

# Danube Cultural Route

Route length: 950 km

**Hungary:** Budapest

**Starting/ending points:** Regensburg/Budapest Travelling along the Danube: by car, caravan, cycle route, river cruise, hiking trails

### **COUNTRIES AND HOLIDAY REGIONS**

**Germany:** Eastern Bavaria, Regensburg, Passau Austria: Upper Austria, Linz, Lower Austria, Wachau, Krems, Vienna Slovakia: Bratislava

# **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS**

A large number of UNESCO World Heritage sites are located along the Danube and in close proximity to it.

**Regensburg:** Regensburg Old Town and district of

Lower Austria: Wachau cultural landscape **Salzburg:** Historic city centre, prehistoric pile dwellings (in the Salzkammergut region: Lake Atter and Lake Mondsee), Hallstatt-Dachstein/Salzkammergut cultural landscape

Vienna: Schönbrunn Palace and gardens; historic city centre

Budapest: Banks of the Danube, Andrássy Avenue, Buda Castle Quarter Pannonhalma: Monastery of the Benedictine Order

**Pécs:** Early Christian necropolis Český Krumlov: Historic old town

# Following in regal footsteps along the Danube

The Danube, the second-longest river in Europe, has served as a transport route for people and goods since time immemorial. The river acts as a conveyor of ideas and cultures, first from East to West, and later in the opposite direction. Numerous monuments and sites of artistic interest bear witness to the rich, eventful history that took place here: ancient excavation sites, mediaeva cities, abbeys and fortresses, Baroque monasteries, palaces and residences as well as modern museums with art of every style. The Route of Emperors and Kings is a stretch of the Danube Valley that boasts a unique wealth of attractions, particularly along the section between Regensburg and Budapest. Three UNESCO World Heritage sites are situated directly on the Danube: the old town of Regensburg, the Wachau cultural landscape and Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna. The Danube has been navigable for larger merchant and passenger vessels since Roman times. Travelling by water was incomparably faster and more comfortable than the painstaking journey by land over rough roads with carts or carriages. The convenient journey by water henceforth became the most popular route for members of the royal establishment. The Route of Emperors and Kings lives up to its name: The Roman emperors were followed by the Emperor Charlemagne. The Imperial Diets of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation later convened in Regensburg. A Romano-Germanic imperial city since the 15th century, Vienna served as the unofficial capital of the entire Holy Roman Empire. From 1806 to 1918 the Danube served as the axis of the dual Austro-Hungarian imperial and royal monarchy.

Today the river is characterised by its green, sloping riverbanks, lowland forests and vineyards. A successful symbiosis between a modern approach to life and business alongside unspoilt nature also emphasises an appreciation of the arts, the preservation of historic monuments and cultural tourism.

www.strassederkaiserundkoenige.com



### The German Danube

Between the German cities of Regensburg and Passau, the Danube swells to become a powerful waterway, connecting the region's people with one another. The river played an important role under the reign of Emperor Augustus, when it served as the natural border of the Roman Empire and was known as the 'wet limes'. This region is home to a wealth of cities and monasteries and was significantly influenced by the works of art completed by the Asam brothers. Regensburg has an eventful 2,000-year history and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Thanks to its location on one of the most important trade routes to the East, Regensburg developed to become a German imperial city par excellence: founded by Roman emperors, it was home to the mighty emperors Charlemagne and Frederick I, and was granted the status of Free Imperial City by Emperor Frederick II. The Danube then flows onward to the old ducal city of Straubing and finally makes its way to Austria via the historic bishop's seat of Passau, where charm and beauty, history and culture, the arts and special experiences flow together. The interplay between the various points of interest and the Old Town as a whole and its narrow alleyways results in a unique atmosphere that makes Passau extraordinarily beautiful.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Weltenburg Benedictine Monastery www.kloster-weltenburg.de **2 Kelheim Hall of Liberation** www.schloesser.bayern.de/englisch
- 3 The Walhalla in Donaustauf www.schloesser.bayern.de/englisch 4 Asam Basilica of St. Margaretha - Osterhofen
- www.asambasilika.de St. Stephen's Cathedral in Passau www.bistum-passau.de
- distinctive Greinburg Castle and one of the oldest city theatres in the German-speaking world.

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

**6** Engelszell Abbey www.stift-engelszell.at

The Upper Austrian Danube

The area around the Danube in Upper Austria is more diverse than

almost any other, and the broad variety of landscapes along the Dan-

ube in Bavaria and Upper Austria alone can be concisely described as

simply incredible. Breath-taking insights into this region and views of

its astoundingly beautiful countryside abound between Linz, the UNE-

SCO City of Media Arts, and Grein, the pearl of the Strudengau region.

