

LOWER AUSTRIA
Simply refreshing



REFRESHINGLY **moving**

Road map of Lower Austria, with tips for visitors

WWW.LOWER-AUSTRIA.INFO



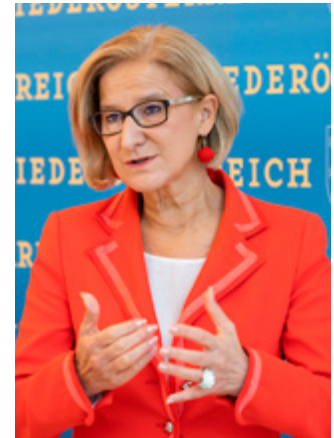


Wachau, © Robert Herbst

Welcome!

“With this map, we want to direct you to the most beautiful corners of Lower Austria. As you will see, Austria’s largest federal state presents itself as a land of diversity, with a wide variety of landscapes for refreshing outdoor adventures, great cultural heritage, world-class wines and regional specialities. All that’s left to say is: I wish you a lovely stay, and hope that your time in Lower Austria will be unforgettable!”

JOHANNA MIKL-LEITNER
Lower Austrian Governor



© NLK/FilzWiesser



© Philipp Monhart

“Here you will find inspiration for your next visit to, or stay in, Lower Austria. Exciting excursion destinations, varied cycling and mountain biking routes, and countless hiking trails await you. This map also includes lots of tips for that perfect stay in Lower Austria. Have fun exploring!”

JOCHEN DANNINGER
*Lower Austrian Minister of
Economics, Tourism and Sports*

LOWER AUSTRIA in numbers



29,500 years old is the age of the **Venus of Willendorf**, the world's most famous figurine.

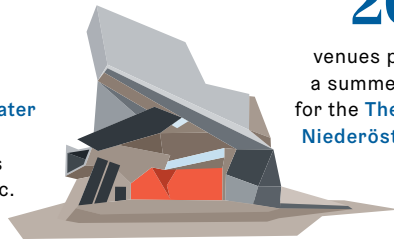
70 fortresses, castles and ruins are open to visitors.



15 abbeys and monasteries have shaped the province and its culture for centuries, Melk Abbey being one of the most famous.

1,700

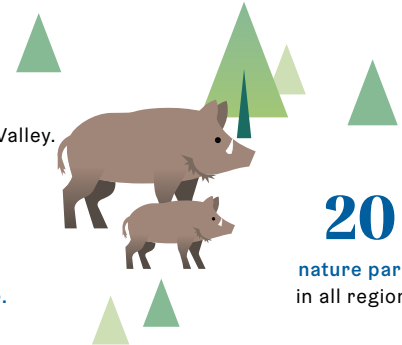
seats plus lawn space for 300 more spectators at **Wolkenturm open-air theater** in Grafenegg, where the **Grafenegg Festival** offers the best in classical music.



7,200 silver-gray zinc shingles were incorporated in the facade of the new **Landesgalerie Niederösterreich** in Krems.

20 venues provide a summer stage for the **Theaterfest Niederösterreich**.

2 national parks
Donau-Auen and Thaya Valley.



1 Vienna Woods
Biosphere Reserve.

20 nature parks
in all regions.



93 "Natur im Garten" show gardens ranging from castle and monastic gardens steeped in history to sweeping landscape gardens.



9 centers for alpine adventure featuring summer and winter sports.

21 spas and health resorts with sulfur, carbonic acid or other natural health-promoting substances.



10 TOP cycling routes with a total length of **1,400 km**.

50 

TOP excursion destinations attracting more than 30,000 visitors a year.

More on this topic:
www.lower-austria.info

LOWER AUSTRIA at a glance

Capital city: St. Pölten ①

286 km

of the Danube flow through Lower Austria. It is the longest river in the land. ②

2,076 m

is how high the Schneeberg is, making it the highest point in the province. ③



3 UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Wachau ④, Semmering Railroad ⑤, Wilderness Area Dürrenstein / World Natural Heritage Beech Forests ⑥

Cultural heritage

Here is how connoisseurs rate the restaurant scene in Lower Austria:

158

chef's hats have been awarded to 96 establishments



163

stars from À la Carte



316

forks from Falstaff



220

Wirtshauskultur – public inns and restaurants featuring regional and seasonal menus are at the heart of local culinary enjoyment.



