



~ HIKERS' GUIDE ~

Wachau World Heritage Trail

~ WWW.WELTERBESTEIG.AT/EN ~



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rural areas



Wachau World Heritage Trail

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~ HIKE THROUGH UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE OVER 14 STAGES ~

In the first part of this Hiking Guide, you will learn about and come to understand what it is that makes this region particularly unique. In the second part, you will find detailed route plans and stage descriptions with all the relevant information on the Wachau World Heritage Trail.

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A Warm Welcome

Wachau World Heritage Trail

~ WWW.WELTERBESTEIG.AT ~

As you will see, the Wachau World Heritage Trail is one of the most beautiful long-distance hiking routes in Austria. Crossing the unique natural backdrop of the Wachau UNESCO World Heritage Site in 14 stages over 180 kilometres.

"Wunderbar"... it's a word you ought to take literally: with its enchanting scenery and imposing monasteries, castles and ruins, the gently winding Wachau valley is an unspoilt work of art. The Wachau was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2000. It is truly a place not to be missed.

WWW.WELTERBESTEIG.AT/EN | WWW.WACHAU.AT/EN
WWW.DONAU.COM/EN



© Andreas Hofer Photography

Touch nature and experience history
Wachau World Heritage Trail

~ HIKE RICHLY DIVERSE PATHS ~

Presented over 14 stages, the Wachau World Heritage Trail is an impressive display of how enjoyable hiking can be. With leisurely ups and downs, the long-distance hiking trail frames one of the most beautiful sections of the Danube: the 36 kilometre-long Wachau Danube Valley.

Long-distance hiking becomes a real joy when there are equal treats for mind and body alike. And this trail offers both diverse and unique joys as you wander through vineyards, from town to town, through picturesque wine villages, historical and mediaeval town centres and shady ravines

on your way to majestic cultural monuments and isolated corners of the world. The Wachau World Heritage Trail leads its visitors to the most beautiful parts of Wachau, garnished with views of the winding valley carved by the River Danube.



At 422 m above sea level, the Benedictine monastery at Göttweig on the eastern edge of the Wachau is just one of the many impressive sights on the Wachau World Heritage Trail.

© Robert Herbst

~ THE MOST STUNNING WAY TO HIKE THE DANUBE ~

The **hiking trail** is divided into 14 stages and can be walked in both directions. **Combined** with the Jauerling loop (90 km, seven stages) 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.

Taking a **boat ride** on the Danube or enjoying a ferry crossing are absolute musts! Taking a boat out onto the magical river to hop between sun-drenched stone terraces,

majestic stately buildings and the sleeping beauties of old castle ruins, time stands ... well, actually not still at all, unfortunately. But it will fly by as majestically and elegantly as the mighty Danube, as it flows into the sunset.

No matter when or where you dip your toes in the Danube to cool off – as the philosopher Heraclitus once said, "No-one ever steps in the same river twice". Enjoy your Danube and nature experiences!

~ HIKE BETWEEN THE DANUBE, WINE, APRICOTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ~

The 36 kilometre-long Wachau is lined by picturesque villages, vineyards, orchards, stone walls, a rich variety of dry grassland, mixed forests and viewing points. In 2000, this unique cultural landscape was recognised as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The impressive Baroque monasteries at Melk, Göttweig and Dürnstein, and countless churches, estates, 20 castles, forts and ruins all tell a rich history that spans centuries. The present-day Wachau is characterised by cultural events, exhibitions and fun leisure activities. The Wachau is also one of the most valuable natural areas in Europe and is a European nature reserve protected by the Council of Europe. And what would the Wachau be without its much-celebrated de-

licacies – in particular its wine. Viticulture has always played an important role here and continues to do so at the many festivities held throughout the year, alongside other exquisite delicacies. You will find these in quaint wine taverns as well as our cosy little inns and exquisite top-end restaurants where elegant white wines meet down-to-earth home comforts, allowing us to sample the crisp Wachau Labelerl, the newly rediscovered Wachau saffron and, last but not least, the incomparable original that is the Wachau apricot. At the end of a full day of hiking, why not take up lodgings with a winemaker or choose from one of the many private rooms, holiday homes and top-end hotels in the region.

~ EXPLORE YOUR FAVOURITE TOUR ON YOUR PHONE ~

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. You can search for stages according to specific criteria and easily filter results according to theme, difficulty, length of route or duration. (For more info, see p. 12).

i www.welterbesteig.at/en



What is World Cultural Heritage?

~ A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE WITH GLOBAL VALUE ~

Important evidence of the long historical development of the Wachau has been extremely well preserved here: from architecture and settlements, to agriculture, art and culture.

The Wachau Cultural Landscape has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000.

Ever since it was charged with this "mission", the Wachau has put even more emphasis on developing the region and the cultural landscape by conducting relevant projects in different areas of focus. You can explore, experience, behold and gaze upon the most

important aspects of the World Heritage Trail across its individual stages.

So that you don't miss any of the best bits, we have used a key throughout the descriptions of all 14 stages to point you to the most important pieces of world heritage. These are also highlighted using the following pictograms.

~ EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTAND WORLD HERITAGE ~

PROTECTING NATURE



The Wachau is a region with a high density of unspoilt forests and environmentally valuable dry grasses, with a rich wealth of species. Maintaining, preserving and taking care of these natural jewels is vital for the uniqueness of this landscape.

ARCHITECTURE



The Wachau contains loads of excellently preserved buildings and art heritage sites from various different eras packed into a small area – there are more here per square mile than anywhere else in the world. What makes the Wachau so special is how well preserved its listed buildings are and how carefully new constructions are integrated.

SETTLEMENTS/TOWN CENTRES



The Wachau region is characterised by its compact style of settlements and medieval town centres. Existing vantage points and lines of sight have always been taken into account as much as possible when expanding settlements, and still are today.

CULTURE



From handicraft to art, from tradition to the contemporary cultural scene, and from education to identity. The inhabitants of the Wachau take pride in preserving their artistic, cultural and historical heritage, while keeping an open mind to new ideas.

AGRICULTURE



Growing vines and fruits plays a vital role in the Wachau and cultivating and taking care of these plants has an important function not just for the economy, but for the ecology too – like the pastures on the Jauerling which are particularly rich in species thanks to extensive cultivation. The dry stone walls of the wine terraces are also typical of the Wachau and well worth checking out.

GEOGRAPHY



The Wachau is shaped by a particularly unique history and by the location of the Danube Valley as a narrow breakthrough valley where the Danube cuts through the Bohemian Massif, separating the Dunkelstein Forest from the granite and gneiss high plateau of the Forest Quarter.



© Robert Herbst

TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS



There are loads of different ways to explore the Wachau – and each has its own particular flair. From public transport to the Danube bike path and mountain bike trails, or from Danube cruises to three different ferries and even a barge. Alternatively, why not take a stroll over the listed Danube Bridge between Krems and Mautern.

HISTORY



The Wachau is particularly rich in historical heritage sites that have a thousand stories to tell – from early settlements to the discovery of the famous "Venus of Willendorf", a stone figure that is some 30,000 years old. And from history we tumble headlong into the future in a world heritage region that offers an inspiring basis for academic research.

WINE



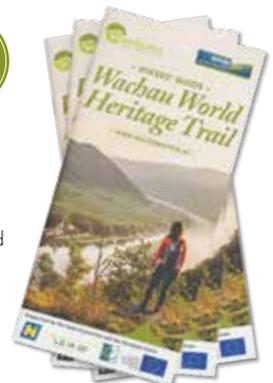
With traditions that have been handed down across generations, skilled and passionate winemakers look after our vineyards and produce world-famous Wachau white wines that are enjoyed around the globe. With its unique climate, ancient stone terraces and loess soil, the nature in these parts has been ensuring that special something since time immemorial.

TIPS FOR USING THIS HIKING GUIDE



With this brochure, you hold in your hands not only a wealth of knowledge about the Wachau in general, and in particular about its importance as a World Heritage Site...

You also have a tour guide with detailed descriptions of the 14 stages of the Wachau World Heritage Trail, plus quick facts about the individual pieces of world cultural heritage that you can expect to see, explore and be amazed by here in Wachau: and with pictograms and highlighted texts, you won't miss a single detail!



On protecting valuable culture & nature
The history of the World Cultural Heritage Site

~ NOT JUST IN THE WACHAU ~

The World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972 by the General Conference of UNESCO in order to select which pieces of natural and cultural heritage are worth protecting and are of special interest and value for all of humanity, and which must be preserved and protected for future generations.



Through the Red Gate and out into the wine region of Spitz. Places like these, where you can marvel at the world heritage and enjoy regional delicacies, make hiking a true delight.

© Robert Herbst

By signing the convention, every country pledges to protect and preserve the sites of extraordinary global significance that are on the World Heritage List. As of March 2022, 1,154 sites in 167 countries are protected by the World Heritage Convention.

The Wachau Cultural Landscape has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000. The former "Working Group for the Protection of the Wachau" enjoyed the greatest achievement in its nearly 30-year history when the Wachau was included in the list of World Heritage Sites. Protecting the Wachau against large-scale technological interference and other substantial interventions is now a matter for the international community of states.

~ THE WACHAU -
A WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE SITE ~

The Wachau was added to the list of World Heritage Sites in the category "Cultural Landscape". According to the meaning enshrined in the guidelines, it is considered to be a continuous landscape which is shaped by culture and carries on a traditional way of living to this day. Culture and landscape are forever influencing one another, with each adding their own contribution to the on-going development of the region.

On 30 November 2000, the UNESCO Commission in Cairns resolved to inscribe the Wachau in the list of World Heritage Sites.



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FREE
 brochures now:
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 urlaub@donau.com

UNESCO
World Cultural Heritage

The Wachau Cultural Landscape has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000.

~ PLACES WHERE YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORLD HERITAGE ~



© Robert Herbst

The Wachau World Heritage Centre – located right next to the river boat centre in Krems – contains an open-air exhibition with display boards and themed areas all about the Wachau World Heritage Region: from its settlement and environmental protection, to wine estates and contemporary art. This multifunctional location also serves to welcome visitors at the entrance to the Wachau and acts as an information centre.

~ WACHAU GUIDE -
YOUR MULTIMEDIA GUIDE TO THE WACHAU ~

Listen and be amazed ... with special audio guides (in German or English) that will tell you all about the Wachau World Heritage Site at locations along the Heritage Trail. In the Wachau Guide – available from the Apple App Store or Google Play – you will find free audio guides for open-air sights around the Wachau.



We're waiting for you!

All roads lead to the Wachau

~ WANDER BETWEEN WONDERS ~

No matter if you're taking the car, train, bus, ferry or boat to the starting point for your hikes and/or hopping on-board one of them after a stage, all of them will get you to your destination: awe, excitement, relaxation.



~ WHERE THE WACHAU LIES ~

In Lower Austria, on the banks of the Danube between Vienna and Linz, the Wachau starts to the west of the town of Melk and stretches some 36 kilometres along both sides of the Danube to the town of Krems in the East.

~ GETTING HERE BY CAR ~

Depending on where you are coming from, you will drive past one of these towns as you approach the Wachau.

Vienna – Melk, approx. 100 km

Vienna – Krems, approx. 70 km

Linz – Melk, approx. 100 km

~ GETTING HERE BY TRAIN ~

From Vienna to Krems with the Franz-Josef Railway line or take the Western route to Melk.

oebb.at/en/fahrplan | anachb.vor.at

~ WACHAU RAIL EXPERIENCE ~

With its artistic route up at altitude, a trip on the historical Wachau Railway promises great views. Also, it was during construction of this picturesque railway that the famous Venus of Willendorf was discovered in 1908. The line runs between Krems and Emmersdorf (opposite Melk).

wachaubahn.at/en
niederosterreichbahnen.at/en

~ SIGHTSEEING TRAINS ~

With zero stress and plenty of information, these family-friendly sightseeing trains chug their way from the pier at Krems down to the Art Mile via the car-free pedestrian zone. In Dürnstein, the route also takes in the Old Town and the vineyards towards Loiben.

~ BUS CONNECTIONS ~

Both banks of the Danube can be properly explored from the train stations in Krems and Melk via two bus lines: Line 720 runs along the right bank of the Danube every two hours, while Line 715 runs along the left bank every hour. There is also a connection between Spitzer Graben and Mühldorf (Lines 718 and 719). www.anachb.vor.at

~ RIVER TRAVEL ~

The departure times of the major boat and ferry lines are coordinated with the train and bus connections. There are regular stops between Krems and Melk in Dürnstein, Weissenkirchen and Spitz, and request stops in Aggsbach Dorf, Rossatz and by the pier in the town centre of Emmersdorf. How about a "Zillenride" – taking a 10 metre-long barge from Melk or Emmersdorf downstream

~ BIKE HIRE ~



© Andreas Hojer Photography

There are loads of bike hire companies and hire stations around the Wachau, some of which even let you pick up and return bikes around the clock.

towards the World Cultural Heritage Site?

There are also a number of ferries which you can take from several different locations to get to the other side of the Danube.



~ WACHAU DAY PASS ~

Valid for one day on local buses and Danube ferries in Dürnstein, Weissenkirchen and Spitz. The Wachau Day Pass can be purchased on-board ferries and buses, and from tourist information points in Spitz and Emmersdorf. More information on timetables, tickets and prices available at www.vor.at/en and on the Hotline on +43 (0) 810 222324. Holders of the NÖ-Card get 1 free Wachau Day Pass a year, giving them 1 day of free bus and ferry travel. www.niederosterreich-card.at

~ HIKING WITH LUGGAGE TRANSFER ~

Get hiking and enjoy the wonderful cultural landscape of the Wachau on your daily stage. Without having to worry about food along the way or what to do with your luggage – let your hosts take care of everything. After breakfast, you will get a packed lunch with regional products for al fresco dining, while your luggage is

already waiting for you at your next accommodation. All you need to worry about is enjoying the wonders of one of the most well-known regions in the world. "Hiking with luggage transfer" is probably the most enjoyable and comfortable way to "get from A to B".



© Andreas Hofer Photography

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 top recommended hikes with a map view. [i wachau.at/en](https://www.wachau.at/en)

STAMP PASS & HIKER'S PIN

The **Stamp Pass** for the Wachau World Heritage Trail is available from information centres across the World Heritage region, or you can download it online from our service page – scan the QR code for details. Pick one up or print it out yourself and get your stage stamps at the stamp stations. You can get your **Hiker's Pin** from any tourism centre in the World Heritage region for a small fee.



© Andreas Hofer Photography

~ TOUR APP ~

Hike the Wachau the smart way: 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 simply head out for a hike around the area.

It doesn't matter whether you follow the pre-marked routes or tailor the routes to your particular wants and interests.

You can search for and view stages according to specific criteria, and select your desired tour quickly and easily according to theme, difficulty, length of route or duration. (Other types of sport besides hiking are also highlighted, such as cycling, mountain biking or climbing).

In the tour descriptions, you will find everything you need to know, like tour facts, altitude profiles, getting there and back, and images of the tour. The **Wachau-Nibelungengau-Kremstal App** also contains useful information on accommodation, where to eat, ideas for day trips, and natural and cultural sights – including for the neighbouring regions of Nibelungengau and Kremstal too.

