



DANUBE REGIONS

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 became 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
- 5 **St. Stephen's Cathedral in Passau** www.bistum-passau.de

Danube Cultural Route

Route length: 950 km

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

Hungary: Budapest

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 Stadthof

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, Andrásy 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, mediaeval 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



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 Stadthof 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.

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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 Mariähilf 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.

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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.

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www.linztourismus.at/en



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 the city.

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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 Slovaks 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.

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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 UNESCO 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, Andrásy 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.

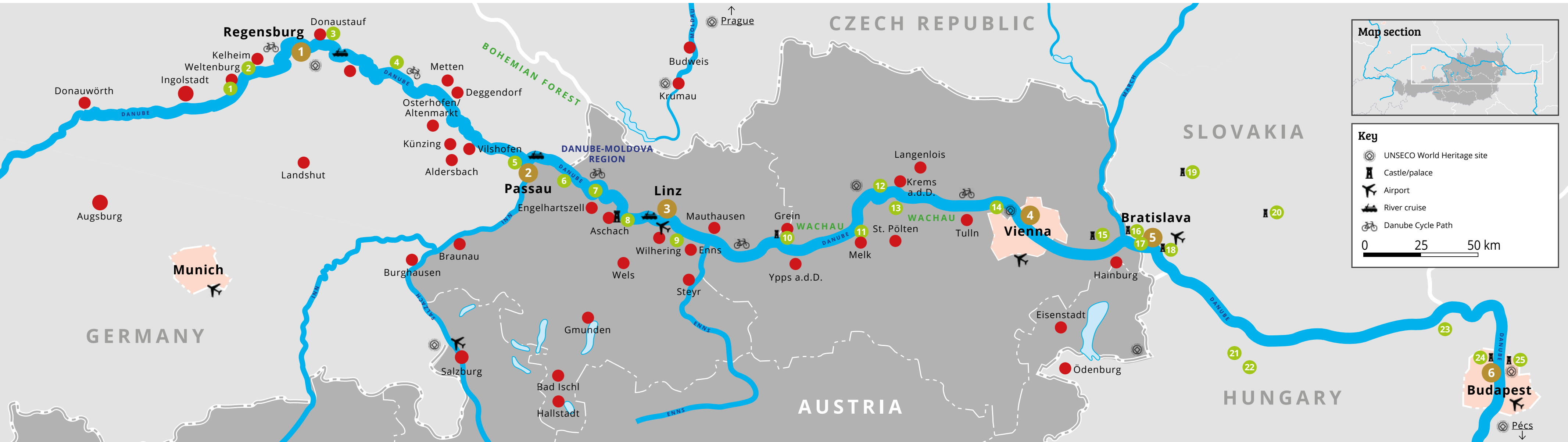
CONTACT

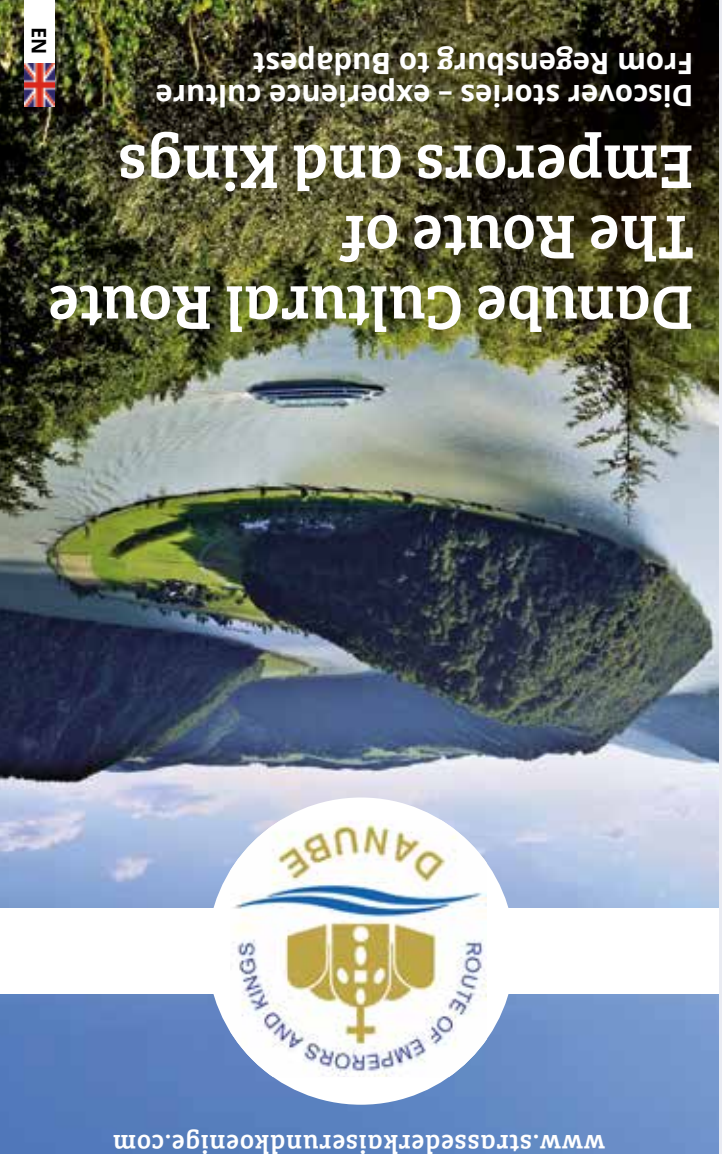
Hungarian Tourism Agency

Kacska utca 15-23

1027 Budapest

www.spiceofeurope.com





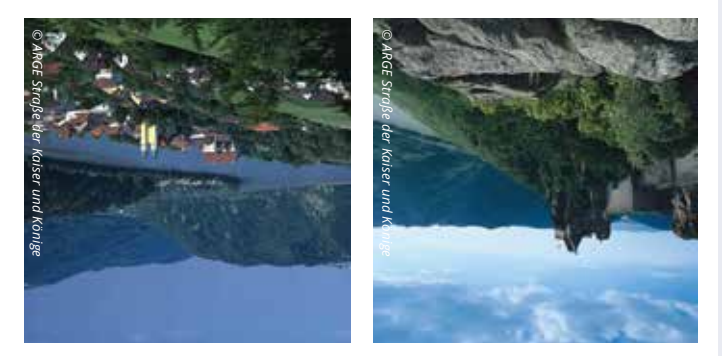
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www.youtube.com/strassederkundk
www.flickr.com/photos/strassederkaiserundkoenige

Partners

Eastern Bavaria Tourism Association
www.ostbayern-tourismus.de
Regensburg Tourism www.tourismus.regensburg.de/en
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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 'Ostarrîchi' (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 Romans