28,000 ha

of vineyards

8,269

wineries

8

wine-growing regions



Heuriger or *buschenschank* taverns serve exclusively their own wines. This institution is the envy of many!

The *Grüner Veltliner* is the premier white but Riesling, Zierfandler, Rotgipfler, Roter Veltliner, Zweigelt, Blaufränkisch, St. Laurent, Pinot Noir also grow here.



1,000

cellar-lined roads are a unique aspect of local wine culture and found only in Lower Austria.

Culinary treasures galore



7,000

tons of apricots

& 1,600

tons of poppy-seeds



are harvested annually. Lower Austria has a total of 26 regions offering culinary delights (*Genussregionen*).

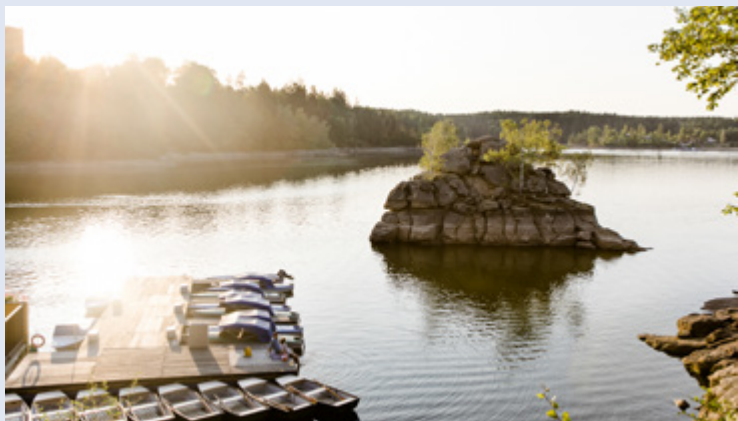
Wald- viertel



Rugged beauty, unspoiled nature, quiet and powerful landscapes – this is the best way to describe the Waldviertel. This region extending from the Danube to the Czech Republic in the north has preserved its original character. Rivers and streams have etched themselves deeply into this tranquil expanse of impressive landscape. Nature here is dominated by vast forests, bizarre rock formations, as well as moors and heaths shrouded in mystery. It is perfect for hiking and cycling, mountain biking and simply relaxing. The local climate is a fine balm for

mind and body with its pleasantly warm days and cool nights. It is no wonder that the Waldviertel has become such a sought-after destination for health and wellbeing. On discovery tours through the region, you will also come across imposing old castles, picturesque small towns and a cuisine that is characterised by specialities from the Waldviertel – such as Mohnnudeln (poppy seed dumplings) or baked carp.

More on this topic:
www.waldviertel.at/en



OTTENSTEIN RESERVOIR IS A RECREATIONAL PARADISE.

5 tips AT FIRST-HAND

① Pristine nature

Thanks to its pristine nature and mild climate, the Waldviertel is one of the healthiest regions in Austria. You can enjoy wonderfully fresh air, clean water and those rare moments of tranquility in the Thayatal National Park, on the Heidenreichsteiner Moor, or on the Schrems Moor, just to give a few examples. The Dobersberg, Nordwald, Geras, and Kamptal-Schönberg nature parks are also worth a visit.

② The tastes of the Waldviertel

Culinary delights are central to life in the Waldviertel. Poppy seeds, potatoes, carp, cheese and bread from the region are star ingredients in the top-quality eateries. Not to speak of fine brandies, wine from the Kamp Valley or the famous beers brewed in Schrems and Zwettl.



③ Mohn landing

Mohn is the German word for poppies. They immerse the Waldviertel in glorious seas of red at blossom time in July and are all-present in these northern climes. Poppy-seeds occur in the regional cuisine mainly as oil or in the form of dumplings or pastries such as *mohnzelten* and *mohntascherl*.

④ Home of craftsmanship



Traditional craft workshops have a grand tradition in the Waldviertel. Top quality artworks and articles of daily use are produced from wood, stone, textiles and glass, among other materials.

⑤ Culture within ancient walls

The Waldviertel is rich not only in scenic beauty but also in ancient historical architecture. Altenburg, Geras and Zwettl abbeys, Hardegg and Heidenreichstein fortresses, Rosenberg, Weitra or Grafenegg castles are just a few of examples of the diverse and colorful cultural treasures to explore here.



