



Exploring the Traces of Our Common History

Long-Distance Hiking Trails in the Mühlviertel and South Bohemia







Overview map with divided sections ZEMSKÁ CESTA Velešín) 20 **BURGEN-UND SCHLÖSSERWEG** 19 Route sections 1-20 from Grein to Velešín 18 Pořešín From Grein to Bad Kreuzen: pp. 30-39 From St. Thomas to Schönau: **Kaplice** pp. 40-51 From Gutau to the border: pp. 62-66 16 From the border to Velešín: pp. 67-84 14 Dolní Dvořiště 13 Windhaag/Fr. 12 Rainbach Stone bridge over the Malše and the state border 11 (Freistadt) 10 (Lasberg) NORDROS 9 Kefermarkt 8 Gutau Schönau i.M. Pierbach Bad Zell

Tragwein

Rechberg

10 km

Windhaag/P.

St. Thomas/Bl.

Bad Kreuzen

Grein

Southern route

A-E p. 85-96

sections of route

ANDREAS HUNGER

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www.buschweg.at



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1. Introduction

Czech-Austrian border relations are a good example of how differently a border can be defined in the course of history: as a political matter on both sides, as a deadly no man's land, the green belt of Europe, or a certain threshold where friends can meet.



At the castle fortress in Prandegg

For centuries, the border between the Mühlviertel and South Bohemia has witnessed mutual struggles between castles, knights, and dukes for power or influence, while farmers and settlers cultivated this poor lump of earth. This area used to be a border, a buffer zone between world powers, but now it would like to be a place where people meet. For sure, the relationship between the Czech and German population was not always trouble-free in the past. But what relationship ever was? Still, history has clearly shown that when there is an absolute border, such as the Iron Curtain, both sides were threatened with extinction. It is up to us to revive our old roots and rethink our common past.

Those who have gone hiking firsthand have long known that on long-distance hikes, every step has a healing effect: on the body, the soul, and on the history of entire nations.

We, the hiking associations along the Castle Hiking Trail, now invite you to embark on a journey connecting nations and countries. It doesn't matter

TIP This guide and the signs along the way will be enough to find your way. Turn off your mobile phone during your journey. Countless cultural and natural experiences await you!!

whether you start your journey in the South Bohemian town of Kaplice or in Austrian Grein, a small town on the Danube (the guide can be used in both directions), or whether you choose to make a round trip. Your feet

will take you to the former centers of aristocratic culture, a time long past when the forests in the Mühlviertel and Bohemia were cleared, and the area was settled. Proud fortified castles, magnificent residential castles, wild romantic streams, legendary rock formations, and hospitable locals will guide you through a charming journey, sometimes filled with reflection, sometimes simple, but almost always a pleasant one.

Step by step, we'll connect fields, meadows, and forests, then castles, villages, and countries, and, with a bit of luck, some people. Step by step, we'll leave the past behind and open up a new future in its reflection.

2. How to use this guide

This guidebook consists of three parts: the general section contains basic information about travelling, the history of the Mühlviertel and Bohemia areas, and more about the landscape and culture.

The central part is designed to be part of your journey. The map shows routes and paths, including places to eat and sleep. Each section of the route is accompanied by a list of the most important historical sights. A brief info sheet describes each of the villages you pass through, as well as a detailed description of the individual castles. The hiking trails have been described so that you can use the guide in both directions.

The last part is a sort of appendix, containing all the available eating and sleeping establishments, and sorted by town. The numbers connect the map symbols with the respective entries. Please note that one common number has been assigned to businesses in one location. Contact details are included for queries and reservations.



3. Map legend and explanations of drawings



Scale 1:50 000

0 500 1000 2000 3000 m



Resting place on Ruttenstein Castle

4. Rules of the trails



Walk through the woods and remote parts of the route in silence, and don't hurry. Listen to the sounds of nature and tune yourself in to its life. Not only will the wild animals thank you, but it will please your heart.



Long-distance hiking, when planned properly, is a sustainable way to spend a vacation. Enjoy the direct contact with nature, and discover the landscape and its inhabitants.



This is obvious to most hikers, but unfortunately not to everyone: Please take your garbage and all the packages and wrappers with you in your backpack, and throw them out in their designated place. And if you pick up a bit of rubbish that someone else has left behind, you'll be doing a favor to nature and to the others who come after you to seek its calming effects.



When possible, use the public toilets in the main centers. If you still need to relieve yourself in the wild, use normal toilet paper. Do not use paper handkerchiefs, and never use wet wipes; they take a long time to decompose, and it creates a lot of work for the people who look after the trails (usually in their free time). Whatever you've left behind, please cover it with a bit of earth or leaves.



Please use the marked hiking trails. Carelessly crisscrossing along unmarked paths leads to destruction of the vegetation and biotopes, especially when more people do it. It also causes damage to farmland.



Keep your dog on a leash, especially in the spring. Many wild animals bear their young in the spring. Generally, it is obligatory to keep your dog on a leash wherever animals may be living in the wild. You should also observe caution around grazing cattle. Female cattle can be especially dangerous for dogs and people. Be careful where your dog leaves excrement. Especially in areas where cattle feed is grown (meadows, pastures, clover fields, etc.), dog excrement endangers the health of livestock (causes spontaneous abortions).

5. Trail markings

The hiking trail runs between České Budějovice and Grein, and from Kaplice to the Danube River it is marked with red-orange signs. This guide refers to the segment where the trail is marked. The trail here is marked for walking in both directions.

Please note that some signs may still have an older logo. Plus, you can download GPS data at www.buschweg.at. This also has a rough audioguide function with GPS. From 2020/21, a special hiking application should also be available (you can find the latest information on the website).



Older markings (left) and newer markings (right)

6. Audioguide

Use your smartphone as a modern audioguide! For each of the 19 castles along the long-distance hiking trail, there are a number of sections with a total duration of 216 minutes. You can hear about the history of the castles' construction as well as the history of owners, legends, and plenty of background knowledge. The application also has a map function!

Step 1: Download the Hearonymus app via Google Play or Apple Store for free (!).

Step 2: Find the "Buschweg" password and download the free guide or install it via OR-code::



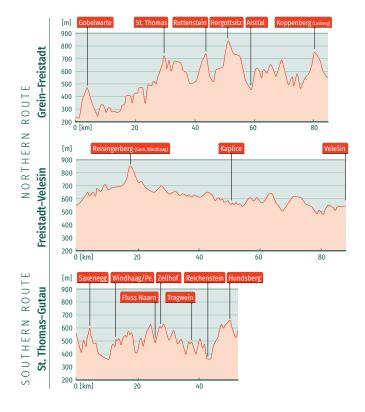
TIP Use headphones. They enhance the sound quality and prevent you from disturbing other hikers.

7. Decorative hiking pin

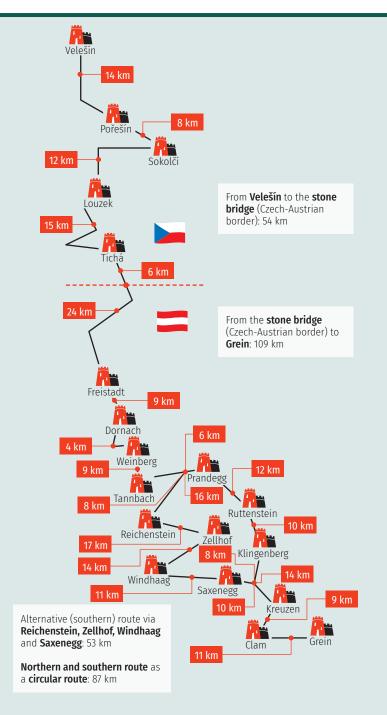
Are you one of those enthusiastic hikers who just needs to have a permanent reminder of your trip, a souvenir for your felt hat or hiking jacket? You can buy a decorative pin of the Castle Hiking Trail in the information centers in Grein, Bad Zell, and Freistadt as well as in selected food establishments.

8. Route description

Come, breathe in, breathe out... and listen. From Grein to Velešín, it's about a 163-km hike through a landscape of stones, forests, and mountain passes. For the journey through the Mühlviertel to South Bohemia, plan for about 50 hours of pure walking time. On the section between St. Thomas am Blasenstein and Gutau, you can choose one of two options. The southern route is several kilometers longer. It is not an easy country. Not only the local farmers who cultivate this poorly fertile land must also invest a lot of hard work, but hikers have to overcome about 5000 meters up and downwards. But it pays off – anyone who gets a feel for this landscape naturally falls in love with it.



9. Route overview



10. Route suggestions

Nowadays, when you travel from castle to castle, you no longer have to be wary of traps, smugglers, or wild bears when looking for your route. If you want to experience a change and the pleasant transition to a nature with culture, villages, and quiet solitude, you should respect your own pace of walking and personal condition when planning your trip. The suggestions listed below might help you

In 7 days from Velešín to Grein

Day 1: Arrive to Velešín and travel to Kaplice

Day 2: From Kaplice to Windhaag/Fr.

Day 3: From Windhaag/Fr. to Freistadt

Day 4: From Freistadt to Gutau

Day 5: From Gutau to Pierbach

Day 6: From Pierbach to Bad Kreuzen

Day 7: From Bad Kreuzen to Grein

5 days from Grein to Tichá

Day 1: From Grein to Stilles Tal (Bad Kreuzen)

Day 2: From Stilles Tal to Oberndorf (Schönau)

Day 3: From Oberndorf to Lasberg

Day 4: From Lasberg to Rainbach

Day 5: From Rainbach to Dolní Dvořiště

5-day circular route

Day 1: From Bad Zell to Gutau

Day 2: From Gutau to Pierbach

Day 3: From Pierbach to Stilles Tal (Bad Kreuzen)

Day 4: From Stilles Tal to Windhaagu/Pe.

Day 5: From Windhaag/Pe. to Bad Zell

For more route suggestions, see www.buschweg.at and the insert.



11. Getting there

Suitable starting points for the Castle Hiking Trail include the small towns of Grein, Freistadt, and Kaplice. You can also plan your route from Bad Zell, Gutau, or Pierbach. Long-distance hiking is considered a form of "green tourism", so you can also take advantage of public transport.

Grein: boat, railway, bus, car **Freistadt:** railway, bus, car **Kaplice:** railway, bus, car **Freistadt:** railway, bus, car

Bad Zell, Gutau, Pierbach: bus, car

The stops along the Summerau track on the route from Linz to České Budějovice are located in České Budějovice, Velešín, Kaplice, Freistadt, Lasberg and Kefermarkt. The Danube Railway connects the towns of Grein and St. Valentin with the option to transfer onto the Westbahn to Linz.

All the major sights of the Castle Hiking Trail are part of the Upper Austrian Transport Association (OÖ Verkehrsverbundes). Important hubs include Linz, Freistadt and Pregarten.

Timetable information:

Boat: www.donaustationen.at Railways (Austria): www.oebb.at Bus (Austria): www.ooevv.at Rail/Bus (Czech Republic): www.idos.cz

A **list of taxis** in the region can be found at www.buschweg.at.

12. When to hike

The Mühlviertel and South Bohemia landscapes are beautiful to look at regardless of the season – white flowering meadows, golden fields of grain, and reddish beech forests. Of course, we recommend hiking only when there's no snow. The best time to travel is spring or autumn, but hiking is also pleasant in the summer because the climatic conditions in the altitudes are usually cooler anyway. In the warm summertime, the best time to hike is in the cooler hours of the morning and evening.

13. Shopping and opening times

- You'll find, at the least, a **grocery store** in the main towns.
- Keep in mind, especially in the small villages, that many shops are closed for lunch as well as on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, and all day Sunday.
- Pharmacies are located in Grein, Bad Zell, Freistadt, Dolní Dvořiště, Kaplice, and Velešín.
- Village inns are usually closed one or two days per week.

TIP We recommend that you pack a snack for emergencies and plenty of drinks. A picnic in the countryside is a great alternative if you find that the inn door is locked.

14. Currency

Austria: Euro (€)

Czech Republic: Czech crown / koruna (CZK, Kč)

Cash machines/ATMs are available in both countries, and bank cards are often accepted. Some places in CZ accept Euros.

15. Holidays

Shops, banks, and offices are closed on Sundays and public holidays. In addition to the usual church holidays, you should also count on these specific national holidays:

Czech Republic:

1 January (Restoration of Independent Czech Statehood)

8 May (Liberation Day)

5 July (Saints Cyril and Methodius Day)

6 July (Jan Hus Day)

28 September (Czech Statehood Day)

28 October (Czechoslovak Independence Day)

17 November (Freedom and Democracy Day)

(see also: https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/czech/)

Austria:

26 October (public holiday)

1 May (public holiday)

(see also: https://www.feiertage-oesterreich.at)

16. Important phone numbers

	Austria	Czech Republic
Country code	+43	+420
Police	133	158 or 156
Firefighters	122	150
Ambulance	144	155
International emergency call	112	112

17. Tourist information centers

Tourismusverband Mühlviertler Alm Freistadt

Lebensquellplatz 1 4283 Bad Zell +43 (0)7956/7304, +43 (0)5/07263 office@muehlviertleralm.at, www.muehlviertleralm.at

Tourismusverband Donauregion

4040 Linz, Lindengasse 9 +43 (0)732 72 77 - 800 info@donauregion.at, www.donauregion.at

Turistické informační centrum České Budějovice

nám. Přemysla Otakara II. č. 2 370 01 České Budějovice Tel.: +420 386801413

infocb@c-budejovice.cz, www.cb-info.cz

Jihočeská centrála cestovního ruchu

B. Němcové 12/2 P.O.Box 80 370 80 České Budějovice Tel.: +420 387 201 283

info@jccr.cz, www.jccr.cz, www.jiznicechy.cz

In many major locations, the tourist information centers will let you know what the area has to offer regarding food, accommodations, culture, etc.

18. Culinary culture

Your taste buds will reveal many common features between the cuisine of Austria's Mühlviertel and Czech cuisine. Hearty local dishes most often consist of meat, dumplings or potatoes, and the omnipresent cabbage. Soup is served before the main meal (potato soup with a tasty roux, beef broth, etc.). Especially in the Mühlviertel, *speck* is a favorite, both natural and smoked. Other popular dishes include fish, goose, and the delicacies made from them.

Traditional sweet foods are often made from yeast dough; the most common favorites are schmarrn and *palačinky/palatschinken* (pancakes).

The tradition of beer brewing in the Czech Republic and the Mühlviertel has developed over many centuries. This has resulted in a myriad of local beer choices. Inhabitants of the Mühlviertel area and their guests all love apple and pear ciders (it is the "country acid" of the area).



19. Mühlviertel and South Bohemia: Facts & Data

	Mühlviertel	South Bohemia
Area	3,080 km²	10,056 km²
Population	246,000	638,000
Highest point	Plöckenstein 1378 m	Plechý: 1378 m
Lowest point	St. Nikola/D.: 228 m	Orlík Reservoir 350 m

20. Landscape

We are hiking through an ancient continent bearing the name Gondwana. From a geological point of view, the regions of South Bohemia and the Mühlviertel are part of the Bohemian Massif; this is the remainder of high mountains consisting of granite, gneiss, and schist which at the end of the Paleozoic became a gentle folded mountain range. There is a certain type of flora and fauna that is home to these acidic rocks; this type of subsoil also affects the agricultural history.

The literary patron of this country, also considered to be one of the main bridge builders between German and Czech culture, is Adalbert Stifter (1805-1868). For those who are able to set aside today's "action-film" lifestyle, his quiet narrative art and his descriptions of nature reveal a magic of the German language at the highest level.

Mühlviertel

A vast landscape spreads out here, hill beyond hill, then falling into the plains and valleys of the Danube. This place is home to bizarre granite formations (locally known as "woolsack weathering") associated with mystic origins; according to oral folk literature, these formations served for pagan cult locations, sacrificial sites, or as sacrificial stones. There is mystery lurking among the ancient stones in these forests, telling stories of the old spirits, or of the devil himself. To ward him off, there was often a shrine with artistically valuable underpainting on glass. The area north of the Danube is rich in streams and rivers: the Mühl, Gusen, Aist, and Naarn cut deep into the landscape and meander through the narrow river floodplains. The waters here are tamed by ancient rock formations.



Small farming culture is most characteristic of the Mühlviertel.

The soil has long been barren here, shallow, and particularly rich in stones. This type of soil is beneficial to rare species of plants and animals.

Modern farming methods have of course reached the Mühlviertel as well, but visitors can still enjoy landscapes that have been spared major encroachments. There is an architectural style unique to this area; granite house walls patched with white mortar are typical. Originally, the pied facades were chosen to spare the expensive lime, but now, the stone gray and white walls have become the trademark of the Mühlviertel. The centers of the focal points are still the churches, even though the modern age increasingly takes over the surroundings with settlements. But for those who seek calm, inner peace, and a sense of the original, this is the right place.

South Bohemia

The South Bohemian Region, with its well-preserved hilly countryside, begins about 80 km southwest of Prague and ends at the border with Austria. In the southwest, it ties in to the forests of the Šumava, passing over to the neighboring Bavarian Forest. A highly developed system of fishponds is especially typical for the eastern part. Aside from České Budějovice (including the famous Hluboká Castle) and the historic town of Český Krumlov, South Bohemia is not overwhelmed with mass tourism: the vast forests and cultural landscapes have been, and still are, a public secret. A typical feature of the villages here is simplicity and austerity, somewhat because the echoes of the communist agrarian structure have created a monolithic and unified countryside. Especially in the southern part, the absence of large industrial enterprises strengthens the landscape. Romanesque and Gothic castles and monasteries, as well as magnificent buildings from the Renaissance period, give the rugged hilly landscape a particular grandeur. The former aristocratic families left an unmistakable footprint in the region.

21. History of the Mühlviertel region

Beginning of systematic settlement

The first Bavarian (Bajuwaren) and Slavic settlements formed during the early Middle Ages in the climatically favorable basin of the Danube and the valleys of the Naarn, Aist, and Gusen rivers. Around 800 (Carolingian era), larger parish centers in Ried, Naarn, and Saxen were established under the administration of the bishopric of Passau. Further systematic settlement by the Bavarians and Slavs began after the Hungarian invasions ended in 955 with the Battle of the Lech River (in Bavaria). In 976, Emperor Otto II granted the margravate on the Danube (which was in the Duchy of Bavaria) as a fiefdom to Leopold I of Babenberg, thus beginning a rapid colonization of the inlands. The aristocratic land rulers who had received land from the king or the church were mainly responsible for the area's development, followed by the bishopric and monasteries. The central administration of the diocese of Regensburg controlled large areas between the Aist and Naarn

rivers ("Regensburger Luß" with Windegg at the center) from the 9th century. The most important noble families that later became high nobility include the lords of Perg/Machland, Klam/Velburg, Aist, Katsdorf, Wartberg/Gaisbach, Haunsberg, Haselbach, Luftenberg, Griesbach, and Lengenbach. They took particular advantage of their high freedoms in the battle for the investiture (1076-1122), with the Pope and the German Emperor both fighting for political influence. The Passau Bishopric and the Babenberg supported the Pope, while the Bavarians and Czechs backed the Emperor. Anyone who assumed a strategically clever position here managed to come out ahead in the later distribution of land. From the 12th century, the bishops of Passau strengthened their influence in the Mühlviertel region among the faithful as part of the country's development.

