

Linz Travel Guide

Linz: Where Digital Art Meets History

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Things to do in Linz

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures that define Linz's skyline and heritage, from medieval fortifications to contemporary landmarks



Linz Castle (Schloss Linz) Must

See

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location
Map

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Wiki

A magnificent Renaissance castle overlooking the Danube, originally built in the 13th century. Features ornate courtyards, period rooms, and hosts rotating cultural exhibitions. The castle offers panoramic views of the city and surrounding landscapes.

City Tower (Martinsturm) Top Pick

45 minutes No Booking Needed

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The tallest building in Linz at 60 meters, offering a 360-degree observation deck. Built in the 16th century with Gothic architecture, the tower provides the best vantage point for city photography and sightseeing. Clear days offer views extending to the Alps.



Danube Tower (Donauturm)

Notable

1 hour No Booking Needed

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Map

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Modern symbol of Linz's contemporary development, standing 55 meters tall with a rotating restaurant and observation platform. Opened in 1965, it offers stunning sunset views over the Danube and the surrounding region from its height of 105 meters total.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit Linz Castle in the afternoon for better lighting and fewer crowds
- The City Tower is best visited on clear days for optimal visibility
- Combine tower visits for a comprehensive city view experience
- Many landmarks offer combination tickets for discounted entry



Museums & Galleries

World-renowned museums and galleries, including the famous Ars Electronica, showcasing everything from electronic art to classical collections



Ars Electronica Center Must See

[Book Ahead](#)

3-4 hours [Book Ahead](#)

[QR code to map location](#)

[Map](#)

[QR code to Wikipedia page](#)

[Wiki](#)

A groundbreaking museum dedicated to electronic art, media, and digital culture. Interactive installations allow visitors to explore virtual reality, robotics, and biotechnology. The center regularly hosts international exhibitions and the annual Ars Electronica Festival, establishing Linz as Europe's digital art capital.



Lentos Art Museum Top Pick

2-3 hours [No Booking Needed](#)

[QR code to map location](#)

[Map](#)

[QR code to Wikipedia page](#)

[Wiki](#)

A striking modern building on the Danube embankment housing one of Austria's largest contemporary art collections. Features works from 1880 to present, with emphasis on modern painting and sculpture. The glass facade lights up at night, creating a luminous landmark reflecting in the river.

Upper Austrian Museum Notable

2 hours [No Booking Needed](#)

[QR code to map location](#)

[Map](#)

[QR code to Wikipedia page](#)

[Wiki](#)

Comprehensive regional museum covering Upper Austria's history, culture, and natural heritage. Collections include medieval art, traditional crafts, natural science specimens, and rotating contemporary exhibitions highlighting regional creativity and innovation.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Book Ars Electronica tickets online in advance, especially during festival season
- Many museums offer free entry on Sundays or discounted hours
- The Lentos museum is stunning at sunset with reflections in the water
- Consider purchasing a Linz Museum Pass for multiple venue discounts



Religious Sites

Sacred architecture spanning centuries, from medieval cathedrals to baroque chapels, representing Linz's spiritual heritage

St. Martin's Church (Martinskirche)

Must See

QR code to map location

Map

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Wiki

45 minutes No Booking Needed

Linz's oldest church, dating back to the 13th century with Gothic revival architecture. Features remarkable stained glass windows depicting biblical scenes and local history. The interior showcases intricate wood carvings, ornate altars, and acoustics that make it a venue for classical music concerts.

Minoritenkirche (Minorite Church)

Top Pick

QR code to map location

Map

30 minutes No Booking Needed

A baroque church from the 17th century with elegant twin towers and refined interior decoration. The church features original frescoes, religious artworks, and maintains an active role in Linz's spiritual community. Known for its peaceful atmosphere and architectural harmony with surrounding buildings.



Karmeliterkirche (Carmelite Church)

Notable

QR code to map location

Map

30 minutes No Booking Needed

An 18th-century baroque church featuring rich interior decorations, ornamental details, and religious paintings. The church maintains its original functionality as a place of worship while welcoming visitors interested in ecclesiastical art and architecture of the baroque period.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Respect service times when visiting active churches during services
- St. Martin's Church hosts evening organ concerts in summer months
- The churches are often quieter in early morning hours
- Photography policies vary; always ask permission before photographing interiors



Squares & Streets

Historic public spaces and lively streets that form the heart of Linz's social and commercial life

Hauptplatz (Main Square) Must See

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

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Linz's grand central plaza and one of Austria's largest squares, surrounded by Renaissance and baroque buildings. The square features an ornate Trinity Column from 1723, outdoor cafés, and hosts markets, events, and festivities throughout the year. Evening illumination creates a magical atmosphere perfect for dining and socializing.