[i www.welterbesteig.at/en](https://www.welterbesteig.at/en)

If you prefer the classic way of getting information, then your best bet is to pay a visit to **Donau Niederösterreich Tourismus GmbH** at the **Wachau-Nibelungengau-Kremstal tourist centre** (3620 Spitz/Donau, Schlossgasse 3):

T +43(0)2713-30060-60
E urlaub@donau.com

[i www.donau.com/en](https://www.donau.com/en)



YOUR PACKING LIST

Please bear in mind that sources of water, shops and public toilets are few and far between on some of the stages! Practical tips for packing lists and other advice can be found by scanning the QR code.



Advice

~~~~~  
**Got questions?**  
*Get in touch!*

Call +43 2713 30060-60 or simply  
e-mail [urlaub@donau.com](mailto:urlaub@donau.com).

~~~~~

~ SIGNPOSTS & DIRECTIONS ~



© Österreich Werbung

The Wachau World Heritage Trail (and the Jauerling Loop) have an interconnected system of signs. There are standard signs indicating the way to go all along the paths, all of which are marked with the trail logo. Special locations also have information on place names, altitude and GPS coordinates.



~ HIKING MAPS, CATALOGUES, BROCHURES ~



© Donau Niederösterreich

Order your personal information materials for a stay on the Lower Austrian Danube for free, with no obligation. We are more than happy to send you printed materials – or you can use the online versions to browse on your monitor or download as a PDF.



Never the wrong time ...

... to pay a visit

~ 365 DAYS FULL OF WONDER ~

The Wachau has something to offer in every season – from the apricot blossoms in the spring and the festivals and cultural highlights in the summer, to the grape harvest in the golden autumn light and the idyllic peace and quiet of winter. You'll want to come back here again and again...



© Andreas Hofer Photography

Thanks to its favourable climate, while other parts of Austria are still covered in snow the Wachau is already welcoming the start of hiking season – a season which lasts a fair bit longer here too. Come and see for yourself.

~ SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN THE WACHAU ~

One of the most beautiful and enchanting times in the Wachau is when the **apricots blossom**. You can feel it in the air and the warmer temperatures: spring arrives earlier in the Wachau than most other places. As everything once again turns into a sea of blossoms, the Wachau exudes a radiant shine. In addition to the apricot trees, almond, cherry and apple trees are also a sight to behold. Come and be enchanted by spring in the Wachau!

~ SUMMER FRESHNESS IN THE WACHAU ~

Come and see the refreshing breeziness of this unspoilt landscape where local pride and customs meet the world culture typical of the region. Especially in the summer, when the range of events is virtually endless. And when the beautiful beaches along the Danube – across the river from Dürnstein in Rossatzbach or in Luberegg to the west of Emmersdorf, for example – invite you to enjoy a wonderful cooling dip during the hotter months.

~ AUTUMN IN THE WACHAU ~

Autumn is usually mild and stable – making it ideal for hiking – and bathes the landscape in its fabled **"golden light"**.

The river boats operate on the Danube right up to the end of October. A storm of freshness blows into the taverns as the **grape harvest** gets underway, bringing with it a particularly cosy atmosphere, while seasonal harvests are cooked up into delicious meals in the restaurants. The early mornings offer a mystical picture: wisps of fog rise from the Danube and the vineyards, the air is clean and fresh, and the leaves in the vineyards and orchards unleash their full spectrum of colours. The grape harvest in the Wachau generally begins at the end of September/beginning of October – weather permitting – and usually lasts until early/mid-November.

~ WINTRY WACHAU ~

As winter draws in and temperatures fall, the frost-covered vineyards glisten like a million crystals. (You can also follow this in real-time with "Wachau in Echtzeit"). Weather permitting, **winter hiking** is just as amazing as when the temperature is a bit warmer. And because there are no leaves blocking your view, you can enjoy the panoramas even more. Those that want to can even ski or snowboard their way down the **Jauerling** in winter. The residents of the Wachau are proud of their little ski resort – a 500 metre-long, floodlit piste that's easy to get down. And **Wachau Advent** really turns up the atmosphere from November onwards, with many Advent markets offering great-smelling delicacies and small works of art to get you in the spirit for the best family celebration of the year.

~ QUALITY PARTNERS IN THE REGION ~

The hoteliers, hostel owners and tour operators in the region have brought the passion for hospitality from the countryside to their own enterprises. The tradition and attention to quality come from the history of the region.

For some purveyors of food and hotels in Wachau, you can never have enough quality and pleasure. Which is why they like to garnish their offerings by paying special attention to local values, such as an acute awareness of hospitality, regionality, cordiality and innovation.

~ BEST OF WACHAU ~



The **Best of Wachau** includes outstanding (award-winning) restaurants, prestigious hotels and wineries, plus homely inns. And of course, our delectable treats also include culinary classics from the region: our special mineral wines, the famous Wachau Label and, last but not least, all the delicacies you can make from the Wachau apricot.



~ INN CULTURE ~



Looking to get your teeth into a bit of tradition that's a little more down-to-earth – but no less diverse? Then you'll definitely want to check out one of our countryside inns. The many regional variations on traditional home cooking taste particularly good when

served up in the retro ambience of these little snugs, some of which have retained their rustic feel. Keep an eye out for the green **"Wirtshauskultur"** sign.

i www.wirtshauskultur.at

~ TOP TAVERNS & TAVERN CALENDAR ~



Of the many taverns in the Wachau, there are a select few who offer a little something extra when it comes to authentic wine tradition: the Wachau region's **Top Taverns** are regularly inspected by a jury of experts against a fixed set of criteria, and only places that truly fit the bill are allowed to call themselves a Top Tavern. Use the free **Tavern Calendar** to find out where the Top Taverns are, what award-winning wines are being served up and what the opening times are, plus all sorts of other useful information on all our taverns.



~ TAVERNS ~



© Daniela Matejschek

A "Buschen" (a small bundle of twigs) above the door signals "Ausg'steckt is", or "We're open". The word "Heuriger" refers, on the one hand, to the wine from the latest grape harvest, but it also refers to traditional – mostly family-run – locales that serve up wine from their own crops.

What makes the "Heuriger", or tavern, so special is that it only opens at certain times of the year.



~ VINEA WACHAU ~



© Steve Harder

The Association of Wachau Vintners (Vinea Wachau Nobilis Districtus) was founded in 1983 with a mission to only craft wines using grapes from a clearly defined growing area and to adhere to an uncompromising commitment to quality, origin and purity. The wines from Austria's most famous association of winemakers come in three styles: Steinfeder, Federspiel and Smaragd (for more details, see p. 14 or Stage 14).

i www.vinea-wachau.at/en

~ EXCITE YOUR MIND AND YOUR MOUTH ~

It goes without saying (though it's worth mentioning) that in one of the most beautiful regions in the world, we can also find the most delectable delicacies: in exquisite award-winning restaurants, cosy inns and quaint taverns alike.

A trip to the regions is also worth your while on account of the culinary delights that await you, with a range of tastes as wide as the river Danube itself. Wherever the winemakers cultivate their exquisite wines, there you will also find plenty of regional products to be discovered and above all sampled. Have fun and bon appetit!

~ WACHAU APRICOT - THE ORIGINAL ~

It's more than just a beauty, it's truly unique: protected by the EU Origin Label "Original Wachauer Marille", more than 200 apricot farmers in the Wachau guarantee the unique, high-quality aroma and taste. The delicate aroma can be enjoyed in its pure form or as marmalades, fine brandies, liqueurs and, of course, desserts – like Marillenknödel (apricot dumplings) or Marillenstrudel (apricot strudel).



~ WACHAU LABELL ~

Crispy on the outside with a cracked crust, and soft and fluffy inside ... the typical Labell (a roll made from wheat and rye) has its origins in Dürnstein over 110 years ago – and the original recipe is still being used to this day in the family-run Schmidl traditional bakery.



~ WACHAU SAFFRON ~

This precious rarity is not only a feast for the eyes in autumn, but also an exquisite treat for the palate. In the former railway station building in Dürnstein, you can find everything from saffron cake to honey and tagliatelle.



~ WACHAU WHISKY ~

In addition to fine brandies and liqueurs made from apricots, the Kausl apricot distillery in Ötz near Mühldorf has also been distilling whisky since the mid-1990s. This is made from grain, water and yeast. The result is a blend of excellent craftsmanship, a long maturing period and a dash of regionality.



~ WINE EXPERIENCE & MYWACHAU APP ~



The myWachau App from VINEA WACHAU makes discovering and experiencing the Wachau wine-growing region incredibly easy – no matter whether you're a seasoned Wachau fan or a first-time visitor. The app offers important background information on the wine-growing region and its winemakers, and will help you plan your visits to vineyards, taverns and restaurants. Plus, it has the first ever digital map showing you where your favourite wine grows. Though afterwards you really ought to visit Austria's foremost wine-growing region in the flesh ... not just digitally ;) [i www.vinea-wachau.at/en](http://www.vinea-wachau.at/en)

~ HEY, LOOK: CHILLI FROM THE WACHAU ~



For those who like a bit of spice, there are a variety of different chilli peppers cultivated in the Wachau, each with their own incomparable aroma. Our insider tip is the "Wachau Chilli" – a mix of almost 100 chilli varieties from the Hick nursery in Weißenkirchen. The composition changes a little bit every year as more and more varieties are added and their suitability for the Wachau climate is tested.



~ CULTURE ROUND EVERY CORNER ~

If you want to truly understand and experience a country, a region and its people, then you also need to take a look at its regional art and culture. The historical sites and natural treasures along the Danube have got a few stories to tell... Lend them your ears!

As an official World Cultural Heritage Site, the Wachau is required to preserve old traditions, landscapes, places and cultural sites with as little change as possible. But that doesn't mean you can't also add modern, contemporary artistic accents. Quite the opposite. The region draws enthusiastic visitors to the valley with a diverse range of art and culture, international events, classical music attractions in the open air or festivals of modern art and music – from the Donaufestival (Danube Festival) and "Imago Dei" Festival des Klangraum Krems (Krems Sound Chamber Festival), to the "Glatt und Verkehrt" and the winter programme "Wachau in Echtzeit" (Wachau in Real Time).



~ CASTLES, MONASTERIES, CHURCHES & RUINS ~

In among the descriptions of the individual stages on the World Heritage Trail, you will find inspiration for the most worthwhile places to stop off along the way – from imposing castle ruins, like the ones in Dürnstein, to romantic forts like Schloss Luberegg. Or even the magnificent monasteries, especially Stift Melk and Stift Dürnstein, and last but not least the venerable cloisters like Stift Göttweig. All way markers leading you from the past into the present, witnesses of an eventful history.

~ KREMS ART MILE ~

The Art Mile in Krems is an outstanding example of contemporary culture. Here, on a 1 mile stretch of road, you will find loads of museums, galleries and more offering a wide range of sophisticated culture for young and old, and big and small.

[i www.kunstmeile.at/en](http://www.kunstmeile.at/en)

~ TOP DAY TRIP DESTINATIONS ~

 The best-known day trip destinations in Lower Austria have all joined the **TOP Day Trip Destinations in Lower Austria** group. So you don't miss a single historical or regional sight.

[i www.wachau.at/ausflug](http://www.wachau.at/ausflug)



© Robert Herbst

~ NIEDERÖSTERREICH CARD ~



© Niederösterreich Card

A small yellow and blue card with enormous power. The Niederösterreich Card (Lower Austria Card) gets you free access to over 300 experiences in and around Lower Austria, including 1 free Wachau Day Pass a year. The Day Pass gives you 1 day of free bus and ferry travel around the Wachau. Current prices and destinations can be found online at:

[i www.niederosterreich-card.at](http://www.niederosterreich-card.at)

~ **DOING EVERY STAGE IS CERTAINLY NOT A MUST ...** ~

If you don't have the time or the opportunity to hike all the stages, then there are lots of possible combos where you can mix and match themes, trail lengths, altitude or highlights! Here are a few examples to inspire you.



© Andreas Hofer Photography

"Romance on the Danube"

~ STAGE COMBOS FOR CONNOISSEURS ~

Start the day with art and cultural highlights in Krems before immersing yourself in the history and stories of the region – from old ruins, through outstanding wine estates, to Baroque cloisters, historical artefacts and traces left behind by the Romans. Be sure to stop off at the many spectacular viewpoints along the way to "Catch your breath" ... and of course there's no shortage of culinary delights to satisfy

your creature comforts as well. And so as not to ruin the idyllic and romantic moments with admin and organising, your hosts will take care of everything for you, providing tasty grub for you to eat along the way and arranging the transfer of your luggage to the next accommodation. But if you thought you could sit back and relax then think again ...

... the hiking you'll have to do yourself.

Day 1
Arrive in Krems
Overnight stay incl. breakfast in Krems

Day 2
Krems - Dürnstein (Stage 1)
Route length 12.5 km – Walking time 4h30
Overnight stay incl. breakfast in Dürnstein

Day 3
Dürnstein - Weißenkirchen (Stage 2)
Route length 17 km – Walking time 6h
Overnight stay incl. breakfast in Weißenkirchen

Day 4
Weißenkirchen - Spitz (Stage 3)
Route length 10.5 km – Walking time 3h30
Overnight stay incl. breakfast in Spitz

Day 5
Spitz - Aggstein/Aggsbach Dorf (Stage 11)
Route length 16.5 km – Walking time 5h30
Ferry to Arnsdorf Overnight stay incl. breakfast in Aggstein

Day 6
Aggstein/Aggsbach Dorf - Melk (Stage 9)
Route length 17 km – Walking time 6h
Overnight stay incl. breakfast in Melk

Day 7
Boat trip and departure
On the last day, you take the boat right through the middle of the Wachau from Melk to Krems to take in the route you have just walked from the water. There is a chance to visit the historic Old Town and the Stift Melk monastery beforehand.

"Less is more"

~ 3-DAY COMBO ~

Just one of the many ways you can combine the stages with special highlights – like crossing the Danube by ferry:

Day 1
Krems – Dürnstein (Stage 1)
Route length 12.5 km – Walking time 4h30
Overnight stay in Dürnstein

Day 2
Ferry to Rossatz, hike to Mitterarnsdorf (Stage 12)
Route length 11.6 km – Walking time 6h20
Overnight stay in Mitterarnsdorf

Day 3
Mitterarnsdorf ferry to Spitz,
Boat to Krems

"Five-Star Hiking"

~ BASE CAMP: SPITZ ~

Want to spend your holiday at just one hotel but still explore loads of different landscapes and sights? Then why not try a so-called "Five-Star Hike" using a single town or hotel as your base? This example

takes you from the historic wine-growing village of Spitz to the impressive heart of Wachau stone terrace wine country and the famous "Tausendeimerberg", or "Mountain of A Thousand Buckets".

