



Austria



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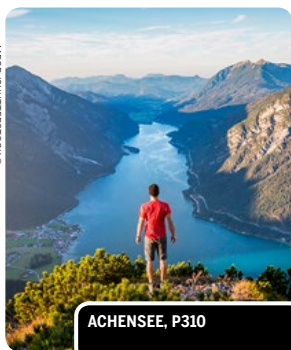
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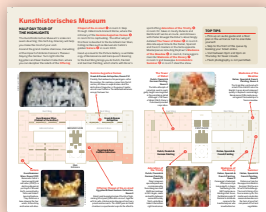
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Itineraries



2 WEEKS Vienna to Salzburg

This itinerary is Austria in a nutshell, winging you from Vienna's opulent palaces and coffee houses to the vine-stitched Wachau Valley, and west to the Alps in Salzburgerland. Mozart, Maria and landscapes no well-orchestrated symphony or yodelling nun could ever quite capture – this one has the lot.

Devote a couple of cultural days to swanning around Habsburg palaces, world-class galleries hung with Klimts and sumptuous coffee houses in **Vienna**.

A breezy hour's train ride west and you're in the heart of wine country and on the Danube in the picture-book **Wachau**. Linger for a day or two to lap up the castles, abbey and local rieslings.

Swing west now for two days to the **Salzkammergut**, where cinematic mountain backdrops rim lakes of bluest blue. Base yourself in ludicrously pretty Hallstatt for peak-gazing swims and a visit to Dachstein's astonishing ice caves. From here, head west to **Salzburg** for a feast of baroque art, prince-archbishop palaces, Mozart and more. After a couple of days, tag on a day in **Werfen** with its high-on-a-hill castle and extraordinary Eisriesenwelt – all backdropped by the Tennengebirge's jagged limestone peaks.



2 WEEKS

Vienna to Innsbruck

This is the grand tour of Austria's cities, loaded with culture and with a tantalising pinch of the alpine landscapes.

Kick start your trip with three days of cultural immersion in **Vienna**, lapping up Habsburg life in Klimt-crammed Schloss Belvedere or opulent Schloss Schönbrunn, before heading west along the Danube Valley to **Krems an der Donau**. Pause here for cutting-edge galleries and wine tastings, factoring in a trip to the spirit-lifting Benedictine abbey-fortress in **Melk**, slung high above the Danube.

On day seven (a day or two earlier in winter), head on to **Linz**, an industrial city with edgy galleries like Lentos and Ars Electronica. The trail to mountain-rimmed **Hallstatt** and the lakes of the Salzkammergut are soothingly beautiful on day eight.

From Hallstatt, either venture to **Salzburg**, a pristine, castle-topped baroque city, for a Mozart and Maria fix, or stop off in lakeside **Zell am See**, where hiking trails thread among some of Austria's highest peaks, before continuing to **Innsbruck** for a dose of culture, hiking, skiing – whatever takes your fancy.



10 DAYS

Salzburgerland & Salzkammergut

Launch your trip in **Salzburg**, with three days combing the back alleys and clambering up to the castle to outpomp all castles in Mozart's hometown. You might want to hook onto a *Sound of Music* tour or whizz up to the Alps from here. Or detour to Italianate Schloss Hellbrunn or **Hallein's** salt works.

From Salzburg, the road dips south to the most gently picturesque of the lakes in the Salzkammergut, the **Wolfgangsee**, where summertime swimming, walking and cycling are splendid. Tick off some of the lesser-known towns on hikes or rides over the next few days.

