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Manual of Cultures

Recommended Pilgrim Routes in Austria



Recommended Pilgrim Routes in Austria

Austria is well-known for a long pilgrimage tradition. The walk through Austrian landscapes is sometimes comfortable, when you find low hills and sunny days. Nevertheless, it could also be an encouraging and challenging hike over high mountains during stormy weather conditions. For that reason, the participation in guided pilgrim tours is advisable. Austrian pilgrim guides enjoy a high level of education.

Find all pilgrim routes at www.pilgerwege.at or have a look on the webpages below.

Jakobsweg Österreich

Way of St. James Austria (Austrian Way of Saint James)



History

The Way of St. James is a branching network of pilgrimage routes that runs throughout Europe and whose destination is Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Path and landscape description

The main Austrian trail runs from Wolfsthal on the Austrian-Slovakian border along the Danube to Linz, Salzburg, then through Tyrol and over the Arlberg to Feldkirch in Vorarlberg, near the border to Switzerland. In addition, there are numerous regional stages: Jakobswege from Carnuntum, Vienna, Burgenland, Weinviertel - route from the Czech Republic, Göttweig, Melk, Persenbeug, Mostviertel, Mühlviertel/East + Mühlviertel/West - routes from the Czech Republic, Inntal, Arlberg, Feldkirch. The West Styrian Way of St. James (with its two routes) in the south is meeting with the routes coming from Slovenia and leading via Carinthia, via South Tyrol/Italy and East Tyrol to Innsbruck, where it meets the main route. Another route comes from Germany-Isar-Loisach-Leutascher Ache-Inn and also joins the main route in Mötz/Tyrol. The Bavarian Way of St. James reaches Austria in Erl/Tyrol and joins the main Austrian Way in Kufstein/Breitenbach.

Web (all ways of St. James in Austria)

www.caminosantiago.at; www.camino-europe.eu

E-Mail

pilgern@jakobsweg-wien.at

Starting location

Wolfsthal (Jakobsweg Carnuntum)

Final destination

Rankweil (Jakobsweg Vorarlberg)

Path length / km

750 bis 800 km

Österreichische Jakobswege

Niederösterreich - Weinviertel
Oberösterreich - Mühlviertel - Mühlviertel Ost - Innviertel
Salzburg
Tirol - Osttirol - Südtirol - Tirol/Bayern
Vorarlberg
Kärnten
Steiermark/Slowenien - Weststeiermark
Burgenland



Jakobsweg Wien

Jakobsweg Wien - Way of St. James Vienna

(Schwechat to Purkersdorf)



Path and landscape description

Pilgrimage in the Austrian Capital: The 40 km long route starts at the St. James Church in Schwechat or from the St. James Way Römerland Carnuntum / Donau-NÖ and leads across the Danube Island through Kaisermühlen - part of the 22nd district - to the International Church close to the Vienna International Center. From here the pilgrim heads straight into the heart of the city, to Stephan's Cathedral. Having passed this spiritual and cultural highlight the path continues to the direction of Schönbrunn Palace and further on to Purkersdorf, a western suburb of Vienna, where it ends in the Austrian St. James Way, leading in westward direction to Göttweig.

Web

<https://www.jakobsweg-wien.at/>

E-Mail

pilgern@jakobsweg-wien.at

Starting location

St. James Church in Schwechat

Final destination

Purkersdorf

Path length / km

Approx. 40 km

Jakobsweg Weinviertel

Jakobsweg Weinviertel - Way of St. James in the Weinviertel, Lower Austria (Drasenhofen to Krems)



Path and landscape description

153 km of pleasurable serenity, distance views, power places and a lot of time to find oneself mark the pilgrim way from Drasenhofen at the Austrian - Czech border to Krems at the shores of the river Danube, right at the entrance to the Wachau Danube Valley. Pilgrims enjoy their timeout and gather new energy walking across gentle hills and through forests, vineyards and snugly cellar lanes (so-called

"Kellergassen"), passing several churches dedicated to St. James and experiencing the famous Weinviertel hospitality. In Mautern, a small village close to Krems, the way meets the Austria St. James Way between the two Benedictine Abbeys Göttweig and Melk.