"East-west conflict"

The Bishop of Passau and Austrian Duke Leopold V competed for trade routes leading north. The political tensions first arose not between the Empire and Bohemia, but primarily between East and West. Freistadt in particular profited from this development under Leopold VI (1198–1230) and from the beginning of the 13th century was developing by plan into a town. With the Babenbergs having died out by the sword, Přemysl Otakar II became Margrave of Moravia in 1247 and Duke of Austria in 1251. In 1252 he married Margaret of Austria, widow of Babenberg, and commenced administrative divisions in the "land north of the Enns" and "south of the Enns".

The beginning of Habsburg rule

After a long period of disunity, the electorate finally elected Rudolf of Habsburg as the German king, and Otakar found himself in a defensive position and eventually had to give up his claims to Austria. In 1278, Otakar lost his life in the Battle of the Marchfeld between the villages of Dürnkrut and Jedenspeigen. This marked the beginning of the Habsburgs' 600-year reign, which lasted until the collapse of the monarchy in 1918. Austrian dukes also ruled the country north of the Enns River, which formed the core of today's Upper Austria.



Between Ruttenstein and Schönau, near the Kleine Naarn River, lies a historic gem: a wayside shrine with the coat of arms of the provincial princes (around 1590). The river formed the border between the old provincial districts of Machland (Greinburg) and Riedmark (Freistadt).

More wars, reformation and counter-reformation, revolution

The execution of Czech reformer Jan Hus sparked a number of serious conflicts, particularly the Hussite Wars (1423-1433). During this period, many villages, fortresses, and castles throughout the Mühlviertel were devastated. Martin Luther's teachings spread very rapidly in the country north of the

Enns River from 1526, and by the next generation much of the population, especially the nobility, was protestant. The Counter-Reformation began at the end of the 16th century and was largely motivated by a social revolutionary movement. The increasingly unacceptable tax burden on farmers and religious oppression led to a recurrence of peasant riots. Between 1356 and 1849 there were at least 62 conflicts in Upper Austria. In the Mühlviertel region alone, there was the peasant war in 1525, the second Upper Austrian peasant uprising between 1594 and 1597, the great Upper Austrian peasant war in 1626, and the Laimbauer uprising from 1632 to 1636.

The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) also brought about great casualties through military events, epidemics, and general distress. Among other things, a line of fortifications known as Schwedenschanze was established in the north Mühlviertel to secure the border.

Side note: Only after the 1779 Treaty of Teschen annexed Bavarian Innviertel to Upper Austria during the reign of Maria Theresa, the "upper" area of the Mühlviertel merged with Machlandviertel (Machland and Riedmark) to create modern-day Mühlviertel.

During nearly 15 years of fighting with the French, Upper Austria was occupied three times (1800, 1805 and 1809).

Only during the revolutionary changes of 1848 ("liberation of the peasants") were estates and liege bonds abolished, opening an era of new administrative, judicial, and tax offices.

World Wars

IIn 1918, after World War I and the collapse of the "Danube Monarchy", only part of former Austria remained. "Upper Austria" was created from the "Austrian Archduchy north of the Enns River" of the First Republic of Austria. Industrialization and democratization brought partial improvements in living conditions, but the economic situation still remained unstable. The subsequent global economic crisis brought distress and poverty. Engelbert Dollfuß then established an authoritarian regime ("Austrofascism").

Nazi troops marched into the country in 1938. Many people welcomed the annexation to Nazi Germany ("Heim ins Reich"), but many citizens were persecuted for political and racial reasons. The market town of Mauthausen, together with "surrounding external camps" became a large concentration and liquidation camp, where over 120,000 people were brutally murdered.

Second Republic

After the war, Austria was divided into four occupation zones, with the Mühlviertel falling into the Russian zone. Only in 1955 did the occupying powers leave Austria on the basis of a state treaty on permanent neutrality.

22. History of Bohemia

Early settlements

The backbone of early settlements was formed by the parallel courses of the Vltava River in the west and the Malše River in the east. Celtic and Germanic tribes lived here in the 5th century. At the beginning of the 6th century, during the migration of nations, the West Slavonic tribes reached the Vltava. Legend holds that their leader was "Čech", forefather of Bohemia, after whom the Czech lands (known to the western world as Bohemia) was named.

From Charlemagne to the Great Moravian Empire

The Frankish King Charlemagne tried to conquer Bohemia at the beginning of the 9th century, but he only achieved a free dependence. After Moravia became a regional hegemonic superpower, Bohemia was added to it around 880. Under Bořivoj I of the Přemyslid dynasty (about 853 to 889 AD), the process of unification of Czech tribes began, even though there was still a strong link to the Moravian prince in the beginning. To a large extent, they managed to break free from Frankish rule. They also wanted to be independent in their religious choice, so they focused not on Regensburg but on Byzantium. Cyril and Methodius have been known as the Slavic apostles since ancient times. The Great Moravian Empire ceased to exist at the beginning of the 10th century, weakened by civil war and raids by Hungarians, Bavarians, and Czechs.



Medieval – an age respected and admired by many

Roman Empire and period of flourish under Charles IV

Boleslav I, prince of the Přemyslid dynasty, managed to make the principality of Prague the determining power of Bohemia for a short time, but as early as 950 he had to submit to the rule of Otto I, the later emperor of the Roman Empire. In 973, during the reign of Duke Boleslav II, the Prague Bishopric was founded and encompassed Bohemia and Moravia. In 1085, Vratislav II was the first Přemyslid (then not hereditary) to gain the title of King of Bohemia. His great-grandson Otakar I (1155-1230) achieved the promotion of the country to a hereditary kingdom. His uncle Otakar II married Margaret, the widowed sister of the last Babenberg, Friedrich II (see also

the History of the Mühlviertel) and thus acquired the Austrian Duchy for a short time. With the murder of Wenceslas III in 1306, the House of Přemyslid died out by the sword.

Afterwards, the Czech nobility elected John of Luxembourg as king, who married Elisabeth (daughter of Wenceslas II). Bohemia achieved its period of greatest prosperity under his son Wenceslas, later Charles IV, King of Bohemia and, from 1355, Holy Roman Emperor.

1st and 2nd Prague defenestrations

When in 1414 the reformer Jan Hus was burned at the stake despite the promise for his protection, he became a martyr for the Czechs. Social unrest followed, resulting in the first Prague defenestration, then followed by 16 years of the Hussite Wars. In the time that followed, many Czech kings took over as head of state, but they were all too weak and their governments did not survive the religious overthrows.

Bohemia during the reign of the Habsburgs

In 1526, the government in Bohemia was seized by Ferdinand I of Habsburg. In 1618, tensions renewed between the Protestants and Catholics, leading to the renowned 2nd Prague defenestration and the Thirty Years' War, which brought years of agony. The Battle of White Mountain (1620) was the first major battle of the war and resulted in quick defeat for the Protestant Czechs. The country was devastated, and the population decreased by almost two-thirds. After the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, the Czechs remained under the rule of the Habsburgs, which meant the oppression of all non-Catholics. The period of enlightenment during the reign of Joseph II, son of Maria Theresa, led to secularization and freedom of religion, but it did not bring the parties to peace. The Czechs nonetheless developed excellently from an economic point of view, but national tensions escalated again in 1848. The Czech and German languages were given equal status by of imperial decree, but by this time it was too late to bring nationalized groups together in unification. The dream of a sovereign Czechoslovak state had long since been born and finally became a reality after the First World War

First Republic, Nazi Germany

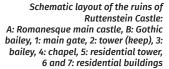
The First Republic of Czechoslovakia existed only briefly. Although it was a country with a modern democracy that received numerous refugees from the neighboring fascist countries, it was swiftly occupied by Hitler's Germany in 1939, after the Anschluss of the Sudeten German regions in 1938. Bohemia and Moravia became a protectorate where Nazi ideology was promoted in full force.

Second Republic: revolution, breakup, sovereignty

After the end of WWII, the Czechoslovak Republic was re-established under the rule of Edvard Beneš as the first president. Immediately afterwards, the property of three million Germans was nationalized, and Czech Sudeten Germans were expelled from the country. The Communist Party won the election in 1948, and a socialist state was created based on the Soviet model. The Prague Spring in 1968 was crushed militarily by the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact states, and the attempt to establish "socialism with a human face" was defeated. The silent resignation in the country was finally broken only by the "Velvet Revolution" in 1989, which marked the end of Soviet socialism. Czechoslovakia was divided for political reasons in 1993, marking the beginning of the sovereign Czech Republic.

23. The beginning and end of fortified castles

The Mühlviertel is truly a country of castles, as there are many fortified castles, ruins, and residential castles here. The reason for this is primarily that their most important period (11th to 13th century) coincides with the period that the region was being settled. The territorial statehood that is commonplace today did not exist at that time. The government's influence only reached where a noble lord was able to accommodate his retinue. Defense structures as support centers for colonization also served as a demonstration of power and influence. To this day, these former castles are a visible sign of the emergence of dominion and lordship, although for the casual visitor this dense network of castles that existed in the High Middle Ages is no longer recognizable. Many of them can only be reconstructed with the help of barely recognizable ruins or remnants in the landscape, or with the help of written sources.





The Nordwald ridge was once seen as a hard-to-overcome barrier between the fertile areas of the Alpine foothills and Bohemia. Already in ancient times, the Danube and the Vltava Rivers developed into major

traffic arteries with lively settlement activities along their banks. The small marshland paths running through today's Mühlviertel region represent an important connection between north and south. These trade routes were used for transporting salt, iron ore, wine, and spices to the north, and grain, meat, honey, and leather to the south. Control over the exchange of goods also supported the demands of the ruling class. These resulting new political intentions led to the border areas of the Mühlviertel and South Bohemia becoming an object of tension between the Bishop of Passau and the



Prandegg as an example of an extended circular tower

Babenberg family. The resulting establishment of castles and monasteries led to the necessity of colonization, including the construction of defense facilities on the Czech (Bohemian) side. On the Czech side, however, due to stronger central royal powers, the construction of aristocratic residences on the Czech side came about in the 15th century, 200 years after it began on the Austrian side. Of course, the trade routes were just as important for Bohemia, and the fortified guard castles of Louzek, Sokolčí, Pořešín, and Velešín were established to protect travellers.

Concerning the early Middle Ages, only large-scale mounds with wood and clay fortifications are known about in the Danube area of Austria. Often, fortifications from ancient times were later reused. Castles, as we know them today, did not exist in the Mühlviertel before the 11th century. In Bohemia, large-scale protective mounds remained a decisive type of fortification all the way up to the 12th and early 13th centuries.

By the 13th century, castles and their respective estates had become political instruments. The nobility and monasteries could deepen their landowner influence in the region by renting land assets to the people in their retinue. During the late Middle Ages, many castles were abandoned as large estates became more dominant with a fewer number of main castles. In the early modern period (after the Middle Ages), representative castles functioned as noble residences and administrative centers.

The defining building element of the early-built castles was the residential tower. In the 12th and 13th centuries, residential and defensive elements were further defined by the development of the main and strongest tower of a medieval castle (the keep), and the (originally residential) main buildings of the medieval castle (palas). Especially for the lower nobility, the residential tower remained fashionable up to the 15th century. Ruttenstein, for example, may be understood as a classic castle construction: From 1281, the previous building gave way to the new construction with a keep, a main building, a chapel, and a circular wall (bering). To increase living

comfort, wooden rooms were integrated as log cabins in the residential tower. Such rooms are also documented at Prandegg Castle.

In the late Middle Ages, the outer appearance of defensive structures became more and more refined. The sober and functional appearance of the classic fortification castle was not enough to meet the demands of the ruler, so the keep ceased to be a mere defense device. The tower of Freistadt Castle (established between 1390 and 1405), for example, can be interpreted as a symbol of power, but even more so the architecture of the round tower of the small Dornach mansion (late 14th century).

Weinberg Castle (left) with a courtyard, described in the stable cadastre from ca. 1826 (source: doris.at)



In addition to the aforementioned changes in the territorial organization of estates, the more widespread use of gunpowder and firearms led to the end of many small castles. Up to that point, defense had been improved by raising towers, strengthening gates, and raising the annular wall, but such strategies now became obsolete due to the new changes in defense technology that had already emerged during the Hussite wars. In the early stages, such changes were evident with a vast sub-castle area, a forward-extending keep (such round towers can be found under the Prandegg and Clam castles), earth mounds, and constructions for heavy artillery. In some castles, the circular walls (berings) and the spaces between defensive walls were equipped with bastions bearing towers and circular walls - examples can be found at Ruttenstein and Kreuzen castles (the former massive bering bastion is no longer visible). The traditional castle as a defensive structure survived until the end of the 15th century by the latest. Moreover, because such a building no longer met the increasing demands of the nobility for comfortable living, reconstructions and new constructions of representative castles in the flatlands began in the 16th century. Only the earlier castles that served as centers of large estates survived, so they were maintained. The transition from the fortified castle to the residential castle was also justified, especially in the late Middle Ages, by the new financial possibilities of the nobility and new religious trends. Greinburg, a four-winged building with polygonal towers, can be seen as an early form of the "fortified castle" that became increasingly fashionable in the 16th century. Self-presentation became increasingly important at the expense of elements of fortification and defense. Weinberg Castle is another example of the transformation of a defense castle into a representative Renaissance castle. Zellhof Castle, of which unfortunately only remnants have been preserved, was newly established in the 17th century as a residential castle on the site of a simple aristocratic residence.

24. Trail sections 1-20







MUNICIPALITY OF GREIN

BASIC INFO

- Area: 18.42 km²
- · Population: ca. 3,180
- · First written mention: 1147
- Town designation: 1491
- Symbol: Flow of the Danube with rock cliffs, boat with 3 sailors, captain in the middle
- Origin of name: MHG grine = a place of crying (due to previously dangerous obstacles to boat navigation on the river)
- Website: www.grein.ooe.gv.at





New Gobelwarte lookout platform

HISTORICAL SIGHTS

- Historic town center (see details)
- **2 Gobelwarte:** 20 m high observation platform with spectacular views
- 3 Greinburg (see details)

Tourist info: Stadtplatz 5, +43 (0)7268/7055





BASIC INFO

- First written mention: 1488
- · Architectural style: Renaissance
- · Appearance: four-storey building with five polygonal towers
- Geographic position: at the peak of Hohenstein, rock cliffs falling sharply to the Danube
- · Peculiarity: the oldest inhabited Renaissance castle

HISTORY

1488, Emperor Frederick III permitted the brothers Heinrich and Siegmund Prüschenk, free lords of Stettenberg, to build the castle. The castle was supposed to serve to secure the area Machland against Czech, Hungarian and Turkish invasions. It was initially called Stettenfels, then Heinrichsburg, and the name Greinburg was used only from **1533** when the castle was acquired by Imperial Councillor, Burgrave of Enns, and the provincial administrator of Swabia, Johann Leble (Löbl). Under his ownership, the castle gained most of its present appearance

From 1621 Count Leonhard Helfrich von Meggau was the owner and had the castle rebuilt in Renaissance style. His daughter, Anna, married Siegmund Ludwig of Dietrichstein, at which point Greinburg became the property of the Dietrichstein family.

1709 Franz Ferdinand, the Count of Salburg, bought the castle. 100 years later, the castle was inherited by Prince Josef Karel of Ditrichstein, who in

1817 sold it to the army contractor and mayor of Hainburg, Michael Fink

1823 Duke Ernst I of the Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha family acquired the Greinburg castle and estate. His sons Ernst II and Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria of Britain, inherited it after him. As a result, Queen Victoria became the co-owner of the castle after her husband's early death.

Today, the castle is owned by the descendants of the fourth son of Victoria and Albert – Prince Leopold, who holds the title Duke of Albany. The castle maintenance is funded by the Family Foundation of the Dukes of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha. The head of the family is Andreas Prince of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha.





Grein (left) and the arcade courtyard in Greinburg (right)

POINTS OF INTEREST

The newly restored castle impressively guards the small town of Grein beneath it. The magnificent three-storey Renaissance arcade courtyard is certainly worth inspection. The visitor will be impressed by the size of the knight's hall, which is adjacent to the castle chapel with its early Baroque Christmas altar. The "Sala Terrena" stone theater, decorated with mosaics made from Danube pebbles and the unique cellar vault

with its fascinating play of light and shadow, are also considered an extraordinary experience. The ceremonial spaces of the Coburg family with their valuable furnishings and portraits of famous family members can only be viewed during a guided tour. Also visit the Upper Austrian Shipping Museum. It focuses on transportation along the Danube and its tributaries, the Traun and Enns Rivers

OPENING TIMES

Opening hours of the Castle Museum and Upper Austrian Shipping Museum: 1 May – 26 October, Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 to 17:00 Guided tours of the castle all year round from min. 10 people at any time upon prior agreement Tel.: +43 (0)664 / 986 1981

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Herzoglich Sachsen-Coburg und Gotha'sche Forstverwaltung

Greinburg 1 4360 Grein an der Donau Tel.: +43 (0)7268 / 7007-18 mail@schloss-greinburg.at www.schloss-greinburg.at





On the Grein town square

HISTORICAL SIGHTS

- Greinburg (see detailed description)
- Old Town Hall with Municipal Museum (open daily from May to October); www.stadttheater-grein.at
- **3** Historical theater: the oldest burgher theater (1791) in the German-speaking area
- O Danube promenade with sundial and granite gallery
- **3** Parish Church of St. Giles: three-naved Late Gothic atrial church with four vaults (built around 1500) with an elevated Baroque main altar (1749) and altarpiece by Bartolomeo Altomonte
- **6** Starting point for hiking trails in the region



Trail section 2 • KLAM

MUNICIPALITY OF KLAM

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 8.35 km2
- · Population: ca. 920
- · First written mention: 1365
- Symbol: cliffs with abyss and provincial crest
- Origin of name: MHG klam = tight space, chasm, gorge
- · Website: www.klam.at



Fountain on the town square in Klam

HISTORICAL SIGHTS

- **Olam Castle** (see detailed description)
- The Klamschlucht trail of legends: A 2-km long trail of legends and myths through the Klam Gorge
- Parish Church of the Finding of the Cross: after a great fire of 1760, the church was rebuilt with triple vaulting with a flat barrel roof, simply furnished: baptismal font from the 17th century
- 4 Leonstein: the 15-m high rock formation contains magnetic rock.



Trail section 2 • KLAM



BASIC INFO

- First written mention: 1149
- · Architectural style: Romanesque to Baroque
- Form: fortified castle with three courtyards, massive keep and five-storey palas
- · Geographic position: castle hill with promontory
- · Peculiarity: permanently inhabited castle, valuable furnishings

HISTORY

The Clam Castle is one of the oldest castles in Upper Austria; it was built in

1149 by Otto von Machland at a time when the forests of the Machlandviertel area, now known as Unteres Mühlviertel, were being cleared. At the time, the castle consisted of a five-storey palas (residential tower) with a distinctive stepped gable and a bergfried (round tower). These 40 m tall buildings are visible from afar due to their exposed position on the granite massif above the Klamschlucht gorge.