Baroque monasteries and castles shape the Danube alongside castles

and ruins from the Middle Ages and picturesque villages steeped in

rivers – the Danube, Inn and Ilz – Passau is the first highlight. Leaving

history. With its historic city centre and charming setting on three

Passau, the river wends its way through the forested ridges of the

Upper Danube valley. The first stopping point of note is the Trappist

Engelszell Abbey. A further highlight along this leg of the river is the

forces the Danube to make two spectacular changes in direction.

Moving through the fertile Eferdinger Basin, the Danube flows past

the Cistercian monastery of Wilhering, whose abbey church is one

of the most magnificent rococo buildings in Austria, and onward via

Linz to Grein. The small shipping city of Grein attracts visitors with its

Schlögener loops, where the granite bedrock of the Bohemian Massif

- Danube Schlögener Loops www.donauregion.at/en
- 8 Starhemberg Castle www.starhemberg.at St. Florian Monastery www.stift-st-florian.at/en
- Greinburg Castle www.schloss-greinburg.at/en/



### The Lower Austrian Danube

Along its 258-kilometre journey through Lower Austria, the Danube travels through extremely diverse landscapes from west to east. Leaving the Nibelungengau region and its storied past, the river flows into what is likely the most enchanting river valley in Europe: Wachau, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, is one of the oldest cultural landscapes in Austria and extends from Melk to Krems. The region is home to rich cultural treasures and is an internationally renowned wine-growing region. Right next door, the Kremstal and Wagram regions are equally well-known for their wines. The broad plains of the Tullner area of the Danube basin extend around the four towns of Traismauer, Tulln, Stockerau and Korneuburg, where historic locales and sparkling open air venues beckon. Passing through the imperial city of Vienna, the Danube then flows into the former Roman region of Carnuntum, which is known for its Baroque castles in the Marchfeld basin, the Roman city of Carnuntum and Danube-Auen National Park. Numerous archaeological finds and remnants of walls bear witness to the Roman limes in Lower Austria as well: these include the former settlement of 'Favianis' in Mautern, the former 'Cannabiaca' in Zeiselmauer and above all the area around today's village of Petronell, where the Roman Legion camp of Carnuntum was established in 15 A.D.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 Melk Abbey www.stiftmelk.at/englisch
- Dürnstein www.duernstein.at/en **(B) Göttweig Abbey** www.stiftgoettweig.at
- Klosterneuburg Abbey www.stift-klosterneuburg.at/en
- 15 Marchfeld Castles www.schloesserreich.at/en

### HIGHLIGHTS

Devín Castle www.visitbratislava.com

Slovakia

Primate's Palace Bratislava www.visitbratislava.com

side: Esztergóm) and enters Hungary in its entirety.

The river enters Slovakia where the March joins the Danube and,

briefly forming the border between Austria and Slovakia, makes its

way to the capital city of Bratislava. There, at the foot of Bratislava

Castle, the river reaches the Danube lowlands (Podunajská rovina)

and then serves as the Slovakian-Hungarian river border for 172

kilometres as it travels eastward. The Danube shapes Slovakia's

main course may appear to cover a short distance here, count-

landscape only in the southern part of the country – and while its

less branches of the river wend their way extensively through this

fertile region. As a result, Europe's largest river island was formed

between the Little Danube and the Danube: Known as Žitný ostrov

(Rye Island), it covers a length of 84 kilometres and a width of 15 to

30 kilometres. Covered in forests and grasslands, this unique area

mate. The Danube served as an intersection for trading routes even

in ancient times, which is also evidenced by a number of Slovakian

side: Komaróm) and Nové Zámky are interspersed by small nature

reserves until the river makes a curve at Štúrovo (on the Hungarian

cities along the river: Galanta, Sered, Komárno (on the Hungarian

is populated by diverse flora and fauna and enjoys a pleasant cli-

- Bratislava Castle www.visitbratislava.com
- 👂 **Červený Kameň Castle** www.gob.sk 🕠 Nitra Castle http://slovakia.travel/en

