

Facts about Lower Austria

The Geography

- Lower Austria spans a land area of 19,186 km² - almost ¼ of the total land area of Austria
- 42% of the land is arable land
- 40% forest
- 11% grassland
- 1.7% pastures and meadows
- 1.6% vineyards
- The highest peak is at 2,076 m above sea level: Schneeberg
- 218 km of the Danube's route flows through Lower Austria

The Nature

- 2 national parks: Donau-Auen and Thayatal
- 23 of Austria's 48 nature parks are in Lower Austria
- 15,000 km hiking routes
- 5,600 km mountain biking routes
- 4,200 km cycling routes
- 9 mountain adventure centres (Lackenhof am Ötscher, Annaberg, Puchberg am Schneeberg, Göstling an der Ybbs, Mitterbach am Erlaufsee, Reichenau an der Rax, Semmering, Mönichkirchen, St. Corona am Wechsel)

The Culture

- 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Wachau, the Semmering Railway and Dürrenstein
- 15 monasteries and abbeys
- Over 50 locations form the backdrop of the "Theatersommer" (theatrical summer) and festivals
- Over 600 museums and collections

The Wine

- Lower Austria boasts 28,000 ha vineyards - more than
- 50% of Austria's wine-growing capacity - with which around 50% of Grüner Veltliner wine is produced
- 830 km of the Weinstrasse Lower Austria route leads through the wine region
- Approx. 800 events at harvest time in Lower Austria

The Indulgence

- Over 100 accommodation proprietors offer bon-vivant rooms for a holiday with a special ambience
- Over 220 tavern culture members, of which 57 are recognised as top establishments
- More than 70 restaurants with the approval of the toughest critics

- _ 30 regions of enjoyment (“Genussregionen”), from Wachau Apricots (GI) to Waldviertel Poppy Seeds (GI)
- _ 10% of farms produce organic food (highest share in Austria)
- _ 49 top excursion destinations
- _ 125 show gardens, castle gardens and abbey gardens

The People

- _ Marc Aurel (Roman Emperor and philosopher, 121–180, Carnuntum)
- _ Severinus of Noricum (saint, missionary, monastery founder, 410–482, Mautern)
- _ St Leopold III (Margrave, patron saint of Austria, 1073–1136, Klosterneuburg)
- _ Jakob Prandtauer (Baroque architect, 1660–1726, Stift Melk)
- _ Joseph Haydn (composer, 1732–1809, Rohrau)
- _ Ludwig van Beethoven (composer, 1770–1827, Baden/Mödling)
- _ Ferdinand Raimund (poet, 1790–1836, Gutenstein)
- _ Karl Ritter von Ghega (mathematician and civil engineer, builder of the Semmering Railway, 1802–1860)
- _ Karl Millöcker (composer, 1842–1899, Baden)
- _ Matthias Zdarsky (ski pioneer, 1856–1940, Lilienfeld)
- _ Max Reinhardt (theatre director, 1873–1943, Baden)
- _ Oskar Kokoschka (painter and graphic artist, 1886–1980, Pöchlarn)
- _ Heimito von Doderer (author, 1896–1966, Prein an der Rax)
- _ Ludwig Wittgenstein (philosopher, 1889–1941, Kirchberg/Wechsel)
- _ Konrad Lorenz (behavioural scientist, 1903–1989, Altenburg an der Donau)
- _ Egon Schiele (artist, 1890–1918, Tulln)
- _ O. W. Fischer (actor, 1915–2004, Klosterneuburg)
- _ Arnulf Rainer (artist, *1929, Baden)
- _ Hermann Nitsch (artist, *1938, Mistelbach)
- _ Daniel Spoerri (*1930, Hadersdorf/Kamp)
- _ ... and many, many more

More information can be found at www.lower-austria.info