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-Carnuntum, approx. 40 km east of Vienna) and Vienna (Vindobona) were large cities in ancient times with temples, paved squares, theatres and arenas. The German word for pub, 'Kneipe', has its roots in the 'canabae' that were found in these cities. Aquincum, today's Budapest, was the largest city on the Roman Danube and even then 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 like those found in Künzing, Vienna and Budapest still bear traces of the Roman emperors. Contemporary museums in Passau, Mautern and Petronell (Carnuntum) offer more in-depth insights into this period. And the Romans' culinary legacy – wine – is a delight for the nose and the palate all along the Danube.



The French Revolution

The French Revolution brought the feudal age to an end in 1789, and the rise of Napoleon marked the beginning of Europe's transformation and the ascent of the middle classes. A native of Corsica, Napoleon had been the Emperor of France since 1804 and rode up and down the Danube a number of times. Between victories and defeats, he stayed in Regensburg, Passau, Schönbbrunn and Vienna, and the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation was his most significant impact. The first step towards this was the 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 come to an end. In Austria, Franz II had inherited the title of emperor 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. The new system of states survived the fall of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna in 1815. Bavaria remained a kingdom until 1918 under the Wittelsbach dynasty. Patriotic monuments were built under King Ludwig I from 1825 to 1848, including the Walhalla near Regensburg and the Hall of Liberation above Kelheim.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MIDDLE AGES



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

The UNESCO World Heritage city of Regensburg looks back on more than 2,000 years of history. 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.



Veste Oberhaus in Passau
www.oberhausmuseum.de

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.



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!

ROMAN HIGHLIGHTS



Regensburg – UNESCO World Heritage site
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 Regensburg was inhabited even during the Stone Age. In 179 A.D., the Romans founded the Castra Regina legionary camp, or 'camp on the river Regen' here.