# Hungary

The most scenic section of the Danube in Hungary is found where the river enters the country, at the Danube Bend between Esztergóm und Szentendre. The walls of the former castle, the Esztergóm Basilica, and this small city's silhouette tower majestically above the right bank of the Danube. Szentendre, a small city, is very popular amongst artists and tourists alike thanks to its Mediterranean atmosphere. The lower reaches of the Danube are home to the city of Mohács, which is known primarily for 'Busójárás', a folk custom that bids farewell to winter and welcomes spring. In Budapest, the capital of Hungary, the river bisects the two districts of the city, Buda and Pest. The world's only capital city that is also a spa city, Budapest has an incredibly beautiful setting and offers numerous attractions. These include the Castle Hill district, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its views overlooking the Danube, as well as Andrássy Avenue, the Hungarian Parliament Building, St. Stephen's Basilica, the Millennium Monument on Heroes' Square, Városliget (little city forest) with Vajdahunyad Castle, Margaret Island and much more. The Danube also formed the limes of the Roman Empire in Hungary. Forts, watchtowers and legion camps line the approximately 500-kilometre course of the Pannonian Limes. Previously used for protection and transport purposes, these routes are enjoyed by tourists today.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 41 Győr Benedictine Building Complex www.bencesgyor.hu
- 22 Arch Abbey of Pannonhalma https://bences.hu/en Esztergóm Basilica www.bazilika-esztergom.hu/en
- 20 Buda Castle in Budapest www.budacastlebudapest.com



### Food and drink along the Danube

Over the course of history, trade on the Danube enriched and left its mark on the region's cuisine as well. While Bavaria is known for its Bratwurst and Weißwurst sausages, it's Linzer torte and spicy dumplings that shape the regional cuisine in Upper Austria first and foremost. Linzer torte has an especially close connection to the Danube: it's an example of how the spices of the Orient were joined with the Austrian art of baking via the waterway. The river was the only way of obtaining the spices used in the torte 360 years ago. Upper Austria is particularly well-known for its poppy seed specialities and first-class wines. Vienna's cuisine reveals the delights of the imperial and royal monarchy: in addition to hearty dishes including Fiaker goulash or boiled fillet of beef, pastries such as Sachertorte are essential. The influence of Hungarian, Czech and Bohemian cuisine yielded specialities such as Esterhazy-Schnitte (Esterhazy cake), Powidltascherl (plum jam turnovers), apple strudel and Kaiserschmarrn (Emperor's mess). And the culinary delights of the imperial period are still a firmly rooted part of traditional cuisine in Slovakia and Hungary as well.

### 😉 **Vajdahunyad Castle** www.vajdahunyadcastle.com CZECH REPUBLIC Prague Regensburg ( Map section Donauwörth SLOVAKIA Key Künzing ( DANUBE-MOLDOVA Langenlois UNSECO World Heritage site 119 Aldersbach Castle/palace Landshut Passau **K** Airport Linz River cruise 20 Augsburg Bratislava WACHAU Danube Cycle Path Aschach Munich Hainburg Ypps a.d.D. Eisenstadt GERMANY Ödenburg HUNGARY AUSTRIA

# CITIES ON THE DANUB

## Regensburg – UNESCO World Heritage site

The city of Regensburg looks back on more than 2,000 years of history. Archaeological findings show that Regensburg was already inhabited during the Stone Age. In 179 A.D., the Romans founded the Castra Regina legionary camp, the 'camp on the river Regen' here. During the Middle Ages, the city on the river developed to become a very significant centre of trade thanks to its location on a highly important trade route to the East. Regensburg became a Free Imperial City in 1245 and grew extremely prosperous due to long-distance trading. The Everlasting Imperial Diet first convened in 1663 and only ceased to exist in 1806 following Napoleon's conquest and the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. Today, numerous splendid edifices in the city's Old Town still bear witness to the city's prosperity and political influence during the Middle Ages. In 2006, Regensburg's Old Town and the district of Stadtamhof were included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites. The Stone Bridge built in the 12th century, St. Peter's Cathedral (the only example of French Gothic architecture in Bavaria), and the Palais Thurn and Taxis are particularly worth a visit.

## **Tourist Information Regensburg**

Altes Rathaus, Rathausplatz 4 93047 Regensburg Phone: +49 941 507 4410 www.tourismus.regensburg.de/en



### Passau

Passau is known as the City of Three Rivers due to its location at the confluence of the Danube. Inn and Ilz rivers. The name Passau is derived from the Roman fort Batavis. The City of Three Rivers was an independent episcopal principality for 600 years, and has been part of Bavaria since 1803. Master Italian builders built the Baroque Old Town in the 17th century following a fire in the city. Winding alleyways and romantic riverside promenades invite guests to take a walk back in time. St. Stephen's Cathedral, home of the world's largest cathedral organ, dominates the centre of the Old Town. The Veste Oberhaus and the Pilgrimage Church of Mariahilf are perched high above the rivers. Passau has been an important centre for the arts and culture throughout the centuries. Walking tours of the city and a boat trip on the three rivers let visitors experience this city's special charm. Not only do national and international long-distance cycling routes and hiking paths intersect in Passau; the city is also a point of arrival and departure for cruises on the Danube. Thanks to its charm and flair, Passau is one of the most beautiful and impressive Bavarian cities on the Danube.