Landstrasse Top Pick

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location
Map

Linz's primary shopping street and elegant pedestrian boulevard stretching through the city center. Lined with boutiques, department stores, cafés, and restaurants, the street showcases beautiful architecture ranging from medieval to contemporary. A perfect area for shopping, dining, and people-watching.

Donau Promenade Top Pick

1-3 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location
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A scenic riverside walk along the Danube featuring modern amenities, green spaces, public art installations, and entertainment venues. Perfect for walking, jogging, or simply enjoying riverside views. The promenade connects key cultural attractions and offers numerous cafés and restaurants with water views.

Tips for Squares & Streets

- Visit Hauptplatz in the evening for atmospheric lighting and vibrant café culture
- Landstrasse is best explored on weekday mornings to avoid weekend crowds
- Donau Promenade is ideal for sunset walks and evening strolls
- Numerous events occur in these spaces; check local calendars for festivals and markets



Parks & Gardens

Green spaces offering respite and recreation, from formal gardens to natural parks along the Danube



Volksgarten (People's Garden)

Top Pick

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

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Wiki

Linz's largest public park featuring landscaped gardens, walking paths, recreational areas, and seasonal plantings. The park includes children's playgrounds, sports facilities, and peaceful seating areas. Popular with families and joggers, especially during spring and summer when flowers bloom magnificently.

Castle Park (Schlosspark) Notable

1 hour No Booking Needed

QR code to map location
Map

Historic park surrounding Linz Castle with mature trees, scenic pathways, and panoramic views over the city. The park provides access to castle viewpoints and features quiet seating areas. Particularly beautiful during autumn when colorful foliage creates a picturesque setting for photography.



Danube Island (Donauinsel) Notable

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location
Map

A natural sanctuary in the Danube featuring trails, picnic areas, and pristine riverside environment. The island is home to diverse bird species and protected habitats. Accessible via bridges, it offers peaceful nature experiences close to the city center, ideal for cycling and nature observation.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Volksgarten is perfect for picnics during warm months
- Castle Park offers the best sunset views over the city
- Danube Island is ideal for birdwatching in spring and autumn migration seasons
- All parks are accessible year-round with unique seasonal characteristics



Fountains & Public Art

Artistic installations and sculptures that enhance Linz's visual landscape and cultural expression

Trinity Column (Dreifaltigkeitssäule) Must See

30 minutes No Booking Needed

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Wiki

A baroque masterpiece from 1723 dominating Hauptplatz, featuring elaborate sculptural work depicting religious themes. The column stands as a symbol of Linz's prosperity and serves as a gathering point. The intricate carvings showcase exceptional craftsmanship from the baroque period.

Lentos Façade Art Installation Top Pick

45 minutes No Booking Needed

QR code to map location
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The Lentos Museum itself serves as a dynamic art installation with its illuminated glass façade that changes colors at night. The building's reflection in the Danube creates a stunning visual effect. The architecture is as much an artwork as the collections within, making it a photographer's paradise.

Danube Promenade Public Art Installations Notable

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location
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Various contemporary sculptures and art installations line the Danube Promenade, ranging from abstract modern pieces to figurative works. These artworks are continuously being updated and replaced, ensuring fresh experiences on repeat visits. Each installation tells a story or reflects contemporary artistic movements.

Tips for Fountains & Public Art

- The Trinity Column is beautifully illuminated at night for photography
- The Lentos façade changes throughout the evening; visit multiple times for different color schemes
- Danube Promenade art is best experienced during a leisurely walk
- Many art installations host guided tours during cultural events



Tours & Activities

Guided experiences and activities that provide deeper insights into Linz's culture, history, and attractions

Guided City Tours Top Pick Book Ahead

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Professional guided walks through Linz's historic center, covering major landmarks, history, and architecture. Tours available in multiple languages, lasting 1.5 to 2.5 hours. Guides provide expert knowledge about local history, architectural styles, and cultural significance, with customizable routes and themed tours available.

Danube River Cruises Top Pick Book Ahead

1-4 hours Book Ahead

Scenic boat tours along the Danube offering unique perspectives of Linz and surrounding regions. Cruises range from short city tours to day-long excursions upstream. Some cruises include dining options, and tours are available in different seasons, showcasing various landscapes and weather conditions.

