

## Nibelungengau Hiking Trail

~ MYTHICAL HIKING ALONG THE RIVER OF TIME ~



Before the Danube flows through the Wachau it crosses the Nibelungengau which is still something of an insider tip for tourists, with plenty of destinations along the 110 km hiking trail that are all drenched in history. The Nibelungengau hiking trail offers pristine nature and fantastic views over the Danube Valley. The trail runs

north and south of the Danube, weaving between countless cultural treasures and natural jewels. The eight stages range from 10 to 22 km long, ideal for explorers, families and anyone looking for a bit of peace and quiet. The name of this broad valley between Ybbs and Pöchlarn has its origins in the Song of the Nibelungs, the famous mediaeval epic poem. The age of the Nibelungs has passed, but it has left behind panoramic trails through a picture-perfect landscape with lots of exciting destinations and culinary delights just waiting to be discovered: the legendary Artstetten Castle, the Maria Taferl pilgrimage basilica, the oldest hydroelectric power station in Austria in Ybbs-Persenbeug or the Europe Castle in Leiben. [www.nibelungengau.at](http://www.nibelungengau.at)

## Kremstal-Donau Hiking Trail

~ VARIED TOURS WITH VIEWS ~



The most beautiful destinations around the wine town of Krems are all connected via the roughly 100 km hiking trail. North and south of the Danube, primordial nature, a wealth of culture and quaint tavern-lined alleyways wait to be discovered. The region's natural and cultural delights are divided into 15 stages ranging in length from 4 to

18 km. With a change in elevation of around 2,100 metres, the trail leads you over lush meadows and through dense forests, past fertile vineyards in 3 different wine-growing areas to acres of picture-perfect locations and destinations that are well worth your time. Split into different stages, this hiking trail is great for day trips. Head online to choose the right tour for you, adapting it to suit your preferred length and fitness level. [www.kremstal.at](http://www.kremstal.at)

## Jauerling Loop

~ HIKING ON THE ROOF OF THE WACHAU ~



Marvel at the vast countryside from atop the highest mountain on the Danube at 960 m above sea level – this is the exhilarating experience awaiting all hikers on the Jauerling loop. With a total length of 90 km, this trail will lead you around and up the Jauerling, with the Nature Park Centre and its Wachau Terrace awaiting you at the top,

surrounded by the expansive forests and meadows of the Jauerling-Wachau Nature Park. Hiking round the Jauerling will take you on a journey through several different cultural landscapes, natural areas and historical eras.

The trail takes you above the Danube through vineyards, broad meadows and villages, and over gentle hills to the Jauerling. The trail starts and ends at the Maria Laach pilgrimage site. The trail is designed as a circular tour, split into seven stages. [www.naturpark-jauerling.at](http://www.naturpark-jauerling.at)

## Hiking with luggage transport

~ LIGHTENING THE LOAD ~

If you wish to literally “go the extra mile” as you explore and discover the different stages over several days, staying the night in a different location along the route every day, we recommend booking a trip with luggage transport. That way, your luggage is automatically brought from one accommodation to the next. Starting from just two nights, this is the way to explore the various stages of the many different hiking tours along the Danube in comfort – and why not combine this with a romantic Danube hiking package around the Wachau World Heritage Site.

## Booking options

Donau Niederösterreich Tourismus GmbH is your expert for travelling to the Lower Austrian Danube region. We are here to help you plan your holiday and to offer advice on individual preferences. Go online to find a simple overview of our best hiking packages with a map view. [www.wachau.at](http://www.wachau.at) | [www.donau.com](http://www.donau.com)

## Along diverse paths

~ TOUCH NATURE AND EXPERIENCE HISTORY ~

The Wachau World Heritage Trail is divided into 14 stages. You can hike the full 180 kilometres (approx. 110 miles) in either direction ... alternatively, of course, you can just tackle selected individual stages.

Combined with the Jauerling loop and three ferry connections, there are loads of different options, giving you the ability to design your very own extraordinary hiking holiday from early spring until late, golden autumn.

Hiking through the Wachau World Heritage Site will lead you between the Danube, wine country, apricot fields and much, much more: picturesque villages, vineyards and orchards, dry stone walls, a rich variety of dry grassland, mixed forests and viewing points line the 36 kilometre-long Wachau Danube Valley. Nestled in among all of this you will find the countless culinary delights the region has to offer – at countryside inns to wine taverns and wineries, and even award-winning restaurants.

In 2000, the unique cultural landscape was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The impressive Baroque monasteries at Melk and Göttweig, and the churches, castles, forts and ruins tell a rich history. Present-day Wachau is characterised by cultural events, enjoyable leisure activities and valuable natural areas protected by the Council of Europe.

Nowhere offers better hiking along the Danube! If you are looking for ways to extend your trip, then why not check out the extensive Nibelungengau and Kremstal-Donau hiking trails situated just next door to the Wachau. See back page for details.