# **Tourist Information Passau**

Bahnhofstrasse 28 Phone: +49 851 95598 0 www.tourism.passau.de/Home.aspx



### Linz

The UNESCO City of Media Arts and 2009 European Capital of Culture is truly a one-of-a-kind city, simply because Linz is in a constant state of flux. This city on the Danube changes itself and the ways in which its residents grow, and even brings change for its visitors when they stay here. Linz isn't confined by the past, but rather continues to develop. It has its sights set on the present and, most importantly, the future. A lively, contemporary cultural scene, Europe's most modern music theatre and a unique Museum of the Future come together with an innovative creative scene here. The Baroque main square is situated in close proximity to the city's most contemporary cultural buildings, resulting in surprising contrasts. Linz has a special relationship with Europe's largest waterway due to its location directly on the Danube. For example, its Roman and Celtic names Lentia and Lentos were derived from the bend that the river makes here as it changes direction. In addition to a vibrant cultural scene, this unique city is also known for its wealth of green spaces as well as its exceptional technological and architectural history.

### CONTACT

Altes Rathaus, Hauptplatz 1 4020 Linz Phone: +43 732 7070 2009 www.linztourismus.at/en

**Tourist Information Linz** 



### Vienna

Vienna owes its appeal as a tourism destination to an exciting blend of nostalgic flair for the imperial era coupled with a highly creative cultural scene that offers up the latest trends while carefully maintaining a precious cultural heritage and well-loved traditions. The architecture from the period of the Danube Monarchy shapes the city's imposing appearance. Splendid edifices from the Baroque, Historicism (Ring Road style) and Art Nouveau periods as well as the city's spacious overall layout belie the fact that this is the capital city of the Republic of Austria with its population of just 8.4 million citizens, whisking visitors away to a romantic imperial city. It's not just the many buildings from the imperial period that make Vienna a city steeped in art and beauty:world-class museums, collections and works of art can be experienced here. Among others, these include the Kunsthistorische Museum, the Belvedere and the Albertina. Plus, sights such as St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Hofburg, Schönbrunn Palace and the Imperial Crypt invite visitors to get out and explore

### **CONTACT**

**Tourist Info Vienna** Albertinaplatz/corner of Maysedergasse 1010 Vienna Phone: +43 1 24 555 www.wien.info/en



### Bratislava

Located at the crossroads between three cultures, archaeological findings from a Celtic settlement and a Roman fort show the important role the city played as an intersection between trade routes and its strategic significance as part of the Limes Romanus. The names used to refer to this city on the Danube still bear witness to its turbulent history today: while the Slovakians call their capital city Bratislava, the city is known as Preßburg in Austria. Ten Austro-Hungarian monarchs were once crowned in St. Martin's Cathedral, including Maria Theresa in 1741. Reminders of the past are everywhere on a tour through the city's Old Town. Trendy cafés and restaurants beckon around every corner, serving up Central European cuisine that includes influences from the era of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy for every connoisseur. Futuristic architecture, extensive green spaces and plenty of pubs and restaurants offering a view of the Danube epitomise an urban lifestyle that comes as a surprise from a city that lay behind the Iron Curtain until 1989.

### CONTACT

**Tourist Info Bratislava Old Town** Klobučnícka Str. 2 (pedestrian zone) 811 01 Bratislava Phone: +421 2 161 86 www.visitbratislava.com



### **Budapest**

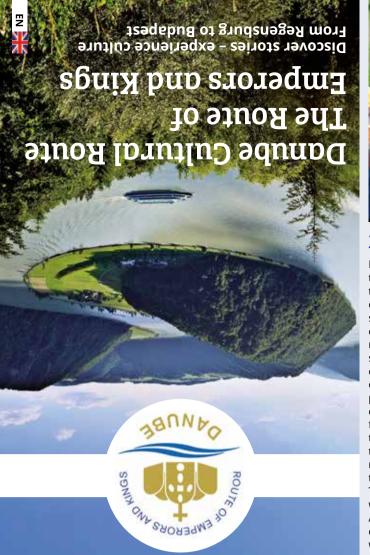
A metropolis with millions of inhabitants, a capital city that's chock full of culture and spas alike, Budapest has an almost magical way of casting visitors under its spell. It's not for nothing that the Hungarian capital refers to itself as the Pearl of the Danube. In 1873, the two historic districts of Buda and Pest joined together with Óbuda to form Budapest as we know it today. The city captivates visitors with its imperial charm and a unique cityscape that includes numerous sights of interest. An absolute must-see is historic Castle Hill, a UN-ESCO World Heritage site which, among other things, includes the Fisherman's Bastion. Those who love culture won't want to miss out on a visit to the Hungarian State Opera House, built in 1875 in the neo-Renaissance style. With its Jewish Quarter, Andrássy Avenue, Opera House and the old metro, Budapest attracts visitors with further world heritage sites. Its 120 thermal springs and baths also make Budapest a popular destination for wellness holidays. Plus, the city's wonderful views from Gellért Hill, its Belle Époque architecture, monuments from the Roman and Turkish eras, zoo (a protected historical landmark) and the largest synagogue in Europe make Budapest unique within Europe.

