



Lower Austria & Burgenland

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Gut Drauf at Gut Oggau (p154)
- ➔ Weingut Gabriel (p153)
- ➔ Zur Dankbarkeit (p156)
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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Gut Purbach (p155)
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- ➔ Schloss Starrein (p137)
- ➔ Restaurant & Hotel
Schloss Grafenegg (p131)
- ➔ St Martins Therme &
Lodge (p156)
- ➔ Raffelsberger Hof (p130)

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, under-visited 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 Danube Valley (p124) Wandering the cultural landscape of the Wachau.

2 Rust (p153) Sipping wines in one of the pretty *Heurigen* (wine taverns).

3 Stift Melk (p131) Going baroque at Melk's magnificent monastery on the banks of the Danube.

4 Neusiedler See (p152) Making a splash in Austria's slurping steppe lake.

5 Semmeringbahn (p147) Riding the footplate of this remarkable engineering feat in Semmering.

6 Neusiedler See-Seewinkel National Park (p156) Twitching at your leisure in Seewinkel's haven for bird life.

7 St Martins Therme & Lodge (p156) Taking to the thermal waters in Frauenkirchen.

8 Krems an der Donau (p124) Scrambling through the cobbled streets.

9 Schneeberg (p145) Hiking or catching the train up Lower Austria's highest peak.