Bicycle Tours Notable

2-4 hours No Booking Needed

Explore Linz and surrounding areas on two wheels through dedicated cycling routes. Tours range from city center explorations to longer routes along the Danube Valley. Bike rentals available at multiple locations with varying duration options from half-day to multi-day adventures.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book river cruises in advance during peak summer season
- City tours often have set departure times; arrive early to secure preferred tours
- Bicycle tours are best during spring through autumn for pleasant weather
- Many tour operators offer combination packages including meals and museum entries



day-trips

Nearby destinations easily accessible from Linz, offering diverse experiences from nature to culture



Salzburg

Must See

Full day No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

Map

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Wiki

Austria's cultural capital located 150 km south, famous as Mozart's birthplace and setting for 'The Sound of Music'. The city features Hohensalzburg Fortress, baroque old town, stunning cathedral, and Alpine surroundings. Train journey takes approximately 2 hours, making it an ideal day-trip destination with rich cultural experiences.



Hallstatt

Top Pick

Full day No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

Map

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Wiki

A picturesque Alpine village 100 km south, renowned as one of the world's most beautiful lakeside towns. Nestled between mountains and a crystal-clear lake, it features colorful buildings, peaceful waterfront walks, and alpine scenery. Three-hour journey via bus or train offers an enchanting escape into natural beauty and traditional Austrian charm.

Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic

Notable

Full day No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

Map

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Wiki

Medieval gem across the Czech border, 80 km east, featuring romantic castle, winding cobblestone streets, and riverside setting. The entire old town is a UNESCO World Heritage site with stunning Renaissance and baroque architecture. Day-trip by car or organized tour provides cultural contrast and architectural splendor.

Tips for day-trips

- Salzburg requires a full day to appreciate major attractions; consider overnight stay if possible
- Hallstatt is extremely popular; visit early morning to avoid tour groups
- Cesky Krumlov is ideal for summer visits when medieval atmosphere is most vibrant
- All destinations accessible via public transportation; car rental offers more flexibility

Practical Information

May to September offers the most pleasant weather with temperatures between 15-25°C (59-77°F). **Summer (July-August)** is peak tourist season with numerous festivals and outdoor activities, though it attracts larger crowds. **Spring (April-May)** brings blooming flowers and mild weather. **Autumn (September-October)** provides beautiful foliage and comfortable sightseeing conditions.

Winter (November-February) brings cold temperatures (0-5°C / 32-41°F) but less crowding and festive holiday markets. The Danube occasionally freezes, creating unique photo opportunities. **Easter to early May** and **September to October** offer the best balance of weather and tourism density.

Public Transportation

Linz has an excellent public transport network including trams, buses, and a light rail system operated by LNVG. Day passes provide unlimited travel for reasonable prices. The transit system is clean, efficient, and well-connected throughout



the city.

Getting to Linz

By Air: Linz Airport (LNZ) is 12 km south with direct flights to major European cities and budget airline connections. Airport buses (€3.50) take 25-30 minutes to city center.

By Train: Linz Hauptbahnhof (main station) is centrally located with direct trains to Vienna (2 hours), Salzburg (2 hours), and Munich (2.5 hours). Austrian railways offer comprehensive connections throughout Central Europe.

By Car: Linz is well-connected via the A1 and A7 autobahns. Parking is available at various facilities (€0.80-2 per hour), though public transport is recommended for city center exploration.

Local Mobility

Walking: The city center is very walkable with most attractions within 1-2 km. **Bicycles:** Extensive cycling infrastructure makes bikes ideal for exploring; rentals available at €10-15 per day. **Taxis:** Metered taxis available, though public transport is more economical.

➔ Airport Transfer

Blue Danube Airport Linz (LNZ) to city center:

- **Bus 601:** Direct service to Linz Hauptbahnhof in about 20 minutes, around €3.20 one-way
- **Taxi:** Roughly 15 minutes to city center, fixed rate around €25-30
- **Private transfer:** Pre-booked door-to-door car service to city center in about 15 minutes, around €40-50

Shopping Districts

Landstrasse is the premier shopping boulevard with international brands, boutiques, cafés, and restaurants. **Hauptplatz area** features specialty shops and local boutiques. **Passage Shopping Center** offers climate-controlled shopping with over 100 stores.

Local Products

Austrian Chocolate: Linzer Torte (local pastry) and premium chocolate from Viennese confectioners. **Traditional Crafts:** Regional pottery, woodwork, and textile traditions found in local shops. **Schnapps and Liqueurs:** Locally produced fruit schnapps and liqueurs unique to Upper Austria.

Markets

Bauernmarkt (Farmers Market) on Hauptplatz (Wed-Sat mornings) sells fresh produce, cheese, and artisanal goods. **Christmas Markets** (November-December) offer festive shopping with mulled wine and traditional crafts.