Wein- viertel



In the region directly north of Vienna, clocks tick a bit differently. Enjoyment is wed here with an easygoing attitude toward life. You feel that immediately. The pace becomes more relaxed in the gently rolling hills of the Weinviertel. The name of the region is no accident either. The Weinviertel (wine quarter) is dominated by wine. A good 1,600 wine makers engage in their art in the region that produces more wine than any other in Austria. It is no wonder that you encounter wine every step of the way, be it at a heuriger

wine tavern or cycling and hiking through the vineyards, at a traditional wine festival or of course along one of the more than 1,000 cellar-lined rural roads. These roads with their press houses are landmarks of the Weinviertel and genuinely unique to this region.

More on this topic:
www.weinviertel.at/en



CELLAR-LINED ROADS AND PRESS HOUSES ARE COMMON FEATURES OF THE WEINVIERTEL.

5 tips AT FIRST-HAND

① Wine as far as the eye can see

With all the varietal diversity, Grüner Veltliner is and remains the premier grape in the Weinviertel. In its typical regional variation, it is also known as Weinviertel DAC and Weinviertel DAC Reserve.

② Cycling over hill and dale



The Weinviertel literally cries out for exploration on regional vineyard cycling routes. Multi-day bicycle tours on the Kamp-Thaya-March cycling route or the Iron Curtain Trail delight amateur athletes and passionate cyclists alike.

③ Open-air culinary pleasures

The Weinviertel is the breadbasket of the land. You can taste the love that goes into growing the local produce here, especially when chefs and wine makers treat their guests to “Al fresco



dining in the Weinviertel”. It is staged where food tastes best, with Mother Nature as the backdrop.

④ The secrets of cellar-lined roads

A tour with a guide specializing in the local cellar-lined roads provides insights into the ancient heritage of viticulture in this region. Once production and storage sites, these roads are lovingly cared for today and venues for sociable cellar festivals.

⑤ The Weinviertel in the olden days

How about a trip back in time? An outing to the museum village of Niedersulz, Lower Austria’s largest open-air museum, shows what everyday life was like in a Weinviertel village 200 years ago.

Most- viertel



Located between the Danube and the Alps, the contrasting Mostviertel inspires in many ways. In the north, over 300,000 pear trees line the soft, hilly and fertile landscape of the Moststrasse. A visit to the land of the pear trees, where you can cycle, walk, indulge and relax, is especially enjoyable during the flowering period in April.

The countryside is more ruggedly alpine in the south, dominated by impressive mountains, dramatic gorges, and roaring waters. The

region around Ötscher, Hochkar and Dürrenstein, with its untouched alpine pastures, is particularly popular with hikers. In the colder months, family ski resorts and picturesque cross-country skiing centres attract countless winter sports fans year after year.

More on this topic:
www.mostviertel.at/en



THE MOSTVIERTEL IS UNMATCHED IN ITS VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES.

5 tips AT FIRST-HAND

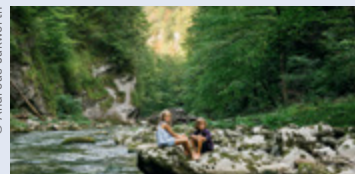
① The wilderness trail

The Dürrenstein Wilderness Area, with the largest primeval forest remains in Central Europe, is a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. Visitors are invited to explore this protected area, starting with a visit to the *Haus der Wildnis / House of Wilderness* visitor centre in Lunz am See.

② Mostviertler Feldversuche

The Mostviertel's natural resources are as diverse as its landscape. The best way to taste local culinary delights – from the area's unique pear cider, to hearty specialities from the Pielach Valley which are made of *dirndl* (Cornelian cherries), to fine Traisental wine – is to attend a *Feldversuch* ('field trial').

③ Untamed nature



Nature lovers and mountain adventurers alike will be impressed by the interplay of bizarrely shaped rocks, deep gorges, waterfalls and magnificent viewpoints in the Ötscher-Tormäuer Nature Park. Numerous hiking trails can be combined as exciting circular tours, thanks to the Mariazell Railway.