### CONTACT

www.spiceofeurope.com

Kacsa utca 15-23 1027 Budapest





www.strassederkaiserundkoenige.com

# www.strassederkaiserundkoenige.com

The Romans

# Contact and information

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www.flickr.com/photos/strassederkaiserundkoenige

Partners

**Eastern Bavaria Tourism Association** Regensburg Tourism www.tourismus.regensburg.de/en Passau Tourism www.tourism.passau.de Upper Austrian Danube www.donauregion.at/en **Austrian Danube** www.donau-oesterreich.at/en/ Wurm & Noé Danube Cruise Ships www.donauschifffahrt.eu Linz Tourism www.linztourismus.at/en Lower Austrian Danube www.donau.com/en Imperial Crypt in Vienna www.kapuzinergruft.com Bratislava Tourist Information www.visitbratislava.com

Hungarian Tourism Agency https://hellohungary.com/en









# Middle Ages

Following the fall of the Roman Empire at the end of the 5th century, the Bavarians continued in the Roman tradition and established their residences within the old Roman walls. During the process of the church's reorganisation, numerous monasteries were constructed by Bavaria's dukes and served as centres for territorial expansion. Charlemagne and his son Pepin used the Danube as a road for their military and religious campaigns, with Regensburg serving as the empire's linchpin. Following Emperor Otto I's victory over the Magyars, the Diocese of Passau grew from the 10th century onwards to become the largest jurisdiction in the Holy Roman Empire as a result of the mission to the East. The Ostmark region was colonised after Hungary and was mentioned in an official document for the first time in 996 as 'Ostarrichi' (Austria). The crusades from the 11th to 13th centuries provided tremendous impetus to international trade, with the Danube serving as a main transport route. The river's east-to-west direction, unique within Europe's river system, turned the cities along the Danube into flourishing centres of trade. The castles along the high, rocky banks above the river still bear witness to the knights of the high mediaeval period. The late Middle Ages were shaped significantly by the Hapsburg Danubian monarchy. Emperor Friedrich III's marriage policy made the Hapsburgs a world power. The mysterious monogram A.E.I.O.U., which appeared on numerous buildings, is today interpreted as 'Alles Erdreich ist Österreich untertan', meaning 'All the world is subject to Austria'

The Roman world empire is still very much alive along the entire

length of today's holiday route. The Danube (Danubius) formed

the natural border of the Roman Empire to the north, and Roman

ports and forts were strung like pearls along the Danubian Limes. A

majority of the cities along the Route of Emperors and Kings are of

Roman origin: Regensburg (Castra Regina), Passau (Castra Batava),

Linz (Lentia), Enns/Lorch (Lauriacum) and Carnuntum (Petronell-Car-

were large cities in ancient times with temples, paved squares, the-

atres and arenas. The German word for pub, 'Kneipe', has its roots

in the 'canabae' that were found in these cities. Aquincum, today's

was famous for its luxurious baths. The continuous Limes Road,

the ancient predecessor of the Route of Emperors and Kings, was

established along the entire length of the Danube under Emperor

Caracalla (211–217 A.D.). Preserved structures such as the Roman

walls in Regensburg and Carnuntum as well as archaeological sites

the Roman emperors. Contemporary museums in Passau, Mautern

period. And the Romans' culinary legacy – wine – is a delight for the

and Petronell (Carnuntum) offer more in-depth insights into this

The French Revolution brought the feudal age to an end in 1789,

and the rise of Napoleon marked the beginning of Europe's trans-

formation and the ascent of the middle classes. A native of Corsica,

and down the Danube a number of times. Between victories and

defeats, he stayed in Regensburg, Passau, Schönbrunn and Vienna,

was his most significant impact. The first step towards this was the

and the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation

secularisation of church property, which involved the annexation of

the clerical territories by the secular territories. The Prince-Bishopric

of Passau became part of Bavaria, which was proclaimed a kingdom

on 1 January 1806. Regensburg was then ceded to the Kingdom of

Bavaria in 1810 as well. Six hundred years of autonomous rule had

peror in 1804. The newly created Austrian Empire included the old

Hapsburg countries on the Danube and the kingdoms of Bohemia

and Hungary. The two-headed eagle from the coat of arms of the

old empire continued to be used as the Austrian national emblem.