Day 1
Bus from Spitz to Dürnstein, then ferry to Rossatz, hike to Hofarnsdorf, ferry back to Spitz (Stage 11)
Route length 16.8 km – Walking time 6h30

Day 2
Spitz – Mühlendorf/"Spitzer Graben" – with return by taxi (Stage 4)
Route length 10.9 km – Walking time 4h

Day 3
Hike Spitz –Weißenkirchen with return by bus (Stage 3)
Route length 10.5 km – Walking time 3h30

BOOKINGS & INFO AT:

 urlaub@donau.com



© Robert Herbst

Wachau World Heritage Trail
Everything at a glance

~ THE 14 STAGES AT A GLANCE ~



Krems – Dürnstein



~ CHARMING TOWN AND MAJESTIC VIEWS OF THE DANUBE ~

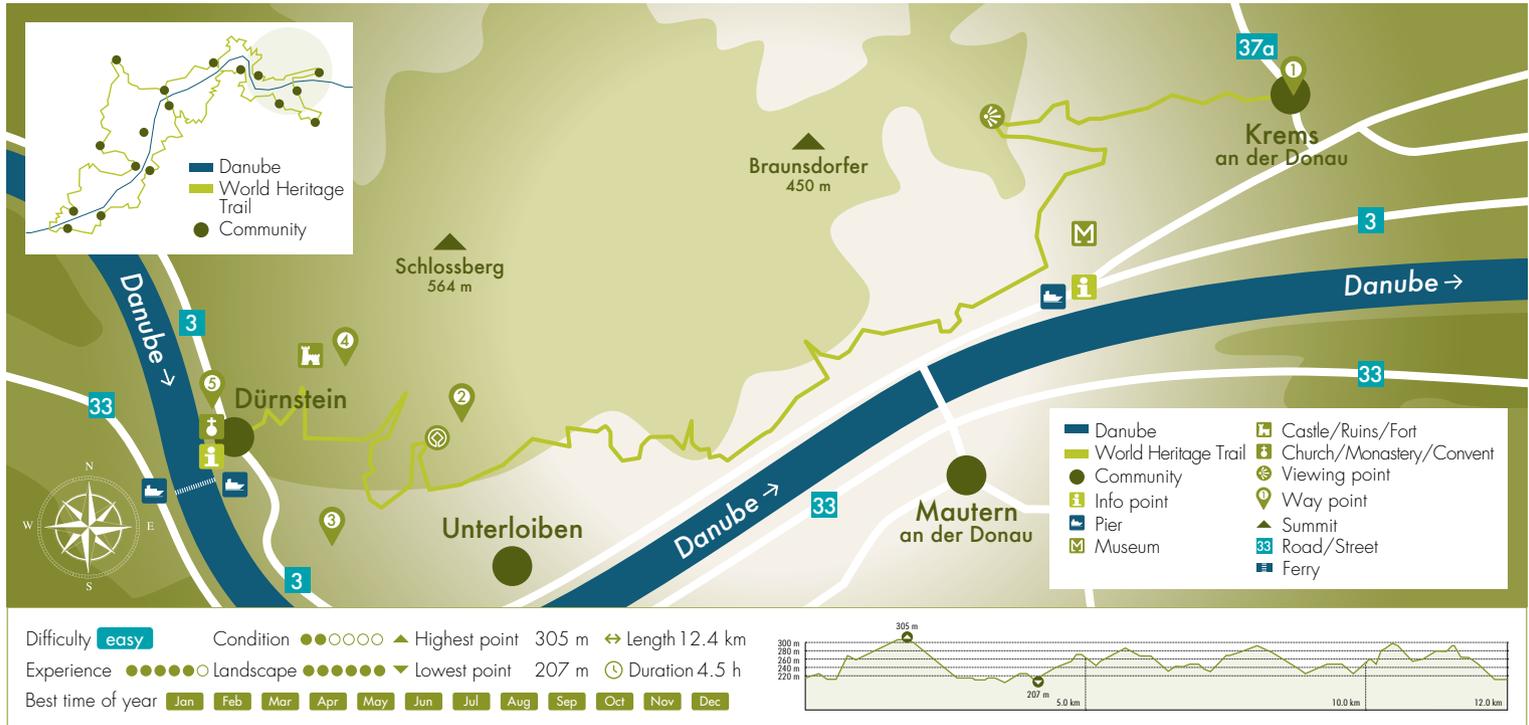
Starting in the mediaeval town centre of Krems, with majestic views of the Danube, this popular stage leads you through the Wachau vineyards and through a forest to picturesque Dürnstein with no major climbs along the way.

The trail is the destination: that much is clear. But please don't forget about the wonderful starting point! Because taking a proper look at Krems before setting off for

the first stage really is worth your while. (See also Stage 14) Make sure you plan a visit to one of the establishments along the **Krems Art Mile** – such as the Kunsthalle

(Art Centre), Karikaturmuseum (Caricature Museum) or the Landesgalerie Niederösterreich (Lower Austria Regional Gallery). That being said, the historical and modern buildings in Krems are worth taking a closer look at as well: ensembles of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque blend together seamlessly. Leaving the medieval town centre of Krems and the tavern-lined Steiner Kellergasse, you dive into picturesque Wachau wine country with its characteristic dry stone walls. The scenery changes by the **Kreuzberg Staircase**. To the left is

your constant companion, the Danube, to the right vineyards and wine terraces. An imposing rustic oasis. With famous marshes like Ried Kögel or Ried Loibenberg and beautiful wineries. Beneath the castle ruins at Dürnstein is a fascinating landscape of cliffs and forests. The view over the Danube Valley from **Kuhberg** is magnificent. From here, it's just a few minutes to the Kremser Tor in **Dürnstein**, and the blue church tower of Stift Dürnstein, one of the most popular photo spots in the Wachau.



Hoher Markt

The Hohe Markt is one of several places worth seeing in the Krems Old Town. There are historic buildings all around the Herkules Brunnen (Hercules fountain).

Höhreck Nature Reserve
Come and marvel at hundreds upon hundreds of rare mulleins (or Pracht-Königskerzen in the local tongue) which reach their full size in summer.

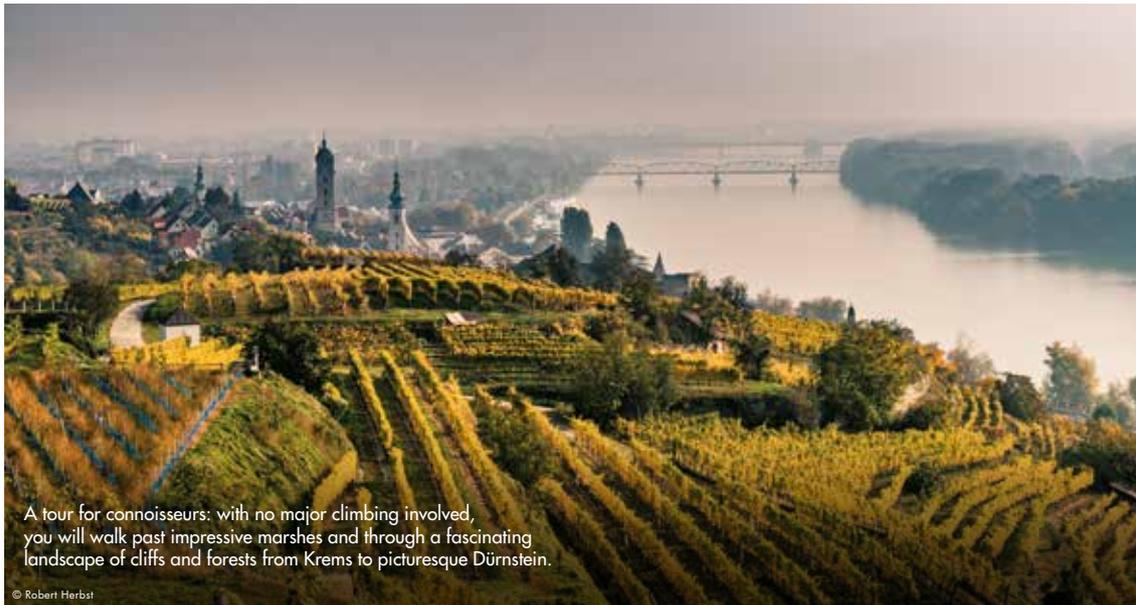


Domäne Wachau – Kellerschlüssel

In the Baroque cellar vault of the Domäne Wachau, you can get a real feel for what it is that makes the Wachau such an extraordinary wine-growing region.

Ruins at Dürnstein
This imposing and stately example of a hill castle – with panoramic views – entered into legend as the prison where King Richard Lionheart was locked up.





A tour for connoisseurs: with no major climbing involved, you will walk past impressive marshes and through a fascinating landscape of cliffs and forests from Krems to picturesque Dürnstein.

© Robert Herbst

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

Start your day by marvelling at the historic and modern buildings in Krems before moving on to enjoy the changing backdrop: with the Danube to your left and the vineyards to your right, until the blue church tower of Dürnstein hones into view.

This stage offers all the aspects that define the "Wachau World Cultural Heritage Site" compact-style: we start with "history" and "culture", with an opportunity to discover everything from the mediaeval to the modern at the very start of our walk in the **Krems Old Town** and on the **Kunsteile Krems (Krems Art Mile)**. Waiting for us at the other end is the **Stift Dürnstein** monastery, an extraordinary example of Austrian Baroque. The striking sky-blue tower, the symbol of Dürnstein and the Wachau, actually caused a fair bit of consternation during its renovation in 1986 as it gleamed in its current colour. However, this is what the original colour would have been and is also typical of the Baroque era when the church was painted in contrasting colours to the earth-coloured cloisters to highlight it as a holy and sacred area.

~ ARCHITECTURE & WINE ~

The tavern-lined Steiner Kellergasse isn't the only place where you can see how well these two things go together – you can get a great view of the interesting roof landscape

of Stein and its hipped roofs at the end of Reisperbachstraße – you will also feel it as you hike through the vineyards. You won't be able to stop marvelling at the **wine terraces** that have been carefully fixed in place with dry stone walls.

When it comes to wine, the region has plenty of "delectable" specialities to offer but there's one in particular we want to draw your attention to: the **Vinea Wachau**, an association of more than 200 producers that has been following a strict code of quality (the Vinea Wachau Nobilis Districtus) since 1983. They only ever create wines using grapes from their legally defined growing area and their uncompromising commitment to quality, origin and purity ensures natural wine production, guaranteed origin and strict self-regulation!

Another type of symbiosis of wine and architecture can be found in Riede Kellerberg just before the Wachau Wine View where a wooden construction called **"Weinberg-**

schnecke" (or the Wine Mountain Snail) offers an incredible view and invites you to sit and rest for a moment: a cooperation between the Domäne Wachau, the Working Group for the Wachau and the New Design University in St Pölten, "the wooden construction combines tradition with modernity..." according to the info board which also offers a wealth of information on the surrounding area.

~ PROTECTING NATURE ~

On our way to Dürnstein, we pass through the Höhereck Nature Reserve where we can catch a glimpse of the rare mullein (or "Pracht-Königskerzen" in the local tongue), spread across ten hectares. More than half of the area is covered in a particularly rich wealth of dry grasses, such as Steinfeder grass, plus orchids and the extremely rare Austrian onosma. There are also nearly a hundred species of butterfly, plus 25 species of grasshoppers and 35 species of breeding birds ... many of which are on the IUCN Red List. So please be extra careful!

„Heuriger“

The word "Heuriger" refers, on the one hand, to the light, palatable young wine from the most recent harvest, and on the other to the locale where this wine is served up (for a limited time) ...

~ STIFT DÜRNSTEIN ~



© Robert Herbst

From "Painter's Corner", you will have the second-best view of the monastery and its striking blue and white tower. Founded in 1410, the only place you'll get an even more beautiful view of this Augustinian Canon is from the inside. Come and feel this Baroque masterpiece literally, on an imposing tour – from the Gothic columned hall to the picture gallery with its 144 paintings to the chapel.

~ GOZZOBURG ~



© Kurt Streibel

The so-called Gozzoburg castle in Krems is actually a palace, not a castle, and is considered one of the most important medieval inner-city buildings in Austria. With its exceptional artistic details, it is still impressive to this day. As well as the weapons hall, the monumental murals in the living quarters are among the most important fresco cycles of the 13th century this side of the Alps.



Dürnstein – Weißenkirchen

~ LEGENDARY RUINS AND LEAFY FORESTS ~

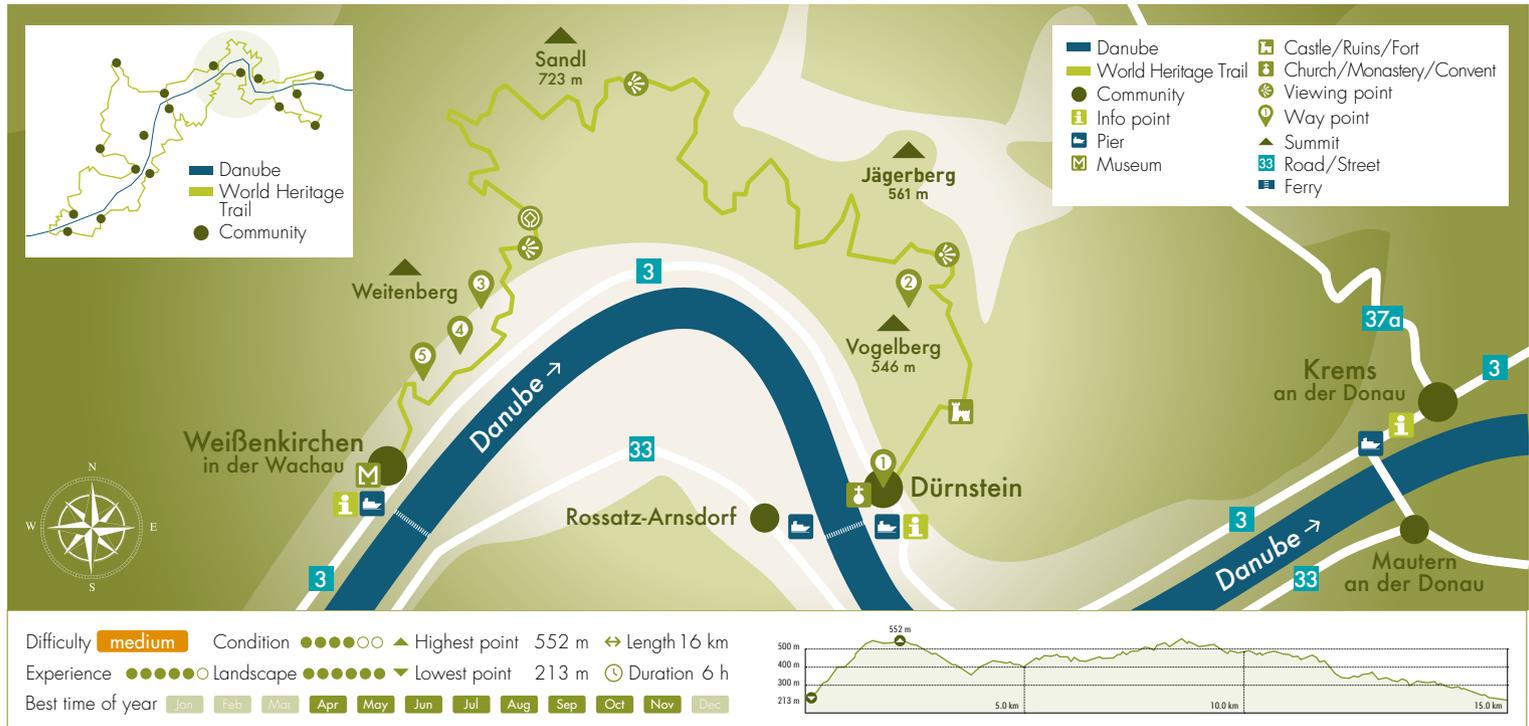
Spurred on by fantastic views and with plenty of history in our backpacks, we hike from Dürnstein through wineries and across a panoramic high mountain pass to the wine village of Weißenkirchen.

