



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1, Arrive in Passau (Germany)

Take the train from Vienna or most mainline German / Austrian stations to Passau. Plan to arrive at your hotel mid-afternoon to collect your trip documents, maps and vouchers with time to explore Passau before dinner.

Day 2, Passau - Engelhartszell

walking @ 23km, 6 - 7 hours

Depart Passau by boat to Obernzell, where you begin the walk. Passing the Baroque castle in Obernzell your route takes you up the Krottental valley with rewarding climbs first to the look-out point at Ebenstein, where you can rest and take in the wonderful views over the Danube valley, and then to Penzenstein. Descend back to the valley where today's walking finishes with a short ferry ride across the River Danube to Engelhartszell (ferry cost is @ €2 per person, paid locally), where you stay in a 3-star Gasthof.

Day 3, Engelhartszell - Schlögen

walking @ 25km, 7 hours

Before leaving Engelhartszell this morning, you may like to visit Austria's only Trappist monastery, where the monks produce beer, liqueurs and cheese. The 18th Century rococo-style abbey church is open to all visitors. Walk to Wesenufer where the route leads you into the Kösslbachtal reserve, with magnificent views of the Rannriedl, Marsbach and Haichenbach castles and then on to your destination for tonight, a 4-star hotel located right on the iconic Schlögenger Schlinge, the Danube Loop at Schlögen.

Day 4, Schlögen - Untermühl

walking @ 20km, 6 - 7 hours

In the morning cross the River Danube to Au on the left bank by local ferry (@ €2 per person, paid locally). Walk to the vantage point for views over the Danube Loop. Walk to Obermühl and Donauleiten and ascend to Burgstall. Burgstall (613m) is the highest point between the source and estuary of the Danube. Continue to overnight in a 3-star hotel in Untermühl.

Day 5, Untermühl - Brandstatt / Eferding

walking @ 21km, 6 - 7 hours

Today's walk leads you from Untermühl to Schloss Neuhaus and then on through the Pesenbach nature reserve to the picturesque town of Aschach, with its Baroque town square. From Aschach you make your way to Brandstatt / Eferding and stay overnight in a 3-star hotel in Brandstatt or similar in Eferding.

Day 6, Brandstatt / Eferding - Linz

walking @ 15km, 5 - 6 hours

After breakfast it's a short 30-minute walk to Popping Ortsmitte. Take the bus to Wilhering with its elaborately decorated "*Abbey of a Thousand Angels*". Catch the ferry from Wilhering to Ottensheim (@ €2 per person paid locally), then make your way via Koglerau up the Pöstlingberg hill with its Baroque basilica. Take one of the steepest trams in Europe downhill to Linz where you stay 2 nights in a 4-star hotel in the centre.

Day 7, St Florian circuit

walking @ 12km, 1.5 - 2 hours

Take the tram to Ebelsberg Castle, then walk to the small town of St Florian, to visit the Baroque-era monastery. There has been an Augustinian abbey on this site since the 11th Century. Austrian composer Anton Bruckner was a choirboy and organist here in the 1850s, and is buried in the crypt beneath his beloved organ, now called the Bruckner organ. The monastery library is astounding – its collection includes over 150,000 manuscripts, incunabula, maps and modern printed books. Depending on what day you are at the abbey, you will either have a guided tour or an organ recital. Later in the day, take the bus back to Linz.

Day 8, Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast in Linz. Extra nights in Linz are recommended (at additional cost) as there is much to see and do in and around this fascinating, progressive city. If you plan to return to Passau, there are several daily direct trains from Linz to Passau, cost @ €18 per person, paid locally, journey time @ 1½ hours.



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