Adelheid von Machland brought the castle into her marriage as a dowry to her husband, Count Hermann von Velburg. His ancestral branch was named after the Clam Castle since then.

1218 Count Ulrich von Clam-Velburg died in the 5th Crusade to Egypt. This resulted in his three castles (Clam, Klingenberg, and Rutten-

stein) being passed over to the provincial prince, Duke of Babenberg Leopold VI on the basis of an inheritance contract

From that time, the Clam Castle was the fief of the provincial prince and was given to the Houses of Holzer and Hauser in 1234 (1413) and to Christoph von Zinzendorf.

In the early 14th century, the bergfried and palas were raised, and a fortification wall was built in the east.

1416 Gilg von Wolfstein bought the castle. He had the Gothic castle chapel built.

1480 after the death of Wolfgang von Wolfstein, the estate was transferred to Jörg Seusenecker, then in 1493 to Siegmund and Heinrich Prüschenk (later Count of Hardegg). Their foster parent, Stefan Perger, became the founder of the Clam-Martinic family and acquired the castle

in 1524. The Counts of Clam are

Trail section 2 • KLAM

thus an ancient Austrian nobility. Clam Castle has now been owned by this family for around 550 years. Since 2003, the lord of the castle has been Carl Philip Clam-Martinic.

Ceremonial Hall (top), arcade courtyard (left) and armory (right) of Clam Castle







POINTS OF INTEREST

Clam Castle is one of Austria's best preserved and oldest castles. First you enter the large outer castle courtyard. Passing around the farm buildings and stables, the visitor reaches one of the four castle gates that were secured by drawbridges in earlier times. After overcoming these medieval defenses, the visitor is met with the impressive beauty of the arcade courtyard. The arcades and sgraffito testify to the structural changes in the

Renaissance at the end of the 16th century.

The spiral staircase leads to the Gothic castle chapel, which is still in use. Passing the halberds, swords, and rifles, the path leads us to the bell tower where we can admire the porcelain collection. In the 12th-century palas, you can inspect historic chambers, the large ceremonial hall, and portraits of the more renowned personalities of the Clam-Martinic family.

OPENING TIMES

1 May - 31 October, every day 10:00 - 16:30

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burgmuseum Clam

Sperken 1 4352 Klam Tel.: +43 (0)7269 / 72 17 museum@burgclam.com www.burgclam.com



Trail section 3 • BAD KREUZEN

MUN. OF BAD KREUZEN

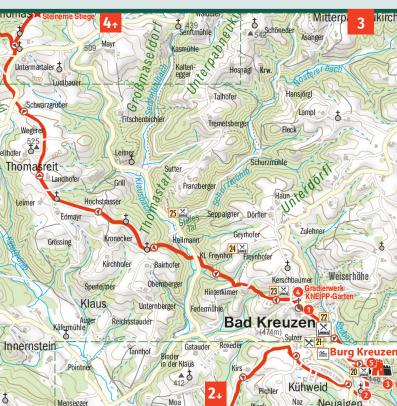
BASIC INFO

- Area: 39.9 km²
- Population: ca. 2.270
- · First written mention: 1147
- Symbol: silver lamb with Latin cross on a green trimount
- Origin of name: "Cross" in relation to the mission of Slavic Preachers; "Bad" since 1973
- Website: www.bad-kreuzen.at



Stone basin at the beginning of the Wolfsschlucht

- Parish Church of the Cross of St. Vitus: Late Gothic parish church, built between 1324 and 1490 with a two-naved church and star vault
- Aigner Kreuz Pilgrimage Chapel: Chapel from 1852 with statue of Immaculata and statue of St. Vitus
- 3 Wolf Abyss: a romantic water canyon with a refreshment stone
- Bad Kreuzen Kneipp Garden: a nearly 2-hectare large garden with many herbs, fragrant and healing plants; a garden of sounds and gradations
- 6 Kreuzen Castle (see detailed description)



Trail section 3 • BAD KREUZEN



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1125
- · Architectural styles: Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance
- Appearance: originally a double castle, only the eastern part has been preserved
- Geographic position: castle hill with ridge extending to the Kempbachtal valley
- · Peculiarity: one of the largest fortified sites in Upper Austria.

HISTORY

Around **900**, Kreuzen Castle was allegedly built as a fortified settlement. The first written mention was of the first owner in

1125 as Pilgrim de Cruce.

1282 the castle was bestowed as a fief of the provincial princely family of Volkenstorf, who expanded it to a double castle. With the death of the last member of the family in

1482 it became the property of the brothers Siegmund and Heinrich Prüschenk (later the Counts of Hardegg).

1518 Adam von Schweinsböck

acquired the front castle, which he sold after 10 years to Helfrich von Meggau, the provincial governor of Enz (in German "ob der Enns").

1528 Count Julius Hardegg moved into the rear castle.

1537 the rear part of the castle became the property of the Meggau family. The son, Ferdinand Helfrich von Meggau (in 1582-1585 also the provincial governor) assumed the heritage.

1594 during the time of the Turkish threat, Kreuzen Castle was one of the defensive castles of the Machland area and provided refuge for its residents.

1644 Maria Anna von Meggau,

whose first husband was Caspar von Starhemberg, inherited the county from her father, Count Leonhard von Meggau. By her second marriage, Kreuzen Castle became the property of Carl Gottfried von Bräuner

1665 Carl Gottfried sold his property to his brother-in-law, Count Siegmund Ludwig of Dietrichstein.

Around **1701** the estate passed to the counts of Cavriani.

1716 Count Johann Ludwig Cavriani lived in the castle, then from

1754 it was occupied by the Salburg family.

1776 Count Rudolf Salburg had a part of the rear castle demolished. **1843** the rest of the rear castle was

Trail section 3 • BAD KREUZEN

demolished to make space for the cold water swimming pool.

1788 only one of the originally two castle chapels remained. During the French Wars, the upper castle was purchased in

1817 by the mayor of Hainburg, Michael Fink, and in

1823 it passed to the Dukes of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha.

1876 part of the complex passed

by marriage to the English Queen Victoria, who gave it to Duke Ernst.

1880 a large part of the castle was destroyed by fire.

1965 as a ruin, it was transferred to the ownership of the mayor of Kreuzen, Ferdinand Riegler (Starzhofer), who in

1974 passed it on to the Tourismusverband Bad Kreuzen.





Kreuzen Castle long ago and today

POINTS OF INTEREST

Even today, the massive double castle walls with the tower gate have been preserved together with the adjacent tract with interesting elements for shooting and pouring oil, as well as an arcade tract. The accessible bergfried tower offers a spectacular circular view of the Mühlviertel and the Alps.



OPENING TIMES

Opening times of the keep during the opening hours of the castle pub: every day 11:00 – 21:00, closed on Mondays

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burg Kreuzen Betriebs GmbH

Neuaigen 14 4362 Bad Kreuzen Tel.: +43 (0)7266 / 6686 info@burg-kreuzen.at www.burg-kreuzen.at



MUN. ST. THOMAS AM BLASENSTEIN

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 29 km²
- · Population: ca. 1,000
- First written mention: 1133
- · Symbol: Shrine between green side areas
- Origin of name: Patron of the Church; former castle "Plasenstein" am Oberen Burgstall
- · Website: www.st-thomas.at



- Parish Church of the Holy Apostle Thomas: prominent church from the end of the 13th century; altarpiece of Saint Thomas from 1666 and a large life-size crucifix with real hair and beard; the tomb contains a mummy, referred to in folk dialect as the "air-smoked parish priest".
- **2** Bucklwehluck'n: granite block with a slot for crawling through; folk legend holds that if you crawl through it, your shoulder and back pains will disappear.
- Gypsy Wall: A rock formation typical for the Mühlviertel with particular erosion; At the beginning of the 19th century, the robber Johann Georg Gassel was said to have found shelter here.
- Klingenberg Ruins and Saxenegg Ruins (see details)





BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1217
- · Architectural styles: Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance
- · Appearance: high castle, forecastle, bailey with stables, 3061 m²
- · Geographic position: high castle on a rock massif
- Peculiarity: breathtaking views of the Alps, Clam Castle, and Ruttenstein

HISTORY

12th century: The castle was built by the powerful noble Lords von Perg-Machland-Clam, who organized forest clearing in the Machlandviertel area from the Danube to the Nordwald (North Forest).

the Nordwald (North Forest).

1218 Ulrich von Clam-Velburg
was killed in Egypt during the 5th
Crusade, so the castles of Clam,
Klingenberg, and Ruttenstein
passed over to the provincial
Prince Leopold VI of Babenberg
(Plasenstein Castle remained in the
possession of widow Kunigunde).
The Babenbergs were followed by
Přemysl Otakar II and finally by the
Habsburgs.

1279-83 Klingenberg was the dowry of Catherine the Habsburg to Duke Henry of Bavaria, making it a pledge for centuries afterwards.

1358 the Lords von Wallsee lived in the castle, followed by Jans der Trauner and from

1395 the Preuhafen brothers.

1435 the castle passed to Hardneyd

of Liechtenstein and in

1491 to the Prüschenk brothers who also built the Greinburg castle. From **1500**, the castle was owned by Lasla von Prag (builder of the castle Pragstein / Mauthausen) before it was destroyed in

1540 by the Hussites.

1562-1584 Gabriel Kollonitz renewed construction.

1588 Lorenz Schütter bought the castle for 12,204 guilders and turned it into a fief of the provincial prince. He turned Klingenberg into a Renaissance castle, "one of the most noble places in Austria". Schütter was the imperial "Oberdreißiger zu Ungarisch-Altenburg" (chief customs duty collector; the name comes from the collection of a duty of 1/30 of the value of the goods). His artistically designed tombstone is located in the church in Münzbach.

1630 his son Georg sold the property together with the market town

of Münzbach to the Waldhausen monastery. The administrative seat was moved, and since then only a gatekeeper or administrative clerk lived here, then it was occupied by poor tenants.

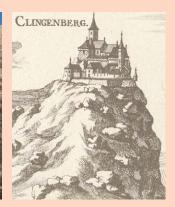
1700 the fortified structure's

deterioration was accelerated by a lightning strike.

1855 part of the bergfried collapsed.

1792 after the abolition of the Waldhausen Monastery, Klingenberg passed to the Domkapitel Linz.





Klingenberg Castle ruins long ago and today

POINTS OF INTEREST

We owe the private initiative to the fact that the ruins have been secured and partially maintained since 2013. The castle is situated on three levels. You can get from the outer bailey to the stable through the round arch gate, or via the gatehouse on foot to the bailey. The well, 62 fathoms or 118 meters deep, was recently cleaned to a depth of 12 meters. The high castle includes an impressive southern fortification wall 24 meters high, and a half-ruined and timbered tower called the bergfried. There are remarkable massive cantilevers of the defensive corridor at the palas.

OPENING TIMES

The future plans are that the ruins will be accessible to the public in 2019, after extensive securing work. The lookout area, seating area, and sightseeing tours are available.

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burgruine Klingenberg

Burgruine Klingenberg 4364 St. Thomas am Blasenstein Verein Ruine Klingenberg 4363 Pabneukirchen, Markt 16 Tel.: +43 (0)664 / 17 555 20





BASIC INFO

Topographia Windhagiana aucta, 1673

- · First written mention: 1297
- · Architectural style: Romanesque, Gothic
- Appearance: the torso of the keep have been preserved, as have minor remnants of the walls and the water tank
- Geographic position: small raised castle on a narrow promontory with northern bailey and moat
- · Origin of name: reference to the parent parish of Saxen

HISTORY

Saxenegg Castle was built in the first half of the 13th century to facilitate forest clearing.

1297 the castle was the seat of

Ulrich and Wernhart Sechsenek.

1342 the defensive complex passed over to Burghart Kneusser as a fief, who expanded it and established the castle chapel for mass.

the castle chapel for mass.

1382 his son Hans sold the castle with all its accessories to the provincial prince, Duke Albrecht III. The Duke did not pay the purchase price, so it remained in Hans Kneusser's possession as a lifetime dowry. Burgrave Rudolf der Harsch had to promise the Duke to "permit him access to the castle at any time". After the Kneusser family died out, Saxenegg became the subject of a pledge back to the provincial princes.

1410 the castle passed over to the brothers Erhard and Wilhelm von Zelking. The Zelkings, an art-loving ministerial family of provincial princes (donors of the famous wing altar in Kefermarkt) also owned the Weinberg Castle in Kefermarkt and their hereditary Zelking estate (not far from Melk).

1432 Saxenegg was besieged the Hussites and destroyed.

1438 King Albrecht permitted the demolition of "Sechsenek Castle".

1473 Christoph von Zelking received the right to organize a mass from the former castle chapel to a church in Kefermarkt. The castle thus became desolate after about 200 years.

1493 the brothers Sigmund and Heinrich Prüschenk (builders of Greinburg) acquired the remains

of the ruins with the respective estates.

1525 Saxenegg came into possession of the Prag family and was incorporated into the Windhaag estate. After the abolition of the monastery in Windhaag by Joseph II, the property passed to the Domkapitel Linz in **1792**.



Wall remnants (left) and ring wall with relief arch (right)



POINTS OF INTEREST

The castle grounds originally had an area of about 1707 m², but only the walls remain, nearly 4 m thick and 12 m high, of the torso of the bergfried (main tower) and a few other remnants of the walls. The almost 18 m deep moat on the north side of the castle is impressive (a quarry was located in the moat to build the castle.)

OPENING TIMES

The ruins are unmaintained and may only be visited with caution and at a safe distance.

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burgruine Saxenegg

Burgruine Saxenegg 4364 St. Thomas am Blasenstein www.buschweg.at

Owner: Domkapitel Linz



Trail section 5 • PIERBACH

MUNICIPALITY OF PIERBACH

BASIC INFO

- Area: 22.7 km²
- Population: ca. 1.010
- · First written mention: 1090
- Symbol: shield of the Kapeller family and "Deichsel" confluence of the Große Naarn and Kleine Naarn rivers
- · Origin of name: MHG piriche = birch, and "bach", stream
- Website: www.pierbach.at



- St. Kvirin Parish Church in Pierbach: a three-nave three-vaulted church (an atrium church with a raised central section) with a crossed ridge a star ribbed vault; the first written mention dates back to 1150.
- 2 Augenbründl: The spring in the Frauenwald forest, lying directly on the Castle Hiking Trail and dedicated to St. Odile, has alleged healing powers.
- **3 Museum of Mugs**, Dorfstraße 3: You can visit the extensive collection of different mugs with the owners of the Pierbach restaurant.
- Ruttenstein Ruins one of Austria's largest defense castles (see details)



Trail section 5 • PIERBACH



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1209
- · Architectural style: Romanesque, Gothic
- Appearance: bailey with well-preserved fortification walls and main castle with a wedge-shaped residential tower
- · Geographic position: raised castle on a steep mountain ridge
- · Origin of name: probably from the reddish fracture stone: Rotenstein

HISTORY

In 1160, one historical source mentioned "castrum Rotenstein" as a Bamberg possession, but the first written mention is usually considered to be a document issued in 1209 by Duke Leopold. Moreover, the building itself shows that the castle was probably built in the 12th century. The castle was founded by Count Clam-Velburg, successor to the Lords of Machland. When Ulrich Clam-Velburg was killed during the 5th Crusade, the castle fell to the provincial princes.

1281 the castle was pledged by Ulrich von Capellen, a provincial judge and governor of the Austrian territory over Enns (in German, ob der Enns). The Capellen lived at Ruttenstein Castle for 125 years, or until **1406**.

The 13th and 14th centuries brought the palas, chapel, the keep, inner walls, and front wall; In the 15th century, an extensive bailey with outer wall was added with bastions and with seven inwardly opening fortification towers.

1483 the Liechtensteins were the next owners. As early as

1492, however, Christoph of Liechtenstein had to surrender the castle to the emperor without compensation, because he had taken a stance on the side of the Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus. The castle was then acquired by Heinrich and Siegmund Prüschenk, but in 1493 the Liechtenstein family

1493 the Liechtenstein family bought Ruttenstein from the Prüschenk family.

By then, Ruttenstein was probably rarely used as a noble residence and was administered by guardians as a frontier castle until **1586**. During wartimes, it served as a refuge.

1556 Ferdinand Helfrich von Meggau (owner of Greinburg) gained rights to the lien.

1615 Leonhard Helfrich von Meggau acquired Ruttenstein as an allodium. It then ceased to be a lien and

Trail section 5 • PIERBACH

from that moment shared the fate of the Greinburg estate.

Further owners were the Counts of Dietrichstein and the Salburgs before the estate was acquired by military contractor and mayor of Hainburg, Michael Fink.

Since 1823, the ruins have

been owned by the Dukes of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha.

The village of Pierbach is the tenant of the complex, and the Ruttensteiner Erhaltungsverein association seeks to preserve the castle ruins.





Aerial view of Ruttenstein castle ruins (left) and view onto the main castle (right)

POINTS OF INTEREST

Today, the ruin is largely professionally secured and managed. Parts of the collapsed residential tower are accessible with its Romanesque doors and double-glazed arched windows, pentagonal keep with its staircase in the walls, the massive fortification walls (2.3 m thick!) with seven inwardly opened fortification towers. The funnel-shaped embrasures for the

cannons are also partly preserved. To visit the residential tower and chapel, you climb the stone staircase which actually served to stabilize the walls. The accessible residential tower offers spectacular panoramic views of the Mühlviertel and the foothills of the Alps. At the foot of the castle, a cottage with refreshments awaits you.

OPENING TIMES

The castle is freely accessible. Guided tours are possible by prior telephone arrangement at the number +43 (0)664/2143164.

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burgruine Ruttenstein

Niederhofstetten 4282 Pierbach Ruttensteiner Erhaltungsverein Tel.: +43 (0)680 / 55 099 25 verein@ruttenstein.at www.ruttenstein.at



Trail section 6 • SCHÖNAU

MUN. OF SCHÖNAU

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 38.5 km²
- · Population: 1,950
- First written mention: 1230
- Symbol: Crossed torches with scallops
- Origin of name: MHG schoene = fertile, pretty river meadow
- · Website: www.schoenau-im.at





Parish church in Schönau

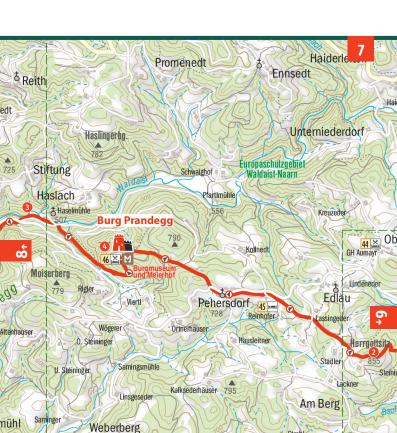
- Parish Church of St. James the Elder in Schönau: a hall with triple vaulting with a small window vault extending into a larger vault; the first written mention is from 1230.
- 2 God's residence: perhaps the most beautiful sacrificial stone of the Mühlviertel, allegedly was once an early Christian cult and sacrificial site.
- Mönchstein Climbing Park: roughly 60-m high granite cliff with rope locks
- Prandegg Ruins with Zehentstöckl Castle Museum



Prandegg (Schönau)



Ruins of Prandegg Castle with an area of 2,435 m² and nearby courtyard



Trail section 7 • PRANDEGG



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1287
- · Architectural style: Romanesque, Gothic
- · Appearance: first castle and bailey with a distinctive circular tower
- Geographic position: raised castle on a promontory between the Waldaist River and Prandegger Creek
- · Origin of name: forestry clearing by burning, prant and bare rock, egg.