St. Pölten, © Roméo Felsenreich

④ Cultural outings in the city

St. Pölten is a must-see destination. The Lower Austrian capital city is a significant center of business, science and culture, where Baroque blends harmoniously with Jugendstil and Modernism. Landestheater, Festspielhaus and Museum Niederösterreich are just three of the worthwhile sights to see.

⑤ Pleasure cycling by the river

Another way to take in the scenery of the Mostviertel is to follow the picturesque Ybbstal Cycling Route, which partly runs along the route of the now defunct Ybbstal Railway, but is always close to the river. The 111 km long Traisental cycling route is also recommended for an active discovery tour of the region.



© schwarz-koenig.at

Danube in Lower Austria



The section of the Danube flowing through Lower Austria is 286 km long and unrivaled for the richness of its scenery, culture and culinary delights. The full glory of the region unfolds along its banks with ancient Roman structures and legendary castles, famous monasteries and imposing castles. Mother Nature also displays impressive variety here – as primeval wilderness in National Park Donau-Auen or as distinctive countryside shaped by human hand, such as the Wachau, a UNESCO

World Heritage landscape. The world-caliber wines and abundance of excellent restaurants, public inns and heuriger taverns promise good cheer for all. Incidentally, the best vantage point for appreciating the region's merits is from aboard a ship.

More on this topic:
www.donau.com/en



THE DANUBE IS THE LIFELINE OF LOWER AUSTRIA.

5 tips AT FIRST-HAND

① Follow the apricot



© Stefan Fürtbauer

Many consider the Wachau the most scenic section of the Danube. The best way to take in this World Heritage Site is to follow the Wachau World Heritage Trail, one of the most pleasant hiking routes in Austria. Highlights include the sun-drenched terraced vineyards, and Wachau apricots, which make a visit to the region during the growing and harvesting period extra tasty.

② Noblesse oblige



Schloss Hof, © Michael Liebert

Schloss Hof, Schloss Orth, Schloss Eckartsau and Schloss Niederweiden are enchanting and splendid Marchfeld castles that every visitor will want to see.

③ Green hope

Tulln an der Donau is Austria's foremost town when it comes to gardening. Along with a number of large nurseries, GARTEN TULLN is highly recommended as Europe's first ecological garden show.

④ Culture galore



Landesgalerie, © florianschulte.com

The *Kunstmühle Krems* (Krems Art Mile) runs like a cultural backbone through the cultured university town of Krems. In the town centre, the *Kunsthalle Krems* modern art museum, the *Krems Caricature Museum*, and the spectacular *State Gallery of Lower Austria* host top-class exhibitions all year round.

⑤ Cycling from one delight to another

The Danube Cycle Path is yet another way to explore the region. Countless refreshment stops, rest stops and gastronomic stops make the cycle path very special. It is hardly surprising that it is one of the most popular cycling routes in Europe.

Vienna Woods



Vienna is surrounded by idyllic countryside offering the perfect combination of woods, water and wine: the famed Vienna Woods. The UNESCO award-winning Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve is a recreational paradise for pleasure-seeking cyclists, mountain bikers and hikers. There are other ways to relax and unwind in this part of the country – as well as the great outdoors, culture, water and wine attract visitors. Traditional thermal baths, impressive excursion destinations and cultural sites, both traditional and modern, invite you

to experience the region. The wine in the Vienna Woods is unique in itself: Superb local reds and whites flourish around Klosterneuburg and in the Thermenregion, and heuriger taverns can be found at every turn! There is good cheer in store everywhere, especially during Weinfrühling, a host of events celebrating wine and spring, and Weinherbst, an autumn wine festival featuring what is claimed to be the longest bar in the world.

More on this topic:
www.wienerwald.info/en



REFRESHINGLY DIFFERENT: A VIEW OF THE VIENNA WOODS.

5 tips AT FIRST-HAND

① The woods of the Viennese

The Vienna Woods covers 105,000 hectares of land and has been a UNESCO biosphere park since 2005. It also serves as the local recreational area for guests, who love this paradise and all its opportunities for cycling, mountain biking and hiking.

② Taking the waters in Baden

Baden bei Wien is a spa with tradition and flair as well as a center of art: For instance it hosts the Festival La Gacilly-Baden Photo, Europe's largest open-air photo festival.