Starting in the picturesque **Old Town of Dürnstein**, our hike takes us right behind the Kresser Tor (Krems Gate), over the old donkey path with its stone steps and up towards the

castle ruins at **Dürnstein** where an incredible panoramic view of the proud castles and monasteries of the Wachau await. Heading through the northern castle gate, we enter

a bizarre rock and forest landscape, past the so-called 'little fort' at Vorburg that lies in ruin. Waiting for us at the end of the steep climb to the top of Schlossberg is the ten metre-high **Starhembergwarte** at an altitude of 564 m. At the **Fesslhütte** (stamp station), just a few minutes' walk away, we can look forward to a modest but delicious selection of treats. After enjoying some refreshments, one of the most beautiful stretches of hiking in the Wachau awaits us on the high path to Weißenkirchen, with dreamy views. Shortly after the climb up the **Vogelberg**, we will be

sure to take a quick detour left to the **Dürnsteiner Kanzel**, a viewing station offering some of the most spectacular views of the Wachau. Breathe. Take it in. Enjoy. And on we go: along a narrow downhill path, across a forest road and into the vineyards, past the famous "Rieden" of Klaus and Achleiten, across the Achleiten panoramic path, all the way to the **Old Town of Weißenkirchen**. This impressive stage ends in the market square by the majestic Teisenhoferhof Renaissance building.



Dürnstein Town Centre

One of the most romantic spots along the World Heritage Trail, with history and culture from the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque ages.

© Donau, Niederösterreich



Ried Klaus

This famous vineyard is separated from Riede Achleiten by just a single path that also acts as a geological fault line. The name Klaus (from "Kleys" meaning bottleneck) refers to the fact that it is perched perilously between the Danube and Achleiten.

© Robert Herbst

Weißenkirchen – Ried Himmelreich

From here, you have a sweeping view over the roof landscapes and the hipped roofs so characteristic of the region.



© Robert Herbst



Ried Achleiten

The next vineyard – or Riede as they are called in Austria – is special for two reasons: not only is it an isolated vineyard, but it also offers a stunning view of the free-flowing Danube.

© pfeffel.at



Breathe, take it in and enjoy: that's the motto at the Dürnsteiner viewing station, one of the most spectacular vantage points in the Wachau.

© Robert Herbst

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

From "Painter's Corner" to the castle ruins and "Teisenhoferhof", from the viewing station to the vineyards, history and nature rub shoulders with world culture in a wondrous way.

Anyone looking to start this stage at the most picturesque place Dürnstein has to offer should start at "Painter's Corner" – named for the many artists who have set up (and continue to set up) their easels here to capture this urban oasis on canvas. From Klosterplatz, a romantic path descends to the Danube promenade and the "Insta Corner" – as the kids call it these days, rather less romantically.

~ CULTURE, HISTORY & STORIES ~

Gazing out from "Painter's Corner", the striking **church tower of the Dürnstein cloister** sticks out from the surrounding landscape – and also caused a fair bit of consternation during its renovation in 1986 as it gleamed in its current sky blue!

The history-laden **castle ruins at Dürnstein** rose to prominence in the 12th century as the prison that housed Richard Lionheart. The English king was imprisoned here by Leopold V as a result of his crusades and was only released after a terrifyingly expensive ransom was paid. Lionheart was tracked down – or so the legend goes – by his true companion,

the singer Blondel.

The destination on this stage has a fair bit to offer too: the **Weißenkirchen fortified church** is one of the most important church fortresses in the country, while at **Teisenhoferhof** a magnificent Renaissance courtyard house awaits. A spot for experiencing history live, today the house is predominantly used for public and cultural events and also houses the Wachau Museum.

~ SAVING AND SAVOURING NATURE ~

This stage offers fantastic views and up-close insights: in hideaways that are home to special plants and animals, like the **Höhereck Nature Reserve** at Dürnstein – an area of dry grass with over 200 plants and around 100 species of butterfly – or why not take a look at the **Pritzenau** between Rührsdorf and Rossatz (easily visible from the Dürnsteiner Kanzel viewing station) where a 40-hectare protected habitat and a new arm of the Danube have been created on the river's right-hand bank

„DAC“

DAC is a quality seal ("Districtus Austriae Controllatus") for a wine that is particularly typical of the region and is characterised by high quality.

~ PAINTER'S CORNER IN DÜRNSTEIN ~



© Robert Herbst

Passing through Trauerneggsl, we emerge onto an idyllic pathway that takes us from the Old Town to the Danube promenade and "Painter's Corner". Many an artist has set up their easel here to immortalise Dürnstein's backdrop. More info on things to see in Dürnstein can be found in the Wachau Guide.

~ KANZEL & PRITZENAU ~



© Robert Herbst

Among connoisseurs, the Kanzel, a plateau perched on top of a cliff on the Vogelberg by Dürnstein, is considered one of the most beautiful viewpoints in the Danube Valley with a breath-taking view over the Wachau – and in particular the wetlands of the Pritzenau on the opposite side of the Danube.

Weißkirchen – Spitz

~ RENOWNED MARSHES AND RICHLY DIVERSE ~

This trail leads you high above the Danube from Weißkirchen to Spitz, taking you through the heart of the Wachau vineyards with their typical stone terraces and renowned "vineyards".

Both wine villages are known for their tavern and inn culture. We recommend taking a well-stocked backpack on this roughly 11 kilometre-long hike as there are no

refreshment stops along this stretch. Leaving the market square in Weißkirchen, walking the castle staircases and passing by the castle quarter, you will find yourself immersed

in the heart of Wachau wine country in a matter of minutes. This **unique wine landscape**, the largest enclosed wine-growing area in the Wachau, stretches high above the Danube. Here, one top location follows the next – with curious names like Ried Kollmitz, Ried Kollmütz and Hochrain, known above all for its Grüner Veltliner Smaragd wine. Gothic estates tell of the long tradition of wine-making.

The impressiveness of **nature** is on full display here: above St Michael, our hike takes us past the natural monument of **Michaelerberg** and

through a romantic dry grass field, followed by a landscape of forests and wonderful cliffs with unique views. As well as the vineyards, we also explore oak and beech forests, plus an old herding pasture by the natural monument at Michaelerberg. This meadow is one of the most diverse on the Danube when it comes to different species. The path to our destination in Spitz leads us through the **Rote Tor**, once part of the town's fortifications.



Weißkirchen – Ferry

A historic cable ferry connects Weißkirchen to the town of St Lorenz on the other bank of the Danube – you can breathe in the aromas of the region with the (enormous) "Wachau Nose", created by artist collective Gelatin.

Rotes Tor in Spitz
 Long ago, during the Thirty Years' War, this city gate was the last to be captured by the Swedes. From here, you can enjoy a beautiful view over Spitz.



St Michael fortified church

One of the most well-known churches in the region, and former seat of this once vast parish and mother church of the Wachau. It is located on the site of a small Celtic sacrificial altar.

Spitz Old Town
 This old wine village, with its magnificent Renaissance and Baroque houses and the wonderful square in front of the Late Gothic church, is the epitome of Wachau summer freshness and was also the backdrop for Austrian films like "Marianell".





High above the Danube, and garnished with unique views, this trail leads you through a special ecosystem with luscious dry grasses, romantic forests and wonderful cliff landscapes.

© Robert Herbst

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

As well as wine country, this stage offers plenty of exciting elements of architectural and natural heritage to discover – from vernacular architecture to saga pedo bush crickets.

Vernacular architecture is a term used to refer to a historical architectural trend that evolved and grew here naturally. It stands for treating the town and its surroundings with respect and harmony, and is characterised by recognisable designs typical of the region. And here, in the Wachau, a large number of these architecturally significant, historical buildings have been well preserved. These are primarily buildings that were used for business or social affairs such as the salt barns, wine estates, shipmasters' houses, guesthouses and post offices.

~ HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE ~

On Bundesstraße, in the centre of Weißkirchen, you will find the three old salt barns and the historic **Teisenhoferhof** wine estate (see Stage 2 for info). In Spitz, you will find an example of this style of construction in the former **shipmaster's house** which today is home to a guesthouse. Another architectural curiosity is the **fortified churches**, of which the churches in Weißkirchen (see Stage 2 for info) and St Michael are particularly

impressive examples. Not only did they serve as houses of God, but their massive construction also provided protection in case of persecution or armed conflicts.

~ PROTECTING NATURE ~

In the **European Protected Area of Wachau**, there are loads of hugely important **dry grasslands** which are distinguished by their richness of species and by quite particular flora and fauna. They provide a habitat for hundreds of plant species such as needle grasses, pasqueflowers, himantoglossums or the rare Austrian onosma, and are a source of food for birds like Eurasian hoopoes, rock buntings and the colourful European bee-eater. In recent years, more than 20 hectares of mostly steep dry habitats in the Wachau that are hard to manage have been looked after and improved.

~ SPECIAL ANIMALS ~

Dry grasses need regular mowing or grazing sheep to survive. The dry grass area by the **natural monument at Michaelerberg** is a beautiful example of this special ecosystem. The gently rolling slopes are surrounded by sloes and downy oak, providing a home for unique species of plants and animals. Examples include the **saga pedo bush cricket** which, with a length of up to 10 cm, is one of the longest and also rarest insects in Europe.

The largest species of enisfera, it leads a predatory lifestyle, preying predominantly on grasshoppers and crickets which it catches and eats using its thorny front legs. Even adult praying mantises are no match.

"VINEA"

VINEA Wachau is a Wachau association of around 200 wine-makers committed to quality, regionality and purity.

~ TEISENHOFERHOF ~



© Danau Niederösterreich

This impressive building – a good example of **vernacular architecture** (see the info text on the left) – offers a glimpse into its 13th century origins. It is home to the Wachau School of Painting and the Wachau Museum. As well as the Wachau festivals in the idyllic arcade court, it also hosts exhibitions of modern artists and early Wachau painters.

~ THE MICHAELERBERG ~



© Robert Herbst

Hiking the Michaelerberg offers more than just an insight into a special **ecosystem** (see info text on the left), it also offers pretty much everything you'd expect from the Wachau: vineyards, forests, Danube. Take a deep breath and remember this moment as you sample the accompanying wine. From the **Pfenningfleck**, you can get a wonderful view of Spitz and the surrounding area.

Spitz – Mühldorf



~ ORNATE WINE TERRACES & THE TAUSENDEIMERBERG ~

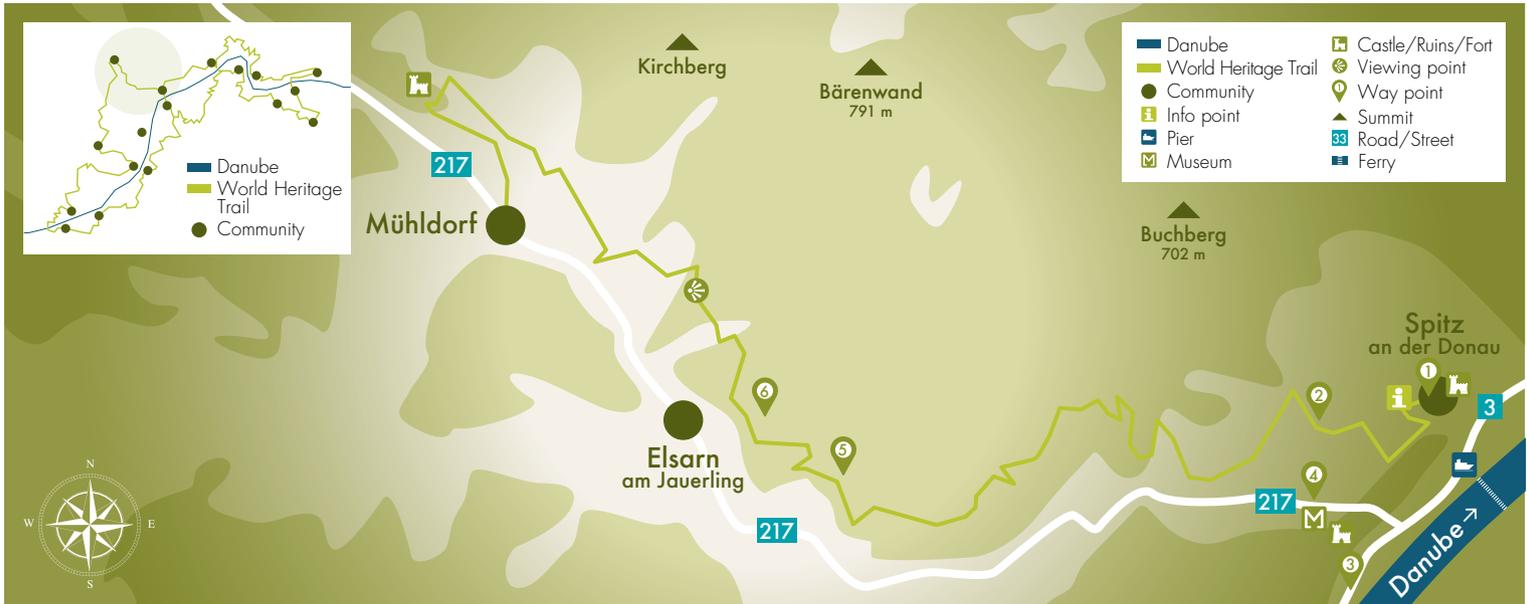
This challenging stage is characterised by the highest and steepest wine terraces in the Wachau, leafy oak and beech forests and magnificent views over the Danube.

Starting in the wine-growing area of Spitz in the heart of the Wachau, we take in the wine-growing mountains of Tausendeimerberg (or "The Mountain of A Thousand

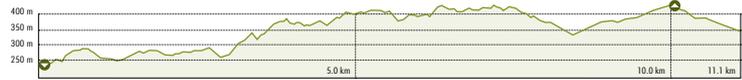
Buckets") and Setzberg, which also offer great views as we head towards the imposing stone terraces of Spitzer Graben wine country. In a good year, the

"Tausendeimerberg" can supposedly produce up to 1,000 buckets of wine: that's nearly 56,000 litres! It is just a short walk away from Kirchenplatz. From there, the trail continues through lush marshes and oak and beech forests, taking you past three "Marivino" rest huts where wine-makers would gather together under the motto "From wine to apricot". Halfway between Spitz and Mühldorf, for example, you will find Wachau wines and juices every Sunday during summer (weather permitting) at the Zornberghütte in the breath-taking

location of Ried Zornberg. Past Niederranna, it is a leisurely uphill stroll to the romantic **Oberranna Hill Castle** on the border between Wachau and the "Waldviertel", or Forest Quarter. From there, we follow the Rannabach back down into the valley to the Kalvarienberg. Further along the Ötzbach, we gently descend to Unterranna and our destination for this stage in Mühldorf.