HISTORY

The construction of the first Romanesque castle on the highest point of the rock massif in the beginning of the **13th century** is attributed to the ministerial family of Prantner. Important owners of the Prandegg estate were later the families of Capellen, Liechtenstein, and Walchen, with the fief occasionally being halved or even divided into quarters.

Due to increased demands for housing, the early medieval castle gradually expanded from the late Middle Ages to include residential and farm buildings in the main part of the castle, as well as a round tower (bergfried) and a bailey.

1536 the Jörg family succeeded in acquiring all the shares and redeeming the estate of the Prandegg Castle with the corresponding market village of Zell from the Regensburg fief claim. At that time, Prandegg was renowned as a

very pleasant and well-illuminated castle for living.

1631 (during the Counter-Reformation) the Jörg family were supporters of Protestantism and preferred to go into exile, selling their possessions to Gotthard von Scherffenberg. After his death, his widow's new husband, Hans Reichard von Starhemberg, sold the property to his son-in-law, Georg Sigmund von Salburg, who adjoined them with his residence at the Greinburg Castle in the eastern part of the Mühlviertel.

The fortress was then abandoned and rapidly deteriorated.

1811 the estate passed by inheritance to the Dietrichstein family and then in the year

1817 was purchased by war supplier Michael Fink of Hainburg.

1823 the Dukes of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha acquired the former estates of the Salburg family. Today,

the Burgverein (Castle Association) Prandegg, in collaboration with the municipality of Schönau and the Federal Institute for the Preservation of Monuments, strives to maintain the castle ruins.



Remembering the time of the "mere" 10% tax in the Castle Museum's "Zehentstöck!"

POINTS OF INTEREST

The castle ruins are best appreciated by taking the circular route with the boldly constructed staircases and bridges. From the circular tower, you can enjoy a breathtaking view onto the surroundings. First, though, you should venture into the castle dungeon and say a few reassuring words to the poor prisoner. On the "tenth floor", the oldest part of the castle rear courtyard, a castle museum has been created with the central theme "The Manor and the

Subjects". The ground floor presents the building history of Prandegg Castle, while the upper floor is dedicated to the three authorities of the caste lords: financial sovereignty, administrative rule, and judicial power.

The courtyard conceals a tavern within its walls, with the option of staying overnight. Camping is possible after agreement with the innkeeper.

OPENING TIMES

The ruins are freely accessible. The Castle Museum is open when the tavern is open: May – October, daily from 8 am; November – April: Saturday and Sunday from 11 am; (tours available by prior telephone arrangement: +43 (0)7261/7541)

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burgruine Prandegg

Prandegg 3 4274 Schönau im Mühlkreis Burgverein Prandegg Tel.: +43 (0)7261 / 7541 office@prandegg.at www.prandegg.com



Trail section 8 • GUTAU

MUNICIPALITY OF GUTAU

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 45.3 km²
- · Population: ca. 2,720
- First written mention: 1122
- Symbol: Doe pierced by an arrow
- Origin of name: MHG guot = gut: "Good place by the river"
- · Website: www.gutau.at



In the Dyeing Museum

- Parish Church of Saint Giles: a three-naved Late Gothic church with a five-span vault, dating from the 16th century
- Dyeing Museum, St. Leonharder Str. 3: in the 17th century dyeing house with Baroque façade, there is now a museum featuring the work of dyers. May to October: Wednesday 10-11h; Friday 15-16h; or upon prior notice
- 3 Dyeing works: experimental workshop for blueprint-making
- O Bird Trail: an educational trail for the environment and way of life of our domestic birds
- **5** Pitch-oil stone: over 2 meters in diameter!
- **10** Tannbach Castle (see details)



Trail section 8 • GUTAU



BASIC INFO

First written mention: 1130

Around 1130 Tannbach first

- Architectural style: originally Renaissance with Neo-Renaissance reconstructions
- · Appearance: rectangular, three-storey building with four bay turrets
- · Geographic position: flat southern slope
- · Origin of name: Tan in Middle High German means forest

HISTORY

appeared in written documents:
Heinric de Tanebach, probably
a feudatory from the Griesbach
family, appears in one document
from the Göttweig monastery as a
witness. Only 150 years later, Ulrich
Galsperger is mentioned as the
owner. In the middle of the
15th century Tannbach was the
property of Mathes Kienast and
remained in the family until 1527. It
was then owned by Freistadt Mayor
Hans Weissenauer and then by his
son.

Ernst Hack von Bornimb, who came from an old Brandenburg noble family, moved to Austria in 1550 and acquired Tannbach for a few years as his first holding in the

1553 King Ferdinand I gave Hanns Kurz a court in Tannbach as fief. He was a salt producer over Enns for

region.

a short time. Thanks to his loyal service, and as a compensation, his sons Hans Christoph and Wolf achieved the liberation of their property from fief duties. Tannbach now became a free noble residence and was rebuilt into a castle. Eventually, the property returned to Ernst Hack von Bornimb. In the last quarter of the

16th century, he rebuilt it in Renaissance style.

By **1595**, although with a 20-year break, the castle remained in the possession of the family until Hanns Georg Hack von Bornimb sold Tannbach to Hieronym von Neideck. The aristocratic residence now included a courtyard, brewery, hop garden, court tavern, land, a fruit garden, and milling rights. For the next 300 years, the owners often changed, but did little for the

building's maintenance.

Trail section 8 • GUTAU

1798 the estate was under the supervision of court insolvency administrators.

1873 Tannbach was assumed by cartographer and lieutenant colonel Josef von Scheda, who rebuilt it

in a Neo-Renaissance style.

1906 the estate's operation passed to Count Ludwig von Polzer-Hoditz and Wolframitz and his wife.

2006 Tannbach Castle was acquired by Johannes Weissengruber.



POINTS OF INTEREST

The castle complex, which has been lovingly restored by its current owner, presents a good example of Neo-Renaissance only by a view from the outside.



Today's views onto Tannbach Castle after a successful reconstruction

OPENING TIMES

Only from the outside

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Schloss Tannbach

Tannbach 1 4293 Gutau www.buschweg.at



Trail section 9 • KEFERMARKT

MUN. OF KEFERMARKT

BASIC INFO

- Area: 27.8 km²
- · Population: ca. 2,120
- First written mention: 1433
- Symbol: silver stripe on a red background with heraldic roses
- Origin of name: MHG Surname "kefere" = bug; 1479 market
- Website: www.kefermarkt.ooe.gv.at



A winged altarpiece that was once rescued by Adalbert Stifter

- St. Wolfgang Parish Church: The world-famous 13-m high wing altar is one of the largest preserved woodcarved altars of the German Late Gothic (around 1495)
- **2** Educational trail with pendulum: a roughly kilometer-long trail with craft stops (e.g. with water wheels)
- **13** Weinberg Castle Brewery: revitalized brewery
- Weinberg Castle (see details)



Trail section 9 • KEFERMARKT



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1274
- · Architectural style: Renaissance
- · Appearance: "four-winged complex"
- · Geographic position: built on a rocky outcrop over the Feldaist River
- · Origin of name: wine-growing

HISTORY

In 1274, a deed mentions a certain "Wulfing de Weinperge" in association with the construction of a four-winged building from a Romanesque castle. The 12th-century foundation walls are still visible. In the central part of the former castle there was an inner courtyard - today's "Green Court" and a medieval round tower known as a keep. Over the centuries the fortifications constantly expanded. The original castle grounds were part of the noble estate of Freistadt belonging to the provincial princes, which, after the lords of Clam-Velburg died out in

1218, passed over to the Babenbergs. After the Babenbergs died out, the estate passed over to Přemysl Otakar II and then to the Habsburgs. Otto II von Zelking, appointed by Duke Albrecht as the castle governor of Freistadt, probably removed the Weinberg estate from the noble estates of Freistadt.

During the 14th century part of the castle fief was purchased by the Zelkings for Otto's son Heinrich II. 1479 under Christoph II von Zelking the township was promoted to a market town, and Keferndorf became Kefermarkt. A parish church was built with a renowned wing altar and the late Gothic castle grounds were later extensively reconstructed and expanded. Around 1600 the medieval castle was transformed under Hans Wilhelm von Zelking into a representative Renaissance castle with representative rooms, a castle tower, a castle park, and falconry. When the Protestant nobility was expelled, including Zelking, the Weinberg castle passed into the ownership of the noble Swabian family von Thürheim in 1629. This led to a Baroque reconstruction. including the establishment of a chapel and a pharmacy. 1848 after the dissolution of the

noble estates, the Thürheims and their descendants remained.
After World War II, the castle was occupied by a Russian garrison.

1946 the Thürheim family returned and rebuilt the agricultural and forestry operations. An association for the castle's maintenance was

1986 the building was leased by the District of Upper Austria for 99

established to support its recon-

years, which launched a costly and historically faithful restoration of the interiors and exteriors.

1988 the provincial exhibition entitled "Mühlviertel – Nature. Culture. Life" was held here.

Today, the Weinberg Castle is home to an Educational and Congress Center (Bildungs- und Veranstaltungszentrum) with open seminar and hotel operation.

POINTS OF INTEREST

struction.

A castle tour presents 800 years of the history of the castle's architecture and art history. Wonderful rooms decorated with lavish stucco ceilings, artistically executed tiled stoves and door frames await your inspection. The 45-meter-high castle tower offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Mühlviertler Kernland.



Castle Weinberg today

OPENING TIMES

The castle park is open to the public, while the main castle building and fortifications are only accessible for seminar guests and as part of guided tours. From May to October, a 75-minute tour takes place every Friday at 2 pm.

For more offers and tours (min. 10 people) see the website.

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Bildungs- und Veranstaltungszentrum Schloss Weinberg

Tel.: +43 (0)7947 / 6545 schloss-weinberg.post@ooe.gv.at www.schloss-weinberg.at



Trail section 10 • LASBERG

MUN. OF LASBERG

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 43.8 km²
- · Population: ca. 2,810
- · First written mention: 1125
- Symbol: heraldic rose, cross pattée, MDX (granted market rights in 1510)
- Origin of name: MHG lôz = raffle, draw; a mountain that was divided by a draw
- · Website: www.lasberg.ooe.gv.at



- Old iron forge, Markt 18: this forge for horseshoes and vehicles was operational between 1526 and 1953. Open by appointment.
- O Hoh-Haus Buchberg: Day-trip mountain with view for hiking enthusiasts
- 6 Kernland Museum (formerly "Spiral Forge"), Grieb 7: former farrier and forge for wagons, named after the former farrier Adalbert Spiral
- **4 Dornach Castle** (see details)
- St. Vitus Church and neighboring parish yard: Romanesque and late Gothic; The neighboring parish yard was once a castle.





Trail section 10 • LASBERG



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1416
- · Architectural style: Gothic
- Form: well-preserved free-standing circular tower, four-sided tower with gate and fortification walls
- Geographic position: on the edge of the rock wall above the Feistritztal valley

HISTORY

Dornach Castle is the only preserved defense structure in the Feistritztal valley and was once the most important aristocratic residence in the area, although it was built relatively late.

1416 it was mentioned in writing for the first time. Shortly before, it was probably built by the brothers Hans and Wenzel Lasperg. In neighboring Lasberg, their castle was burned down.

1436 the Laspergs sold the fortress to Simon Volkra, the administrator of the Freistadt estate, which belonged to the provincial princes. The Volkra family built today's circular tower, with its raised entrance, and raised the bergfried.

1505 the castle was sold to Veit von Zelking and thus became incorporated into the Weinberg estate. The Zelkings had today's outer wall built, but the castle ceased being an aristocratic residence and was used

only for storing tithes.

1629 the Weinberg and Dornach estates were transferred to Hans Christoph von Thürheim, and the castle continued to lose its importance.
1650, the castle was already mentioned as an uninhabited ruin. What was left of the remnants degraded further when Josef Gaiseder, a

knacker and expert in cattle medi-

cine from the village of Zeilern, was

in **1787** to build a house from the stones collected from the ruin.

granted permission

1821 Count Josef Thürheim finally banned the removal of the remainder of the ruins.

1963 Franz Burgermeister of Freistadt obtained the ruins from the former owner of the castle Weinberg, Christian Zimmermann. This step marked a change in the castle's fate, as it was stylishly restored, rebuilt and became partly habitable once again.

Trail section 10 • LASBERG



POINTS OF INTEREST

The exterior appearance of the castle with its impressive circular tower, tower with gate, and parts of the bailey are clearly visible from the outside.

Aerial photo of Dornach Castle (top) Hiking through the town of Lasberg (below)





OPENING TIMES

The castle can be viewed only from the outside; tours can be arranged with the owners of the castle.

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burg Dornach

Siegelsdorf 24 4291 Lasberg www.buschweg.at Kontakt: Tourismuskern Lasberg Tel.: +43 (0)7947 / 7255-13 tourismuskern@lasberg.at www.lasberg.at



MUN. OF FREISTADT

BASIC INFO

- Area: 12.9 km²
- · Population: ca. 8,000
- First written mention: 1277 (confirmation of Freistadt privileges; founded around 1220)
- · Symbol: silver bar on a red background
- Origin of name: city of free people and free trade
- · Website: www.freistadt.at



Linz Gate

- **1 Historic Old Town** (see detailed map)
- 2 St. Katharina Municipal Parish Church: the only five-naved basilica in Austria; first documented reference in 1288
- **3 Thurytal:** romantic river valley with bathing spots and forges
- Freistadt Castle (see details)





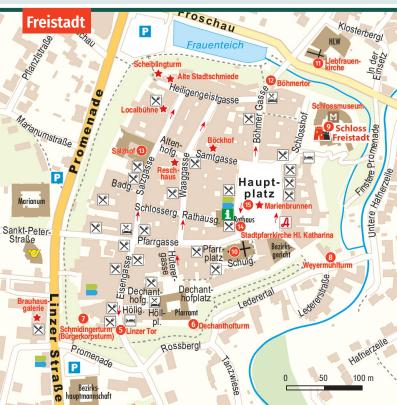


Bohemia Gate and main town square with the town's parish church

HISTORICAL SIGHTS

- **Solution** Linz Gate: at a height of 28 m, this is one of Central Europe's most massive towered gates
- **10 Dechanthofturm Tower:** 21 m high, diameter 7.5 m
- Bürgerkorpsturm Tower
- Weyermühlturm Tower
- Freistadt Castle: see next page
- Municipal parish church
- ① Church of "Our dear women" Liebfrauenkirche: Gothic interior furnishings
- Böhmertor Gate
- **(B)** Salzhof: one of the oldest buildings in the city
- **10 Town Hall:** the only four-storey building in the Old Town
- **15 Main Square:** burgher houses from the Renaissance and Baroque

Tourismusinfo: Waaggasse 6; +43 (0)7942/75700





BASIC INFO

- · Built: 1363
- · Architectural style: Gothic, Renaissance
- Appearance: city castle with four wings and three floors, with two inner courtyards and a massive Gothic round tower (the keep)
- · Geographic position: to the east of the historic city center
- · Origin of name: "city of free people"

HISTORY

The castle in Freistadt is not the oldest defense building in the city, but it followed up on the former castle located only 200 m to the west from the time before the city was founded. The former castle existed from

800 and is now known as the "Altenhof" or "Salzhof" (Old Court, or Salt Court). All that's left of the old castle today is the remains of the tower and several massive foundation walls.

1363-1397 Duke Rudolf IV had a new castle built to strengthen the fortifications in the northeast corner of the city. This castle was often pledged by the Habsburgs to higher nobility, or it was used to secure loans. Some of the owners include the Wallsee from

1290 to the 14th century; 1483 to 1500 it was pledged to the Zelkings, it belonged to Lasla von Prag until 1509, to the Landaus until 1620, and from **1620** Count Leonhard Helfreich von Meggau.

1700 the estate was sold by Emperor Leopold I as an allodium to his highest steward Ferdinand Bonaventura Count Harrach.

1777 the castle was given as a dowry by the grandfather of Rosa Harrach into the ownership of Prince Josef Kinský.

1798 the castle was sold for 5000 guilders to the city of Freistadt. It was later used as a barracks, a military hospital for French soldiers, and a sick-house.

1853 the castle was given as a gift to the public treasury to be used as a military garrison. The Republic of Austria assumed ownership rights on the basis of the "Habsburg Family Law". The castle barracks existed until **1924**.

Today, the castle houses the tax authority and is the seat of the Mühlviertler Castle Museum.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The more impressive part of the castle, and also the symbol of the city, is the Gothic 50 m tall round tower known as the keep, which offers a nice view from the outer castle courtyard. Passing through the late Gothic round arch gate will take you from the outer courtyard to the inner courtyard, which

is semi-circular in shape. The Castle Museum is accessible via the covered gallery on the upper floor. Exhibits from eight centuries document the city's history, ethnography, glass underpaintings, ceramics production, and customs and financial history.



The Freistadt Castle and medieval fortifications

OPENING TIMES

The castle courtyards are freely accessible.

Castle Museum: October to May

Monday to Friday: 9:00 - 12:00, 14:00 - 17:00

Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: 14:00 - 17:00

June to September

Monday to Friday: 9:00 - 17:00

Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: 14:00 - 17:00

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Mühlviertler Schlossmuseum Freistadt

Schlosshof 2 4240 Freistadt

Tel.: +43 (0)7942 / 72274 info@museum-freistadt.at www.museum-freistadt.at



Trail section 12 • RAINBACH

MUN. RAINBACH I.M.

BASIC INFO

- Area: 49.1 km²
- Population: ca. 3,160
- · First written mention: 1251
- · Symbol: wheel from horse-drawn carriage and horseshoe
- · Origin of name: MHG rein = border, and "bach", stream
- Website: www.rainbach.at

- Ocolor Trail: GLASS-ART-NATURE-SPACE: Each station is conceived as a combination of at least two thematic areas.
- 2 Horse-Drawn Carriage Museum: In 1832, the first public railway on the European continent was opened between České Budějovice and Linz-Urfahr, and since 1996 has been newly operational in Rainbach.
- Parish Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary: the two-nave main part has the oldest cross ribbed vaulting in the Mühlviertel with four fields, without a top vaulting stone. The church windows are by Margret Bilger from 1963.



Trail section 13 • WINDHAAG

MUN. WINDHAAG/FR.

