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Quick view

Linz – a brief overview

When the northern Austrian settlement of Linz was named European Capital of Culture of 2009, it threw fresh attention onto an enjoyable baroque city spread across the banks of the Danube. Its outskirts are home to some less-than-beautiful industrial areas, which is perhaps why its charms stayed under the radar for so long, but Linz as a whole is today a dynamic, creative destination, and the town centre has a handful of quality historical attractions.

And as the third largest city in Austria (home to almost 200,000 people), it packs in enough energy and variety to make a visit here an engaging one.



Austria

General knowledge

Country overview

Austria's landscape is of a beautiful and great diversity. As a traveller, you will find the majestic Alps as well as the green valleys of the Danube. Austria is known for its historic architecture, impressive museums and galleries but also for its high class ski regions. Mozart, Schubert and the inventor of psycho-analysis, Sigmund Freud,

were born here and are some of its most famous and influential sons. When it comes to architecture, the buildings of the Habsburgers are especially valuable. This dynasty dominated central Europe for seven centuries and left a great heritage which includes for example the opera house in Vienna.

Geography

Mountainous Austria is a landlocked country at the heart of Europe, bordered by Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Italy. The diverse landscape can be divided into five sections: the Eastern Alps (62.8%), the Alpine and Carpathian Foothills (11.3%), the Pannonian Lowlands (11.3%), the Vienna Basin (4.4%) and the Granite and Gneiss Highlands or Bohemian Massif (10.1%). Austria's highest mountain is Grossglockner (3,798m/12,465ft) found in the Alps' Hohe Tauern range, and, on its way from the Black Forest in southern Germany to the Black Sea, the winding River Danube flows for approximately 360km (220 miles) through the country.

Nearly half of Austria is covered with forests, with the lower regions particularly densely wooded. Fir predominates above 488m (1,600ft), and gives way to larch and stone-pine beyond 1,219m (4,000ft); the Alpine foothills consist predominantly of arable land and grassland (above 610m/2,000ft); the Pannonian region is characterised by scrub and heathland.

General knowledge

Key facts

Population: 8,7 million (January 2017)

Population Density (per sq km): 100

Capital: Vienna (Wien).

Language

German is the official language. Regional dialects are pronounced and within the different regions of the country one will encounter marked variations from *Hochdeutsch*, i.e. 'standard' German.

Currency

Euro (€) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2, 1 and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Electricity

230 volts AC, 50Hz. Round two-pin European plugs are standard.

Public holidays

Below are listed Public Holidays for the January 2019 – December 2020 period.

2019

New Year's Day: 1 January 2019
 Epiphany: 6 January 2019
 Easter Sunday: 21 April 2019
 Easter Monday: 22 April 2019
 National Holiday: 1 May 2019
 Ascension Day: 30 May 2019
 Whit Sunday: 9 June 2019
 Whit Monday: 10 June 2019
 Corpus Christi: 20 June 2019
 Assumption Day: 15 August 2019
 Republic Day: 26 October 2019
 All Saints' Day: 1 November 2019
 Immaculate Conception: 8 December 2019
 Christmas Day: 25 December 2019
 St. Stephen's Day: 26 December 2019

2020 New Year's Day: 1 January 2020 Epiphany: 6 January 2020 Easter Sunday: 12 April 2020 Easter Monday: 13 April 2020 National Holiday: 1 May 2020 Ascension Day: 21 May 2020 Whit Sunday: 31 May 2020 Whit Monday: 1 June 2020 Corpus Christi: 11 June 2020 Assumption Day: 15 August 2020 Republic Day: 26 October 2020 All Saints' Day: 1 November 2020 Immaculate Conception: 8 December 2020 Christmas Day: 25 December 2020 St. Stephen's Day: 26 December 2020 All information subject to change.