Web

<https://www.jakobsweg-weinviertel.at/>

E-Mail

info@weinviertel.at

Starting location

Drasenhof

Final destination

Krems

Path length / km

153 km

Jakobsweg Niederösterreich

Jakobsweg Niederösterreich - St. James Way Lower Austria

(Wolfsthal to Schwechat and Purkersdorf to St. Pantaleon)



Path and landscape description

The Eastern part of this way is 62 km long and known as St. James Way Römerland Carnuntum. It starts at the Austro-Slovakian border and leads to Schwechat, where it emerges in the St. James Way Vienna. From Purkersdorf in the west of Vienna it continues via the Benedictine Abbeys of Göttweig and Melk, where it changes over to the northern shore of the river Danube, to the second big pilgrimage site of Austria,

Maria Taferl in the lower Austrian Waldviertel region. From there it continues along the Danube to Ybbs-Persenbeug, where the pilgrim crosses the river once more to walk through the Mostviertel region, passing the villages of Neustadtl and Zeillern and heading for its destination St. Panthaleon. The second part is about 200 km long and leads through landscapes rich in variety: the gentle hills and vast forests of the Wienerwald (Vienna Woods), the mystic woods of Dunkelsteinerwald at the southern limits of the Wachau Danube Valley and the agricultural areas of Mostviertel with its meadows, fields, apple and pear trees, square farmhouses and panoramic views to the mountains of the Prealps. Along the way two of the biggest Austrian monasteries, the popular pilgrim site Maria Taferl, castles and castle ruins as well as the abandoned Carthusian Monastery of Aggstein can be visited.

Web

<https://www.mostviertel.at/pilgerweg-jakobsweg-mostviertel>

E-Mail

info@mostviertel.at

Starting location

Wolfsthal

Final destination

Linz

Path length / km

Approx. 262 km

Via Sacra and Vienna Pilgrimage Trail

(Vienna to Mariazell)



History

There are two principal trails from Vienna to the “Magna Mater Austriae” in Mariazell: the Via Sacra or The Vienna Pilgrimage Trail. Along the way the pilgrim is rewarded with majestic natural and cultivated landscapes belonging to some of the most beautiful in all of Austria. The trails cover a distance of 120 to 130 kilometers (75-80 miles) in areas away from large tourist destinations. Hikers will travel through countless

locations with many cultural treasures until they reach the Mariazell Basilica after a four to five-day hike. Throughout the centuries many “pilgrimage routes” have formed from single paths and roads. The most traditional of the Mariazell pilgrimage routes is the VIA SACRA, starting in Vienna and traversing Hinterbrühl, Heiligenkreuz, Hafnerberg, Kaumberg, Hainfeld, Rohrbach, St. Veit, Lilienfeld, Türnitz, Annaberg, Joachimsberg, Josefsberg and Mitterbach on the way to Mariazell. There are numerous localities along the way that profited from former flourishing pilgrimaging activity and still take care of pilgrims today. The two religious centers are the monasteries Heiligenkreuz and Lilienfeld. Klein-Mariazell was also once among these centers but was closed down in the 18th century. In the meantime it has been revitalized. The Via Sacra has been traveled for more than 800 years by pilgrims from Vienna and also Slavic and Hungarian speaking areas. Not only humble pilgrims but also princes and emperors have moved on the route of the pilgrims and therefore enhanced its significance.

The trailhead of the Vienna Pilgrimage Trail is in Perchtoldsdorf (yellow markers from the parish church) or Vienna-Rodaun (end of Vienna tram line 60). The official VIA SACRA trail markers do not start until Hinterbrühl. It is easy to reach Hinterbrühl by using public transport. (Source: Via Sacra and the Vienna Pilgrimage Trail, edited by Mostviertel Tourismus GmbH, text by Ernst Leitner)

Via Sacra

The Via Sacra is a picture book of Austrian landscape and culture.