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 42.8 km²
- · Population: 1,570
- First written mention: 1380
- Symbol: panther on a red rocky trimount, with conifers on the sides on a silver background
- · Origin of name: MHG wint = wind, hac = enclosure
- · Website: www.windhaag.at



- Wettershuttle (Central European watershed) with statues and sculptures by Gerhard Eilmsteiner: A large machine powered by water stands right on the Central European watershed between the Danube and the Vltava and it engages in the natural watershedding of the continent.
- **2 Stone bridge:** The border crossing Mairspindt/Cetviny was established at the historic stone bridge for pedestrians, cyclists, and skiers.
- **9 Green Belt Center:** providing information on the European Green Belt and the sights of the border region
- **4 Hofwies sawmill and hammer mill:** a sawmill and smithy since 1580
- **5 Venetian saw "Felbermühle":** located right next to the hiking trail; the prototype of the saw mill is ascribed to Leonardo da Vinci.





Trail section **14 • TICHÁ**

Tichá (Dolní Dvořiště)





Newly restored church in Cetviny

- Ochurch of "Our Dear Lady's Birth"; The church stands in a deserted village in Cetviny (Zettwing). The Gothic building, first mentioned in 1384, was used as a stable during the communist regime and was renovated after the Velvet Revolution.
- Tichá Fortress (see details)



Trail section 14 • TICHÁ



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1360
- · Architectural style: Gothic
- Appearance: currently a main tower of an almost square ground plan and foundation structures
- · Geographic position: bottom of the valley on the bank of a pond
- · Origin of name: German Oppolz

HISTORY

In the mid-13th century, the lords of Velešín and Michalovice, who also owned the castles of Velešín and Sokolčí, had the Tichá fortress built. 1360 is the year of the first written document. The fortress never developed into the center of an independent estate but instead remained a permanent part of the Velešín fortified castle.

After the death of Beneš and Jan of Velešín, administration over the fortress was first assumed by Petr and Jošt of Rožmberk, then in

1387 the defensive building finally passed into the complete ownership of Oldřich of Rožmberk and his son Jindřich. At that time, Tichá served as the seat of the burgrave and hetman

1611 Petr Vok of Rožmberk died, and with him the entire male line of the Rožmberks, so the fortress was inherited by Jan Jiří of Švamberk. The property of the Švamberks was confiscated, however, after their participation in the Revolt of the

Bohemian Estates. Count Charles
Bonaventure Buquoy, in contrast,
supported the winning side during
the Battle of White Mountain, and
in

1620 he acquired the fortress from Emperor Ferdinand II of Habsburg. From that time, the building was used solely for utilitarian purposes and also was greatly damaged by the fires of 1687, 1707 and 1789. In **1789**, Johann Nepomuk Buquoy had it rebuilt into a brewery which was in operation for almost a century.

After **1945**, the fortress was used by the agricultural cooperative and subsequently to the National State Farm (Státní statek) Enterprise. Around **1970**, all the buildings, except for the tower, were pulled down due to their poor structural condition.

Since **2001**, the fortress has been a registered cultural heritage property.

Trail section **14 • TICHÁ**



In the main square tower, the half-timbered floor together with the roof will be reconstructed from 2020.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Today, the fortress is one of the most researched medieval buildings in South Bohemia. The complex is dominated by the main square-shaped tower whose walls are almost 3.5 meters thick. Archeological excavations have revealed the foundations of adjoining buildings. At present, extensive reconstruction work is underway on the entire fortress and is scheduled to be completed in 2021. Refreshments are available.

OPENING TIMES

The ruins are freely accessible from the outside. Guided tours are possible (Association Hrady na Malši).

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Tvrz Tichá

Tichá 4138272, Dolní Dvořiště Hrady na Malši, z.s. Pořešín hrad 100 Kaplice 382 41 Tel.: +420 720 342 950 webmaster@hradynamalsi.cz www.hradynamalsi.cz



Trail section 15 • DOLNÍ DVOŘIŠTE

MUN. OF DOLNÍ DVOŘIŠTE

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 90.0 km²
- · Population: 1,285
- · First written mention: 1279
- Coat of Arms: two round towers behind a wicker woven wall with a heraldic rose between them
- · Former German name: Unterhaid
- · Website: www.dolnidvoriste.cz

- Parish Church of St. Giles: an important Late Gothic monument in South Bohemia, one of the most beautiful churches in the region; a three-nave church with remarkable stonework
- 2 Statue of St. John of Nepomuk
- Ohurch of St. Andrew in Rychnov nad Malší, built at the beginning of the 14th century
- Pilgrimage Church of the Virgin Mary of the Holy Stone (Maria Schnee beim Hl. Stein): a chapel built in 1653 above a split boulder, repaired after the Velvet Revolution.
- 5 Tichá Fortress (see detailed description of the Tichá hiking section)



Trail section 16 • BUJANOV

MUNICIPALITY OF BUJANOV

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 17.5 km²
- Population: ca. 570
- · First written mention: 1347
- · Coat of Arms / Symbol: no symbol
- · Former German name: Angern
- Website: www.bujanov.cz



Small railway museum right next to the railroad tracks

- Railway Museum: a small museum founded in 1995 in an old railway station building; open on summer weekends.
- 2 Louzek Castle (Lauseck)



Trail section 16 • BUJANOV



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1421
- · Architectural style: Gothic
- Appearance: original fortified castle with three parts; today the fragments of the palas, the tower, and parts of the outer walls remain
- · Geographic position: promontory falling sharply to the Malše River
- · Origin of name: Old German: "Vogelherd" or "Lausiger Winkel" (lurking)

HISTORY

The important medieval land trade route from Freistadt to České Budějovice was often threatened by traps and robbers. Several guard castles were probably built to protect it, such as Louzek, Sokolčí, Pořešín and Velešín.

Louzek used to consist of three parts. The small core of the castle itself consisted of a tower as well as residential and other buildings in the corner, which was protected on the west and north side by a moat, while a moat was cut into the rock in the west. The rock cliff in front of the castle core was fortified and protected the access road. On the northeast corner of the rock formation was a high fortification. A moat and rampart surrounded the entire complex. A relatively small bailey was attached to the steep slope above the Malše in the south. while a wall and moat were in the west and north.

Unfortunately, written reports about the castle are rare.
In **1421** the castle was first mentioned in written sources with the castle lord Petr Harrachéř of Louzek, at that time the Rožmberk burgrave of Vítkův Hrádek Castle, and the fortress first appears in written documents. A later report from about

1440 mentions that the castle became the property of the Malovec family of Malovice.

On 1 August 1448, the brothers Jan, Diviš and Bohuslav of Malovice wrote the castle over to Oldřich II of Rožmberk, thus making it part of the Nové Hrady estate. It was subsequently quickly let go, because only 12 years later, Oldřich of Rožmberk sold the estate to a certain Bárta and his son Kříž. In 1541 the castle was mentioned as a ruin.

Trail section 16 • BUJANOV



Reconstruction of Louzek Castle from around 1430

POINTS OF INTEREST

Even today, you can see the remains of the palas, the tower, and the outer walls. From the fortification system, a protective wall, a moat, the remains of the originally massive tower and a part of the adjacent masonry of the main palas have been preserved. The foundations of the longitudinal bailey have been preserved.



Today's view of the Louzek Castle Ruins

OPENING TIMES

The castle ruins are freely accessible. Guided tours are possible (Association Hrady na Malši).

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burg Louzek

38241 Bujanov Hrady na Malši, z.s. Pořešín hrad 100 Kaplice 382 41 Tel.: +420 720 342 950 webmaster@hradynamalsi.cz www.hradynamalsi.cz



Trail section 17 • KAPLICE

MUNICIPALITY OF KAPLICE

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 40.9 km²
- · Population: ca. 7,080
- · First written mention: 1257
- Coat of Arms: two quadrilateral towers behind a fortification wall, a heraldic rose between them
- · Former German name: Kaplitz
- · Website: mestokaplice.cz





Town Hall (left) and Church of St. Peter and Paul (right)

- Historic city center (detailed plan)
- Pořešín Castle (it belongs to the town of Kaplice, but in the guidebook it is assigned to section 19, municipality of Netřebice)

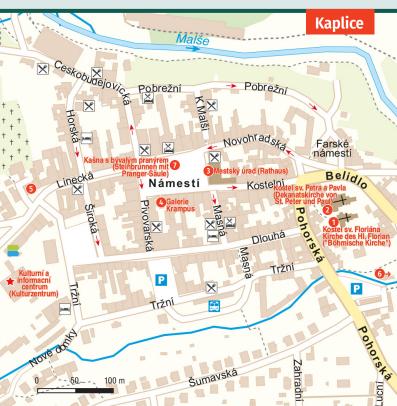


Trail section 17 • KAPLICE



Chapel of St. Joseph and Barbara

- Church of St. Florian ("Bohemian Church"): church from the beginning of the 16th century with Baroque furnishings
- Dean's Church of Sts. Peter and Paul: Gothic, two-naved hall church with Baroque dome; the first written mention is from 1383
- 3 Town Hall: Renaissance building with prismatic tower from 1555
- Krampus Gallery: Perchta and Krampus costumes are exhibited in the renovated cellar of the former Rožmberk brewery.
- 6 Chapel of St. Joseph and Barbara
- **6 Old burgher brewery house** with stone bridge, built in 1648
- **10** Stone well with pillory: built in 1646



Trail section 18 • SOBĚNOV

MUNICIPALITY OF SOBĚNOV

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 12.5 km²
- · Population: ca. 370
- First written mention: 1359
- Coat of arms/symbol:
- Former German name: Oemau





- 1 St. Nicholas Church: originally a Gothic and later (from the 17th century) a Baroque church
- 2 Sokolčí Castle (located in the cadastre of Benešov nad Černou)



Trail section 18 • SOBĚNOV



BASIC INFO

- · Built: around 1358
- · Architectural style: Gothic
- · Appearance: originally a two-part castle with a bailey and castle core
- Geographic position: on a rocky promontory falling sharply to the Černá River
- Origin of name: "falcon" castle

HISTORY

1358 Sokolčí Castle was probably founded by lindrich of Velešín and Michalovice, after losing his share of Velešín Castle. Although no founding charters have been preserved, the counterfeits of Oldřich II of Rožmberk, which relate to the year 1264 and are supposed to confirm the ownership claims of Vok of Rožmberk granted by King Přemysl Otakar II, are interesting. From 17 September 1333 there comes another document from the same counterfeit workshop, based on which King John of Luxembourg gave Vok of Rožmberk the castles Příběnice and Sokolčí. These documents point to the great interest of Oldřich of Rožmberk in the castle, although it remains unclear whether this was still a functioning dominion

The Rožmberks finally succeeded in capturing the castles of Sokolčí, Pořešín, and Louzek. Almost two hundred years after it was established (1541), the first documents exist that testify to an abandoned castle. Archaeological findings show that there was fire.

The layout of the Sokolčí castle was two-part. In front of the main castle there was a wider bailey spread out, the front of which was secured by a moat and a rampart. The core of the castle was concealed behind the second moat, broken into the rock. On the northeast corner there stood a tall square tower with connected fortifications that contained battlements. Another, four-sided defense tower stood above the southeast corner.

Trail section 18 • SOBĚNOV

POINTS OF INTEREST

You can explore fragments of the tower, palas, and fortification walls. Enjoy a view over the beautiful countryside and over the river valley and its surroundings. The massive granite wall now serves as a climbing wall and is equipped with securing rings and bolts.



View onto the already dilapidated castle from the north (historical drawing, right) and reconstruction of Sokolčí castle from around 1350 (below)



OPENING TIMES

The castle ruins are freely accessible. Guided tours are possible (Hrady na Malši Association).

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Hrad Sokolčí

38241 Benešov nad Černou Hrady na Malši, z.s. Pořešín hrad 100 Kaplice 382 41 Tel.: +420 720 342 950 webmaster@hradynamalsi.cz www.hradynamalsi.cz



MUNICIPALITY OF NETŘEBICE

BASIC INFO

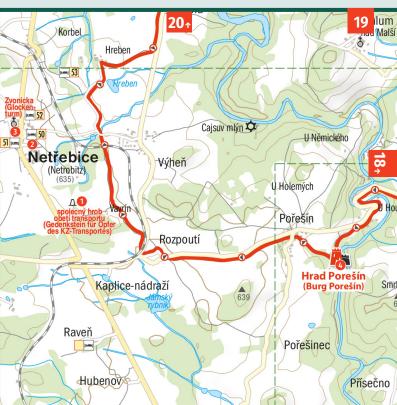
- Area: 13.4 km²
- · Population: ca. 460
- First written mention: 1358
- · Symbol: no symbol
- · Former German name: Netrobitz
- · Website: obecnetrebice.cz

Belltower and memorial stone





- Memorial to the Victims of Transport from the Concentration Camp: built in memory of 44 unnamed victims of transport from the Auschwitz concentration camp to Mauthausen, from January 1945.
- **Bell Tower:** open wooden tower with bell of St. Wenceslas; established in 1991
- Chapel of St. John of Nepomuk: Atrium Chapel, built in 1825
- O Pořešín Castle ruins: belongs to the town of Kaplice



Trail section 19 • NETŘEBICE



BASIC INFO

- · Built: around 1270
- · Architectural style: Gothic
- Appearance: castle core and two baileys
- · Geographic position: rocky outcrop above the Malše River

HISTORY

In 1270 the castle was founded by Bavor II of Strakonice, probably because he needed a headquarters from where he could manage his land. His wife Aněžka, the illegitimate daughter of the Czech King Přemysl Otakar II, received this area as her dowry.

In 1315, however, his son Bavor III exchanged it with his brothers Přibík, Verner, and Rack for the Vitějovice castle near Prachatice. From that moment, the new owners were named after the acquired castle. The most important member of the family is considered to be Markvart I of Pořešín, the chamberlain of Empress Elizabeth of Pomerania from 1358 to 1406. After the death of the last lord of Pořešín, the castle became the property of Jan and Hrošek of Maršovice.

At the **end of the 14th century**, the second bailey was built in the

castle grounds during extensive reconstructions.

During the Hussite wars, the castle was held by several unknown owners before it became the inherited property of Emperor Sigismund of Luxembourg, who gave it to Oldřich II of Rožmberk. Oldřich II was known for his counterfeiting activities and likely had the family archive of the Lords of Pořešín destroved.

Around **1433**, in fear of the Hussite danger, he had the castle fortifications torn down. The castle was never renewed.



Today's appearance of Pořešín Castle

Trail section 19 • NETŘEBICE



Reconstruction of Pořešín Castle from about 1400

POINTS OF INTEREST

Today, there are still two preserved castle gates and three dividing moats with a bridge, the foundations of the castle tower, the kitchen, and the remains of the palas. Five information boards document the original appearance, giving us a "look into the past". The complex also includes replicas of medieval cuisine, blacksmiths, and pottery shops, where craft courses take

place during the summer months. The archaeological museum is remarkable. In addition to the history of the castle, it describes life in the Middle Ages (kitchen utensils and tableware, sewing utensils, tools, military equipment, coins). In the castle pub "U Markvarta z Pořešína" you can enjoy meals prepared according to the first medieval Czech cookbook from 1535.

OPENING TIMES

April to May: Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 to 17:00 June: Thursday to Sunday from 10:00 to 18:00 July to August: every day from 9:00 to 19:00 September and October: Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 to 17:00 Closed during the winter!

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Hrad Pořešín

Pořešín 38241 Kaplice Hrady na Malši, z.s. Pořešín hrad 100 Kaplice 382 41 Tel.: +420 720 342 950

webmaster@hradynamalsi.cz



Trail section 20 • SVATÝ JAN NAD MALŠÍ

MUN. OF SVATÝ JAN NAD MALŠÍ

BASIC INFO

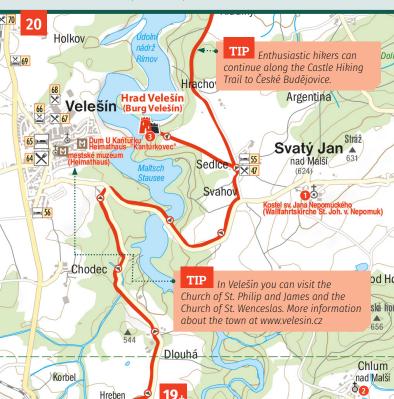
- · Area: 12.8 km²
- · Population: ca. 560
- First written mention: 1735
- · Coat of arms/symbol: St. John of Nepomuk
- · Former German name: Johannesberg
- · Website: www.svjan.cz



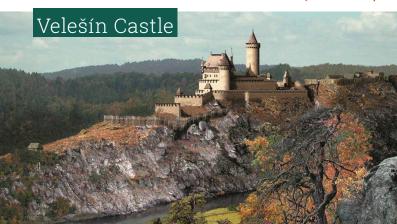


Rustic Baroque in Chlum (left) and pilgrimage church in Svatý Jan (right)

- Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk: a single-nave Baroque building with a three-sided presbytery and a 37-m high prismatic tower
- **2 Chlum nad Malší:** Farmhouse in the style of South Bohemian peasant Baroque.
- **3 Velešín Castle Ruins** (see details)



Trail section 20 • SVATÝ JAN NAD MALŠÍ



Reconstruction of the castle from around 1450

BASIC INFO

- · Built: in the first third of the 13th century
- · Architectural style: late Romanesque and Gothic
- Appearance: two-part complex
- Geographic position: rocky promontory near a narrow meander of the Malše River
- · Origin of name: probably the name of the founder

HISTORY

Velešín Castle is one of the first royal stone castles in Bohemia and served as a border castle on the southern edge of the Bohemian Kingdom.

King Wenceslas I (Václav I) is considered to be the (possible) founder of the castle and the one who gave it the name

Around **1265** Přemysl Otakar II (son of Wenceslas I) traded the castle with Čéč of Budivojovice in order to obtain the necessary land for the establishment of the royal town of České Budějovice. Čéč transferred the castle (the year remains unknown) to Beneš Pyšný of Velešín, predecessor of the Lords of Michalovice.

It was mostly the Lords of Michalovice who, together with the Rožmberks, played an important role in the colonization of South Bohemia. In addition to Velešín, they also owned Sokolčí Castle, Benešov Fortress, and Tichá Castle. After the end of the reign of Přemysl Otakar II, the castle once again passed into royal hands.

In **1283** under Wenceslas II it was returned to Jan of Michalovice. His son Beneš inherited it from him, then in

1346 it passed to his grandson Jindřich of Velešín. Petr of Michalovice, who was the owner since **1361**, built a chapel in honor of St. Wenceslas.

The castle enjoyed a convenient location on the trade routes from České Budějovice to Freistadt and Weitra, so over time it evolved into an important marketplace, which is probably why the Rožmberks

Trail section 20 • SVATÝ JAN NAD MALŠÍ

bought it in 1387 for strategic reasons. At the time the castle was still a royal fief, but in 1391, when Velešín was promoted to city status, Wenceslas IV released it from feudal bondage. For more than 100, years the castle was owned by the Rožmberks.

After 1487, it was abandoned due to excessive maintenance costs. In 1541 it was already mentioned as dilapidated. With the death of the last Rožmberk Petr Vok in 1611, it was given to Jan Jiří of Švamberk as inheritance.





