

Bigger, higher, faster! Summer Records in Austria #realAustria

The highest mountain, the longest river, the deepest lake, the oldest zoo, and the largest urban wine region - Austria holds a great number of European and even world records. From Tirol to Vienna, check out Alpine and city attractions of all nine federal states to put on your Austrian summer bucket list.

AUSTRIA IN GENERAL

Lakes in Austria

Total number	25.000 (larger than 250 m ²)
Largest lake	Neusiedler See, Burgenland (320 km ²)
Smallest lake	Topplitsee, Styria (0,54 km ²)
Warmest lake	Klopeinersee, Carinthia (up to 28°C)
Coldest lake	Körbersee, Vorarlberg (max. 14°C)
Deepest lake	Traunsee, Upper Austria (max. 191 m)
Shallowest lake	Neusiedler See, Burgenland (1 m on average)

Rivers in Austria

Total length	ca. 100,000 km
Longest river	Danube, Upper and Lower Austria, Vienna (350 km)

Mountains in Austria

Highest mountain	Großglockner, Tirol and Carinthia (3,798 m)
Largest national park	Hohe Tauern Nationalpark (almost 2,000 km ²)

The [Hohe Tauern Nationalpark](#), spreading across Tirol, Salzburg, and Carinthia, was officially opened in 1971. More than a third of all plant species in Austria can be found here, along with 50 percent of the mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

TIROL

The world's largest Alpine Zoo

Alpenzoo Innsbruck celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. It is home to more Alpine animals' species than any other zoo in the world. Get up close with mammals, reptiles, birds, and a lot more.

<https://alpenzoo.at/en/>

Austria's highest village

Obergurgl in Ötztal valley is 1,930 m above sea level. Its 4,000 habitants officially live in the highest village in Austria.

<https://www.gurgl.com/summer.html>

Highest monastery in Central Europe

Located at 1,638 m in Wipptal valley near Innsbruck, Maria Waldrast is the highest monastery in Central Europe. Today, it houses a modern holiday retreat and restaurant both famous for its breath-taking surroundings and healing water ("Marienwasser").

<https://www.mariawaldrast.at/en/>

SALZBURGERLAND

Europe's largest open inclined elevator

The Lärchenwand elevator near Kaprun is Europe's largest open inclined elevator and has the largest track width of a passenger rail vehicle in the world. Built in 1941, it whisks visitors up the fjord-like high-water reservoirs at 2,040 m, generating power for the whole region.

<https://www.zellamsee-kaprun.com/en/region/places/high-mountain-reservoirs>

The world's largest ice cave

The World of the Ice Giants near Werfen in the Tennengebirge mountains is the world's largest ice cave. Visitors can explore parts of the 42 km long labyrinth-style paths during a one-hour tour.

<https://www.eisriesenwelt.at/en.html>

Europe's highest waterfalls

One of the world's most impressive water spectacles, the water rushes down no less than 380 m at the Krimmler Waterfalls. The water's particularly small aerosols are said to improve your health when suffering from asthma or other lung diseases.

<https://www.wasserfaelle-krimml.at/en/>

UPPER AUSTRIA

The world's oldest salt mine

In Hallstatt in the Salzkammergut region, visitors can explore the oldest salt mine in the world and learn more about salt production and trade in earlier times. As a bonus, they can slide down the longest miner's slide in Europe.

<https://www.salzwelten.at/en>

Austria's first "Star Park"

Opened in 2021 and recognised by the [International Dark Sky Association](#), Austria's first and only "Star Park" between Lake Attersee and Traunsee aims to protect the natural night landscape from light pollution – the perfect place for star gazing.

<https://sternenpark.at/sternenpark/> (German only)

The only Museum of the Future

Train self-driving cars, programme robots and process your own DNA: The Ars Electronica Center in Linz allows visitors to experience how new technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, will change our lives.

<https://ars.electronica.art/news/en/>

CARINTHIA

Austria's tallest dam

Austria's highest hydroelectric power station is located 1,933 m above sea level in a striking mountain setting. The Kölnbreinsperre, 200 m high and 626 wide, is the country's tallest dam. Tours including a 4D cinema make it accessible for visitors.

<https://www.verbund.com/en-at/about-verbund/visitors-centres/malta>

The world's tallest wooden observation tower

The observation tower on the Pyramidenkogel mountain near Maria Wörth am Wörthersee is 100 m high with the viewing platform at 70 m. It also has the highest building slide in Europe, where visitors can whisk down 52 m at up to 30 km/h.