Nowadays, the historical route of the “Holy Road” follows the federal highways 11, 18 and 20 at Vienna. Spiritual stations along the way are the monasteries of Heiligenkreuz, Klein-Mariazell and Lilienfeld as well as the pilgrimage church in Annaberg on the first “holy mountain” of the Ötztal region. Among the other sacred objects on the way to Mariazell are the Spinnerin am Kreuz at the southern edge of Vienna, wayside shrines, chapels, and churches of art historical significance.

The Vienna Pilgrimage Trail

The Via Sacra Pilgrimage Trail of today passes through the historical pilgrimage stations while avoiding the main roads between them. Therefore the “Mariazeller Autobus” (from Südtiroler Square in Vienna over the A21 highway to Alland continuing along the Via Sacra, and as of Lilienfeld as express connection to St. Pölten on the Westautobahn) enables individual day hikes along the Via Sacra. The bus schedule is available online at www.postbus.at. The journey is a comfortable low-land hike with many art historical and

Manual of Cultures

anthropological stations. Because of the many low lying settlements with overnight accommodations the journey can easily be completed in four to five day stages of 25 to 30 kilometers (15.5 to 18.5 miles.) Departure points are the churches along the way.

The Vienna Pilgrimage Trail came into existence in 1975 with its designation 06 and its yellow trail markers by an initiative of the Austrian Alpine Hiking Society. As far as Kaumberg the trail follows close to the Via Sacra; it then deviates from the Via Sacra and continues on marked trails and by roads through Unterberg, Rohr im Gebirge, and St. Aegy am Neuwalde. Alternate routes are possible between Maria Raisenmarkt and Unterberg by way of Weissenbach, Furth and Muggendorf. These routes continue past scenic highlights and avoid the demanding climb between Araburg and Kieneck. The Lower Austrian Pilgrimage Trail connects the Via Sacra Trail to the Vienna Pilgrimage Trail via Türnitz and Walster.

Copyright Map: Arge Kartographie



Web

www.viasacra.at

E-Mail

info@viasacra.at

Starting location

Brunn am Gebirge (Via Sacra); Wien-Rodaun/Perchtoldsdorf (Wiener Wallfahrerweg)

Final destination

Mariazell

Path length / km

121 km (Via Sacra); 115 km (Wiener Wallfahrerweg)

Mariazeller Gründerweg

(St. Lambrecht to Mariazell)



History

Austria's most popular and most visited pilgrimage place is the Basilica of Mariazell in northern Styria, which is the destination of a multitude of pilgrimage ways from all directions (see Via Sacra, Via Maria, Upper Austrian and Styrian Mariazell Way). Mariazell was founded in the 12th century by the Benedictine monk Magnus, who walked all the way from his monastery St. Lambrecht in the south-west of

Styria to the mountains in the north.

Path and landscape description

The pilgrimage route of 192 kilometers from St. Lambrecht to Mariazell can be walked in 7 to 10 stages on footpaths, small stretches of road and partly in high alpine terrain, where snow and fog are possible even in summer. The pilgrims have to keep in mind that there are no continuous, uniform path markings on this trail, a fact that requires a high degree of orientation skills!

Copyright map: Outdoor Active (former ALPSTEIN Tourismus GmbH & Co KG)



Web

<http://www.mariazeller-gruenderweg.at>

E-Mail

tourismus@mariazell-info.at

Starting location

St. Lambrecht

Manual of Cultures

Final destination

Mariazell

Path length / km

192 km

Mariazeller Weg Steiermark

Styrian Way of Mariazell



Path and landscape description

This way is part of the system of the pilgrimage ways 06. It starts in the southwest of Styria in Soboth or Eibiswald. The first stages are passing through the gentle hills of the Schilcher wine-growing region. Close to Styria's capital Graz the Schöckl mountain is one of the best panoramic viewpoints. Graz is welcoming the pilgrims with its picturesque sights, the Dome and Basilica of Maria Trost. From Fischbach two

different ways are leading to Mariazell: one through the romantic forests of "Waldheimat" and the other one via Mitterdorf and Veitsch with the 40 meter high Pilgrim's cross. An alpine path is leading across the Hohe Veitsch and Niederalpl. After a ten-days pilgrimage the final destination Mariazell is reached.