Today's appearance of Velešín Castle

POINTS OF INTEREST

The dominant feature of the castle was once the massive round tower whose remains have been preserved. In the slope beneath the tower there was a bailey to which an access road which then led to the courtyard of the core of the castle. This core consisted of a palas with a single nave Chapel of St. Wenceslas. The unusual irregular ground plan of the chapel is still

noticeable today. This is one of the oldest royal castle chapels and was built in the late Romanesque style. The rear, lower part of the castle consisted of another tower and a circular fortification wall. The remains of a hermit chapel are also interesting, which was built in the middle of the 16th century on the ruins of the castle and was probably inhabited for almost 50 years.

OPENING TIMES

The castle ruins are freely accessible. Guided tours are possible (Association Hrady na Malši).

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Hrad Velešín

37401 Velešín Hrady na Malši, z.s. Pořešín hrad 100 Kaplice 382 41 Tel.: +420 720 342 950 webmaster@hradynamalsi.cz



25. Trail sections A-E

Trail sections A to E describe the southern route through Windhaag/Perg, Rechberg, Bad Zell, and Tragwein.





Pillory in Bad Zell and Chapel of St. Hedwig in Bad Zell



The Altenburg filial church was first mentioned in 1309 and is dedicated to St. Bartholomew. Lasla von Prag designated the church as his family's last resting place. The chapel and tomb were decorated in 1512 with beautiful frescoes and are the highlight of this church. Next to the church

is the Museum of the "Count of Windhaag" which documents the incredible story of Count Joachim Enzmilner who was active in the counter-reformation in Upper and Lower Austria. His daughter later had his beautiful castle demolished and founded the monastery in Windhaag.

Trail section A • WINDHAAG

MUN. OF WINDHAAG / PERG

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 19.1 km²
- · Population: ca. 1,510
- · First written mention: around 1250
- Symbol: an armed griffin with a half mill wheel on a silver trimount
- · Origin of name: wind = exposed to wind; hac = enclosure
- · Website: www.windhaag-perg.at



- Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene: built from the material of a former castle; after the abolition of the monastery, it was promoted to the parish church of Windhaag in 1785.
- **2** Altenburg Church: see details on page 85
- Altenburg Museum: the story of Count Joachim Enzmilner and the magnificent Windhaag Castle
- Homeland studies room and armory of the civil guard in the former monastery
- 6 Ruins of Windhaag Castle (see detailed description)



Trail section A • WINDHAAG



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1290
- Architectural style: Gothic; the Renaissance castle was demolished for the construction of the monastery
- · Appearance: main bergfried tower, remnants of the palas and walls
- Geographic position: raised castle on rocky promontory
- Origin of name: Middle High German wint = wind, hac = enclosure, or "Haag der Wenden" = Slavs ("Wenden"), inhabited highland

HISTORY

In the 10th century there was probably a wooden fortified settlement here on an elongated hill.

1290 the fortress appeared for the first time with the brothers Heinrich and Freitel von Windhaag as the owners. This was followed by Hans von Au and later the Lasberg family.

1395 Konrad Schaffer von Schwertberg owned the castle, having married the daughter of the last Freitel von Windhaag.

1400 the castle passed over to Thomas Tannpeck.

1485 Emperor Frederick III confiscated the Tannpeck estate of Windhaag and gave it to Lasla von Prag, because during the wars with Hungary the Tannpecks collaborated with the Liechtensteins, who were the emperor's enemies at the time. Lasla von Prag succeeded in increasing the estate through

purchases as well as establishing a provincial court in Windhaag.

1597 his grandson Friedrich von Prag had to sell Windhaag Castle to his main creditor Lorenz Schütter of Klingenberg, whose descendants later sold it to Joachim Enzmilner, a lawyer who became rich during the Counter-Reformation, in

1630 due to massive debts. In the purchase agreement, the castle is described as "a simple Gothic defense structure, not too big, but still comfortable".

From **1642**, Enzmilner built a new, large, three-storey building in Renaissance style next to the small "Old Castle" with a spa, stucco ceilings, a library of 30,000 books (the basis of the National Library), and a picture gallery.

1678 Joachim Enzmilner died, and his only surviving daughter

Trail section A • WINDHAAG

Eva Magdalena inherited all his possessions. Having submitted herself to the monastery, she turned away from her father's luxurious lifestyle. She had the castle demolished, only eight years after it was finished, including its valuable paintings, furnishings, and fountains (now on the square in Steyr and Königswiesen). She used the

construction material to establish a large new monastery.

Until 1771, the "Old Castle" served as a residence for poor people. The former grandiose building became a mere ruin for which no one cared for the next 200 years.

1990 the town of Windhaag bought the remnants of the historic walls in order to restore them.





Panoramic staircase (left) and view from the tower (right)

POINTS OF INTEREST

Of the so-called "Old Castle" we can still see the preserved remains of the palas, the keep, gate, and the fortification walls, and also the Chapel of St. Peter. The tower is now accesible via a panoramic staircase. Large parts of the historic walls have been reconstructed

using new building materials. As mentioned earlier, the New Castle was completely demolished. But if you visit the Museum and Church in Altenburg near Perg, there is a model of the New Castle that will give you a glimpse into its former beauty.

OPENING TIMES

The ruins are freely accessible.

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burgruine Windhaag

Burgstraße 17, 4322 Windhaag bei Perg www.burgruine.windhaag-perg.at Gemeinde Windhaag bei Perg Enzmilnerplatz 3,4322 Windhaag bei Perg Tel.: +43 (0)7264 / 4255 gemeinde@windhaag-perg.at www.windhaag-perg.at



MUN. RECHBERG

BASIC INFO

- Area: 13.8 km²
- Population: ca. 1.000
- · First written mention: 1209
- Symbol: Wave bar (bathing lake) and three gold balls (St. Nicholas)
- · Origin of name:
- · Website: www.rechberg.at

Trail section B • RECHBERG





"Schwammerling"

- Großdöllnerhof Open-air Museum: The roughly 400-year-old "three-sided court" (Dreiseithof) from the Mühlviertel is now an open-air museum and an event center.
- **2 "Schwammerling":** This remarkably balanced stone (created by erosion) is the symbol of the village.
- Parish Church of St. Nicholas: The first written mention is from 1209 it was founded as a branch of the church in Pierbach.
- Rechberg bathing lake: with supreme water quality and a shady meadow for relaxation.



Trail section C • BAD ZELL

MUNICIPALITY OF BAD ZELL

BASIC INFO

- · Area: 45.5 km²
- · Population: ca. 2,920
- · First written mention: 1208
- · Symbol: Monastery cell with bell tower and crossed keys
- · Origin of name: MHG zëlle = monk's cell; "Bad" since 1976
- · Website: www.badzell.at



HISTORICAL SIGHTS

- Parish Church of St. John the Baptist: Late Gothic building (1st documented reference in 1260) with Baroque altar (by Franz Ludwig Grimm of Bavaria)
- 2 Pillory: the only pillory in Upper Austria, from 1574;
- Salomons Dachboden Private Homeland Museum: impressively conceived private collection of historical, peasant, and original items
- O Cella Hedwigsbründl: healing spring, spas named after Saint Hedwig.
- **5 Tunnels:** artificial system of corridors cut from granite with a total length of 65 meters in the Populorum Inn.
- 6 Zellhof Castle (see details)

Tourist info: Lebensquellplatz 1, +43 (0)7263/7516 oder +43 (0)5 07263



Trail section C • BAD ZELL

Zellhof Castle



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1347
- · Architectural style: Renaissance
- Appearance: preserved two-storey south and west residential tract; the north and west wings were partially demolished
- · Geographic position: flat hill
- · Origin of name: "Cella", = cell, small chapel

HISTORY

In 1208, a certain "Heinricus de Celle" is mentioned, the first written mention of today's village of Bad Zell (Cella). A few kilometers outside the village of Zell, the "Hof daz Celle", while the aristocratic residence of Zellhof was established later.

1347 Zellhof is mentioned in writing as the property of Chunrat and Peter Czellhof. This was followed by numerous changes in the owners and its reconstruction into a noble residence (a smaller, non-fortified but representative seat of the lower nobility).

1536 Zellhof is purchased by Hilleprant Jörger, who had acquired the Prandegg estate north of Zell two years earlier, the market village of Zell from Regensburg, and in **1607** the Zellhof from Wolf Heinrich Artstetter von Wartberg. Between 1618 and 1622, Ferdinand Jörger commissioned a large tract with a representative external staircase and which also contained representative rooms, as well as a two-story tract. During the Counter-Reformation, Hans Maximilian Jörger had to sell all his property in 1631 and the estate passed to

1631 and the estate passed to Gotthard von Scherffenberg. After his death, his widow married Hans Reichard von Starhemberg.

In **1607**, after the merger of the Prandegg estate with Zellhof, the administrative headquarters were located in Zellhof, and Prandegg was left to dilapidate.

In 1710-1754 the castle was owned by Franz Ferdinand von Salburg, who also enlarged it. He built a castle tower and a new chapel and converted the building in Baroque style.

Trail section C • BAD ZELL

There were 678 feudal houses that belonged to the estate of Zellhof, Prandegg, and Aich.

In **1806**, after the Salburg family died out, Zellhof passed over to Count Dietrichstein, a native of Carinthia.

In 1823, Zellhof and Prandegg were

sold to the Dukes of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, based in Greinburg. In 1917, the tower and the representative main buildings were demolished. The remaining buildings were later given to the village of Zell, which assigned them to "tenants".



Historical appearance of Zellhof Castle in around 1900

POINTS OF INTEREST

From the once magnificent castle, today only the two-storey southern and western residential tracts remain, with strips of plaster, a dilapidated farmstead, and a former Baroque chapel.

One of the last great witch trials

in Upper Austria, known as the Wagenlehner Process, took place at the Zellhof estate in 1729-1731. During the process, an entire family was defamed and executed. You can hear the story with an audio guide.

OPENING TIMES

The castle is freely accessible from the outside.

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Schloss Zellhof

Zellhof 1, 4283 Bad Zell Marktgemeinde Bad Zell Marktplatz 8 4283 Bad Zell Tel. 07263/7255



Trail section **D • TRAGWEIN**

MUN. OF TRAGWEIN

BASIC INFO

- Area: 39.5 km²
- · Population: ca. 3,080
- · First written mention: 1230
- · Symbol: gold wine barrel on a carrier
- Origin of name: "Drawehn" = wooded county, or in Slavic languages: "expensive, valuable"
- · Website: www.tragwein.at





Parish church and Marian Column

- Parish Church of Sts. Peter and Paul: Gothic double-naved main part (with three fields) with mesh vaulting, star ribbed vault, and modern extension
- 2 Marian Column on the Square, established in 1750
- Reichenstein Castle with castle museum



Trail section E • REICHENSTEIN

Reichenstein (Tragwein)



The river landscape of the Waldaist River was declared a Natura 2000 territory. Rare freshwater pearl mussels live in its ferric waters.



Trail section E • REICHENSTEIN



BASIC INFO

- · First written mention: 1230
- Architectural style: remnants of Gothic, mainly Renaissance, Baroque elements
- Appearance: Renaissance residential wing in the central Gothic part; castle chapel
- Geographic position: high castle on a steeply sloped low rocky promontory
- Origin of name: the word "Stein" (stone) meant "Fels" (rock cliff) in Middle High German, and "rîche" meant "powerful".

HISTORY

The beginning of the castle's construction cannot be determined, but the castle enters into historical records in **1230** with the person **Ulricus de Reichenstein**.

From 1264, the name Poppo de Reichenstein can be found in written sources, then later his son Hugo.
1295 Duke Albrecht I grants half the castle to Chunrad von Capellen.
After 1326, the second half was owned by Eberhard von Wallsee, who in

1352 sold it to Ulrich II von Capellen. Ulrich probably did not stay here for a long time, since nearby Steyregg and Ruttenstein were his main residence and representative seat, respectively.

During the **14th century** the castle

was gradually reconstructed and extended, during which almost the entire old castle was torn down or rebuilt except for small parts. It is evident that this was supposed to satisfy the increased need for space and a desire for greater living comfort. Reichenstein thus developed into an impressive aristocratic castle with ramparts, a bailey with castle chapel, and a massive four-storey residential building with noble furnishings.

In **1406**, the male line of the Capellen family died out, and the castle was married off to Hartneid of Liechtenstein.

In **1567**, the castle was acquired by the Styrian knight Christoph Haym. He and his son Hanns rebuilt it into a magnificent Renaissance castle with festive halls decorated with beautiful murals. This resulted in his evangelical subjects being subject to high taxes, and the hated Catholic Christoph Haym was murdered in 1571. The perpetrator was believed to be the Protestant peasant leader Gaisrucker.

1616 free Lord Hanns von Haym died, so the castle passed to Count

Wenzel Reichard von Sprinzenstein

in **1632** through Haym's daughter Marie Johanna Reichenstein.

1729 Count Gundaker Thomas von Starhemberg bought the estate; his descendants are still the owners of the castle ruins today. The ruins are rented by an association, which looks after the reconstruction of the castle and

organizes cultural events.





Reichenstein Castle Ruins with Castle Museum (left) and statues of Haym the knight in the castle chapel (right)

POINTS OF INTEREST

The Knights' Hall features remnants of remarkable frescoes with scenes from ancient mythology. The chapel, housing one of Upper Austria's oldest preserved paintings on glass, a Rococo altar, and undamaged

vaulting, is considered the highlight of the castle tour. The modern Castle Museum is home to a large part of the collections of castle researcher Alfred Höllhuber.

OPENING TIMES

The inside of the castle ruins can be viewed during the opening hours of the Castle Museum:

1 May to 31 October, from Friday to Sunday and on public holidays, always from 11:00 to 17:00; November to April: closed for the winter. The castle courtyard is freely accessible.

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Burg Reichenstein

Reichenstein 1 4230 Tragwein OÖ Burgenmuseum Reichenstein

Tel.: +43 (0)7236 / 31400

office@burg-reichenstein.at www.burg-reichenstein.at



26. List of culinary and accommodation businesses

Please note:

- This section is divided into four categories:
 - ¶ Food
 - Accommodation
 - Food and accommodation
 - Camping

The businesses are marked on the maps with the matching numbers.

- Addresses are organized by municipality. Businesses that could not be clearly assigned according to a section on the map have been cross-referenced in the address list and can be found at both municipalities.
- Addresses in the list can be easily assigned based on the numbers. For clusters, the same number has been assigned to several businesses under certain circumstances.
- A two-digit number system was chosen to make the numbers on the map large enough. Business from towns that are far apart may have the same numbers.

This applies to:

From Grein on the northern route to Lasberg: 1 to 65 From Windhaag/Pe. to Gutau: 50 to 92 From Freistadt to the border: 1 to 57 In the Czech Republic: 0 to 53

Austria

4362 Bad Kreuzen

- ¶ 19 Speck-Alm, Fam. Gaßner, Lehen 15, +43 (0)7266 6261, mostschenke@speck-alm.at, www.speck-alm.at
- 11, +43 (0) 7266 6213 **21 Bäckerei Café Konditorei Gusenbauer**, Bad Kreuzen 11, +43
- **11 21 Pizzeria Barena**, Bad Kreuzen 163, +43 (0)7266/6298, levent.enez@live.de, www.pizzeria-barena.at
- 20 Schatz.Kammer, Burg Kreuzen Betriebs GmbH, Neuaigen 14, +43 (0) 7266 6686, info@burg-kreuzen.at, www.burg-kreuzen.at
- 22 Kirchenwirt, Rudolf Radlmüller, Bad Kreuzen 19, +43 (0) 7266 6205, radlmueller@kirchenwirtbk.at, www.kirchenwirtbk.at
- 22 Landgasthof zur Zugbrücke, Fam. Schiefer, Bad Kreuzen 9, +43 (0) 7266 6212, info@gasthof-schiefer.at, www.gasthof-schiefer.at
- 23 CURHAUS Marienschwestern GmbH, Friedrich Kaindlstorfer, Bad Kreuzen 106, +43 (0) 7266 6281, badkreuzen@marienschwestern.at, www.tem-zentrum.at

- **24 Ferienwohnung Freinhofer Bauernhof Barth**, Fam. Lambert u. Maria Barth, Unterdörfl 4, +43 (0) 7266 6388, barth.lambert@aon.at
- 25 Gasthof Zum Stillen Tal, Fam. Fraundorfer, Thomastal 15, +43 (0) 7266 6383, stilles.tal@aon.at, www.stillestal.at

4283 Bad Zell

- 59 Landgasthaus Raabmühle, Fam. Glinsner, Zellhof 12, +43 (0)7263 6255, office@raabmuehle.at, www.raabmuehle.at
- 62 Wirt in Zellhof, Fam. Bauernfeind, Zellhof 6, +43 (0)7263 7574, gh.bauernfeind@gmx.at, www.bsvbadzell.at
- 64 Restaurant Feuerkuchl, Hotel Lebensquell, Lebensquellplatz 1, +43 (0) 7263 7515, office.hotel@lebensquell-badzell.at, www.lebensquell-badzell.at
- **64 Restaurant Cafe Kurhotel**, Kurhausstraße 9, +43 (0) 7263 7566, info@kurhotel-badzell.at, www.kurhotel-badzell.at
- 66 Gasthaus zum Feuchten Eck, Fam. Populorum, Huterergasse 5, +43 (0)7263 7277, office@populorum.com, www.populorum.com
- 67 Färberwirt, Fam. Holzer, Kurhausstraße 10, +43 (0)7263 7434, info@faerberwirt-badzell.at, www.faerberwirt-badzell.at
- 67 Restaurant ACHILLES, Marktplatz 12, +43 (0)7263 711 22
- 67 Pizzeria Mio, Alkan Muhammer, Kurhausstraße 7, +43 (0) 7263 20578
- **ff 67 Bio Bäckerei-Café-Konditorei Stöcher**, Fam. Stöcher, Marktplatz 2, +43 (0)7263 7228, badzell@stoecher.at, www.stoecher.at
- 67 MoMa's Pub, Marktplatz 1, +43 (0)664 46 79 169
- 68 Sport-, Freizeit- und Kulturzentrum ARENA, Fam. Naderer, Gutauerstr. 49, +43 (0) 7263 20097, office@arenawirt.at, www.arenawirt.at
- 73 Mostheuriger Langebner, Fam. Mayrhofer, Maierhof 5, +43 (0)664 20 41 081, langebner.bt@gmail.com, www.langebner-huette.at
- **11 75 Gasthaus Ratzenböck**, Erdleiten 3, +43 (0)7263 7237, info@gh-ratzenboeck.at, www.gh-ratzenboeck
- 63 Bauernhof Mitterkriener, Fam. Schwabegger, Zellhof 24, +43 (0)650 666 05 52, a.m.schwabegger@aon.at, www.schwabegger-badzell.com
- 65 Gesundheitsresort ****s Hotel Lebensquell, Lebensquellplatz 1, +43 (0)7263 7515-501, www.lebensquell-badzell.at
- 65 Kurhotel Bad Zell, Kurhausstraße 9, +43 (0)7263 7566, info@kurhotel-badzell.at, www.kurhotel-badzell.at
- 67 Studio Hofer, Fam. Hofer, Gutauer Str. 1 A, +43 (0)664 352 48 98, brigitte@gery-hofer.com, www.urlaub-badzell.at
- 69 Bauernhof Salomon, Fam. Schinnerl, Riegl 8, +43 (0)7263 7390, salomon.badzell@aon.at, www.urlaubambauernhof.at/salomon
- 71 Bauernhof Kapferberger, Fam. Stadler, Maierhof 17, +43 (0)7263 7443, kapferberger@zellernetz.at, www.bauernhof.at/kapferberger
- 72 Bauernhof Brandtner, Fam. Wenigwieser, Maierhof 14, +43 (0)664 75012006, resi.wenigwieser@gmx.at