Practical Information

Shops are typically open Monday-Friday 9am-6pm, Saturdays 9am-5pm. Sunday shopping is limited. **VAT Refunds:** EU visitors can claim VAT (20%) on purchases over €75 at eligible retailers.

Annual Events

Ars Electronica Festival (September): World's premier electronic art festival attracting over 70,000 visitors. Features exhibitions, performances, and symposiums exploring technology's role in society. Linz becomes the global epicenter of digital culture.

Linz Fest (May): Annual city festival celebrating culture with free concerts, theatre, fireworks, and street performances. The entire city becomes a stage with stages throughout neighborhoods.

Christmas Markets (November-December): Festive markets on Hauptplatz and throughout the city selling gifts, food, and decorations. Mulled wine (Glühwein) and roasted chestnuts create authentic Austrian Christmas atmosphere.



Regular Events

Farmers Market: Wednesday and Saturday mornings on Hauptplatz. **Concert Season:** Classical music performances at Bruckner Haus year-round. **Danube Festival:** Spring festival celebrating the river with events and activities.

National Holidays

Austria observes New Year's Day, Epiphany (Jan 6), Easter Monday, May Day (May 1), Ascension Day, Whit Monday, Corpus Christi, Independence Day (Aug 15), All Saints Day (Nov 1), Immaculate Conception (Dec 8), and Christmas holidays (Dec 25-26).

Day 1: Historic Linz & Modern Art

Morning (8-12): Start at Hauptplatz with fresh coffee while admiring the Trinity Column. Walk to St. Martin's Church and explore the Old Town's narrow streets and Renaissance buildings. **Afternoon (12-4pm):** Lunch in a local Wirtschaft (restaurant). Visit Lentos Art Museum, taking time for the modern collection and café overlooking the Danube. **Evening (4-8pm):** Climb the Martinsturm for sunset views. Dinner at Donau Promenade with evening city lights.

Day 2: Ars Electronica & Culture

Morning (9-1pm): Spend 3-4 hours at Ars Electronica Center exploring interactive digital art exhibits. Budget time for immersive VR experiences. **Afternoon (1-5pm):** Lunch at museum café. Visit Upper Austrian Museum for regional history and art collections. **Evening (5-9pm):** Stroll Danube Promenade, visit galleries and studios in the emerging arts district. Dinner at trendy restaurants near the cultural institutions.

Day 3: Nature & Leisure

Morning (9-12): Relax at Volksgarten with a coffee, walking through manicured gardens and green spaces. **Afternoon (12-4pm):** Bicycle ride along Danube paths to Donauinsel island, observing birds and nature. Picnic lunch with local provisions. **Evening (4-8pm):** Visit Linz Castle and Castle Park for panoramic city views. Dinner at castle restaurant with vistas.

Day 4: Shopping & Neighborhoods

Morning (9-1pm): Browse boutiques along Landstrasse shopping district. Explore local shops and Austrian brands. Coffee at outdoor café. **Afternoon (1-5pm):** Visit specialist museums like Oberösterreichisches Literaturmuseum or regional galleries. **Evening (5-9pm):** Explore neighborhoods like Pöstlingberg with local charm, restaurants, and views. Dinner at authentic Austrian Wirtschaft.

Day 5: Religious Heritage & Panoramas

Morning (8-12): Visit St. Martin's Church, Minoritenkirche, and Karmeliterkirche. Attend morning service for authentic experience if interested. **Afternoon (12-4pm):** Lunch in historic old town. Climb Donauturm for comprehensive city and regional views. **Evening (4-8pm):** Sunset from Castle Park viewpoint. Romantic dinner at riverside restaurant. Walk illuminated Hauptplatz at night.

Best Photography Locations

Donau Promenade at Sunset (Best Time: 7-9pm): The Lentos Museum's glass facade reflects golden light, creating stunning compositions. The Danube mirrors evening colors perfectly. Arrive 30 minutes before sunset for optimal lighting.

Martinsturm Observation Deck (Best Time: Midday & Golden Hour): 360-degree city views from 60 meters. Clear days reveal surrounding Alps. Bring wide-angle lens for panoramic shots. Golden hour (hour before sunset) provides dramatic lighting.

Hauptplatz Trinity Column (Best Time: Early Morning & Night): Less crowded in early morning with soft directional light. Evening illumination highlights sculptural details. Surrounding baroque buildings provide architectural context. Blue hour (30min after sunset) creates atmospheric shots.



Castle Park & Linz Castle (Best Time: Golden Hour): Historic castle backlit during sunset creates silhouettes and atmospheric depth. Foreground gardens provide composition layers. Morning light reveals architectural details of fortress.