Web

https://www.steiermark.com/de/urlaub/natur-und-bewegung/wandern/pilgern-in-oesterreich/mariazeller-wege/mariazeller-weg-06_p8756

E-Mail

tourismus@mariazell-info.at

Starting location

Soboth

Final destination

Mariazell

Path length / km

227,8 km

Mariazeller Weg Oberösterreich

Upper Austrian Mariazeller Way (Linz-Pöstlingberg to Mariazell)



Path and landscape description

This way is another part of the system of the pilgrimage ways 06. It starts at Pöstlingberg in the north of Linz. Passing the capital of Upper Austria and the monastery of St. Florian it continues through Steyr and the world-famous pilgrimage place Christkindl. From Willeitenberg it follows the same route as the Salzburg Way to Mariazell, passing Plattenberg and Spadenberg to Maria Neustift and further on to Waidhofen an der Ybbs in the heart of the Mostviertel region in Lower Austria. Via Lackenhof and the picturesque gorge Ötschergräben, known as Lower Austria's Grand Canyon, the pilgrim arrives at Mitterbach from where he follows the so-called "Way of the Rosary" to the Basilica of Mariazell.

Web

www.mostviertel.at

E-Mail

info@mostviertel.at

Starting location

Linz Pöstlingberg

Final destination

Mariazell

Path length / km

158,5 km

Klemens-Maria-Hofbauer-Weg

Klemens-Maria-Hofbauer-Pilgrimageway



History

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Vienna's patron saint, a new pilgrimage way was opened in 2020. The way connects two countries - Austria and the Czech Republic - and three dioceses (Vienna, St. Pölten and Brno).

Path and landscape description

It starts in Tasovice, the birth place of Klemens Maria Hofbauer and leads through the gentle landscape of the western Weinviertel region, passing the picturesque towns of Retz and Eggenburg, before it continues along the Wagram to Stockerau and further on to Klosterneuburg with its famous monastery. The destination is the church Maria am Gestade in the heart of Vienna, where Klemens Maria Hofbauer found his last resting place. On 28 information boards along the approx. 150 kilometer long way the pilgrim learns more about the saint and his life.

Web

<https://www.retzer-land.at/klemens-maria-hofbauer-pilgerweg>

E-Mail

office@retzerland.at

Starting location

Tasovice, Czech Republic

Final destination

Wien, Maria am Gestade

Path length / km

Ca. 150 km (circular trail: 250 km)

Wolfgang Way



History

Regensburg and St. Wolfgang were the central places where St. Wolfgang worked. Expelled from his episcopal town in Bavaria in 976, he moved into a hermitage on the lake in the Salzkammergut that bears his name today. The Wolfgangweg follows in the footsteps of his namesake, who was regarded as an effective emergency helper against all kinds of evils.

He and led over important salt roads in the 15th century. The Wolfgangweg is one of those venerable pilgrimage routes that were already followed in the Middle Ages and also in later times, especially around his name day, 31 October.

Path and landscape description

The Wolfgangweg has always been popular because it leads to important monastery sites, some of them former, such as St. Emmeran, St. Jakob, Mallersdorf, Neumarkt, St. Veit, Altötting, Michaelbeuern, Mondsee and the European monastery Gut Aich.

Coming from Regensburg, pilgrims experience Bavarian natural landscapes, cross rivers such as the large and small Laber, Isar, Vils, Rott, Inn and Salzach. Here they reach the Innviertel in Upper Austria. The route continues into the Salzkammergut region with impressive views of its mountain world. Past the lake Irrsee - where a monastery cell once stood, you reach the Mondsee. The route continues over the Scharfling passway to Lake Wolfgang, where a romantic path leads over the Falkenstein to the finish in St. Wolfgang.

