



Upper Austria

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Herberstein (p159)
- ➔ Verdi Restaurant & Einkehr (p158)
- ➔ No Solo Vino (p157)
- ➔ Knapp am Eck (p165)
- ➔ Löwenkeller (p167)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Spitz Hotel (p157)
- ➔ Hotel Christkindlwirt (p164)
- ➔ Baumhotel (p164)
- ➔ Boutique Hotel Hauser (p164)
- ➔ Hotel Forstinger (p164)

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, there's the mighty Danube and a rich musical heritage, old-world coffee houses and castle-topped medieval towns, and 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. Whether you're among the mist-enshrouded hills rippling towards the Czech Republic or wheat fields fading into a watercolour distance at dusk, you'll find these landscapes have a quiet, lingering beauty all of their own.

When to Go

- ➔ 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. Rooms are at a premium from June to September, though, so book ahead.
- ➔ October to February sees room rates dip, as well as the crowds. Autumn is perfect for crisp walks through the forests, while winter brings glittering Christmas markets galore, and cross-country skiers swish through the Nationalpark Kalkalpen.
- ➔ The spring shoulder season from March to May is a great time to see the orchards in blossom and to celebrate Schubert in Steyr.



Upper Austria Highlights

- 1** Playing with pixels and conversing with intelligent robots at Ars Electronica Center in **Linz** (p153).
- 2** Falling for the storybook lanes and fast-flowing rivers of **Steyr** (p163).
- 3** Walking and sleeping high above the treetops at the

Baumkronenweg in **Kopfing** (p170).

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

- 5** Drifting away in a Caribbean lagoon, daiquiri in

hand, at **Therme Geinberg** (p171).

- 6** Being amazed by the grace of the Augustiner Chorherrenstift in **St Florian** (p162).

- 7** Journeyming to the darkest depths of Austria's past at **KZ Mauthausen** (p163) concentration camp.