Difficulty **medium** Condition ●●●○○○ ▲ Highest point 446 m ↔ Length 10.9 km
 Experience ●●●●○○ Landscape ●●●●●● ▼ Lowest point 226 m ⌚ Duration 4 h
 Best time of year Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



Schloss Spitz

Recently renovated, this elegant fort is an atmospheric meeting place in the heart of the Wachau where all are welcome.

Boat museum

The most impressive exhibits here are the 1:20 scale model ships, crafted with (scientific) accuracy and a love of detail by skilled craftsmen.



Högl Winery

Situated at the foot of the stone terraces typical of the area, this winery was awarded the Austrian State Architecture Prize 2016 for its successful conversion of the Dining Hall.

Old Shipmaster's House and Prankl Guesthouse

The roughly 500-year-old shipmaster's house has been used as a guesthouse since 1680, and has been run by the same family for seven generations.





On this rather demanding stage, it's worth taking a stop to catch your breath and enjoy the view of the highest and steepest wine terraces in the Wachau.

© Robert Herbst

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

Stone walls were laid here hundreds of years ago so that people could cultivate wine on these steep slopes. This elaborate vineyard work helps to preserve the landscape and is like an aesthetic trademark.

The stone terraces in **Spitzer Graben** epitomise the art of dry stone masonry and the will and desire of people to turn even the steepest slopes into usable wine-growing land. A few million square metres of walls have been laid all across the Wachau over countless generations.

~ AGRICULTURE ~

Building these walls was and remains a tough, laborious and demanding undertaking. So it's no wonder that these **stone terraces**, some of which date back to the mediaeval period, were repeatedly abandoned during times of economic hardships and left to crumble and decay. You can still see the remains of some of these abandoned terraces in the forests on this stage. Elsewhere in Spitzer Graben, old stone walls are being resurrected and new vines planted. These stone terraces are not only hugely characteristic of the landscape of the Wachau, they also demonstrate how agriculture here has developed and how important landscaping

is on these terraces. The dry stone walls require constant maintenance.

~ LANDSCAPING ~

As well as being absolutely vital to wine-growing across large parts of the Wachau, and especially in Spitzer Graben, these walls are above all one thing: an aesthetic trademark. Spitzer Graben is where you will find the **highest and steepest terraces** in the Wachau. What is also important about these walls is that they are laid without mortar. This is mainly so that they can drain during wet weather, meaning they won't simply topple over under the pressure of the water. These walls also create special micro-climatic conditions across the landscape which are conducive to wine-growing and create habitats for special plants and animals.

~ TOUCH HISTORY, TASTE STORIES, BE AMAZED ~

The work at a vineyard used to be done exclusively by hand, which made it time-consuming. Harvesters would head out into the vineyard in the morning and wouldn't return until the evening. The **Hiata huts** that you can see scattered over vineyards all across the Wachau were originally built as resting places and shelter for the people working in the vineyards and also for storage. They were also used by the wine-keepers (or Hiata in the local tongue) who guarded the grapes, protecting them against thieves. A particularly beautiful, large brick example can be found at the top of the Tausendeimerberg.

The **Neuburger** variety of white wine grape was discovered in the Wachau in 1860 and today the region is still considered the origin of this old grape variety which is best preserved in Spitzer Graben where there are slightly cooler locations which it prefers.

Situated at the foot of the stone terraces typical of the area, in the Vießling district, is a winery with outstanding and award-winning architecture.

"Neuburger"

The Neuburger white wine grape variety supposedly originated in the Wachau – it was discovered here in 1860.

~ TAUSENDEIMERBERG ~



© Robert Herbst

Right in the centre lies this 314 metre-high rock cone, with a beautiful view of the Danube – the symbol of Spitz. Its name, which literally means "Mountain of A Thousand Buckets", was given to it long ago due to the fact that in a good year, "a thousand buckets" is supposedly how much wine it yielded. Today, you will find some of the steepest stone terraces in the Wachau here, known for their excellent Rieslings and Neuburger.

~ SPITZER GRABEN ~



© Robert Herbst

The Danube once flowed through these parts, which is why this area became the largest side valley in the Wachau – at Spitz it heads north towards the Forest Quarter. Here, you can admire spectacles of nature like the apricot blossoms and sample loads of award-winning wines.

Mühldorf – Maria Laach

~ ATOP THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN AND AT A PILGRIMAGE SITE ~

This stage is defined by the magnificent landscape of the Jauerling Nature Park and a few absolute highlights, including the highest-most point of the World Heritage Trail, the highest vineyard in Lower Austria and plenty more...

On top of the forest-covered Jauerling, the highest mountain anywhere along the 2,850 kilometres of the Danube at 960 metres high, you will be able to see

astoundingly far. But before we can enjoy the magnificent view, we need to leave the market square in Mühldorf and conquer the highest vineyard in Lower Austria,

the **Ried Trenning**. This is where the ascent to the **Jauerling** begins, at the top of which you can enjoy a magnificent view over the Danube from the Wachau Terrace in the **Jauerling Nature Park Visitor's Centre** ... and the very best home cooking.

An even better view awaits atop the 38 metre-high **lookout tower**, from the Danube Valley across Dunkelstein Forest to the Alps and the southern Forest Quarter. We pass by the Jauerling Nature Workshop and continue on past the Weilern

Gießhübl (with a fortified house), Zeißing (with a moated castle and castle ruins) and vineyards. Through forests and along the historic **Church Trail**, we arrive at the pilgrimage site of **Maria Laach** with its Gothic church and farm shop.



Difficulty **medium** Condition ●●●●○▲ Highest point 966 m ↔ Length 12.9 km
 Experience ●●●●○ Landscape ●●●●●▼ Lowest point 354 m ⌚ Duration 5:30 h
 Best time of year Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



1 Ried Trenning

The incredibly steep slope and southerly direction mean that even here, at the highest vineyard in the Wachau, the grapes can mature properly.

© Österreich Werbung



4 Fort ruins at Zeißing

One of the wings of this former 13th century fort complex has been renovated and turned into an exhibition.

© Ronald Würflinger

Lookout tower atop the Jauerling

While the Jauerling itself tops out at 960 metres, you can climb another 38 metres on top of that in a beautiful wooden construction where you can enjoy impressive 360° views.



© Markus Haslinger

Regional specialities

For the producers in the Nature Park, looking after nature goes hand-in-hand with creating traditional products. The meadow orchards, for example, are home to rare animals and also supply juices, marmalades and schnapps.



© Branding Brothers



Literal high points await in the Jauerling Nature Park: the highest-most point on the World Heritage Trail, the highest vineyard in Lower Austria and so much more.

© Andreas Hofer Photography

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

Arriving at the highest-most point anywhere along the Danube, we don't just get to enjoy a fantastic view: we also get to learn a few things about geography, biology and regional development.

From here it's easy to see why the Wachau is classified as a narrow **breakthrough valley** – steeply sloping forests and rugged cliff faces jut out into the Danube on the undercut slopes. Deposits have built up on the inside curve of the Danube to create flat areas that are particularly noticeable in Dürnstein/Loiben and Rossatz/Rührsdorf. Over thousands of years, the Danube has sliced its way through the Bohemian Massif, separating the Dunkelstein Forest from the granite and gneiss high plateau of the Forest Quarter. It's why the **typical rock formations**, which are so popular among climbers, can also be seen on the south side of the Danube, in Dunkelstein Forest. Meaning that, geologically speaking, the Dunkelstein Forest belongs to the Forest Quarter.

~ THE RIVER HABITAT ~

As well as the Danube-Auen National Park, the Wachau also contains the last free-flowing section of the Danube in Austria – which is why it is hugely important not just culturally and historically, but also from an

environmental perspective. There are also several endangered species of fish living here, such as the imposing huchen, one of the largest freshwater fish in the world with a body length of up to 150 cm. Also known as the **Danube salmon**, this predatory fish migrates to the tributaries of the Danube in the spring to spawn. This is also where their young spend the first few years of their life before they migrate into the Danube as they increase in size. Free-flowing, undeveloped river sections are vital to the existence of huchen and many other species of fish.

~ REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE WACHAU ~

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the organisations in the Wachau have been actively engaged with supporting living and economic conditions through targeted regional development, at the same time preserving and improving the essence of what makes this landscape so unique through relevant projects.

Timber

With the help of rafts, the Danube has been used for supplying wood for centuries.

~ JAUERLING NATURE PARK ~



© Branding Brothers

The Jauerling is like the "house mountain" in these parts, acting as a canopy for the Wachau while at the same time forming the highest point anywhere along the 2,800 kilometre-long Danube. The Jauerling-Wachau Nature Park was set up in 1973 to preserve and care for this protected landscape.

i www.naturpark-jauerling.at/en

~ NATURE PARK VISITOR'S CENTRE ON THE JAUERLING ~



© Donau Niederösterreich

Gazing far out into the countryside from 915 metres above sea level on the **Wachau Terrace** is the best way to enjoy a visit to the Nature Park Visitor's Centre on the Jauerling. With the forests and meadows of the Nature Park all around, you can see all the way to the Carpathians, the Ötischer Massif and even the Watzmann mountain in Bavaria.

Maria Laach – Aggsbach Markt

~ FROM THE JAUERLING TO THE BANKS OF THE DANUBE ~

This stage from Maria Laach to Aggsbach takes us past Christmas tree farms and down through broad meadows and is all about the descent from the Jauerling.

The trail begins by the Gothic pilgrimage church in Maria Laach and takes you past the Litzendorfer Kreuzstöckerl – a particularly beautiful wayside shrine on the World Heritage

Trail – to Weiler Litzendorf. The trail then takes you through blossoming fields and over the Jauerling high plateau in a large arc. Past the isolated Gut Schleinkhof, we continue

descending through the forest along a gently winding forest road towards the Danube. Soon, Aggsbach-Markt hones into view. Taking Schmuckstraße (literally "Jewellery Street"), we reach this little town with a big history: not far away is the site where the famous "Venus of Willendorf", an old stone figure that is around 30,000 years old, was found at the start of the 20th century. This stage ends in the market square in Aggsbach-Markt. There are churches waiting for us at both the start and finish of this stage, both of which not only serve as sites of pilgrimage but also unite

a geographical curiosity: both houses of God are located on the Danube, which provided the inspiration for a photo project about an artistic journey Kirchen am Fluss (Churches on the River). This themed route was initiated by the Association of Museums in Melk as part of a project by the photography college at the Higher Graphical Federal Education and Research Institute. You can also visit the churches and cloisters virtually on the website of the same name, featuring pictures to inspire you to visit one or both churches in real life.



Maria Laach – Maria Heimsuchung pilgrimage church

The left-side altar bears a picture of Mary whose right hand has six fingers on it, a sign of particular grace and power.

Aggsbach – Mariæ Himmelfahrt parish church

While it may be rather unassuming from the outside, waiting for you inside is an original high altar with a beautiful tabernacle and Baroque crucifix.



Aggsbach Markt

Evidence has been found that this area was settled by mammoth hunters all the way back in the Ice Age. One of these pieces of evidence is the "Venus of Willendorf", an old Venus figure that is nearly 30,000 years old (see info text above).

Jauerling Nature Park

It's not just the fabulous views that will take your breath away here (see Stage 5), it's also the beautiful way the land is used and taken care of, such as in the magnificent meadows.





Across meadows and fields that create a large, unbroken habitat, the path takes you across the Jauerling plateau on a wide arc and down towards the Danube.

© Naturpark Jauerling-Wachau

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

A particular highlight on this stage are the Jauerling meadows which are a real feast for the eyes with their colourfulness and rich variety. While visiting the ruins will take you on a journey back in time.

On the plateau of the Jauerling and around the edges of the Forest Quarter by Raxendorf and beyond, cow and dairy farming is still practised, even if Christmas tree farming has also become an important source of income for many out here.

~ JAUERLING NATURE PARK & THE CALCAREOUS GRASSLANDS ~

A large, unbroken corridor of grassland still exists here, with traditional landscape elements rich in diverse species: elements like hedgerows, embankments, meadow orchards and terrace structures. These small-structured elements are **irreplaceable habitats** for reptiles, small mammals and insects like the scarce large blue butterfly, as well as birds like woodlarks and red-backed shrikes. Special species of plants also grow on the calcareous grasslands between Mühlendorf and Emmersdorf, such as the Bohemian gentian and Mähren-Labkraut (*Galium valdepiosum*), meadow sage, thyme, pincushions, perforate St John's

wort, maiden pink, spreading bellflower etc. This colourful diversity is accompanied by a continuous soundtrack of humming, chirping and bouncing insects that evoke childhood memories and make you want to watch and listen.

Directly above Aggsbach Markt, you have great views of the Danube and the ruins at Aggstein, which brings us to the importance of boat travel and lets us take a look back at an exciting time:

~ AN EVENTFUL HISTORY: STORIES OF BOAT TRAVEL AND THE KUENRINGS ~

Boat travel played an important role on the Danube in the early days and was used as a means of trade. Even during the Roman period, when the Danube was part of the Northern Lime Wall, goods were transported up and down the river – timber was floated downstream on rafts from the Forest

Jauerling Nature Park

The Jauerling-Wachau Nature Park covers 11,500 hectares and 7 communities, and also includes the highest mountain anywhere along the Danube.

~ VENUS OF WILLENDORF ~



More than 29,500 years old, this statue celebrating fertility was found close to Aggsbach in Willendorf in 1908. It is one of the most important archaeological finds in Austria! As well as the figure itself, you can also visit the "Venusium" museum in Willendorf and see the late Roman basilica. The original is in the Museum of Natural History Vienna.

~ HIKING LOOPS IN THE JAUERLING NATURE PARK ~



As well as its significance for nature conservation and agriculture, the highest mountain anywhere on the Danube is famous above all for the 21 hiking loops, all with outstanding views. These trails will take you over sunny vineyards, centuries-old stone terraces and dry stone walls. The loops are numbered and marked with yellow signs, and always bring you back to where you started.



Aggsbach Markt – Emmersdorf

~ GENTLE MOUNTAINTOPS AND PICTURESQUE CHURCHES ~

This stage from Aggsbach-Markt to Emmersdorf is characterised by the Jauerling plateau and its villages straddling the edge of the Wachau, gently rolling mountains and breath-taking views.