Web

<https://www.altoetting.de/tourismus/pilgerwege/pilgerwege-nach-altoetting/wolfgangweg>

E-Mail

touristinfo@altoetting.de

Starting location

Regensburg - Germany

Final destination

St. Wolfgang – Austria

Path length / km

275 km

Benedikt Way

Way of Benedetto in Austria

“Recharge your batteries on the traces of Benedictine monastic tradition”



History

The history of the Benedictine Way goes back to the founder of the order, Benedict of Nursia, and the connecting paths between the Benedictine monasteries in Germany, Austria, Italy and Slovenia.

The Benedictine monks' rule of life is "Actio and Contemplatio" - that means to be outwardly active and inwardly turned - this is the attitude that pilgrims have always practised when walking this pilgrimage path and thus attained a strength-giving rhythm of life.

Path and landscape description

Starting in Passau (border with Germany), the Bendiktweg in Austria leads via the monasteries of Wilhering, Lambach, Schlierbach, Kremsmünster, the former monastery of Spital an der Phyrn, Admont, via Seckau to the monastery of St. Paul in Lavanttal and from there on to its destination in Slovenia. The path, with its ups and downs, widths and narrowness and the effect of nature, is a sensually tangible image of Benedictine spirituality.

The committed members of the “Benedikt be-WEG-t” association want to expand the Way of Benedetto to Pluscarden (Scotland), so that approx. 4,000 km of pilgrimage routes can be experienced connecting peoples beyond borders in both directions.

Website

<https://www.benedikt-bewegt.at/>

<https://www.camminodibenedetto.it/>

E-Mail

benediktweg-ooe.at

office@benedikt-bewegt.at

Starting location

Passau / Freinberg

Final destination

Unterdrauburg

Path length / km

415 km

Pilgerweg High & Holy

High & Holy - Wandering inwards over borders and mountains



History

The "Mountain Pilgrims' Way High and Holy" connects ancient pilgrimage routes coming from Carinthia and South Tyrol to Innsbruck in Tyrol - the connection to the Way of St. James to Santiago de Compostela. Old traditional pilgrimage routes were also included.

The nine stages, which lead uphill and downhill over almost 13,000 metres of altitude, were conceived on the initiative of Dean Bernhard Kranebitter and the

Bildungshaus Osttirol and a team of experienced mountain hikers and opened in 2017.

Path and landscape description

"High and Holy". The name says it all for the mountain pilgrimage trail through East Tyrol and through the pilgrimage sites near the border in Carinthia and South Tyrol. The trail connects centuries-old pilgrimage sites, pilgrimage churches and chapels. It follows original pilgrimage routes over long stretches, tracking down spiritual, historical and cultural treasures. It crosses sublime mountain landscapes, gentle alpine pastures and quiet valleys, leads past traditional mountain villages and lets you feel a breath of eternity at thundering waters. Ernesto Cardinal calls nature "the beautiful writing of God".

This can be experienced in a diverse and impressive way on this path.

Web

www.hochundheilig.eu

E-Mail

office@bildungshaus.info

Starting location

Lavant

Final destination

Heiligenblut

Path length / km

191 km

Romedius Way

In the footsteps of St. Romedius



History

St. Romedius, of noble origin from the castle of Thaur, is said to have given away all his possessions to go on pilgrimage to Rome. He is considered the patron saint of pilgrims and hikers.

In 2014, the Tyrolean mountain hiking guide Hans Staud, together with the parish priest Martin Ferner, both from Thaur, created the Romedius Pilgrimage Trail; the preparations

began in 2013. The occasion was the jubilee "50 years Diocese of Innsbruck".

Path and landscape description

The Romedius Way is a path that leads from the Romedius Church in Thaur/Austria to San Romedio/Italy, i.e. from North Tyrol via South Tyrol to Trentino. The trail leads to ancient traditional pilgrimage sites, wayside shrines, shrines, alpine pastures and over mountain passes and border crossings. It conveys the nature and cultural diversity of the European region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino. There are many places of strength and rest here that allow you to contemplate yourself.