Danube Island Nature (Best Time: Early Morning & Spring/Autumn): Wildlife photography during bird migration seasons (April-May, September-October). Misty mornings create mystical atmosphere. Trees frame water reflections beautifully during fall colors.

Street Photography in Old Town (Best Time: Morning & Afternoon): Narrow cobblestone streets with Renaissance facades. Vibrant café culture on Hauptplatz. Morning light creates shadows emphasizing architectural details. Avoid midday harsh shadows (12-3pm).

Voltage & Frequency

Austria uses **230 volts AC, 50 Hz** — the same standard as most of continental Europe.

Plug Types

Austria uses **Type C (European two-round-pin)** and **Type F (Schuko, two-round-pin with grounding)** plugs. These are standard throughout continental Europe.

Plug Adapters

North American Travelers (110V): Require voltage converters AND plug adapters. Travel converters available at electronics stores cost €15-40. Consider purchasing before travel or at airport shops. **UK/Irish Travelers:** Require plug adapters only (Type G plugs). **Australian/NZ Travelers:** Require plug adapters and voltage converters.

Where to Find Adapters

Airport electronics shops sell standard European adapters (€8-15). City center electronics retailers like MediaMarkt or Saturn stock full ranges. Hotels can usually provide adapters for guests. Multiple USB ports are increasingly common in hotels and cafés.

Safety Tips

Austrian electrical standards are strict and safe. Ground your connections. Use hotel safe for valuable electronics. Power outages are rare. Many accommodations include universal sockets.

Must-Try Dishes

Schnitzel (Wiener Schnitzel): Breaded, fried thin veal cutlet served with lemon. Austria's national dish, best enjoyed at traditional restaurants. A thinner, more delicate version than German Schnitzel.

Linzer Torte: A sweet pastry originally from Linz featuring jam filling with lattice pattern. Rich, complex flavors combining butter, nuts, and jam. Essential local specialty found in bakeries throughout the city.

Kaiserschmarrn: Shredded pancake dessert served with plum compote. Light, fluffy texture contrasts with tart fruit. A lighter alternative to heavy Austrian desserts.

Sachertorte: Dense chocolate cake with apricot jam, topped with chocolate glaze. Vienna's most famous dessert, widely available in Linz. Pairs perfectly with strong coffee.

Strudel (Apfelstrudel): Thin pastry filled with spiced apples and raisins. Served warm with vanilla sauce or ice cream. Represents authentic Austrian baking tradition.

Dining Tips

Wirtshaus/Gasthof: Traditional taverns serving hearty Austrian cuisine at reasonable prices. Casual, friendly atmosphere with local clientele. Lunch menus (Mittagstisch) offer excellent value (€8-12) 11am-2pm.



Restaurant Etiquette: Reservations recommended for dinner, especially weekends. Tipping 5-10% on bills is customary. Service charge usually included. Servers address customers formally until invited otherwise.

Coffee Culture: Café culture is integral to Austrian life. Try Melange (similar to cappuccino) or Schwarzer (black coffee). Spend hours nursing coffee without pressure. Pastries and cakes are standard accompaniments.

Best Cuisine Districts: Donau Promenade for international dining, Landstrasse for variety, Hauptplatz area for traditional Austrian food. Side streets in old town feature hidden Konoba (small traditional restaurants).

Beverage Recommendations

Austrian Wine: Upper Austrian wines (Grüner Veltliner, Zweigelt) from local vineyards. **Schnapps:** Fruit-based liqueurs unique to region (marille/apricot, birne/pear). **Beer:** Local breweries produce excellent lagers and traditional styles.

Sturm: Seasonal partially-fermented grape juice (September-November) with unique taste.

Tourist Passes

Linz City Card

A comprehensive pass offering **unlimited public transportation** plus **free or discounted entry** to major museums and attractions including Ars Electronica, Lentos, castle entry, and tower access. Available for 24, 48, or 72 hours. Excellent value for multi-attraction visits, especially during festival season when multiple simultaneous exhibitions run.

QR code to www.linz.at
www.linz.at

Upper Austrian Museum Card

Annual pass providing unlimited access to 13 regional museums and cultural institutions across Upper Austria. Perfect for longer stays or repeated visits. Single museum entries cost €8-10, so card pays for itself within 2-3 visits. Includes special exhibitions and member discounts.

QR code to www.ooemuseum.at
www.ooemuseum.at

Ars Electronica Festival Pass

Special passes available during the annual Ars Electronica Festival (September) offering unlimited center access plus festival exhibitions, performances, and symposiums. Multi-day festival passes provide incredible value given the breadth of programming and world-class content available during this premier electronic art festival.

QR code to www.aec.at
www.aec.at