Fotomontage © Festival La Gacilly-Baden Photo/Luisa Dorn

③ Marzipan on trees

Ever heard of chequers, the fruit of the rare Wild Service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*)? This reddish brown fruit has a glorious marzipan flavor. It grows on high trees and is used in making brandies, liqueurs and marmalades. A genuine slow food product!

④ Great wine

The indigenous grape varieties Rotgipfler and Zierfandler are just two reasons that locals and visitors love stopping off at heuriger wine taverns. Another major reason is the delicious food served at the heuriger buffets.



© Hauke Dressler

⑤ Stories from the Vienna Woods

The region has a grand cultural and imperial heritage. A visit to Heiligenkreuz Abbey, Klosterneuburg Monastery or the castle park in Laxenburg highlights this fact. Enjoy the cultural treasures found at these venues. From opera to modern art, the variety is endless.



Schlosspark Laxenburg © John Ch. Pitsching

Vienna Alps



From summers in the country to winter vacations, the Vienna Alps have a centuries-old tradition as a holiday region. Just an hour to the south of Vienna, they can be reached easily and quickly. Following the construction of the Semmering Railroad, a UNESCO World Heritage structure, the alpine landscape around Semmering, Rax and Schneeberg became a popular holiday destination. To the east, the gently rolling hills of the Bucklige Welt rise up from the plains around Wiener Neustadt. The countryside climbs steadily

across the alpine pastures of the Wechsel and the scenic Semmering railroad line to one of its defining mountain ranges, the extensive Rax. From there it continues rising to the imposing Schneeberg before descending along the elongated Hohe Wand plateau down to the plains. The 300 km long Arc of the Vienna Alps Trail (Weg am Wiener Alpenbogen) runs through all these landscapes.

More on this topic:
www.wieneralpen.at/en

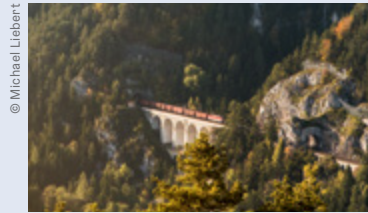


THE VIENNA ALPS ARE ALWAYS WORTH A VISIT.

5 tips AT FIRST-HAND

① Panoramic delights

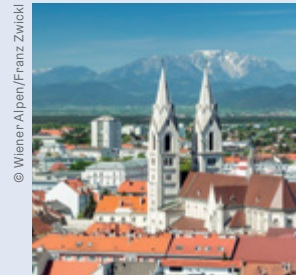
Breathtaking scenery on hikes in the region around the Semmering Railroad, a UNESCO World Heritage structure, and the Arc of the Vienna Alps Trail.



© Michael Liebert

② A city waiting to be explored

Wiener Neustadt is considered to be the capital of the Vienna Alps. The silhouette of the city, which is visible from afar, is characterised by landmarks including the mighty late Romanesque cathedral, the military academy which was built during the reign of Maria Theresa, and the water tower.



© WienerAlpen/Franz Zwickl

③ To the summit – the easy way

The Alps are not only nearby, they are readily accessible. For instance, on the Schneeberg Railroad to Austria's highest-elevation train station at 1,800 m or on the historic Rax aerial cable car or the toll road in Hohe Wand Nature Park.

④ Culinary explorations

The region has a raft of *Wirtshauskultur* public inns and restaurants as well as cider heuriger taverns that serve regional specialties straight from producers.



© SoGoGutSchmeckt/Kornfeld

⑤ Pedaling away

The cycling routes in and through the Vienna Alps are something for true aficionados. Above all, the EuroVelo 9 from Wiener Neustadt to Wechselland will make you want to explore more and more of the region. Younger cyclists can practise on the mini cycling trail in the Wexl Trails bike park in St. Corona. Follow the large river bends downhill, or explore the high mountain pastures of the Wechsel.