Travel etiquette How to fit in

Social Conventions

Austrians tend to be quite formal in both their social and business dealings. They do not use first names when being introduced, but after the initial meeting first names are often used. Handshaking is customary when saying hello and goodbye. It is considered impolite to enter a restaurant or shop without saying *Guten Tag* (good day) or, more usually,

Grüss Gott (common greeting which literally means 'greet God'); similarly, to leave without saying *Auf Wiedersehen* (goodbye) can cause offence. If invited out to dinner, flowers should be brought for the hostess. The Church enjoys a high and respected position in Austrian society, which should be kept in mind.



Health Health

Ticks often live in heavily forested areas during the summer months in some of the more easterly parts of Austria and can create discomfort and, in very rare cases, serious infection to people who are bitten. Tick-borne encephalitis is endemic and travellers likely to find themselves in wooded areas from spring to autumn should take a course of injections. Rabies is present in Austria, although there have been no incidents reported in recent years. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten seek medical advice without delay.



Phone calls & Internet Phone calls & Internet

Telephone

Country code: +43

Mobile telephony and Internet

Since June 2017, EU citizens traveling within the EU, and also in Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein have been able to use their cell phones and surf the Net without incurring any extra charges: In other words, customers pay the same price for phone calls, text messages and data volume as they do at home. Restrictions do apply to the constant use of SIM cards abroad, however, and caps may be set on data packages. For full details, contact your mobile telephony provider in your country. Travelers using a SIM card from a non-EU state do not benefit from the new arrangement.

Free Internet access via Wi-Fi is possible in many busy tourist spots. When using public Wi-Fi networks, it is a wise precaution to ensure encryption of all passwords, credit card details and banking TANs entered. Use of a VPN app or security software to check the safety of a hotspot is recommended.



Top 10 sights Top 10 sights in Linz

Lentos Art Museum

Home to an excellent array of modern and contemporary art, this is one of the city's shining cultural lights.

Ernst-Koref-Promenade 1
4020 Linz
Austria
Tel: +43 732 7070 3600

Opening times:
Tue-Wed and Fri-Sun 1000-1800
Thu 1000-2100

www.lentos.at

Pöstlingbergbahn

The historic tram running from the main city square up to the green hill of Pöstlingberg gives visitors not only a scenic ride, but also the chance to explore one of the most relaxed parts of the city.

Hauptplatz
4020 Linz
Austria
Tel: +43 732 7070 2009

Opening times:
Mon-Sat 0600-2230 (Apr-Oct)
Sun 0730-2200 (Apr-Oct)
Mon-Sat 0600-2030 (Nov-Mar)

Sun 0730-2200 (Nov-Mar)

www.linz.at

Ars Electronica Center

A forward-thinking science discovery centre, overcoming an unfortunate name to stand as one of the city's most modern, and most enjoyable, museums.

Ars-Electronica-Strasse 1
4040 Linz
Austria
Tel: +43 732 72720

Opening times:
Tue-Wed and Fri 0900-1700
Thu 0900-2100
Sat-Sun 1000-1800

www.aec.at

Botanical Garden

Covering some 43,000 sq m, the city's well-reputed botanical garden plays home to more than 10,000 different plant types. It's particularly famed for its cacti collection.

Roseggerstrasse 20
4020 Linz
Austria
Tel: +43 732 7070 1860

Opening times:
Daily 0800-1700 (Nov-Feb)
Daily 0800-1800 (Mar and Oct)
Daily 0800-1900 (Apr and Sep)
Daily 0730-1930 (May-Aug)

www.linz.at/botanischergarten

Castle Museum Linz

Containing a strong collection of cultural treasures from Upper Austria, the city castle now has a huge glass-and-steel wing, created to tie in with Linz's stint as European Capital of Culture.

Schlossberg 1
4010 Linz
Austria
Tel: +43 732 774 4190

Opening times:
Tue-Wed and Fri 0900-1800
Thu 0900-2100
Sat-Sun 1000-1700

www.landmuseum.at

Biologie Zentrum

Focused on botany and zoology, the biology centre has regular exhibitions and holds real appeal for those with an academic interest in the field. It's located near the Johannes Kepler University.