This stage is characterised by tranquil villages along the edge of the Wachau and breathtaking views. The climb from the market square in the old winegrowing village of Aggsbach Markt is steady

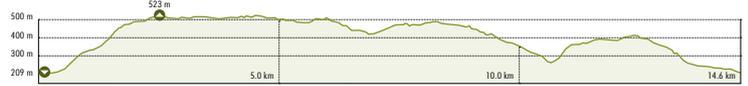
and rather steep but the paths themselves are picturesque. Once Edelberg and Glatzberg have been conquered, a beautiful view will emerge before you from atop the **Bärenreut plateau**, looking

towards the Jauerling and the Maria Laach pilgrimage site. Let the **castle ruins at Gossam**, recognisable by the tower of the picturesque castle church, whisk you away to a long distant past. The perfect spot for a delightful little rest. Which we highly recommend you take before continuing along the historic postman's route (not without pausing to think about how fit the postal workers in this area must be) to Weiler Mödelsdorf and onwards along an old goods route to the former winegrowing village of **Emmersdorf**. This village will wow you with its Renaissance buildings, the Magdalenenkapelle and the St Nikolaus parish

church that was originally built as a fortified church. The Wachau is a wonderful place to wander, as further evidenced by the fact that its many different routes are forever crossing one another – and here is no exception. During the first third of the stage, a way marker by the "**Kreuzung Edelberggrunde!**" (the Edelberggrunde Crossing) points the way to a detour to the **Fensterfelsen**. The impressive climb takes around 5 minutes and is well worth your time: an imposing rock formation with a "window" in the middle acts as a frame for this magnificent view. A detour with a serious payoff!



Difficulty **medium** Condition ●●●○○○ ▲ Highest point 523 m ↔ Length 14.6 km
 Experience ●●●●●○ Landscape ●●●●●▼ Lowest point 209 m ⌚ Duration 5 h
 Best time of year Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



Gossam castle church

Hidden in the oasis of the Felbringbach valley lies the mediaeval St Pankratz castle church, nestled mystically, almost enchantingly, among the hilly forest landscape.

Zintring
 Around halfway along this stage, there are beautiful flower meadows and butterflies to be discovered by the little village of Zintring.

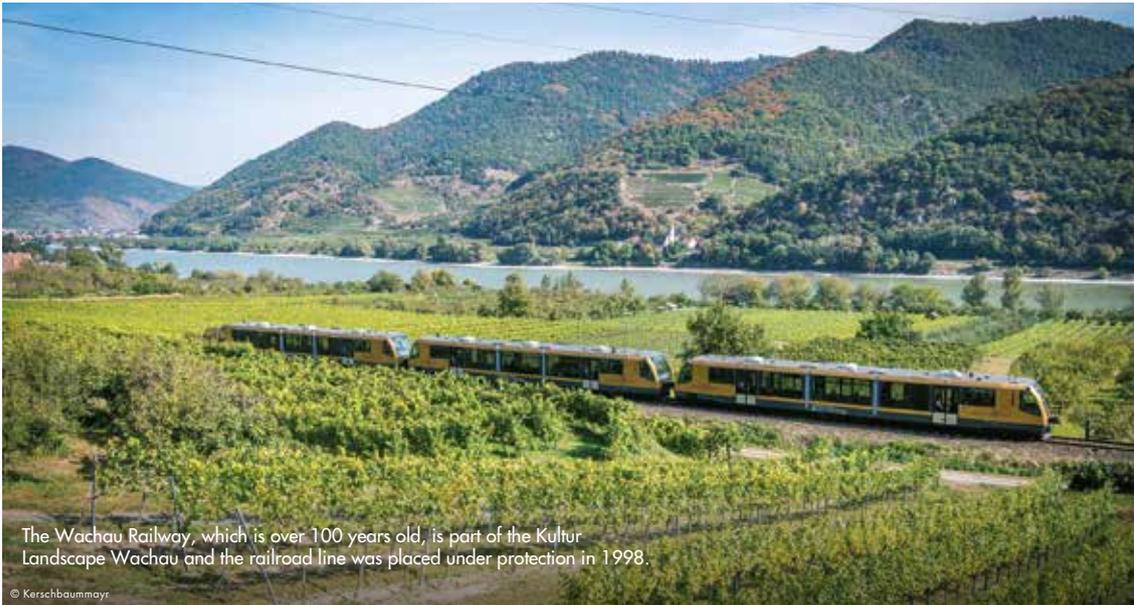


Emmersdorf

The most worthwhile sight here is the Burgkirche (or "Castle Church", a mediaeval defensive complex), the late Gothic parish church and the Magdalenenkapelle that is surrounded by town houses.

Bärenreut plateau
 From high up on the Bärenreut plateau, the gorgeous view opens up to take in the surrounding area, in particular Maria Laach and the Jauerling.





The Wachau Railway, which is over 100 years old, is part of the Kultur Landscape Wachau and the railroad line was placed under protection in 1998.

© Kerschbaummayr

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

Listed roads, exciting geographical and geological insights and views and tourist-worthy cultural buildings lead you into the Wachau at its Western end.

Emmersdorf, the final destination on this stage, marks the western gate to the Wachau, north of the Danube and directly across from the imposing Benedictine monastery at Melk on the opposite bank. As a result, this place is a convenient starting point for day trips to the neighbouring regions of Nibelungengau, Forest Quarter and Most Quarter. The Emmersdorf/Luberegg leisure facility has guest landing stages in the sports boat marina and offers swimming, surfing and sailing.

~ DOWN THE DANUBE ON A BARGE ~

Anyone who fancies trying their hand at some old-school boating traditions can head out on a so-called **Nau trip** (Nauwards means downstream or towards the Nau tributary) following in the footsteps of historical figures on a ten-metre-long open barge for a sedate tour over the water to Spitz – making the return journey by train.

~ UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE: THE WACHAU RAILWAY ~

The listed **viaduct** on the Wachau Railway is the emblem of Emmersdorf. Completed in 1908, its eight arches stretch across the valley incision from Emmersdorf. **The Wachau Railway** runs between Krems and Emmersdorf. Construction began in 1897, with the line opening in 1909. The stretch of railway was placed under protection in 1998. It is also part of the cultural landscape of the Wachau that was inscribed in the list of UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 2000. In the 50s, it played an important role in the development of tourism on the left-hand side of the Danube and is still in operation today as a popular train for day trips. A trip with the Wachau Railway promises truly special views as the route hugs cliff faces, passes through tunnels and heads up, up and away.

~ A ROCKING JOURNEY BACK IN TIME ~

The Wachau is a 36 kilometre-long breakthrough valley along the Danube which was created by the river which separated Dunkelstein Forest from the Forest Quarter between Emmersdorf and Melk in the west, and Stein and Mautern in the east. At some points, the river has **dug down more than 700 m into the bevelled upland of the Bohemian Massif** – as evidenced by the curious rock formations like the Fensterfelsen at Aggsbach Markt.

Wachau railway

Over 100 years old, the Wachau Railway got a new design in 2012 with "golden" carriages and large panoramic windows.

~ THE FENSTERFELSEN AT AGGSBACH MARKT ~



© Wachau Inside

Once you have conquered the gentle ascent to Edeberg and Glatzberg through the broad forests, you should take the little signposted detour to the "Fensterfelsen" (literally "window cliffs") rock formation. From here, you will get a unique view over Aggsbach and the Danube Valley, across the Bohemian Massif to the Forest Quarter and Dunkelstein Forest, one of the largest enclosed areas of forest in Central Europe.

~ EMMERSDORF VIADUCT ~



© Robert Herbst

With its towering arches, it almost looks as if this viaduct is holding together the valley cut which it spans between like a giant staple. The best place to view this imposing railway structure in all its glory is from in front of the parish church. Unfortunately, however, trains have long since stopped rattling their way over it.

Emmersdorf – Melk

~ AN IMPERIAL FORT AND A TOWN RICH IN HISTORY ~



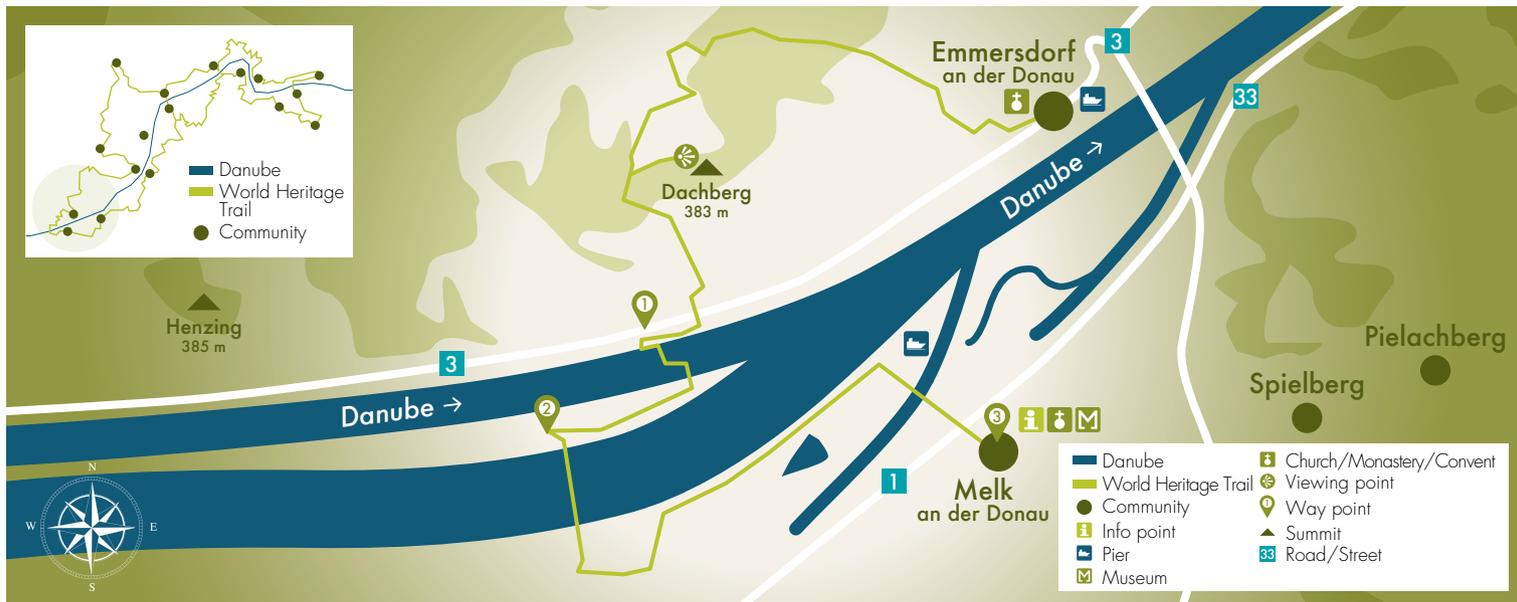
Onwards and upwards, and over the Danube – from the north bank to the south. There's plenty to see as we pass by the imperial Schloss Luberegg. Especially at our destination in Melk, known for its magnificent Baroque monastery.

Be amazed by several centuries of different building styles as you cross from the north to the south bank of the Danube. Leaving Marktstraße in Emmersdorf, we pass by impressive

Renaissance buildings, then up to the village of Rantenberg, with its view of the imposing Stift Melk monastery. From there, the trail takes you up towards the imperial Schloss Luberegg,

built in the 18th century in the early classical style. A bridge takes you to the island of Luberegg and along the Danube promenade to the Danube power station at Melk where you can cross on foot (see also the last paragraph). From the Lion Island of Melk, the path takes you downstream towards the pointed harbour of Melk and onwards to an alluvial forest. From there, it is only a short walk to the main square in Melk. The Old Town in Melk combines houses from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. The one-and-a-half-kilometre-long "Der Rote Faden" loop allows you

to experience the history of the Town of Melk. You can also find out interesting facts and read about the best sights to see in the town in Stage 9. The Baroque monastery, Stift Melk, is worth more than a passing glance – see info box below. The Danube power station at Melk is also very important as a transport route. Today, ships can travel up the Danube significantly more easily thanks to the system of locks. The lock system in Melk is the largest in Lower Austria, with approx. 100,000 passing through it every year.



Schloss Luberegg
 Following extensive renovations, this former summer residence of Emperor Franz II was turned into a unique, romantic setting with lovingly designed gardens – ideal for weddings and celebrations.

Danube power station at Melk
 The Danube is dammed up here for a length of almost 23 km, which shows the impact of a power station and also how important it is to maintain the last free-flowing stretch of the Danube to the west of Vienna, including from an environmental perspective.



Stift Melk
 The Baroque Stift Melk monastery is magnificent on the outside, and "wonderful" on the inside in the truest sense of the word. Alongside sacred and spiritual treasures, there is also plenty of room for art, culture, nature and science. Gaze in wonder before relaxing in the gardens, followed up by some tasty treats in the restaurant and café!

Melk – Aggsbach Dorf

~ A BAROQUE MONASTERY AND TRANQUIL FOREST ~

The stage towards Aggsbach-Dorf is characterised by the town of Melk with its Baroque monastery, Schönbüchel with its magnificent fort, breath-taking views over the Danube, and the Jauerling.

As you walk from the Benedictine cloisters along the city walls to the old brewery, all the way to the landing stage on the Danube, you can feel the 1,000-year history of Melk

with all your senses, getting up close and personal with the past. The Cottage Quarter awaits, with its artistically designed house façades, while in the city park, in the green

heart of the Old Town, we sit down and relax. There are loads of different ways to explore the many historically relevant sights on four themed routes around the town. And, as we already pointed out in Stage 8, a visit to the Baroque monastery, **Stift Melk**, with its impressive library and terrace with views over the Danube, is a must! This is also where the stage actually begins, as the trail climbs up from the monastery towards **Pielachberg** and onwards to **Jonaskreuz**. At the rest stop by **Jonaskreuz**, we enjoy magnificent views of the Danube, the Jauerling and the

surrounding area. On an old goods road, the trail leads us to **Schloss Schönbüchel**, built on a cliff face overlooking the Danube. Next, we ascend into Dunkelstein Forest and **Hohenwarther Höhe**, a spot with impressive panoramic views. As we descend from Hohenwarthberg, our destination hones into view far below in the valley: **Aggsbach-Dorf** on the banks of the Danube. A final stretch along the Aggsbach brings us to the end of the stage at **Hammerschmiede** and **Steinstadl**.



Difficulty **medium** Condition ●●●●○ ▲ Highest point 527 m ↔ Length 17.1 km
 Experience ●●●●○ Landscape ●●●●○ ▼ Lowest point 206 m ⌚ Duration 6 h
 Best time of year Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



Flood protection in the Wachau

Pumping stations with electrical equipment and wall elements for mobile flood protection, such as the ones here in Melk, protect towns and villages in the Wachau from the devastating effects of flooding.

Jakobsweg
 In Melk, we cross the pilgrimage stage – a route running between Melk and Stift Götweig monastery. The Wachau was always an important route for transport and even saw Romans marching through.



Schönbüchel

From the town centre in Schönbüchel, you will get a wonderful view of Schloss Schönbüchel: and while you can't visit it, you can still get a sense of how it inspired Wachau painters.

The Servite cloister at Schönbüchel
 Situated directly on the Danube – and connected by a set of stairs – is a former cloister with magnificent views of the Emmersdorfer Au nature reserve.





You shouldn't limit yourself to just seeing the Baroque monastery at Melk from the outside. With a wide range of guided tours focusing on different topics, there's something for visitors from all corners of the globe.

© Robert Herbst

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

Historical and artistic insights, remarkable views of nature and exciting examples of incredible architecture: there's so much to discover here, you'll practically stumble over it.

In the historical centre of Melk, you can get up close and personal with history, culture and nature across four fascinating themed walks through the town. The old stones of the buildings and cobbled streets in the centre of Melk bear witness to the town's 1,000 year-old history.