**To obtain information on Lower Austria
and to order brochures, call or visit:**

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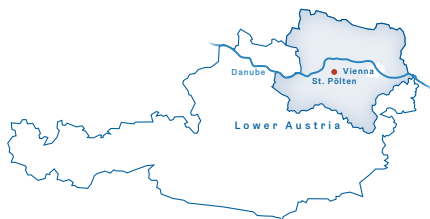
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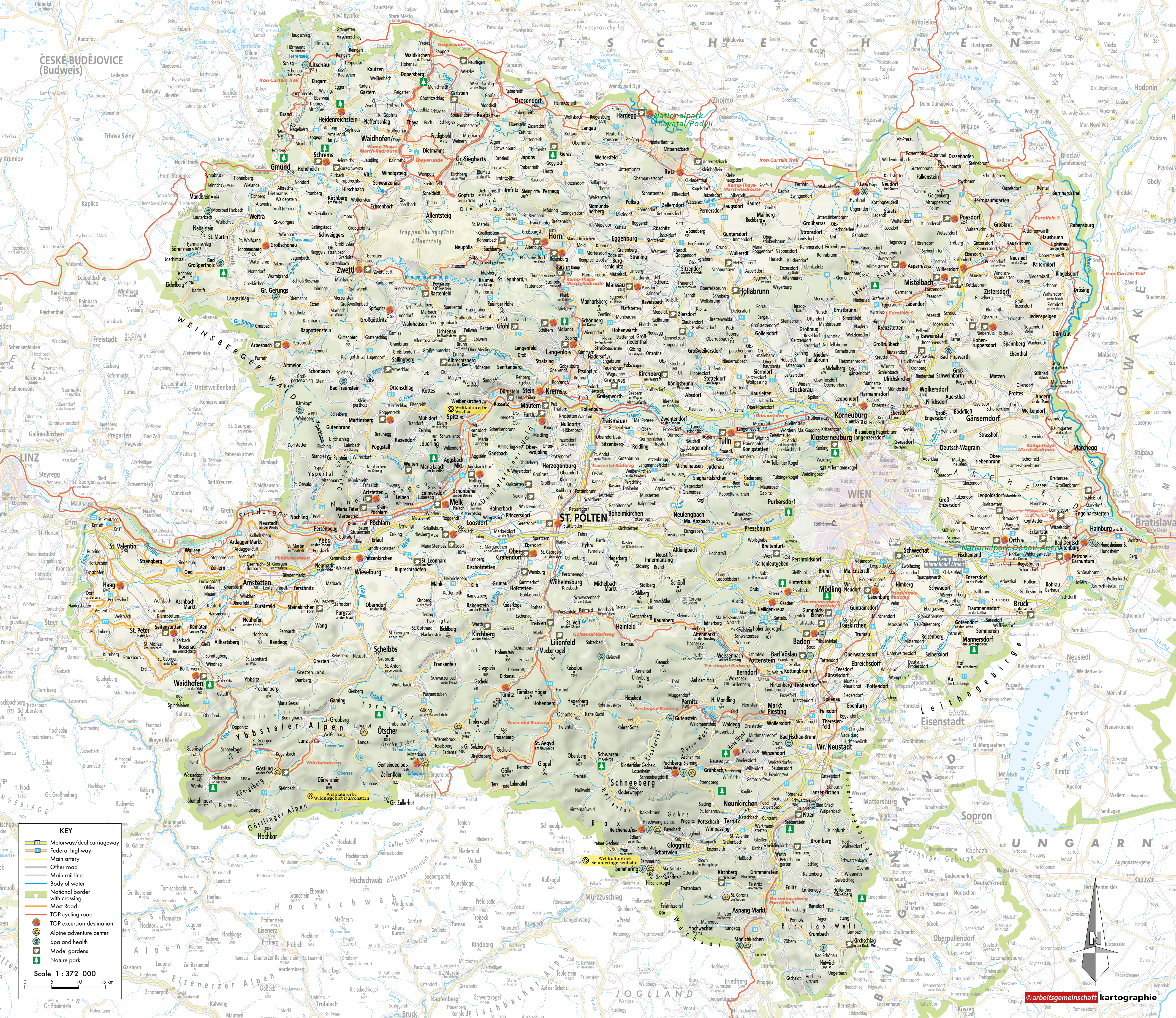
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ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE
(Budweis)

LINZ

WIEN

BRATISLAVA

KEY

- Motorway/dual carriageway
- Federal highway
- Main artery
- Other road
- Main rail line
- Body of water
- National border with crossing
- Most road
- TOP cycling road
- TOP excursion destination
- Alpine adventure center
- Spa and health
- Model gardens
- Nature park

Scale 1 : 372 000

0 5 10 15 km