Johann-Wilhelm-Klein-Strasse 73
4040 Linz-Dornach
Austria
Tel: +43 732 7720 52100

Opening times:
Mon-Fri 0900-1700
Sun 1000-1700

www.landmuseum.at

The River Danube

The river isn't a tourist sight in the traditional sense, but it's very much part of the visitor appeal – a cruise along the Danube is an enjoyable way of taking in the city and harbour, or sailing further downstream.

Untere Donaulände 1
4020 Linz
Austria

Landesgalerie

This provincial gallery has an impressive display of art, including the world's largest collection of works by the haunting Austrian printmaker and illustrator Alfred Kubin.

Museumsstraße 14
4010 Linz
Austria

Opening times:
Tue-Wed and Fri 0900-1800
Thu 0900-2100
Sat-Sun 1000-1700

www.landmuseum.at

Nordico Stadtmuseum

The civic museum occupies what was once a monastery house, and alongside its permanent displays it hosts various exhibitions on the history of Linz and the wider region.

Dametzstrasse 23
4020 Linz
Austria
Tel: +43 732 7070 1912

Opening times:
Tue-Wed and Fri-Sun 1000-1800
Thu 1000-2100

www.nordico.at

Museum of the History of Dentistry in Upper Austria

A museum to really get your teeth into, tracing developments in dentistry over the centuries. It's free to enter and displays some early drills alongside more modern equipment.

Altes Rathaus
Hauptplatz 1
4020 Linz
Austria

Opening times:
Mon-Wed 0900-1300
Thu-Fri 0900-1300 and 1400-1700

www.zahnmuseum-linz.at



Shopping in Linz Shopping in Linz

Key Areas

No doubting the top spot here. Linzer Landstrasse is one of the best-known shopping streets in the country, with stores ranging from the small and independent to the big and brand-heavy. The streets leading off the main drag hold much to entice bargain hunters too.

Markets

Every Tuesday and Friday morning, the city square fills up for a fresh produce market, while the same location welcomes a flea market every Saturday from March to November – it moves to the square in front of the New City Hall for the rest of the year.

Shopping Centres

The strikingly modern facade of Lentia City (Hauptstrasse 54) plays home to more than 60 stores, selling everything from fashion clothing to the latest technology. There's plenty of parking too. Another good option is Passage Linz (Landstrasse 17-25), which has more than 30 different outlets.



Restaurants

Restaurants in Linz

The best-known local delicacy is Linzer Torte, a cake made using almonds and redcurrant jam, and the city as a whole offers dining options ranging from hearty Mitteleuropa fare to cosmopolitan fine dining.

Verdi Restaurant & Einkehr

Head here for fine Austrian cuisine cooked and presented to excellent effect.

Pachmayrstrasse 137 Price: Expensive
4040 Linz
Austria

Non Solo Vino

A great Italian restaurant with a courtyard and a strong menu.

Bischofstrasse 15 Price: Moderate
4020 Linz
Austria

Royal Bombay Palace

A popular curry house serving up Indian food to hungry locals.

Goethestrasse 34 Price: Moderate
4020 Linz
Austria

Exxtrablatt

A relaxed spot to grab a good burger and a beer.

Spittelwiese 6 Price: Moderate
4020 Linz
Austria

Brandl Linz

Austrians love their bread, and this bakery shows exactly why – a prime choice for

lunch on the go.

Landstrasse 48
4020 Linz
Austria

Price: Cheap



Nightlife

Nightlife in Linz

One of the ongoing legacies of Linz's year as European Capital of Culture has been the emergence of some top-notch arts venues, which are well complemented by a lively range of bars and clubs.

Musiktheater

Open only since 2013, this boldly designed opera house has become Linz's premier stage for opera, ballet, theatre and more.

Am Volksgarten 1
4020 Linz
Austria

Thüsen Tak

A self-titled 'rock pub' that's been going strong since 1980. Frank Zappa is among the pub's past clientele.