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[urlaub@donau.com](mailto:urlaub@donau.com)  
[+43 2713 30060-60](tel:+4327133006060)

## ~ BOOKING & INFORMATION ~

Donau Niederösterreich Tourismus GmbH  
Regionalbüro Wachau-Nibelungengau-Kremstal  
3620 Spitz/Donau, Schlossgasse 3  
PHONE +43(0)2713-30060-60  
E-MAIL [urlaub@donau.com](mailto:urlaub@donau.com)

[WWW.DONAU.COM](http://WWW.DONAU.COM)

## ~ HOW TO GET IN TOUCH ~

[www.donau.com](http://www.donau.com)

Die Donauregion in Niederösterreich

Wachau-Nibelungengau-Kremstal

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# Wachau World Heritage Trail

& the best hiking trails in the region

~ [WWW.WELTERBESTEIG.AT](http://WWW.WELTERBESTEIG.AT) ~



Supported by the federal province and the European Union



# Wachau World Heritage Site

~ THE 14 STAGES AT A GLANCE ~

Walk, gawk and enjoy! Get up close and personal and discover what it is that makes this region so unique and wonderful. Discover the extraordinarily well-preserved relics of a long historical evolution, plus art, culture and, last but not least, the quite unique wining and dining of the Wachau World Heritage Site.



## Krems – Dürnstein

Starting in the mediaeval town centre of Krems, this popular stage leads you through a few of the most wellknown Wachau vineyards and through a forest to the picturesque Dürnstein with its blue church tower. It has no significant elevation.

## Dürnstein – Weissenkirchen



Fantastic views and famous stone terrace vineyards form the backdrop to this stage, which runs from Kremser Tor in Dürnstein, past the castle ruins, all the way to the market square in the idyllic wine village of Weissenkirchen.



## Weissenkirchen – Spitz

This trail leads you high above the Danube from Weissenkirchen to Spitz via Rote Tor, taking you through the heart of the Wachau vineyards with their typical stone terraces and renowned vineyard marshes.



## Spitz – Mühlendorf

This rather more challenging stage is characterised by the steep wine terraces of the Wachau, the famous "Tausendeimerberg" (or The Mountain of A Thousand Buckets), bright oak and beech forests and majestic views.



## Mühlendorf – Maria Laach

This truly panoramic stage is defined by the forested landscape of the Jauerling Nature Park, home to the highest point of the World Heritage Site and the highest vineyard marsh in Lower Austria.



### WACHAU ON YOUR SMARTPHONE - TOUR APP & AUDIO GUIDE

With the Wachau-Nibelungengau-Kremstal-App, you can put together your very own ideal tour ahead of time using your smartphone, or alternatively use the in-app maps and head straight out for a hike around the area. The Wachau Guide App is an audio guide that will tell you all about the special open-air sights at locations along the World Heritage Trail. Both apps are available for free in the Apple App Store or on Google Play.

[www.welterbesteig.at](http://www.welterbesteig.at)

- Danube
- Municipality
- 📍 Stage Number
- 33 Road/Street
- 📍 World Heritage Trail
- i Info point
- ▲ Summit
- 🚢 Pier



## Maria Laach – Aggsbach Markt

Close to the famous "Venus of Willendorf", this stage is characterised by the descent from the Alpine plateau of the Jauerling and takes you past Christmas tree farms and down through broad meadows to the Danube.

## Aggsbach Markt – Emmersdorf

This stage is characterised by the Jauerling Alpine plateau and its villages straddling the edge of the Wachau, gently rolling mountains and breathtaking views, plus idyllic resting stops by the castle ruins at Gossam.



## Emmersdorf – Melk

The imperial Luberegg Castle is worth a stop before crossing the river from north to south by the Melk Danube power station. There is plenty to see once you get to Melk, known for its magnificent Baroque monastery.

## Melk – Aggsbach Dorf

This stage is characterised by the town of Melk with its impressive Baroque monastery, Schönbühel with its magnificent cliffside castle overlooking the water, breathtaking views over the Danube and the Jauerling.



## Aggsbach Dorf – Hofarnsdorf

The highlights on this stage are the imposing castle ruins of Aggstein, high above the Danube, the Baroque Maria Langegg pilgrimage church, views of the "Hoher Stein" (or Tall Rock) and Dunkelsteiner Forest.

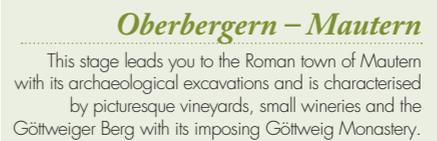
## Hofarnsdorf – Rossatz

Prepare to be wowed on this rather challenging stage by wine towns, vineyards, Roman roads, a nature preserve and views of the wine terraces on the other side of the Danube.



## Rossatz – Oberbergern

The landscape on this stage is characterised by orchards full of the famous Wachau apricots, plus wine terraces and the Dunkelsteiner Forest. You can also look forward to a particularly stunning view towards Dürnstein.



## Oberbergern – Mautern

This stage leads you to the Roman town of Mautern with its archaeological excavations and is characterised by picturesque vineyards, small wineries and the Göttinger Berg with its imposing Götting Monastery.



## Mautern – Krems

This short stage, which leads you back to your starting point, is more like a historical city tour, with the Roman ruins in Mautern, Renaissance and Baroque buildings and the imposing old town areas in Stein and Krems.