~ FOLLOW THE COLOURFUL-BRICK ROAD ~

The new, young stones made from blue and gold glass, which you will find in the cobblestone pavements, also tell of the history of the town. Their arrangement tells a story, while at the same time they act as a system of signposts for visitors to the town of Melk: starting by the Danube, the blue stones in the floor lead you straight to the town centre and the Kolomani fountain. From there, the golden glass stones on the Gold Path lead visitors up over Sechsergasse to the monastery of **Stift Melk**. These stones function as an art project, a system of signposts and a message all in one. This system of signposts and the "Rote Faden"

trail can be found in the Wachau Guide.

~ THE KINGFISHER RETURNS TO THE WACHAU ~

By the River Danube in Schönbühel, you can enjoy a fantastic view of the Emmersdorf Au where the **kingfisher** breeds, a bird that is as majestic as it is rare. Only very rarely spotted, this species of bird lives in the narrow but important band of floodplains by Emmersdorf. Thanks to rewilding and placing this area of floodplains under protection, these shimmering blue birds have begun to nest here in the arm of the river once more.

~ BUILDING ACCORDING TO UNIQUE TRADITIONS ~

Two beautiful examples of vernacular architecture can be found on this stage – buildings that developed according to unique traditions, using local materials and building traditions to create specific economic and social benefits for the region. One example is the Hotel Post at the start

Wachau Culture in Melk

Marvel at the diversity of regional culture on offer: **Wachau festivals, Baroque days, Woodwork Culture, Wachau in Real-Time** etc.

~ MELK ~



Melk has been a spiritual and cultural centre of the country for over 1,000 years. And aside from the previously mentioned Benedictine monastery of epic proportions in Melk, the town also impresses with its picturesque town centre and around 200 listed objects – from buildings to bits of old city fortifications and even wayside shrines.

~ AGGSBACH CHARTERHOUSE ~



At the end of the 14th century, the charterhouses in Aggsbach found the perfect place to bring together their hermitage and life in a community of monks. The cloister has had a turbulent history, having been destroyed and then rebuilt. Sights include the church, the charterhouse museum, the meditation garden and the former hammer mill next door.

Aggsbach Dorf – Hofarnsdorf

~ A PROUD KNIGHT'S CASTLE AND ROLLING MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS ~

Highlights on this stage from Aggsbach-Dorf to Hofarnsdorf are the imposing castle ruins of Aggstein, the Baroque Maria Langegg pilgrimage church and Dunkelstein Forest.

On forest paths and across meadows, we hike from Aggsbach Dorf up to the **castle ruins at Aggstein** and into Dunkelstein Forest. With farreaching views over the Wachau, the for-

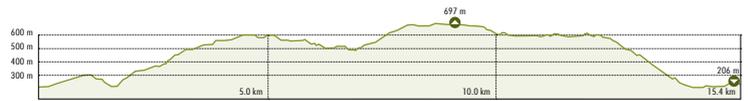
mer fortress at Aggstein towers high above the Danube like an eagle's nest, waiting for adventurers big and small to dive into its mediaeval world. Looking out from the Aggstein ruins at

300 metres above sea level, you will really feel like a true knight of the realm. This land was once ruled by the powerful Kuenringers who were able to control or protect trade along the Danube in the 12th century from high up on the hill here. Today, there's a tavern, an exhibition on the legendary Nibelungs plus a live adventure game for the whole family. We continue on peacefully through the Dunkelstein Forest to the **Maria Langegg pilgrimage cloister**. There are tours available around the museum, the library and the frescoes. A little way ahead, the **Hoher Stein viewpoint** pokes its head up and

offers us one of the most beautiful panoramic views of the Wachau – mind your step on the short climbing section. With views over to the southern bank of the Danube, where the first vineyards roll gently down towards the river, the trail leads steadily downhill through the valley of Buchental to the **Glauberkreuz rest stop** in the middle of Arnsdorfer Rieden. Shortly after that, we reach the **Arnsdorf-Spitz cable ferry** which is just a hop, skip and a jump away from our destination on this stage at **Schloss Hofarnsdorf**.



Difficulty **medium** Condition ●●●●○ ▲ Highest point 679 m ↔ Length 15.4 km
 Experience ●●●●○ Landscape ●●●●● ▼ Lowest point 206 m ⌚ Duration 6:20 h
 Best time of year Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



Luftberg

Just a half-hour away from Aggsbach Dorf is this viewpoint (marked in yellow) offering breath-taking 360° views of the Danube and Aggsbach-Markt just across the way.

© Daniela Matejschek



Hoher Stein

From its summit at 723 metres above sea level, Hoher Stein unveils a phenomenal view over the Wachau and its hundreds of vineyards and orchards. Although there is a small climbing section at the end, this route is suitable for children too.

© Gregor Semrad

Maria Langegg cloister

More than 400 years of eventful pilgrimage history, frescoes, pieces of art and much more are all waiting to be discovered here in the church and in the excellent museum and library.



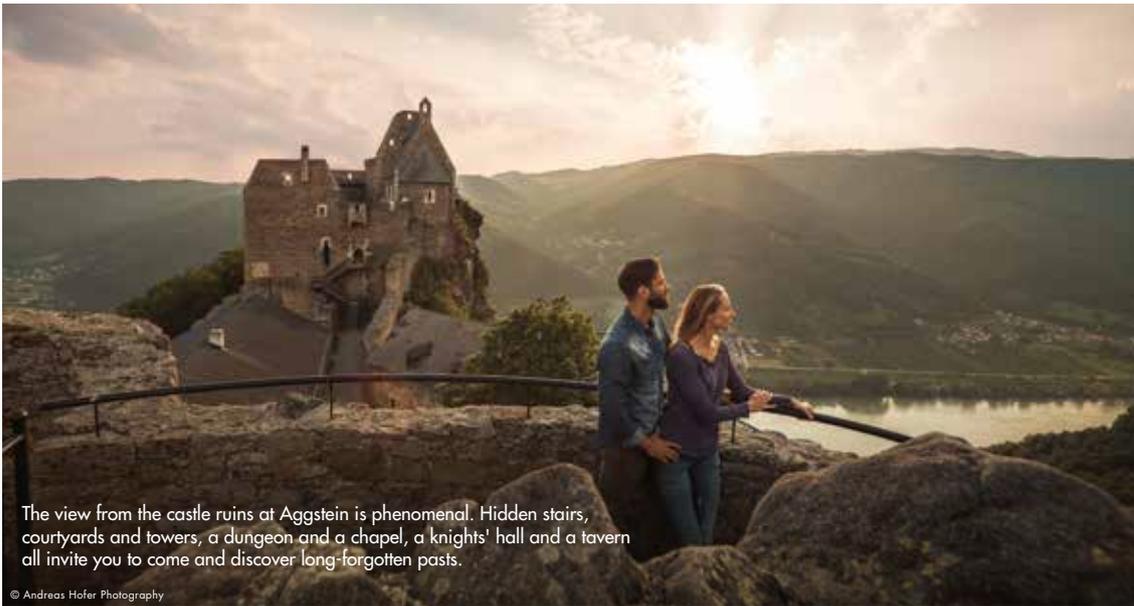
© Daniela Matejschek

Arnsdorf-Spitz cable ferry

Connected to a 485 metre-long cable, this ferry is shuttled between the villages of Spitz and Arnsdorf using the power of the river itself. It's worth checking out the art installation here by internationally renowned artist Olafur Eliasson.



© Andreas Hofar Photography



The view from the castle ruins at Aggsstein is phenomenal. Hidden stairs, courtyards and towers, a dungeon and a chapel, a knights' hall and a tavern all invite you to come and discover long-forgotten pasts.

© Andreas Hofer Photography

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

Compact town centres are evidence of the special way in which the Wachau was settled. Alongside these sights, there are also special types of soil to be discovered that are distinguished by their "drinkability".

Gazing out from the Glauberkreuz (see info box to the right) towards the village of Spitz highlights how this **enclosed town structure**, made up of compact centres, is a crucial part of what marks out the region as a site of World Cultural Heritage. The result is solitary townscapes and settlements which have remained separated to this very day.

~ SOLITARY TOWNS DOTTING THE LANDSCAPE ~

You can still clearly make out the boundaries of settlements that have hardly spread to the surrounding landscape at all. The mediaeval **town centres** are what shape the Wachau and are vital to protect. Including because they bring together architecture from several different eras and bear witness to the centuries of history here.

~ SPECIAL SITES & SPECIAL SIGHTS ~

From the Glauberkreuz you will also get good views of the most famous sites in Wachau east of Spitz – the **Ried Singerriedel**.

Its substrate is made up of paragneiss, mica slate and brown earth rich in silicates with a gradient of up to 70%. The name Singerriedel stands for dazzling, clear and particularly elegant wines, especially in its lower section where erosion has flooded deeper layers of the soil to create the perfect foundation for the Grüner Veltliner.

~ RECULTIVATION ~

As we already mentioned during Stage 4 from Spitz to Mühlendorf, the special (or, you might say, "tough") hillside locations ask more than a bit of the wine-growers here. The answer? "Stone terraces". Agriculture and wine-growing was only made possible here thanks to painstaking manual labour, such as the efforts undertaken on the Tausendeimerberg.

Over time, however, these endeavours were no longer profitable for some, and so vineyards were often abandoned – since, however, people have come to realise that the particular qualities at some of these

locations is worth the extra effort. People like those running the **Aitzberg recultivation project**. A vineyard that may have previously formed a single geological feature together with the Singerriedel. This is also where you will find the red, ore-bearing rock that gives our wines their particular minerality.

Wine & Craftsmanship

It is only through careful craftsmanship that the wine acquires the properties of each area – from pruning the vines to promoting life in the soil and harvesting selectively.

~ CASTLE RUINS AT AGGSTEIN ~



© Daniela Matejschek

These legendary castle ruins tower 300 metres above the Danube on a rocky outcrop that falls away on three sides but which is still easy to reach. The loop around the area promises hidden stairs, high walls and towers, as well as a dungeon, chapel, knights' hall and, last but not least, a tavern – maybe you'll even catch a mediaeval feast with costumes and a spread fit for a knight.

~ GLAUBERKREUZ ~



© JS

By this wayside shrine from the Middle Ages, an atmospheric rest stop awaits us with beautiful views to boot – sights include the famed Ried Singerriedel. Looking out towards Spitz, the Ried Tausendeimerberg is easy to spot, while if you turn your head towards Schwallenbach you will easily be able to make out the enclosed town structure.

Hofarnsdorf – Rossatz

~ STEEP PATHS AND ROMAN REMAINS ~

Wine villages, vineyards, Roman roads and a nature reserve with oak and hornbeam forests line this rather challenging stage from Hofarnsdorf to Rossatz.



Raring to go? Good – because we've got a demanding stage ahead of us! A little piece of advice before you head off: good footwear will be your best friend today.

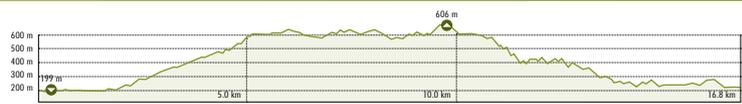
Leaving the fort and the parish church in Hofarnsdorf, we follow the Danube downstream through the wine villages of Mitterarnsdorf and Bacharnsdorf. We are

now already in the midst of the "Apricot Mile" and can hike to different apricot gardens and educational paths via a signposted network of trails. If the samples have given you the taste for all things apricot, then you'd be well advised to pick up a few marmalades, liqueurs and so on here straight from the farm. Our view stretches constantly from the south bank of the Danube to the terraced vineyards on the other side of the river. On a steep, old Roman road, the trail leads us along the Dürrenbach and into the Kupfertal (or Copper Valley). The views are particularly

beautiful from the new 15 metre-high lookout tower at the Seekopf and from the Hirschwand that can be reached via a ladder section. Through the almost primordial oak forest in the Steinige Ries Nature Reserve and past cliff faces, we head down into the valley towards Rossatz. Marvel at the art of wall-laying on one of the longest dry stone wall paths in the whole of the Wachau. The next stop, by the Emerald Lizard viewpoint, is definitely worth it.



Difficulty **difficult** Condition ●●●●○ ▲ Highest point 666 m ↔ Length 16.8 km
 Experience ●●●●○ Landscape ●●●●● ▼ Lowest point 199 m ⌚ Duration 6:30 h
 Best time of year Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



1 Apricot mile

From Hofarnsdorf to Bacharnsdorf, you can discover delicious Wachau orchards at so-called apricot filling stations where you will also have the opportunity to sample and purchase their apricots and apricot products.

The Burgus of Bacharnsdorf

A must for history fans: the Burgus, one of the Lime towers in the Wachau, is one of the best-preserved Roman buildings in the Roman province of Noricum.



2 Wachau Railway – Tunnel View

From Bacharnsdorf, it's worth casting your gaze across the Danube to St Michael and the Wachau Railway tunnel. This railway has been running for some one-hundred years and is a jewel in the crown of the region thanks to its scenic high-altitude route.

Emerald lizard at Rossatz

Sculptor and restoration artist, Erich Pummer, from Rossatz, created this dazzling work of art in 2008. From here we can enjoy a magnificent view of Dürnstein and Rossatz beyond the steep vineyards.





From the Steinige Ries Nature Reserve, a 74-hectare natural forest sanctuary, you will get beautiful views over the northern bank of the Danube across the way.

© Daniela Matejschek

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

This fascinating stage is accompanied by stone terrace habitats, forest highlights in a nature reserve and the curiosity that is the Wachau apricot – from Hofarnsdorf to Mitterarnsdorf and along the panorama trail to Rossatz.

The issue of **nature conservation** is particularly evident on this stage: the pure dry stone walls here do not use any connecting materials. Instead, they are made of stones stacked directly on top of one another. More than 40% of the vineyard areas in the Wachau, around 300 hectares (or 3 million square metres), are **terraced vineyards** held up by dry stone walls.

~ DRY STONE WALLS: A "HOTEL" FOR BENEFICIAL ORGANISMS ~

These walls therefore represent the largest "hotel" in the country for so-called "beneficial organisms" with twice as many species of animal taking up residence in these hotels than in the vineyards themselves. Species like the slow worm, European mantis and wild bees. Breckland thyme and cypress spurge also grow here, as does the yellow-flowering mountain madwort, also known as Wachau edelweiss; and in the spring, after the apricot blossom, the landscape is turned into a vast sea of yellow. The dry stone walls are also an important habitat for the Western green lizard

(whose German name literally means "emerald lizard"), the largest native lizard in the region which also gave its name to one of the three brands of Vinea Wachau.

~ STEINIGE RIES NATURE RESERVE ~

The natural forests covering this **74-hectare sanctuary** between Kienstock and St Lorenz are impressive examples of natural mixed forests with beech trees, Scots pine and sessile oaks. The environmentally important dry grassland rock formations are closely intertwined with bright pine forests.

In the small rocky crevices and corridors, rare species of plant flourish, like the basket of gold, Carthusian pink (dianthus carthusianorum), hairy fleabane (inula hirta), Boehmer's cat's tail (phleum phleoides) and spleenworts. You will also find stock doves, fire salamanders, Western green lizards, Aesculapian snakes and rare species of beetle like the great capricorn beetle and jewel beetles all bustling about here.