The Romedius Pilgrims' Way, which is classified as difficult, is 185 km long and has ascents totalling 9728 m and descents totalling 9773 m. The highest point of the route is at 2.5 km. The highest point of the route is the Schneebergscharte (Kaindljoch) at 2,700 m, the lowest point is at 293 m in Meran.

Surefootedness and mountain experience are necessary for certain sections of the route.

Web

www.romedius-pilgerweg.at

E-Mail

info@hall-wattens.at

Starting location

Thaur / Tirol

Final destination

Obernberg am Brenner

Path length / km

53km

Marienpilgerweg Kärnten

Way of St. Mary in Carinthia



History

The Marian Pilgrimage Route in Carinthia owes its creation to the private initiative of a group of Marian friends under the lasting impression of a joint trip to Rome. The basis for the creation of this pilgrimage route was laid with the founding of the "Marian Pilgrimage Route Association" in 2010. The pilgrimage route, which was realised in cooperation with the responsible communities and parishes, was then opened by

the Carinthian bishop Dr. Alois Schwarz in May 2021.

The pilgrimage trail connects some of Carinthia's most important Marian pilgrimage sites and runs for around 266 km from the church of Maria Rojach in the East of Carinthia via the Maria Loreto Basilica in St. Andrä to the basilica in Maria Luggau in the far west.

Path and landscape description

Starting from Maria Rojach, the pilgrimage trail crosses the whole of Carinthia in 10 stages, each 25 - 30 km long. At the starting point of each stage, panorama boards provide information about the rest of the route and the various Marian churches along the way. The trail is very varied and combines mountain stages with flat stretches along the Gail River with impressive landscape impressions.

Web

www.pilgerwege-kaernten.at

www.marienpilgerweg.at

E-Mail

info@pilgerwege-kaernten.at

Starting location

Maria Rojach – Austria

Final destination

Maria Luggau – Austria

Path length / km

266 km

Hemma-Pilgerweg

All leads to the tomb of St. Hemma in Gurk



History

Starting from the traditional Krainer pilgrimage, which originates in Slovenia and was first mentioned in documents as early as 1607, people have always travelled to Gurk to visit the tomb of St. Hemma, saint of Carinthia. Today, three main routes starting from Sveta Ana/Slovenia, Črna/Slovenia and Admont/Austria as well as five shorter secondary routes lead in a star shape to Gurk. The routes connect people across

borders and give them the opportunity to come to the tomb of St. Hemma in Gurk from all directions.

Path and landscape description

The individual pilgrimage routes touch different regions of Carinthia, connect numerous church foundations of St. Hemma with each other and offer a varied landscape. The routes vary in length and difficulty and there are also some mountains to cross.

Web

www.pilgerwege-kaernten.at

E-Mail

info@pilgerwege-kaernten.at

8 starting locations

Sveta Ana and Črna in Slovenia; Admont, St. Hemma b. Edelschrott, Turracher Höhe, Millstatt, Ossiach and Karnburg in Austria

Final destination

Gurk – Austria

Path length / km

Sveta Ana (ca. 160 km), Črna (148 km), Admont (173 km), St. Hemma b. Edelschrott (110 km), Turracher Höhe (60 km), Millstatt (86 km), Ossiach (46 km), Karnburg (42 km)

Leonhards Way

Window to heaven



History

The pilgrimage church of St. Leonhard in Tamsweg was already a destination for pilgrims when it was built in the 15th century. With the renovation of the church, a revitalisation of pilgrimage walks should also take place - this was the plan of the parish priest of Tamsweg, Dr. Markus Danner. With the help of a Leader grant and the strong support of the Tamsweg Tourist Board, this project could be realised.

The ceremonial opening of the Leonhardsweg from Salzburg to Tamsweg took place in July 2011 and from Gurk to Tamsweg in August 2013.