- 70 Leitnerhof, Fam. Fischer, Maierhof 20, +43 (0)650 981 189, erich-fischer@aon.at
- 74 Mühlviertler Berghof, Fam. Hunger, Erdleiten 2, +43 (0)7263 6110, info@bioberghof.at, www.bioberghof.at
 - 60, 61→ Pierbach
 - **75** → Tragwein

4240 Freistadt

- Die Schlemmerei, Campingplatz Freistadt, Hildegard Duschl, Eglsee 12, +43 (0)7942 72570, schlemmerei-freistadt@gmx.at, www.dieschlemmerei.jimdo.com
 - 06 Cafe Auszeit, Freudenthaler, Etrichstraße 1, +43 (0)7942 72679, sigi.auszeit@epnet.at, www.cafe-auszeit.cc
 - 06 Cafe Restaurant Aspirin, Etrichstrasse 17, +43 (0)676 5747555, cafe.aspirin@aon.at, www.members.aon.at/aspirin/cafe.htm
 - 07 Gasthaus zur Jaunitz, Jürgen Stampfl, Arnethstrasse 1, +43 (0)7942 21954, gasthaus@zur-jaunitz.at, www.zur-jaunitz.at
 - 08 freistil Kaffee.Bar.Restaurant, M. Freudenthaler, Industriestraße 1, +43 (0)660 3019303, reservierung@freistil-freistadt.at, www.freistil-freistadt.at
 - 09 Nuris Pizza & Kebap-Treff, Industriestraße 2, +43 (0)676/6822948
 - 11 Asia Restaurant Panda, Linzerstraße 57, +43 (0)7942 72851, www.chinarestaurant-freistadt.at
 - 14 Pizzeria Donna Rosa, Linzerstraße 46, +43 (0)7942/75440
 - 15 Hexenhäusl, Katharina Feichtmayr, Am Stieranger 12, +43 (0)650 3006313
 - 16 Cafe-Bäckerei Kern GmbH, Fam. Kern, Neuhoferstraße 16, +43 (0)7942 72292, office@kern-brot.at, www.kern-brot.stadtausstellung.at
 - 16 Zottis Hallenbad Restaurant, Fam. Schöppl, Bahnhofstraße 6, +43 (0)7942-73195
 - 17 Bäckerei Haneder, Ernst Haneder, Linzerstraße 8, +43 (0)7945 328, haneder@t-online.at
 - 17 Imbißstube Schmalzer, Linzer Straße 6b, +43 (0)7942 73101
 - 17 Stifterstüberl, Linzer Straße 8, +43 (0)7942 73886
 - 17 Da Vinci Pizza und Kebab, Stifterplatz 1, +43 (0)7942 72265
 - 18 McDonald's (Mc Drive), Promenade 9, +43 (0)7942 75680
 - 19 Freistädter Brauhaus, Helmut Satzinger, Brauhausstraße 2, +43 (0)7942 72772, brauhaus@freistaedter-bier.at, www.freistaedter-brauhaus.at
 - 20 Bäckerei Gusenbauer, Böhmergasse 7, +43 (0)7942 72389, www.gusenbauer-brot.at
 - 20 Sailor's Kultbar, Klaus Ganglbauer, Dechanthofgasse 1, +43 (0)7942 73682, info@sailorsbar.at, www.sailorsbar.at
 - 10 Latino Lounge & Bar, Christian Hoheneder, Eisengasse 10, +43 (0)7942 73854, freistadt@latino.co.at, www.latino.co.at
 - 1 20 Il Vino Vinothek, Gertraud Freudenthaler, Eisengasse 2, +43 (0)699 12680020, gertraud.freudenthaler@gmx.net, www.il-vino.at

- 11 20 TURMSTADL bewusst genießen, Florian Stadler, Eisengasse 22b, +43 (0)7942 72781, info@turmstadl.at, www.turmstadl.at
- 1 20 Cafe-Konditorei Poissl, Fam. Poissl, Eisengasse 3, +43 (0)7942 72253, cafe-poissl@epnet.at, www.konditorei-poissl.at
- **11 20 Mamma Rosa Pizza, Kebap, Burger**, Eisengasse 18, +43 (0)7942 7278
- 1 20 Ratsherrnstube, Fam. Ziegler, Hauptplatz 1, +43 (0)7942 72439, ratsherrnstube@aon.at, www.ratsherrnstube-freistadt.at
- 20 Cafe-Konditorei-Lebzelterei Lubinger, Fam. Lubinger, Hauptplatz 10, +43 (0)7942 72686, info@lubinger.at, www.lubinger.at
- 11 20 Foxis Schlosstaverne, Gerhard Rudelsdorfer, Hauptplatz 11, +43 (0)7942 73930, foxi87@gmx.at, www.foxis.at
- 1 20 Kräuterbäcker und Café Freudenthaler, Wolfgang Freudenthaler, Hauptplatz 12, +43 (0)664 2302037, mail@kraeuterbaecker.at, www.kraeuterbaecker.at
- 1 20 Acanto Cocktailbar, Stefan Haneder, Hauptplatz 13, +43 (0)7942 75737, acanto-bar@gmx.at, www.acanto-bar.at
- **11 20 Erker Stüberl**, Hauptplatz 3, +43 (0)660 6125165
- **11 20 Valentino's Pizza & Kebap**, Pfarrgasse 1, +43 (0)7942 74885
- **11 20 Bäckerei Bräuer**, Pfarrgasse 20, +43 (0)7942 77717, kundenservice@naturbäcker.at, www.braeuer.at
- 1 20 Burgerei, Pfarrgasse 22, +43 (0)7942 2149-7, freistadt@burgerei.at, www.burgerei.at
- 20 Suchan Cafe & Bar, Pfarrplatz 3, +43 (0)7942/21481, office@suchan-freistadt.at, www.suchan-freistadt.com
- **11 20 Gasthaus Vis à Vis & mehr**, Herbert Gossenreiter, Salzgasse 13, +43 (0)7942 74293, feiern@gasthaus-visavis.at, www.gasthaus-visavis.at
- 1 20 Local-Bühne, Salzgasse 25, +43 (0)7942 77733, office@local-buehne.at, www.local-buehne.at/index_local.asp
- **20 Freistädter Bier Pub**, Salzgasse 11, +43 (0)7942 73937
- **10 China Restaurant Rossstall**, Salzgasse 5, +43 (0)7942 72218
- 1 20 Rockford Bar, Verena Wirtl, Samtgasse 7, +43 (0)650 2542099, rockford-bar@gmx.at
- 20 Zottis Lounge Bistro & Bar, Waaggasse 7, +43 (0)7942 73195, sotti57@live.de, ab 2020 geschlossen
- **1 21 14er Beisl**, Prager Straße 16, +43 (0)664 49 24473, 14erbeis@gmail.com
- 1 23 Bockau Wirt, Fam. Larndorfer, Pfadfinderweg 1, +43 (0)7942 77915, bockauwirt@epnet.at, www.bockauwirt.at
- **11 24 Pizzeria Venezia**, Graben 9, +43 (0)7942 74239, www.pizzeriavenezia.org
- 20 Hotel zum Goldenen Hirschen, Christiane Jäger, Böhmergasse 8 10 u. Salzgasse 1, +43 (0)7942 72258, goldener.hirsch@hotels-freistadt.at, www.hotels-freistadt.at
- 20 Hotel Hubertus, Thomas Friesenecker, Höllplatz 2 (Innenstadt), +43 (0)7942 72354, office@hotelhubertus-freistadt.at, www.hotelhubertus-freistadt.at

- 20 Hotel Gasthof Jäger Goldener Adler, Salzgasse 1 (Innenstadt), +43 (0)7942 72112, goldener.adler@hotels-freistadt.at, www.hotels-freistadt.at
- 10 Privatunterkunft Rudlstorfer, Brigitte Rudlstorfer, An der Feldaist 18, +43 (0)664 936 13 98, karl.rudlstorfer@tele2.at
- 12 Privatunterkunft Haus Rechberger, Kubinstraße 4, +43 (0)664 4215663, office@zimmer-rechberger.at, www.zimmer-rechberger.at
- **13 Privatunterkunft Haus Leitner**, Missonstraße 21, +43 (0)7942 72667
- 20 Pension Pirklbauer, Christine Pirklbauer, Höllgasse 2, +43 (0)7942 72440, pension.pirklbauer@aon.at, www.pension-pirklbauer.at
- 20 Jugendherberge Freistadt, Schloßhof 3, +43 (0)680 207 18 81, herberge@jugendherberge-freistadt.at, www.jugendherberge-freistadt.at
 - 64, 65 → Lasberg 30–32 → Grünbach

4360 Grein

- Campingplatz & Herberge Grein, Dipl.Ing. Jorj Colesnicov, Campingplatz 1, +43 (0)7268 21230, office@camping-grein.at, www.camping-grein.at
- 6 03 Kirchenwirt, Geyrhofer Gastro KG, Hauptstraße 3, +43 (0)7268 74213, office@kirchenwirtgrein.at, kirchenwirtgrein.at
- 103 Restaurant-Pizzeria Schwarzes Rössl, Fam. Morina, Donaugasse 3, +43 (0)7268 7870, info@pizza-grein.at, www.pizza-grein.at
- 03 Gasthaus Schinakel, Lydia Harbich, Donaulände 5, +43 (0)7268 7993, info@schinakel.at, www.schinakel.at
- 14 Gasthaus Hahnwirt, Manfred Hahn, Lehen 34, +43 (0)7268 7000, gasthof@hahnwirt.at, www.hahnwirt.at
- 03 Restaurant Donaublick, Campingplatz 1, +43 (0)7268 21230, office@camping-grein.at, www.camping-grein.at
- 1 03 Konditorei-Cafe Schörgi, Fam. Schörgi, Rathausgasse 2, +43 (0)7268 350, geniessen@schoergi.at, www.schoergi.at
- 03 Kaffeesiederei Blumensträußl, Stadtplatz 6, +43 (0)660 15 77425, cafe@kdheilmann.at, www.blumenstraeussl.at
- 6 O3 Winklers Bäckerei & Cafe, Willi Lumetsberger, Stadtplatz 9, +43 (0)7268 7677
- 03 Bäckerei-Cafe Gusenbauer, Stefan Gusenbauer, Hauptstraße 11, +43 (0)7268 46
- **11 03 CIPO'S Pizza-Kebab**, Hauptstraße 8, +43 (0)7268 21264
- 03 Pizzeria La Vita, Kreuznerstraße 13, +43 (0)7268 74195, lavita.grein@hotmail.com, www.lavita-grein.at
- 03 Vinothek Heilmann, Klaus-Dieter Heilmann, Stadtplatz 6, +43 (0)660 15 77 425, wein@kdheilmann.at, www.vinothek-heilmann.at
- 01 Hotel Goldenes Kreuz, Fam. Grell, Stadtplatz 8, +43 (0)7268 316, hierkochtderchef@aon.at, www.hotel-in-grein.at
- O1 Gasthof zur Traube, Kurzmann KG, Greinburgstraße 6, +43 (0)7268 312, info@zurtraube-grein.at, www.zurtraube-grein.at

- 01 Strandgasthof Anibas, Maria Anibas, Donaulände 4, +43 (0)7268 252 strandgasthof.anibas@aon.at, www.oberoesterreich.at/strandgasthof
- 13 Gasthof Binderalm, Hans Harrer, Herdmann 4, +43 (0)7268 434, binderalm@aon.at, www.binderalm.at
- 02 Pension Martha-Garni, Fam. Aigner, Hauptstraße 12, +43 (0)7268 345, info@pensionmarthagrein.at, www.pensionmarthagrein.at
- 05 Haus Kloibhofer, Maria Kloibhofer, Brucknerstraße 1, +43 (0)7268 378, ma.kloibhofer@aon.at, www.privatzimmer-kloibhofer.at
- 06 Haus Prinz, Helga Prinz, Brucknerstraße 11, +43 (0)7268 7918
- 04 Haus Lumesberger, Marianne Lumesberger, Groissgraben 13, +43 (0)7268 7256, gaestehaus.lumesberger@utanet.at, www.gaestehaus.lumesberger@utanet.at
- 07 Ferienwohnung Kamleitner, Fam. Kamleitner, Wienerweg 47, +43 (0)7268 7975, info@haus-kamleitner.at, www.haus-kamleitner.at
- 08 Haus Eder, Hermine Lehbrunner, Jubiläumstraße 38, +43 (0)664 2422807, info@privatpension-eder.at, www.privatpension-eder.at
- 909 Haus Tirol, Herta Breitschuh, Spitzfeldstraße 16, +43 (0)7268 256
- 10 Maierhofer, Rosemarie Moser, Panholz 2, +43 (0)7268 204, moser.rosemarie@aon.at, www.members.aon.at/fmoser12
- 11 Ferienwohnung Schacherhof, Fam. Kamleitner, Herdmann 5, +43 (0)660 6552163, jmkamleitner@gmail.com, www.schacherhof-ferien.at
- 12 Blumenhof Wurzergut, Fam. Tinschert, Herdmann 10, +43 (0)7268 456, anfrage@wurzergut.at, www.wurzergut.at

4264 Grünbach

- **30 unSCHLAGbar Der Partyschuppen**, Schlag 16, +43 (0)7942 72825, schlag@aon.at, www.schlag.at
- **11 Torino Ristorante & Pizzeria**, Marktplatz 10, +43 (0)680 555 2258
- 1 32 Café und Nahversorger Kern, Marktplatz 9, +43 (0)7942 721 88, office@kern-brot.at
- 40 Gasthof Eibensteiner, Willibald Eibensteiner, Unterpaßberg 14, +43 (0)7943 262

4293 Gutau

- 52 Bäckerei Cafe Reisinger, Helga Reisinger, Marktplatz 1, +43 (0)7946 6224, office@baeckerei-reisinger.co.at, www.baeckerei-reisinger.co.at
- **11 52 Gasthaus Höller**, Fam. Höller, Marktplatz 11, +43 (0)7946 6307
- 52 Bäckerei Kiesenhofer, Karl Kiesenhofer, Marktplatz 4, +43 (0)7946 6219, k.kiesenhofer@aon.at
- 52 Landgasthaus Zum Edi, Eduard Priemetshofer, St. Oswalder Str. 3, +43 (0)7946 6302, zum-edi@aon.at, www.zum-edi.eu
- 51 Kirchawirt Gasthof Resch, Melitta Resch, Marktplatz 13, +43 (0)7946 6225, office@kirchawirt.at, www.kirchawirt.at
- 51 Gasthaus Oyrer, Ernst Oyrer, Marktplatz 7, +43 (0)7946 6230, office@gasthof-oyrer.at, www.gasthof-oyrer.at, ab Herbst 2019 geschlossen

- 50 Seminarhaus "Altzinger", Fam. Altzinger, Kefermarkterstr. 1, +43 (0)7946 6604, c.altzinger@aon.at
- 53 Urlaub am Bauernhof "Kagerer" (Adelheid Friedl), Fam. Friedl, Lehen 31, +43 (0)660 5211914, friedl_gerhard@aon.at, www.ferien-kagerer.at
- 54 Abenteuerurlaub am Bauernhof "Überlackner", Fam. Mairhofer, Schöferhof 6, +43 (0)7946 6300, fewo@h-mairhofer.at, www.h-mairhofer.at
- 91 Ponyhof Daneder, Verena Eichhorn, Hundsdorf 13, +43 (0) 6649215610, pony.reiten@aon.at, www.sport-der-bewegt.at
- 92 Urlaub am Bauernhof Wenigeder, Fam. Klopf, Marreith 4, +43 (0)7946 6687, franz.klopf@gmx.net, www.urlaubambauernhof.at/hoefe/wenigeder

4292 Kefermarkt

- 58 Cafe-Restaurant Krah, Manuel Krah, Oberer Markt 25, +43 (0)7947 62 18, office@cafe-krah.at, www.cafe-krah.at
- **11 55 Waldschenke**, Harterleiten 24, +43 (0)6805503348; voraussichtlich ab 2020
- 60 Schlossbrauerei Weinberg, Waltraud Leitner, Weinberg 2, +43 (0)7947 7111, schlossbrauerei@wentzel.at, www.schlossbrauerei.at
- 61 Bildungs-/Veranstaltungszentrum Schloss Weinberg, Weinberg 1, +43 (0)7947 6545, schloss-weinberg.post@ooe.gv.at, www.schloss-weinberg.at
- 59 Ferienwohnung Chalupar, Beatrix Chalupar, Aistfeld 1, +43 (0)7947 6872, chaluparbh@gmx.at
- 57 Ferienwohnung "Grill", Fam. Grill, Lehen 9, +43 (0)7947 6888, martha.grill@gmx.at
 - 56, 62 → Lasberg
 - 54 → Gutau

4352 Klam

- **15 Burgschenke Clam**, Sperken 3, +43 (0)7269 7269
- 16 Gasthof "Kirchenwirt", Christine u. Alfred Fraundorfer, Klam 1, +43 (0)7269 7206, office@fraundorfer.at, www.fraundorfer.at
- 17 Burg Clam, Sperken 1, +43 (0)72 69 72 17, museum@burgclam.com, www.burgclam.com
- 18 Ferienwohnung Fam. Mairhofer, Untergaisberg 11

4291 Lasberg

- 56 Elzer Stub'n, Fam. Just, Elz 1, +43 (0) 7947 20698, info@elzer-stubn.at, www.elzer-stubn.at
- 63 Gasthaus Marktwirt, Fam. Ott, Markt 1, +43 (0)7947 6781
- 63 Cafebar Grebsal, Windhager Sabine & Lehner Hannes, Markt 28, +43 (0)7947 71452, grebsal@gmx.at, www.grebsal.at
- 63 Gasthaus Hofer, Hofer Michael, Markt 8, +43 (0)7947 73 14, +43 (0)664/75075561

- 63 Bäckerei und Cafe Lindner, Lindner Christian, Markt 6, +43 (0)7947 71 35, cklindner@aon.at
- 65 Gasthaus Größling, Josef Pirklbauer, Reikersdorf 8, +43 (0)7942 725 37
- 62 Wandergasthaus zur Haltestelle, Stadler Erika, Siegelsdorf 21, +43 (0)7947 73 10, gasthof@gh-stadler.at
- 64 Privatzimmer Urschitz, Elisabeth Urschitz, Walchshof 127, +43 (0)7942 73858, +43 (0)660 7642112
 - 06 → Freistadt