Congress of Vienna in 1815. Bavaria remained a kingdom until 1918

under King Ludwig I from 1825 to 1848, including the Walhalla near

The new system of states survived the fall of Napoleon and the

under the Wittelsbach dynasty. Patriotic monuments were built

Regensburg and the Hall of Liberation above Kelheim.

come to an end. In Austria, Franz II had inherited the title of em-

Sapoleon had been the Emperor of France since 1804 and rode up

nose and the palate all along the Danube.

The French Revolution

like those found in Künzing, Vienna and Budapest still bear traces of

Budapest, was the largest city on the Roman Danube and even then

nuntum, approx. 40 km east of Vienna) and Vienna (Vindobona)



### Veste Oberhaus in Passau www.oberhausmuseum.de

Regensburg - UNESCO World Herit-

www.tourismus.regensburg.de/en

The UNESCO World Heritage city of

Regensburg looks back on more than

2,000 years of history. During the Mid-

dle Ages, the city on the river developed

to become a very significant centre of

trade thanks to its location on a highly

important trade route to the East.

One of the largest preserved castle complexes in the world towers over Passau. The Veste Oberhaus is not just an impressive cultural monument, it is also home to several museums: visitors can get an up-close look at life in Passau from the Middle Ages up to recent times in the city.



**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MIDDLE AGES** 

Clam Castle www.burgclam.com/english

Clam Castle is unique due to the fact that it isn't a museum in the traditional sense, but rather a mediaeval castle that is still inhabited and fully furnished. The Clam family has been living in this mighty fortress for over 550 years now, and you can even stay overnight here!

Regensburg - UNESCO World

www.tourismus.regensburg.de/en

Situated at the Danube's northernmost

point, the city of Regensburg looks back

on more than 2,000 years of history.

Archaeological findings show that Re-

gensburg was inhabited even during

founded the Castra Regina legionary

Roman Museum Castle Boiotro

The Roman Museum Castle Boiotro is

located in a late-mediaeval house in

foundations of Castle Boiotro. Built

around 280 A.D., the fort was aban-

doned by the Romans around 375.

Oberranna, Schlögen and Enns

The Roman Empire shaped the region

of Upper Austria for 500 years, and the

Roman fortlet in Oberranna is by far the

best-preserved Roman structure in Up-

per Austria. In Schlögen, a Roman bath

invites guests to immerse themselves in

the ancient world of architecture, tech-

Passau which was constructed on the

www.tourism.passau.de

Roman excavations in

www.donauregion.at/en

nology and zest for life.

Passau – Napoleon in Passau

Extensive correspondence provides

evidence of the significance that the city

of Passau held for Napoleon Bonaparte,

General, First Consul and Emperor of

France, due to its exposed location on the Danube, Inn and Ilz. The French

Emperor even visited the 'City of Three

Rivers' himself on two occasions. It was

Emperor Napoleon and the Treaty of Paris (1802) that sealed the downfall of

the old Prince-Bishopric of Passau.

www.schloesser.bayern.de/englisch

Commissioned by King Ludwig I, this

splendid monument commemorates

in the Wars of Liberation and was si-

the victorious battles against Napoleon

multaneously constructed to represent

Immerse yourself in a historic event in

a war-torn past on your bicycle. This

is where the great Battle of Wagram

took place between Napoleon's troops

and the Austrians, involving a total of

300,000 soldiers. The Napoleon Mu-

seum in Deutsch-Wagram is definitely

the year 1809 as you cross a region with Calvinism under the Ottoman sultan's protection.

Hall of Liberation in Kelheim

Napoleon - Roman region

of Carnuntum-Marchfeld

www.donau.com/en

www.tourism.passau.de

**FRENCH REVOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS** 

the Stone Age. In 179 A.D., the Romans

mp, or 'camp on the river Regen' here.



Experiencing Enns means following in the footsteps of the Roman Empire, but also exploring the Middle Ages. The oldest city in Austria, Enns was inhabited even in the Neolithic period. In the 4th and 3rd century B.C. it was home to the Celts, and the Romans settled here starting in 15 B.C.