Path and landscape description

1. Leonhard Trail from Salzburg to Tamsweg

Start at the cathedral in Salzburg and walk through beautiful landscapes alternating flat paths and ascents up to 1100 metres in altitude. The first 24 km without ascents lead to the pilgrimage church of St. Leonhard near Grödig via Hallein (Silent Night Museum) to Bad Vigaun. On shady forest paths you hike to the idyllic Seewaldsee lake. Downhill to Abtenau (late Gothic parish church) into the Lammertal valley. Via Annaberg, the Leonhardsweg trail leads to the Mahdalm near the Bischofsmütze mountain, then on to Filzmoos. The parish church in Forstau is also dedicated to St. Leonhard. The last big climb over the Oberhüttensattel saddle leads into the Lungau. In Weißpriach, the frescoes of the early Romanesque church of St. Rupert are worth seeing. Mariapfarr is not only known as the sunniest place in Austria but also as a place of pilgrimage to Mary. Now it is only a 2-hour walk to the pilgrimage church of St. Leonhard near Tamsweg.

2. Leonhardweg from Gurk - Tamsweg

With the Leonhardweg from the cathedral in Gurk, a new north-south connection has been created. Via the Prekowa, the path leads to the late-Gothic pilgrimage church of St. Wolfgang in Grades with a late Gothic winged altar. The parish church in Metnitz is dedicated to St. Leonhard; the fresco of the Dance of Death around the charnel house is also worth seeing. When crossing the Metnitz mountains, you can descend to St. Georgen ob Murau on the Trogscharte and continue to Stadl an der Mur the next day. The Mur cycle path leads to Tamsweg without any notable ascents, but the hiking trail from Einach over the Lasaberger Alpl (1000 m altitude) to the destination of St. Leonhard near Tamsweg is more beautiful and interesting.

Web

www.leonhardpilgerweg.at

E-Mail

website@leonhardpilgerweg.at

Starting location

Salzburg oder Gurk

Manual of Cultures

Final destination

St.Leonhard/Tamsweg

Path length / km

Salzburg

Rupert-Pilgerway

Way of St. Rupert – A path with depth



History

Reports of pilgrims travelling from Regensburg in Germany via Salzburg to Bischofshofen to follow the footsteps of the former archbishop and current patron saint of Salzburg, St. Rupert, date back to the Middle Ages. Bischofshofen was a large country residence of the Archbishops of Salzburg and for a long time their treasury.

In the difficult times of the early Middle Ages, St. Rupert took on the task of giving Christianity firm roots again in his sphere of influence.

Path and landscape description

Coming from Altötting via Salzburg, the St. Rupert Pilgrimage Trail follows the footsteps of the "salt saint" through the Salzkammergut and also makes a detour to one of the most traditional pilgrimage sites in Upper Austria: St. Wolfgang.

In St. Gilgen the trail reaches Lake Wolfgang. The European monastery Gut Aich with its famous medicinal herb garden promises relaxation and reflection on the essentials. From here, the pilgrimage route leads over the striking Falkenstein to St. Wolfgang. At the eastern end of Lake Wolfgang, the path then swings up to the Postalm, Austria's largest continuous alpine pasture area. From here, the route descends along picturesque alpine paths with magnificent views towards Bischofshofen.

Web

<https://www.pilgerwege.at/pilgerwege/fuss-pilgerwege/ruPERTpilgerweg/>

E-Mail

tourismusreferat@seelsorge.kirchen.net

Starting location

Oberndorf bei Salzburg

Final destination

Bischofshofen

Path length / km

194 km

Via Sancti Martini

Via Sancti Martini Austria – Sharing life



History

Saint Martin is one of the most popular saintly figures in Europe. He embodies the values of sharing in solidarity and modesty. The St. Martin's Way traces the life and work of St. Martin across Europe, beyond linguistic borders. It leads from his birthplace Szombathely in Hungary to his grave in Tours in France, where he worked as a bishop from 372.

The St. Martin's Way was conceived with great commitment by the German diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart. Since 2005, the "Via sancti Martini" has been a registered cultural route of the Council of Europe. The central route, which has been in existence since September 2016, also leads through Austria.

In the diocese of Eisenstadt, whose patron saint is St. Martin, special attention has been paid to this pilgrimage route.