4262 Leopoldschlag

- 51 Gasthaus Schöllhammer und Bar, Fam. Schöllhammer, Marktplatz 1, +43 (0)7949 205 59
- 53 Gasthaus Preinfalk, Ulrike Preinfalk, Marktplatz 4, +43 (0)7949 82 02
- 54 Marktwirt, Johann Hoffelner, Marktplatz 11, +43 (0)7949/8238, info@marktwirt.net, www.marktwirt.net
- 55 Sportgasthaus, Sportplatz 1, +43 (0)7949 8046
- 50 Gasthof Pammer, Mardetschlag 31, +43 (0)7949 82 05, pammer.jahn@aon.at, www.pammerjahn.at
- 57 Gasthaus Franzosenhof, Johann Pils, Wullowitz 1, 4262 Leopoldschlag, +43 (0) 7949/8284, www.franzosenhof.at, info@franzosenhof.at
- 52 Pension Hackermühle, Schöllhammer Ferdinand, Wassergasse 6, +43 (0)7949 82 23, hackermuehle@aon.at, www.hackermuehle.at
- 56 Privatzimmer Ullmann, Hafnerstraße 3, +43 (0)7949 83 07, ps.ullmann@a1.net

4281 Mönchdorf

- 36 Zum Dorfwirt Pilz, Fam. Pilz, Hauptstraße 10, +43 (0)7267 8297, office@gasthaus-pilz.at www.gasthaus-pilz.at
- 35 Gasthof Hinterkörner, Elfriede Hinterkörner, Schiliftstraße 58, +43 (0)7267 8264, kronagl@aon.at, www.facebook.com/Kronagl
- 37 Gasthof Rameder, Fam. Rameder, Hauptstrasse 14, +43 (0)7267 8286, info@rameder.cc, www.gasthof-rameder.at
- 38 Scherhäufl-Ranch, Fam. Westermayr, Mönchwald 14, +43 (0)7267/8329, scherhaeuflranch@aon.at, www.scherhaeuflranch.at

4323 Münzbach

- 150 Gasthaus Zum Eckerwirt, Langeder Heinrich, Markt 6, +43 (0)7264/4501, office@eckerwirt.at, www.eckerwirt
- 51 Mampfi's Almhütte, Heinrich Langeder, Schwemmstraße 21, +43 (0)664/1318374, office@eckerwirt.at

4282 Pierbach

- 31 Dorfwirt Fasching-Leitner, Fam. Fasching, Dorfstraße 12, +43 (0)7267 8279, dorfwirt_fasching-leitner@gmx.at, www.dorfwirt-fasching.at
- 31 Imbissstube/Kaufhaus Atteneder, Dorfstraße 8, +43 (0)7267 23333
- 60 Hutti's Gupfwaldheuriger, Fam. Haslhofer/Ortner, Kleinhöfnerberg 10, +43 (0)7267 87 09 0, ortner.andreas@gmx.at, www.huttis-gupfwaldheuriger.at
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- 39 Schutzhütte Ruttenstein, Herr Hinterdorfer, Niederhofstetten 27, +43 (0)664 5392272, patrickhinterdorfer@gmail.com, www.schutzhuetteruttenstein.at
- 33 Urlaubsbauernhof Grossberger, Fam. Moser-Lehner, Bergerriedl 16, +43 (0)676 821230732, info@grossbergerhof.at, www.grossbergerhof.at
- 34 Ferienwohnung Klein Lehner, Familie Leithner, Sonnleitn 12, +43 (0)680 2054191, leithner.sandra@gmail.com
 - **59** → Bad Zell
 - 35-38 → Mönchdorf

4230 Pregarten

87 Hoftaverne Reichenstein, Fam. Schmitt, Reichenstein 14, +43 (0)7236 3261, monischmitt1@aon.at, www.gasthauszurhoftaverne.at

4261 Rainbach im Mühlkreis

- <mark>ff 38 Pizzeria Palermo</mark>, Ilona Molnarne NAGY, Marktplatz 10, +43 (0)7949 20159
- **41 Gasthaus zur Pferdeeisenbahn**, Kohlberger Gottfried/Elfriede, Kerschbaum 4, +43 (0)7949 63 22, www.gh-pferdeeisenbahn.at
- 36 Gasthof & Café Scherb, Peter Scherb, Marktplatz 11, +43 (0)7949 62 15, scherb-brot@rainbach.net, www.scherb.at/gasthaus.asp
- 37 Gasthof Maurerwirt, Dietmar Greul e.U., Marktplatz 6, +43 (0)664 1136087, gasthaus.maurerwirt@gmx.net, www.maurerwirt.org
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- 33 Reiterhof & Frühstückspension Stöglehner, Summerauer Straße 1, +43 (0)7949 63 16, reiterhof.stoeglehner@gmx.at, www.stoeglehner.com
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 - 40 → Grünbach

4324 Rechberg

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- 57 Gasthof Dorfwirt, Fam. Raab, Rechberg 11, +43 (0)7264 4694, info@dorfwirt-raab.at. www.dorfwirt-raab.at
- 58 Gasthof zum Goschert n Wirt, Fam. Haunschmid-Fuchs, Rechberg 15, +43 (0)7264 4613, info@gasthof-haunschmid.at, www.gasthof-haunschmid.at
- 55 Kinderbauernhof Löschgruber, Fam. Kriechbaumer, Hiesbach 5, +43 (0)7264 4156, urlaub@loeschgruberhof.at, www.loeschgruberhof.at 56 → St. Thomas am Blasenstein

4274 Schönau im Mühlkreis

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- 43 Stoaninger Alm, Fam. Kriener, Steiningerberg 3, +43 (0)7261 7443, +43 (0)664 4107785, office@stoaninger-alm.at, www.stoaninger-alm.at
- 42 Reitpark Gstöttner, Fam. Kriechbaumer, Hofing 18, +43 (0)7261 7626, +43 (0)664 3836932, info@reitpark-gstoettner.at, www.reitpark-gstoettner.at
- 44 Oberndorfer Stubm, Fam. Jachs, Oberndorf 6, +43 (0)7261/7220, office@viasaumbehm.com, www.oberndorferstubm.com
- 46 Taverne zu Prandegg, Herr Leitner, Prandegg 3, +43 (0)664 5736973, franz@taverne-prandegg.at, www.taverne-prandegg.at
- 45 Biobauernhof Kriechbaumer, Fam. Kriechbaumer, Pehersdorf 18, +43 (0)7261 7402, ferienhof-kriechbaumer@gmx.at, www.urlaubambauernhof.at/hoefe/kriechbaumer-schoenau

4364 St. Thomas am Blasenstein

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4284 Tragwein

- 81 Stiegenwirt, Markt 12, +43 (0)7263 88324, reservierung@gasthaus-stiegenwirt.at, www.gasthaus-stiegenwirt.at
- **1 Cafe Winkler**, Markt 28, +43 (0)7263 88326, www.winkler-brot.at
- **11 81 Cafe Neumeister**, Markt 27, +43 (0)7263 88243, office@melange.cc, www.melange.cc
- 81 Bäckerei Konditorei Café Thurner, Markt 16, +43 (0)7263/88181, office@thurnerbrot.at

- 83 Grünhilde, Lärchenweg 28, +43 (0)7263 86241, reservierung@gruenhilde.at, www.gruenhilde.at
- **82 Pizzeria Bella Casa**, Markt 38, +43 (0)7263 88136
- 85 Mostheuriger Windischhofer, Fam. Windischhofer, Mistlberg 16, +43 (0)7263 88902, franzwindischhofer@gmx.at
- 83 Rosis Bauernkrapfenschleiferei, Hinterberg 11, +43 (0)7263 7547, office@bauernkrapfen-schleiferei.at
- 80 Mosthof Pankrazhofer, Lugendorf 7, +43 (0)7263 88295, norberteder@aon.at, www.pankrazhofer.at
- 84 Biohof Unterfellner, Fam. Huber, Mistlberg 39, +43 (0)7263 88604, unterfellner@telering.at
- **86 Bildungshaus Greisinghof**, Mistlberg 20, +43 (0) 7263/86011, bildungshaus@greisinghof.at, www.greisinghof.at
- 88 Bauernhof Ziermetzer, Fam. Schwab, Knollnhof 6, +43 (0)7263 6118, j.schwab@gmx.at, www.bauernhof.at/ziermetzer
- 89 The Reit Stop and Discgolf Knoll, Knollnhof 1, 4284 Tragwein, +43 (0) 650 2246880, kristina.gould@gmx.at, www.atknoll.at/reitstop
 - 69 → Bad Zell
 - 87 → Pregarten

4263 Windhaag/Freistadt

- 42 Bäckerei-Cafe Affenzeller, Fam. Affenzeller, Schulstraße 3, +43 (0)7943 218, baeckerei.affenzeller@gmx.at
- 44 Gasthaus Wieser, Martina Wieser, Markt 18, +43 (0)7943 234
- 45 Gasthaus Anzinger, Monika und Leo Anzinger, Markt 15, +43 (0)7943 206, buero@leo-anzinger.at
- 46 Gasthaus zum Waldlehrpfad, Fam. Rudelstorfer, Pieberschlag 9, +43 (0)7943 223, office@waldlehrpfad.com, www.waldlehrpfad.com
- 47 Gasthaus Steininger, Maria Steininger, Mairspindt 4, +43 (0)7943 225
- 43 Gasthaus Sengstschmid, Sonja und Walter Sengstschmid, Markt 24, +43 (0)7943 300, office@gasthaus-sengstschmid.at, www.gasthaus-sengstschmid.at
- 48 Gasthaus Affenzeller, Margit Affenzeller, Mairspindt 38, +43 (0)7943 272, reisingerkarl@aon.at, www.gasthaus-affenzeller.com
 - 40 → Grünbach

4322 Windhaag/Perg

- 52 Gasthaus Burg Klein Windhaag, Pühringerstraße 3/1, +43 (0)7264 40231, office@bogenschuetzenclub.at, gasthaus.bogenschuetzenclub.at
- 53 ReVier Gasthaus, Restaurant, Bar, Norbert Feiglstorfer, Klosterstaße 4, +43 (0)664 2147018, info@revier.bar, www.revier.bar
- 54 Hoftaverne Holzer, Fam. Holzer, Perger Straße 2, +43 (0)7264 4238, gasthaus.holzer@aon.at, www.hoftaverne-holzer.at
 - 55 → Rechberg

Czech Republic

382 82 Benešov nad Černou

39 Penzion Mlýn u Dubu, Děkanské Skaliny 12, +420 605 141 271, www.penzion-mlynudubu.cz

382 41 Bujanov

- 08 Penzion, Restaurant z Kamene, Nažidla 54, +420 603 178 107, www.ikaplice.cz
- 07 Apartman Suchdol, Suchdol 19

382 72 Dolní Dvořiště

- **10 Pohostinství**, Rychnov na Malši 97, +420 380 324 296
- 01 American Chance Casino, Dolní Dvořiště 225, +420 380 304 111
- 03 Casino Imperator, Dolní Dvořiště 222, +420 383 809 806
- 05 Restaurant Selský Dvůr, Dolní Dvořiště 40, +420 774 261 744
- O4 Ubytování Kotlasová, Rybník 3, +420 731 566 901, ukotlasky@seznam.cz, www.ukotlasky.cz
- O5 Ubytování Schwarz, Dolní Dvořiště 99, +420 723 745 112, sch.cz@seznam.cz, www.ikaplice.cz
- O2 Hotel/Casino Admiral, Dolní Dvořiště 227, +420 380 727 860

382 41 Kaplice

- **11 22 Happy Bar**, Horská 739, +420 774 260 520
- **11 22 Restaurance Thao Asia**, Linecká 219, +420 773 545 575
- **11 22 Kaplickykebab**, Linecká 348, +420 720 969 300
- **11 22 Kavárna Kap Café**, Masná 200, +420 384 391 764, www.kapcafe.cz
- **11 22 Na Rafandě**, Na Vyhlídce 512, +420 608 040 019
- **11 22 Reznictvi u Krajnaku**, Na Vyhlídce 530, +420 380 323 230
- 22 Masna a Buffet, Na Vyhlídce 530
- 22 Restaurance U Sedláčků, Náměstí 206, +420 380 430 617, 775 624 124, www.restauraceusedlacku-kaplice.cz
- **Y 22 Slovanský dům**, Náměstí 41, +420 770 158 132, www.geukaplice.cz
- **11 22 Hostinec u Martínků**, Náměstí 51, +420 774 888 976
- **11 22 Kavárna pod Věží**, Novohradská 68, +420 603 202 434
- 22 Bierstube Peron, Tržní 115
- 22 Pizzerie U Bódi, Českobudějovická 312, +420 608 580 302, www. pizzerie-u-bodi.webnode.cz
- **11 22 U Ševčíků**, Českobudějovická 32, +420 380 313 253
- **11 22 Kinokavárna**, Linecká 434, +420 605 368 849
- 22 Pizzerie Froněk, Nové Domky 638, +420 608 304 885, postmaster@pizzeriefronek.cz, www.pizzeriefronek.cz

- 40 Country Saloon Clondike, Českobudějovická 778, +420 724 327 727, www.countrysaloon.eu
- 41 Občerstvení U Srubu, 15716
- 10 Hotel Zámeček Kaplice, Mostky 28, +420 380 727 569, hotelzamecek@gmail.com, www.hotelzamecek.nl
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- 14 Hotel Corona, Masná 133, +420 380 426 789, recepce@coronahotel.cz, www.coronahotel.cz
- 14 Hotel Zlatý Kříž, Náměstí 43, +420 380 312 517, 380 312 629, info@hotel-zlatykriz.cz, www.hotel-zlatykriz.cz
- 21 Penzion, Restaurant Bašta, Pobřežní 741, +420 736 608 957, www.ikaplice.cz
- 30 Penzion Bar Dvořákovi, Českobudějovická 326 326, +420 380 312 515, pension.dvorak@atlas.cz, www.pensiondvorakovi.cz
- 11 Chalupa u Pilných, Mostky 41, +420 776 228 367 chalupaupilnych@seznam.cz, www.mostky.cz
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- 13 Penzion Míková, Nové Domky 339, +420 607 504 006, pensionmikova@seznam.cz, www.pensionmikova.cz
- **13 CapCafe**, Masná 200, +420 384 391 764
- **20 Penzion Šimková**, Malšské údolí 534, +420 605 838 848
- **20 Penzion na Horské**, Horská 18, +420 775 587 780
- 48 Bizoní farma Smrhov, Smrhov 5, +420 731 591 649, info@bizoni-farma.cz, www.bizoni-farma.cz
- 49 Ubytování v soukromí Ferienhaus Schneiderová, Ráveň 24, www.raven.unas.cz

382 32 Netřebice

- 50 Ubytování v soukromí Tvarohová Marie, Netřebice 41, +420 603 786 613, www.ikaplice.cz
- 51 Penzion Marhulík, Netřebice 57, +420 607 860 202, marhulik@email.cz, www.penzionmarhulik.cz
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- 53 Penzion Holinka, Netřebice 49, +420 606 113 323, liba.holinka@centrum.cz, www.penzion-holinka.cz

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- 55 Chalupa Sedlce, Sedlce 60, +420 608 107 577, pronajem@email.cz, www.sedlce.pekneubytovani.cz
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382 32 Velešín

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- 64 Restaurace u Hamerníků, Velešín nádraží 488, +420 775 024 595, uhamerniku@centrum.cz, www.uhamerniku.cz
- 64 Cukrárna Moka, Výroba A Prodej, V Domkách 127, +420 380 331 237, valeriem@email.cz, www.mokacukrarna.cz
- 64 Restaurace Penzion U Zlaté Podkovy, J.V. Kamarýta 474, +420 723789224, 380 331 229, vitablahuta@seznam.cz
- 64 Pizzerie Restaurant BB, Školní 206, +420 602 623 808
- 67 Restaurace Na Hřišti, Strahovská 296, +420 723 789 224, vitablahuta@seznam.cz
- 68 Sportcentrum Velešín, Strahovská 661, +420 605 180 650, holubova@tenisvelesin.cz, www.tenisvelesin.cz
- 170 Bistro Libra, Holkov 37, +420 728 758 032, info@bistrolibra.cz, www.bistrolibra.cz
- 66 H Party, Strahovská 296, +420 602 436 760, hotel@hotel-party.cz, www.hotel-party.cz
- 69 Penzion, Restaurant "U koňské dráhy", Holkov 18, +420 728 784 381, bblholkov@gmail.com, www.konka.cz
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27. Photographic documentation

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Foundation walls of Velešín Castle

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Other long-distance routes in the Mühlviertel

JOHANNES TRAIL (www.johannesweg.at)

The Johannes Trail, the Austrian response to the Jakob Trail, runs about 84 kilometers through a beautiful hilly landscape known as the Mühlviertler Alm. There are 12 stations with 12 wisdoms to make this journey a path to inner peace and satisfaction.



RIDGE TRAIL THROUGH THE NORTH FOREST / NORDWALDKAMMWEG

(www.alpenverein-freistadt.at/nwkw.htm)

This trail leads through the heights of the Central European watershed. It leads 144 kilometers from the highest elevations of Šumava across the Mühlviertel. One of the options for the trek back is 179 kilometers long and leads partly along Czech territory.

TRAIL "BATHING IN THE FOREST AIR" / WALDLUFTBADEWEG (www.waldluftbaden.at)

The Forest Trail in the Mühlviertel combines nature and tradition, health and alertness

This health-enhancing trail leads 140 km through a region certified for the health-promoting inhalation of forest air into a forest called the "Pharmacy Forest". You can set off on your trip from each of the twelve villages of the trail

DANUBE TRAIL (www.donausteig.com)

This 450-kilometer-long Danube Trail leads along both sides of the river from Passau to Grein through a diverse natural and cultural landscape.



MIDLAND TRAIL / MITTELLANDWEG (150)

Approximately 140 km long-distance trail (trail number 150), marked by a red-white-red stripe and leads along a middle altitude from the Bavarian border in the west to the Lower Austrian border in the east.

TRAIL OF "STONE POWER" / STOAKRAFT-WEG

Recharge your energy, breathe in the fresh air, and enjoy the view into the distance on this 50 km trail leading to hikers' paradise – the Mühlviertel Nature Park and Bad Zell, Rechberg, St. Thomas am Blasenstein, and Allerheiligen. The landscape is lush with gently rolling hills with huge granite formations, natural river and stream channels, cavernous forests, and flowering meadows.



31. Daily journal

No.	Castle	date visited
1	Clam Castle	
2	Dornach Castle	
3	Freistadt Castle	
4	Greinburg Castle	
5	Klingenberg Castle	
6	Kreuzen Castle	
7	Prandegg Castle	
8	Reichenstein Castle	
9	Ruttenstein Catle	
10	Saxenegg Castle	
11	Tannbach Castle	
12	Weinberg Castle	
13	Windhaag Castle	
14	Zellhof Castle	
15	Louzek Castle	
16	Pořešín Castle	
17	Sokolčí Castle	
18	Tichá Fortress	
19	Castle Velešín	

Date	route and experiences

Date	route and experiences

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People, castles, periods, and countries connected by hiking

This 215-km marked long-distance hiking trail leads through the cultural landscape of the Mühlviertel in Austria and South Bohemia in the Czech Republic. Discover the ancient centers of aristocratic culture with a walk from Grein to Velešín with 19 castles.

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