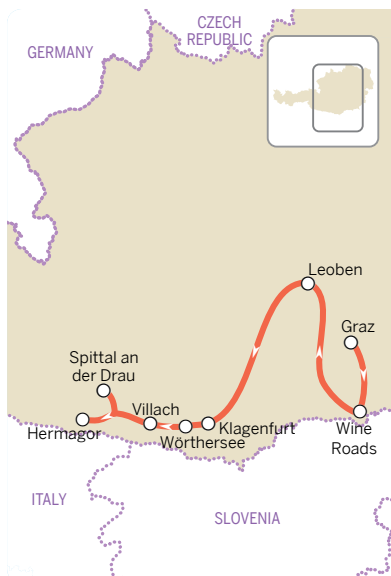
From lakeside St Wolfgang or St Gilgen, it's a short bus hop to **Bad Ischl**, a cracking base for exploring other lakes in the Salzkammergut over the next three days. The most dramatic of these is the Hallstätter See, with **Hallstatt** or more laid back (but less historic) **Obertraun** perfect for overnighting. Near Obertraun, take in Dachstein's surreal ice caves on a cable-car ride and tack on a hike in the area.



Top: View over St
Wolfgang (p223)
Bottom: Schloss
Belvedere, Vienna
(p83)



DZIEWUL/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



10 DAYS

Styria & Carinthia

This spin of the south takes you to chilled-out, culture-packed Graz, the vineyards of Styria, the astonishingly turquoise Wörthersee and many other lakes, villages and little-known trails besides.

Factor in three or four days to slip under the surface of **Graz**, Austria's friendly, easygoing second city, where space-age galleries, Renaissance courtyards and a spirited food and nightlife scene rival for your attention. On the third day, venture out along the south Styrian **wine roads**, a Tuscan-like landscape hugging the Slovenian border with vineyards at every bend.

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 **Klagenfurt** and **Wörthersee**, **Villach** or **Spittal an der Drau**, all towns with a sprinkling of sights and plenty of outdoor activities. Towns such as **Hermagor** in the Gail Valley have great cycling, hiking and (in winter) skiing possibilities at Nassfeld.

2 WEEKS

Tyrol

Wherever you go in Tyrol you'll be confronted by mountains. Grab your hiking boots or skis and dive into these incredible alpine valleys.

Start with a few days in laid-back **Innsbruck**. Stroll the historic Altstadt (old town), taking in its galleries, Habsburg treasures and upbeat nightlife, or take the futuristic funicular to the Nordkette. From Innsbruck, go south for scenic skiing in the **Stubai Glacier** or west to the exquisite baroque abbey in **Stams**.

On day five head to the spectacularly rugged **Ötztal**, where you can dip into pre-history 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, return to Innsbruck and swing east. Factor in a day for the pristine medieval town of **Hall**, and the crystal-studded Swarovski Kristallwelten in **Wattens**. The alpine scenery of the **Zillertal** will have you itching to head outdoors. Round out at fortress-topped **Kufstein** and the legendary mountains of **Kitzbühel**.



Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



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A travel author for the last decade, Marc has worked for Lonely Planet in Siberia, Slovakia, Bavaria, England, Ukraine, Austria, Poland, Croatia, Portugal, Madeira and on the Trans-Siberian Railway, as well as writing and updating tens of other guides for other publishers. When not on the road, Marc lives between Sandwich, Kent, and Mariánské Lázně in the Czech Republic with his wife and two sons.



Kerry Christiani

Vienna, Salzburg & Salzburgerland, Tyrol & Vorarlberg, Plan Your Trip, Understand Austria, Survival Guide Kerry's first encounter with real snow in Tyrol more than 15 years ago sparked her enduring love affair with the Austrian Alps – and she's been returning ever since. For this edition, she sweated out a heatwave in the Hohe Tauern Alps, grappled with white-water rapids in Tyrol, tested out radon cures and climbed (almost) every mountain. Kerry is an award-winning

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Catherine Le Nevez

Vienna, Upper Austria Catherine's wanderlust kicked in when she roadtripped across Europe from her Parisian base aged four, and she's been hitting the road at every opportunity since, travelling to around 60 countries and completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing along the way. She's written scores of Lonely Planet guides and articles covering Paris, France, Europe and far beyond. Her work has also appeared in numerous online and print publications.



Donna Wheeler

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