweets @kerrychristiani and lists her latest work at www.kerrychristiani.com.

Marc Di Duca

Lower Austria & Burgenland

An exchange visit in the mid-1980s provided Marc’s first taste of Austria and he’s been dipping into the land of Mozart and schnitzel ever since. However, with no head for heights, it’s the often-overlooked flatlands around Vienna and the gentle hills of the Danube Valley that Marc returns to most gladly.

Read more about Anthony at: lonelyplanet.com/members/anthonyhaywood

Read more about Kerry at: lonelyplanet.com/members/kerrychristiani

Read more about Marc at: lonelyplanet.com/members/Madidu