Waltherstrasse 21
4020 Linz
Austria

Tabakfabrik

An arts space in a former tobacco factory, offering screenings, exhibitions and other diversions.

Peter-Behrens-Platz 15
4020 Linz
Austria

Empire

A fashionable nightclub with regular themed events and occasional big-name DJs.

Industriezeile 47
4020 Linz
Austria

Paul's Küche Bar Greisslerei

A stylish hotel bar and restaurant overlooking the city cathedral, serving its own specially bottled craft ale and 20 to 30 beers from around the world.

Herrenstrasse 36

4020 Linz
Austria



Calendar of events Calendar of events

NEXTCOMIC Festival

A celebration of Austrian comics and cartoons, this festival first took place during Linz's stint as European Capital of Culture in 2009, and has been hugely successful ever since. Comic readings, 24-hour drawing sessions, workshops, talks and exhibitions run alongside a comic market and book signings.

14 - 23 March 2019

www.nextcomic.org

Venue: Various venues

Pflasterspektakel – International Street Art Festival

Expect to hear laughter, gasps and shrieking throughout the city centre during this three-day street performance festival. Linz becomes a giant open-air stage as around 100 artists and groups from over 40 countries entertain crowds with aerial acrobatics, fire juggling, clowning and comedy.

July 2019

www.pflasterspektakel.at

Venue: City centre streets

Ars Electronica Festival

Running since 1979, this festival takes a new theme each year (for example 'what it takes to change') and explores all manner of ideas related to that theme with the help of leading scientists, artists, entrepreneurs and thinkers. The result is an eclectic programme of lectures, exhibitions, concerts and hands-on workshops.

September 2019

www.aec.at

Venue: Various venues

Cloud of Sound (Klangwolke)

A magical mix of light and laser shows, music and fireworks enchant riverside audiences over three evenings in September. The event kicks off with the Visual Cloud of Sound, continues with a special children's evening, and culminates in an outdoor screening of a live concert performed by the Bruckner Orchestra.

September 2019

www.klangwolke.at

Venue: Brucknerhaus

Brucknerfest Linz

Fans of Austrian composer Bruckner are in for a treat at this festival dedicated to

his work. Orchestras, choirs, chamber groups and soloists from around the globe perform a thrilling programme of concerts. The music isn't limited to Bruckner either – audiences can expect to hear works by many different composers.

September - October 2019

www.brucknerhaus.at/veranstaltungen.html

Venue: Various venues

Christmas Markets

Linz visitors are lucky enough to have the choice of two Christmas markets: one in the main square (Hauptplatz) and the other in the folk garden (Volksgarten). Twinkling lights and stalls overflowing with handcrafted gifts entice shoppers, with mulled wine (blueberries optional) and sugared doughnuts on hand for warming up.

November - December 2019

www.christkindlmarkt-linz.at

Venue: Hauptplatz and Volksgarten



Hotels Hotels in Linz

As the capital of the Upper Austria Region, Linz draws a fair number of both business and leisure travellers, giving it a good stock of comfortable city hotels.

Spitz Hotel

Considered by many as the funkiest address in town, with art and design playing a lead role.

Fiedlerstrasse 6
4040 Linz
Austria

Category: Expensive

Park Inn by Radisson Linz

Giving good access to both the airport and the Old Town, this is a modern 175-room property with a stylish design.

Hessenplatz 16-18
4020 Linz
Austria

Category: Moderate

Hotel Kolping

A solid 3-star option, with well-appointed rooms and suites and a central location.

Gesellenhausstrasse 5
4020 Linz
Austria

Category: Moderate

Austria Trend Hotel Schillerpark

Totally renovated in 2013, this 4-star hotel is a popular choice with business travellers.

Schillerplatz
4020 Linz
Austria

Category: Moderate

Cohotel

A well-priced stay located around 15 minutes' drive from the city.

Gewerbeallee 15
4221 Steyregg
Austria

Category: Cheap