



Lower Austria & Burgenland

Includes ➔

Lower Austria	116
The Danube Valley . . .	116
Waldviertel & Weinviertel	127
St Pölten	128
Süd-Alpin	137
Burgenland	140
Eisenstadt	141
Burg Forchtenstein . .	144
Neusiedler See	144

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Weingut Gabriel (p145)
- ➔ Zur Dankbarkeit (p148)
- ➔ Zum Kaiser von Österreich (p120)
- ➔ Mörwald Kloster Und (p120)
- ➔ Restaurant Loibnerhof (p122)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Weingut & Weingasthof Kloster am Spitz (p146)
- ➔ St Martins Therme & Lodge (p148)
- ➔ Restaurant & Hotel Schloss Grafenegg (p121)
- ➔ Hotel Schloss Dürnstein (p121)

Why Go?

Surrounding Vienna on all sides, Lower Austria is a cradle of Austrian civilisation and a region offering visitors one of the country's most lively cultural landscapes. Outdoor activities, some great museums, wine, food and a glimpse into the age of the Romans at Carnuntum make leaving the capital for a day or longer an attractive prospect.

And naturally everyone's heard of the Danube River which cuts a picturesque valley, the Wachau, through the region's northwest. A place of magnificent natural beauty, this is truly a European highlight for its vineyards, castles, abbeys and medieval villages.

To the south of the capital, undervisited Burgenland is all but the typical Austria of the holiday brochures; you won't find soaring mountains, glacial lakes and bombastic architecture here, just bucolic flatlands spread like a well-tenderised schnitzel around the jewel in its crown – Neusiedler See – a shallow mecca for extreme-water-sports fans and paddling toddlers alike.

When to Go

- ➔ Visit Burgenland, especially the Neusiedler See region in the north, between April and October.
- ➔ From November to March Burgenland goes into low-season hibernation and its prime attraction – the outdoors – becomes cold, grey and windswept.
- ➔ Visit Lower Austria during the April to October warm season, when the Wachau is often bathed in a soft light and you can make the most of the Danube River and its sights and activities.
- ➔ Autumn is the best time to enjoy wine in the Wachau, and from 11 November (St Martin's Day) each year young wine is sold.

Lower Austria & Burgenland Highlights

- 1 Wandering the cultural landscape of the Wachau in the **Danube Valley** (p116).
- 2 Sipping wines in one of the pretty *Heurigen* (wine taverns) in towns like **Rust** (p144).
- 3 Going baroque at Stift Melk, a magnificent monastery in **Melk** (p124), on the banks of the Danube.
- 4 Making a splash in the **Neusiedler See** (p144), Austria's slurping steppe lake.
- 5 Riding the footplate of the Semmeringbahn, a remarkable engineering feat in **Semmering** (p139).
- 6 Twitching at your leisure at Neusiedler See-Seewinkel National Park, a haven for bird life in **Seewinkel** (p148).
- 7 Taking in the thermal waters in **Frauenkirchen** (p148) at St Martins Therme & Lodge.
- 8 Scrambling through the cobbled streets of **Krems an der Donau** (p116).
- 9 Hiking or catching the train up **Schneeberg** (p140), Lower Austria's highest peak.