<https://www.pyramidenkogel.info/en/>

Europe's longest Flow-Trail

With a length of 15 km, Bad Kleinkirchheim's flow trail is the longest of its kind in Europe. Mountain bikers are challenged to overcome 1,000 m in altitude when riding downhill.

<https://www.badkleinkirchheim.com/en/cable-cars-summer/bike/flow-country-trail/>

STYRIA

The world's largest stalactite

In the Lurgrotte cave, limestone has formed magical works of art over millions of years. Check them out on a tour and see the world's largest free-hanging stalactite.

<https://lurgrotte.at/> (German only)

Austria's longest gorge

Crystal-clear water, romantic footbridges and steep rocks await at the Raabklamm in Styria, with 17 km in length Austria's longest gorge.

<https://www.almenland.at/en/bewegen-erleben/ausflugsziele-natur/raabklamm-bei-weiz/>

The world's largest monastery library

Admont Abbey has a collection of 200,000 books, 70,000 of them are housed in the library hall, dating back to 1776. It is 70 m long, 14 m wide and 13 m high, making it the largest monastery library in the world.

<https://www.stiftadmont.at/en/library>

VIENNA

The world's oldest zoo

Vienna's Zoo – part of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site Schönbrunn Palace – dates to 1752, with the first giraffe arriving in 1828. Today it is home to around 480 different animal species.

<https://www.zoovienna.at/en/>

Europe's largest urban wine region

Vienna has roughly 180 vineyards, spreading over an area of around 622 hectares. This makes it Europe's only capital city with significant wine production.

<https://www.visitingvienna.com/eatingdrinking/vienna-wine/>

One of Europe's oldest cemeteries

Vienna's Central Cemetery extends over around 2,5 km² and was considered the largest cemetery in Europe when it opened in 1874. Today, London and Hamburg have larger ones,

but Vienna's cemetery is still well worth visiting thanks to all its celebrity graves.
<https://www.wien.info/en/sightseeing/sights/from-a-to-z/central-cemetery-342500>

VORARLBERG

Austria's only Women's Museum

This museum – the only one of its kind in the country and one of the few in the world in a rural area - is located in Hittisau, Bregenzerwald. It opened its doors in 2000 and features changing exhibitions on women's issues.

<https://www.frauenmuseum.at/english-1>

The narrowest house in Europe

The façade of this building at Kirchstraße 29 in Bregenz is only 57 cm wide. Inside, it has a living space of 60 m². It houses a gallery, so, you can actually visit it!

<https://www.bodensee-vorarlberg.com/en/galerie-bregenz>

The largest floating stage in the world

The Bregenz Festival hosts opera performances every summer for almost 7,000 spectators per night – a European record!

<https://bregenzerfestspiele.com/en>

LOWER AUSTRIA

Austria's largest historic wine cellar

Hidden underneath Retz in the Weinviertel region, a 20 km labyrinth of wine cellars await. The guided tours are packed with interesting facts and there's wine tasting, too.

<https://www.weinviertel.at/en/stammlisten-az/a-retzer-erlebniskeller>

Austria's oldest nature park

The Sparback Nature Park in the heart of the Föhr Mountains dates to 1962 and is packed with giant trees, romantic ruins, meadows, forests, and freely living wild boars.

<https://www.naturpark-sparbach.at/en>

Europe's largest underground lake

The Seegrotte Hinterbrühl show mine features magical tunnels, a mine, museum, and Europe's largest underground lake (6,200 m²), which can be explored by boat.

<http://seegrotte.at/en/mystische-erlebnisse-english/>

BURGENLAND

Austria's largest indoor slide

The Sonnentherme Lutzmannsburg houses Austria's XXL Monster Ride, a 270 m long slide. Another highlight is the 202 m long Space Twister, the longest virtual reality water slide.

<https://www.sonnentherme.at/en/kids/mega-slides>

Austria's largest lake

Taking into consideration its surface area in the country, Lake Neusiedl (320 km²), which partly spreads to Hungary, is Austria's largest lake.

<https://www.neusiedlersee.com/en/>

The lowest point in Austria

Apetlon near Lake Neusiedler See is only 120 m above sea levels on average. The lowest measured point is 114 m.

www.apetlon.info (German only)

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