~ THE UNIQUE, AND MOST SWEETEST TEMPTATION... ~

The unmistakable quality of the **Wachau apricot** (which is protected by an origin label) is the result of an interplay between climate, soil and centuries of cultivation. One of the particular features of this fruit arises from the different styles of climate here: the Pannonian Basin to the east and the Forest Quarter to the north, plus the close proximity to the Danube, all help to form the so-called **Aroma Belt**. The significant differences in temperature between day and night, especially during the ripening phase, have a direct impact on the taste, aroma and content of the fruit. In fact, the Wachau apricot used to be a "stopgap" and (many, many) years ago was grown only for personal consumption. But as the vine pest plague spread from the Rhone Valley in the 19th century, damaging the wine harvests that provided an income, people in the Wachau began to grow apricots commercially. The **Original Wachauer Marille** (or Original Wachau Apricot) society has been taking care of the preservation and marketing of this oh so typical Wachau fruit since 2003. (See more information on p. 14.)

Wine & sustainability

Sustainability is highly prized among winemakers in the Wachau! And there are many sustainability trailblazers here.

~ SEEKOPF: WORTH THE HIKE ~



© Robert Herbst

The lookout tower on the 671 metre-high Seekopf is not just a great example of art in public spaces. It also offers incredible panoramic views at a height of 25 metres: from the nearby Wösendorf and Spitz, where the "compact, enclosed town culture" (an attribute of our World Heritage) is easy to spot, to the distant foothills of the Alps.

~ STEINIGE RIES NATURE RESERVE ~



© Heidi Schauer

Catching a glimpse of the emerald-coloured Western green lizard is definitely a highlight at this 74-hectare nature reserve – situated between St Lorenz and Unterkienstock on the southern bank of the Wachau – with its imposing and untouched oak and hornbeam forests and impressive species of plant like the basket of gold.

Rossatz – Oberbergern



~ PICTURESQUE CHURCHES AND FOREST-COVERED PEAKS ~

This stage is characterised by orchards, vineyards and the Dunkelstein Forest, and also rewards hikers with the most stunning view of Dürnstein and its striking blue church tower.

From the wine village of Rossatz, we walk leisurely between the wild "Pritzenau" wetland and an impressive number of orchards. Once you've wandered through

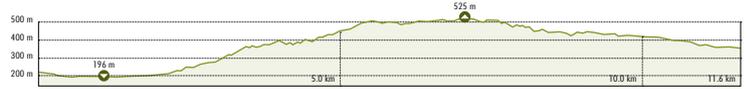
the orchards – on the southern bank, the famous Wachau apricot is accompanied by apples and pears – it's time to get cameras at the ready: here, on a small

sandy beach on the banks of the Danube, is where you'll get the very best view of Dürnstein on the opposite side of the river ... recognisable from its (by now) all too familiar blue church tower. The vineyards of Rossatz line the way up the 508-metre Pemexel and Bergener Höhe in Dunkelstein Forest. Fields and meadows shape the landscape around our destination of Oberbergern where the stage ends by a chapel. It's hard to believe, but in 1972 proposals were put forward to build a power station in the Wachau near to Rossatz.

The project, which was being planned as one of more than ten dam stages to make the Danube navigable, would have raised water levels by around 6 metres and caused the river to back up towards Melk. But the local population were up in arms and protested! Which led to not just Wachau residents but thousands of tourists and friends of the river landscape signing petitions and blocking the project. (See also Stage 13)



Difficulty **medium** Condition ●●●○○○ ▲ Highest point 525 m ↔ Length 11.6 km
 Experience ●●●●●○ Landscape ●●●●●▼ ▽ Lowest point 196 m ⌚ Duration 4 h
 Best time of year Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



Rossatz – Dürnstein by ferry

Ever seen the Danube from the middle of the river? Crossing from one bank to the other as the waves gently rock you? There are lots of different boats with space for up to 12 people.

Midsummer festival & Festival of Lights

With thousands of lights soaring above the water, the traditional Festival of Lights on the Danube is part of the great spectacle that is Midsummer, on or around 21 June in the Wachau. The view is even more stunning from Rossatz (looking towards Dürnstein).



Stop the power station 1972

The Working Group for the Wachau was set up in 1972 to block the building of a power station. The decision not to go ahead with the power station was only taken in 1983.

Oberbergern – Mautern



~ BLOSSOMING MEADOWS & AN ARTISTICALLY MINDED MONASTERY ~

This stage, from Oberbergern to the Roman town of Mautern, is characterised by picturesque vineyards, small wineries and the Göttweiger Berg with the imposing Stift Göttweig monastery.

Through fields and meadows, we leave Oberbergern and pass by the **Ferdinandswarte lookout tower**, with our sights set firmly on the mostly visible **Stift Göttweig**

monastery. This Baroque monastery, with a panoramic restaurant and terrace, is forever hosting high-quality cultural events. The vineyards of the Wachau and the Kremstal

valley stretch out before the feet of the Stiftsberg, while cosy taverns invite you to pop in on your way past. Through forests and meadows, the trail leads you up to the **Am Giritzer plateau** and onwards into the imposing Zellergraben loess gorge. The narrow pass starts by heading towards the **Zellerkreuz rest stop** and through the Furth and Mautern vineyards on the tavern way. We soon arrive at our destination in **Mautern**. Archaeological excavations and the **Roman Museum** tell the long history of the area that was shaped most of all

by the Romans. (see Stage 14). From the Ferdinandswarte lookout tower, we get a stunning view out over the free-flowing Danube – and another reminder of the **story of how the power station was blocked** (see also Stage 12). The power station at Rührsdorf was never built and today this stretch of river between Melk and Krems is the last free-flowing section of the Danube west of Vienna. Benefiting plants and animals, and all of us who come to gaze on this romantic landscape.



Difficulty **medium** Condition ●●●○○○ ▲ Highest point 413 m ↔ Length 16.7 km
 Experience ●●●●●○ Landscape ●●●●●▼ Lowest point 198 m ⌚ Duration 5 h
 Best time of year Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



Stift Göttweig

Founded in 1083, the picturesque mountain location of this cloister will wow visitors from the outside. While inside, the museum in the Emperor's Wing will fascinate you with its Baroque splendour and the monumental Emperor's Staircase, one of the most beautiful staircases in Europe.

Ferdinandswarte lookout tower

At 370 metres above sea level, perched on a steep cliff, this is one of the most spectacular ways to get a bird's eye view of the Wachau. Built in 1890, this lookout tower is surrounded by a forest area that has been declared a natural monument.



Monasteries & viticulture

Many of the monasteries in the Wachau have made vital contributions to the development of viticulture, or wine-growing – monasteries like the Stift Göttweig wine estate, one of the oldest wine-growing enterprises in Austria.

Mautern – Krems

~ ROMAN RUINS AND MEDIEVAL ALLEYS ~

This short stage, which is more of a historical city tour, is characterised by the Roman ruins in Mautern, Renaissance and Baroque buildings and the old town areas in Stein and Krems.

The short tour from the south bank of the Danube to the north allows plenty of time for sightseeing. In Mautern, the many ruins are reminders of the Romans who brought

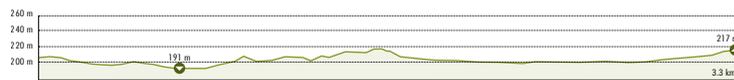
viticulture to the Danube – which is already something. But the fact that this is where you'll find the best-preserved remains of Roman fort complexes anywhere in Austria is truly

unique! Flanked by a majestic horseshoe tower is a largely intact Roman wall which was integrated into the city defences over the following centuries, preserving it for the present day. The impressive **Roman Museum** (1) documents life in the former Roman fort. From the main square in Mautern, we walk over old cobblestones and across the steel Danube Bridge, past the "**Wachau World Heritage Centre**" (4 - see next page for information), into the **Stein district of Krems** and along the **Krems Art Mile** with exciting museums dedicated to contemporary art and

even caricatures. Passing through the impressive Steinertor, we move on to the Krems Old Town and historical town square. Houses from the Renaissance, the Baroque and the Gothic eras, and charming establishments and shops line the alleyways of the Old Town. At Hoher Markt, the historical heart of Krems, this final stage ends where the first one begins. In the middle, stands the castle of **Gozzoburg**, the most important Gothic city castle north of the Alps. (See Stage 1)



Difficulty **easy** Condition ●●○○○▲ Highest point 217 m ↔ Length 3.9 km
 Experience ●●●●○ Landscape ●●●●○▼ Lowest point 191 m ⌚ Duration 1 h
 Best time of year Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



Mautern Bridge

This steel girder bridge dates back to 1895. A wooden bridge was built here in the very same location back in 1463 – the second fixed bridge over the Austrian Danube after Vienna!

Steiner Landstraße

Walking over cobblestones that provide for some much-needed deceleration, we arrive in the historic heart of Stein, the peaceful and artistic quarter of Krems whose history as a prosperous trading centre is still visible all around.



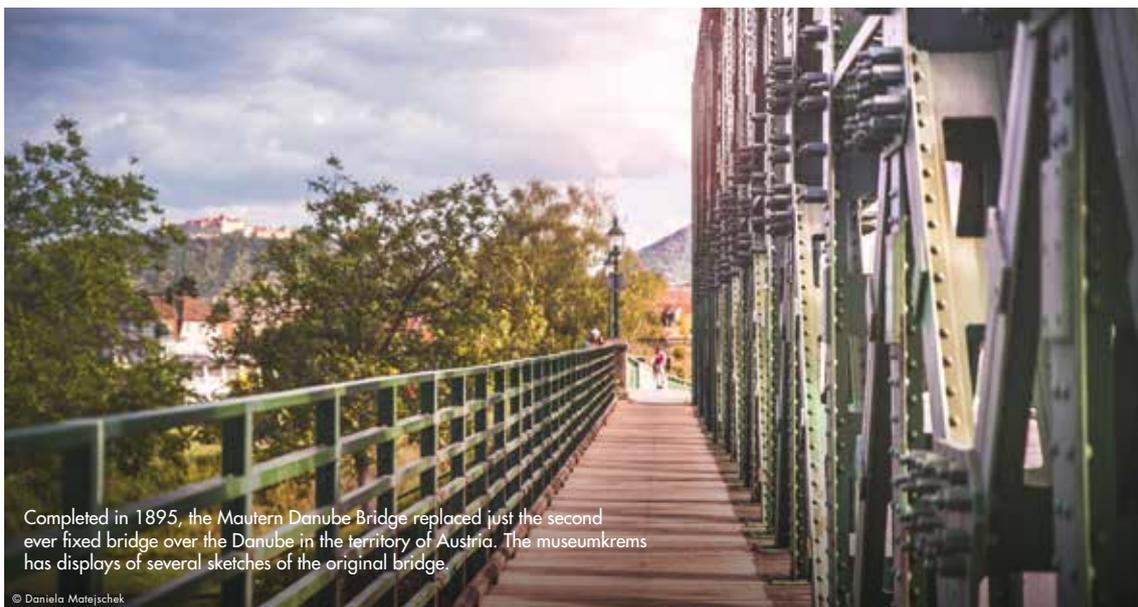
Krems National Gallery

Opened in 2019 and spread across 3,000 square metres over five floors, this museum is a jewel of art and architecture that raises the "Krems Art Mile" to become one of the most important cultural landscapes in Austria.

Krems Art Mile

Eight institutions and three spaces covering 1.6 kilometres (or 1 mile) offer a variety of museums, galleries, and art and music festivals, with a vast array of outstanding culture from traditional to modern, for young and old alike.





Completed in 1895, the Mautern Danube Bridge replaced just the second ever fixed bridge over the Danube in the territory of Austria. The museumkremS has displays of several sketches of the original bridge.

© Daniela Matejschek

~ WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON THIS STAGE ~

Let us finish by taking a look at the two "liquid elements" which are particularly important for the region: the Danube and its bridges, and the wine and Wachau quality criteria.

Crossing the Danube has always been challenging. Building and above all maintaining bridges required maximum effort, technologically and financially. Year in, year out, ice and flooding caused serious damage to the bridge pilings of the wooden constructions which predominated into the 19th century. The bridge flooring, too, required constant repair. Only logical, then, that bridges were erected only at the most important transport arteries.

~ MAUTERN AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BRIDGES OVER THE DANUBE ~

Until 1463, there was not a single bridge anywhere along the 300 km of river running between Passau and Vienna! That year, a bridge was built between Stein and Mautern using 26 wooden pilings. When the water level was extremely low (and before the days of flood protection) there were a few shallow sections where the river meandered into one of the many arms, allowing even wagons to cross the Danube. In winter, these shallow

areas quickly froze over. Today, it is only legends and place names like "Furt" ("ford" in English) that remind us of these Danube crossings. The "Förthof" (literally "ford courtyard house") at Stein also hints at a ford across the Danube after leaving the narrow Wachau breakthrough valley. The modern-day **Danube Bridge from Stein to Mautern** is a steel girder bridge dating back to 1895. The previous bridge was only the second fixed bridge over the Austrian Danube after Vienna! Several sketches in the museumkremS show the original bridge between Stein and Mautern. The building of this bridge therefore shows just how significant the region, and the trade routes, were and are for the economy. Today, the bridge and the bridge keeper's house are listed buildings and also officially part of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage of the Wachau.

~ QUALITY CRITERIA FOR WACHAU WINE ~

Nature has been providing that special something since time immemorial, with the meeting of the warm Pannonian air and cooler

northern climate plus ancient stone terraces and loess soil giving rise to the region's top-quality wines that are famous around the world. (For the Wachau apricot, see also Stage 11). With its typical terraced gardens, the wine-growing region of the Wachau is one of the most important wine-growing areas in Austria. Even in the early days, a great deal of attention was given to drawing up **quality criteria** which are still used today as the standard, according to which wines of world renown are cultivated and curated in the **Steinfeder, Federspiel** and **Smaragd** styles. (For more information, see also "DAC origin concept" in Stage 2). At this point, we ought also to mention the particular fact that while Furth, Göttweig and Krems belong to the wine-growing region of the Kremstal valley, they are still part of the Wachau World Heritage region.

World Cultural Heritage: Danube Limes

Yet another piece of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage: here, the Danube forms part of the natural northern border of the Roman Empire as part of the Limes.

~ ROMAN MUSEUM ~



© Daniela Matejschek

As well as the impressive collection of exhibits from civil and military life in the former Roman fort of Favianis-Mautern, the museum's location in the former Baroque granary of the Schloss Mautern is also fascinating. In the museum, we also learn a bit about the life and times of Saint Severinus who maintained a cloister here in late antiquity and who assisted in the turmoil that occurred as the Roman population migrated.

~ WACHAU WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE ~



© Robert Herbst

An open-air exhibition with display boards, situated directly next to the **river boat centre in Krems**, offers information on the Wachau World Heritage Region: from its settlement to enjoying nature, and from wine estates to contemporary art. The multifunctional location also serves to welcome visitors at the entrance to the Wachau and acts as an information centre.



© Michael Liebert

~ BOOKING & INFORMATION ~

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