Path and landscape description

Coming from Hungary, the "Via Sancti Martini" crosses Burgenland with its lovely landscape characterised by viticulture and the Pannonian climate. It leads through the culturally interesting Vienna, the federal capital of Austria. In Lower Austria, pilgrims follow the Way of St. James through fertile areas and in Upper Austria the picturesque Donausteig trail with the natural wonder of the Danube loop in Schlögen to Passau/the German border.

In Burgenland there are various routes, see www.martinus.at/wallfahrt/martinusweg.

Web

www.martinuswege.eu

<https://www.martinus.at/wallfahrt/martinusweg>

E-Mail

johann.artner@martinus.at

Starting location

Markt St. Martin/Burgenland

Final destination

Freinberg/Upper Austria

Path length / km

735km

Weg des Buches

Way of the book – On the trail of the book smugglers



History

With the onset of the Counter-Reformation around 1600, the period of "secret Protestantism" began for Protestant Christians in the Habsburg dominions after they had been persecuted.

"Secret Protestantism": German Bibles and Lutheran devotional literature had to be smuggled along hidden paths.

The "Weg des Buches" follows these routes on existing footpaths and old smuggler's trails from Ortenburg (Germany) through Austria to Trieste (Italy). Through an initiative of the Protestant Church in Austria, this pilgrimage trail was developed in 2008. Future routes are planned to Zwickau in Saxony (Germany), Poland, Czech Republic, Italy and Hungary.

Path and landscape description

In Upper Austria, the "Way of the Book", coming from Germany, leads near Schärding into the Hausruckviertel with its fertile farmland. There is a historically significant feeder, the "Via Rosina", starting from Sonntagberg (Lower Austria) via Steyr, past the last barrack church in Upper Austria and on to Scharthen, where it joins the Way of the Book. It continues via Wels into the picturesque Salzkammergut region to Gmunden, Lake Traunsee, Bad Ischl, Hallstatt and Gosau. It continues over romantic alpine pastures into the province of Salzburg through the Lungau region into green Styria. Along the book's route, you can also experience beautiful landscapes in Carinthia, where it continues in Arnoldstein to Slovenia.

The Way of the Book since 2020 is "European Cultural Route of the Reformation"

Web

www.wegdesbuches.eu

E-Mail

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moserg@village-net.at

Starting location

Schärding

Final destination

Arnoldstein

Path length / km

580 km

Jerusalem Way

Jerusalem Way in Austria – Travelling together – on the world’s longest peace and culture trail



History

In Upper Austria, the "Way of the Book", coming from Germany, leads near Schärding into the Hausruckviertel with its fertile farmland. There is a historically significant feeder, the "Via Rosina", starting from Sonntagberg (Lower Austria) via Steyr, past the last barrack church in Upper Austria and on to Scharten, where it joins the Way of the Book. It continues via Wels

Since 2006, Johannes Aschauer - the founder and further developer of the Jerusalem Trail - together with David Zwilling and Otto Klär, has created this pilgrimage trail that connects people and cultures. In the meantime, an entire network of trails has been created, connecting various pilgrimage routes in Spain, France, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Germany, Austria, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Israel/Palestine.

Path and landscape description

The Jerusalem Way connects the end of Europe in Finisterre near Santiago de Compostela in Spain across the "Old World" to Jerusalem and thus to the root of the world's religions. On their way to the Holy Land, pilgrims repeatedly come into contact with Christian - in various forms - Muslim and Jewish religion, tradition and culture in the most diverse forms. They pass a whole series of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and several apostle tombs. Along the way, there are many opportunities for interreligious and intercultural dialogue, for building bridges between peoples. The Jerusalem Trail, the longest pilgrimage route in the world, crosses Austria from Vorarlberg to Burgenland. There are also connections coming from Switzerland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and from Croatia.

Web

www.jerusalemway.org

E-Mail

info@jerusalemway.org

Starting location

Rankweil or Passau or Kauzen or Berg/Wolfsthal

Final destination

Neusiedlersee / Halbturn

Path length / km

1120 km