Roman Museum Castle Boitrot
www.tourism.passau.de

The Roman Museum Castle Boitrot is located in a late-mediaeval house in Passau which was constructed on the foundations of Castle Boitrot. Built around 280 A.D., the fort was abandoned by the Romans around 375.



Roman excavations in Oberranna, Schlögen and Enns
www.donauregion.at/en

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 Upper Austria. In Schlögen, a Roman bath invites guests to immerse themselves in the ancient world of architecture, technology and zest for life.

FRENCH REVOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS



Passau – Napoleon in Passau
www.tourism.passau.de

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.



Hall of Liberation in Kelheim
www.schloesser.bayern.de/english

Commissioned by King Ludwig I, this splendid monument commemorates the victorious battles against Napoleon in the Wars of Liberation and was simultaneously constructed to represent German unity.



Napoleon – Roman region of Carnuntum-Marchfeld
www.donau.com/en

Immerse yourself in a historic event in the year 1809 as you cross a region with 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 Museum in Deutsch-Wagram is definitely worth a visit.



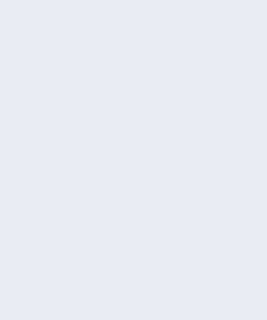
Enns
www.tse-enns.at

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.



Devin Castle
www.muzeum.bratislava.sk/en

The ruins of Devin 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.



Enns
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 humanism 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 maintain their denominational divisions due to the continued episcopal and monastic presence in the city. During the religious upheaval 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 Austrian estates above the river Enns since 1612. Whenever his situation in Linz became dangerous, he made his way up the Danube 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 Calvinism under the Ottoman sultan's protection.



Baroque period

Together with Poland and Bavaria, Austria defeated the Turks in 1683, 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).



The Hapsburgs

During the 19th century, the Hapsburg Empire formed the imperial and royal 'Dual Monarchy' under the official name 'Austro-Hungarian Monarchy'. The river connecting the Hapsburg countries with one another subsequently assumed an almost spiritual significance in the Hapsburgs' concept of their empire. The imperial and royal Danube monarchy was epitomised by Emperor Franz Joseph I, who 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 'Demolier-Polka (Demolition Men's Polka)'. The Hungarian portion of the empire became autonomous in 1867, and Johann Strauss II composed the Blue Danube Waltz, Austria's unofficial national anthem, that same year. Vienna presented itself as a centre of modern 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 Emperors 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 1916 meant the end of a transnational institution and unifying symbol of power in the political realm. His passing was also perceived as the natural end of the Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy. The era of emperors and kings on the Danube had drawn to a close.

REFORMATION AND MODERN ERA HIGHLIGHTS



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 Melancthon, Johannes Calvin, Martin Bucer and Johann Pistorius making up the Protestant delegation.



Linz
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 in 1562.

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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.



St. Florian Monastery
www.stift-st-florian.at/en

Augustinian choristers' St. Florian cloister is a meeting place and is considered a gem of the Austrian Baroque. Particularly noteworthy are its library with more than 150,000 volumes and the crypt with the sarcophagus of Anton Bruckner and the Bruckner organ in the monastery's basilica.



Göttweig Abbey
www.stiftgoettweig.at

Also known as the 'Austrian Montecassino', Göttweig Abbey was founded in 1083, handed over to the Benedictine order in 1094 and rebuilt in its expansive Baroque style at the beginning of the 18th century according to plans by Johann Lukas von Hildebrandt. This World Heritage site is a spiritual centre in the heart of Lower Austria and is home to a community of around 45 monks.

HAPSBURG HIGHLIGHTS



Artstetten Castle
www.schloss-artstetten.at/en

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 glory of the Hapsburg era.



Hof Castle
www.schlosshof.at/en

Prince Eugene of Savoy acquired the castle in 1726 and had it converted into a splendid estate by renowned Baroque architect Lukas von Hildebrandt. Today, a unique ensemble including magnificent architecture and masterfully revitalised Baroque gardens extends across an area of more than 50 hectares.

Danube Cultural Route The Route of Emperors and Kings

Discover stories – experience culture
From Regensburg to Budapest



www.strassederkaiserundkoenige.com