Bratislava www.visitbratislava.com

Located at the crossroads between three cultures, archaeological findings from a Celtic settlement and a Roman fort show the important role the city played as an intersection between trade routes and its strategic significance as part of the Limes Romanus. The names used to refer to this city on the Danube still bear witness to its turbulent history today.



# Baroque period

Together with Poland and Bavaria, Austria defeated the Turks in 1863, and the repercussions of this momentous victory continued throughout the 18th century as the monarchy gained undisputed supremacy on the Danube. This triumph manifested itself in the splendid Danube Baroque style, which first took root in the churches and monasteries along the Danube. Buildings, the visual arts, theatre and music attested to the glory and genius of the Austrian Empire. The Hofburg imperial palace and the imperial city on the Danube rivalled Versailles and Paris in terms of political and cultural prominence – and Vienna acquired its grandiose Baroque appearance as a result. Famous Baroque architects such as Joseph Emanuel Fischer von Erlach and Johann Lukas von Hildebrandt carried out their work under Emperor Charles VI (1711–1740). Prince Schwarzenberg and Prince Liechtenstein, among others, emulated imperial Vienna's 'great theatre of the world' with their splendid palaces, and Prince Eugene of Savoy had the Belvedere built in the southern part of the Residenz. The Hapsburgs, who promoted the Counter-Reformation, placed particular importance on representing this movement in the Baroque style of the churches. One example of this is the lofty splendour of St. Charles Church in Vienna, a reflection of the Hapsburg Dynasty's awareness of their imperial strength. The villages and cities along the Danube took on the Baroque character, which is still preserved to this day. Vienna and the Austrian regions along the Danube ultimately experienced their cultural, economic and political climax under Empress Maria Theresa (1740-1780).



During the 19th century, the Hapsburg Empire formed the imperial

one another subsequently assumed an almost spiritual significance

and royal 'Dual Monarchy' under the official name 'Austro-Hungar-

ian Monarchy'. The river connecting the Hapsburg countries with

in the Hapsburgs' concept of their empire. The imperial and royal

ruled the empire from 1848 to 1916. The inner bastions in Vienna

gave way to the broad Ring Road and its splendid architecture in

1857, an event fittingly commemorated by Johann Strauss I in his

Demolirer-Polka (Demolition Men's Polka). The Hungarian portion

anthem, that same year. Vienna presented itself as a centre of mod-

of the empire became autonomous in 1867, and Johann Strauss

Il composed the Blue Danube Waltz, Austria's unofficial national

ern science, technology and industry at the World's Fair in 1873.

Empress Sisi, meanwhile, felt a special bond with Hungary as its

queen and made frequent journeys up and down the Route of Em-

perors and Kings. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

in Sarajevo in 1914 finally brought about the fall of the monarchy.

For many citizens of the imperial and royal monarchy, the death of

Emperor Franz Joseph I on 21 November 2016 meant the end of a

transnational institution and unifying symbol of power in the polit-

ical realm. His passing was also perceived as the natural end of the

**REFORMATION AND MODERN ERA HIGHLIGHTS** 

Danube monarchy was epitomised by Emperor Franz Joseph I, who

### **Devín Castle** www.muzeum.bratislava.sk/en

The ruins of Devín Castle, which tower on a high cliff over the Danube, are one of the most significant archaeological sites in Central Europe. The Celts had a settlement here, the Romans controlled the limes from this location and the Slavs built a formidable fortress here.



## www.tse-enns.at

Lauriacum/Enns was one of the largest and most important trading and military bases on the northern border of the Roman Empire. It gained its special significance due to the stationing of the second Italian legion, which established the only legion camp in the Roman province of Noricum here towards the end of the 2nd century A.D.



### RÖMERSPUREN (In Roman Footsteps) - the travel app

The RÖMERSPUREN app takes you on a journey through the Roman history of Eastern Bavaria and Upper Austria! You'll hear exciting stories from a distant epoch, use your smartphone to make vanished structures visible again and solve tricky tasks. Download the app for free from the Apple or Google app stores!



Reformation and modern era

During the 16th century, the Reformation, Renaissance and human-

ism ushered in a new world view. Martin Luther's theses were also

well-received along the Danube. The citizenry of the imperial city of

Regensburg demonstrated their confessional autonomy by joining

the Reformation in 1542. However, its residents continued to main-

tain their denominational divisions due to the continued episcopal

of the 17th century, the neutral imperial city became a destination

for many protestant refugees. The most famous of them was likely

astronomer Johannes Kepler, who had been in the service of the

situation in Linz became dangerous, he made his way up the Dan-

ube towards Regensburg, where he also died in 1630. Lutheranism

was unable to prevail against the Catholic Counter-Reformation in

Bavaria and Austria. However, many people in Hungary converted to

Austrian estates above the river Enns since 1612. Whenever his

and monastic presence in the city. During the religious upheaval

### Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy. The era of emperors and kings on the Danube had drawn to a close.

The Hapsburgs

### Regensburg - UNESCO World Heritage site www.tourismus.regensburg.de/en

Proponents of the Reformation could be found in Regensburg as early as the 1520s. Evangelical preachers were working in the city and Holy Communion was celebrated in both forms in private homes. During the Imperial Diet of Regensburg in 1541, a religious debate was held with Philipp Melanchthon, Johannes Calvin, Martin Bucer and Johann Pistorius making up the Protestant delegation.



# www.linztourismus.at/en

The beginnings of the Reformation in Linz can be traced back to 1521, starting with the Anabaptist movement, which was well received amongst craftsmen in particular. The Lutherans appointed their first mayor in 1542, and protestant preachers arrived in the city in the 1670s. The Minorite monastery, which had ceased to exist during the Reformation, was handed over to the estates



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# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BAROQUE



### St. Stephen's Cathedral, Passau www.bistum-passau.de/dom-st-stephan

With its white towers and blue-green domes, this magnificent building is one of the most impressive Baroque churches north of the Alps and was built in the Italian style by architects Carlo Lurago and Giovanni Battista Carlone following Passau's city fire in 1662.

Augustinian choristers' St. Florian clois-

ter is a meeting place and is considered

ticularly noteworthy are its library with

more than 150,000 volumes and the

crypt with the sarcophagus of Anton

Also known as the 'Austrian Montecas-

sino', Göttweig Abbey was founded in

1083, handed over to the Benedictine

Baroque style at the beginning of the

18th century according to plans by Jo-

hann Lukas von Hildebrandt. This World

Heritage site is a spiritual centre in the

neart of Lower Austria and is home to a

order in 1094 and rebuilt in its expansive

Bruckner and the Bruckner organ in the

a gem of the Austrian Baroque. Par-

St. Florian Monastery

monastery's basilica.

www.stiftgoettweig.at

**Göttweig Abbey** 

www.stift-st-florian.at/en



# www.kiralyikastely.hu

The largest Baroque palace in Hungary is situated some 20 km north of the capital city. Count Antal Grassalkovich I, a friend of Maria Theresa, had Gödöllő Palace built in the 18th century.



### Červený Kameň Castle slovakia.travel/en

Červený Kameň, one of Slovakia's best-preserved castles and the most beautiful in the Little Carpathian Mountains, is located near Bratislava. It was converted into a monumental fortress in the 16th century and was a prominent part of the military defence strategy at the time.



### Melk Abbey www.stiftmelk.at/englisch

This world-famous abbey is known

throughout Europe as an iconic example of Baroque architecture due to its palatial size. It has been inhabited by Benedictine monks from its founding in 1089 up until the present day. Built in its current form between 1702 and 1736, Melk Abbey's premises stand out for their magnificent splendour.

Imperial Crypt in Vienna

www.kapuzinergruft.com

The Imperial Crypt is located below

for the family of the former Austrian

Capuchin Church and is intended

dynasty of Hapsburg. This is the

final resting place of 149 members





### Artstetten Castle www.schloss-artstetten.at/en

community of around 45 monks.

Emperor Franz I acquired the castle in 1823. In 1889, Archduke Carl Ludwig handed it over to his eldest son, Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Este, who had it remodelled to meet his requirements. Artstetten Castle preserves the memory of heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Duchess Sophie.



### Eckartsau Castle www.schlosseckartsau.at

Eckartsau, the former imperial hunting lodge, is the traditional setting for the Eckartsau Castle Concerts held in April and May each year. The magnificent ballroom and numerous hunting trophies belonging to heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand recall the glamour and



castle in 1726 and had it converted into a splendid estate by renowned Baroque architect Lukas von Hildebrandt. Today, cent architecture and masterfully revitalised Baroque gardens extends across an area of more than 50 hectares.



of the Hapsburg family, including 12 emperors and 19 empresses and Schönbrunn Palace www.schoenbrunn.at/en



Schönbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of the imperial family, is one of the most beautiful Baroque complexes in Europe and attracts visitors with its enchanting park, Palm House Garden and Botanic Garden, Gloriette arch and the



Prince Eugene of Savoy acquired the a unique ensemble including magnifi-



# **Danube Cultural Route** The Route of Emperors and Kings

**Discover stories – experience culture** From Regensburg to Budapest



### www.strassederkaiserundkoenige.com