

Destination report - Waldviertel, the most northern part of Lower Austria

People travel to Waldviertel because of interesting rock formations, clean and fresh air, beautiful forests as well as colourful poppy or yellow pumpkin fields, sport and magic atmosphere. It is assumed that Waldviertel frequently called magic or mysterious, exists for more than one billion years. Visitors feel that way immediately after crossing its borders. As by a magic wand we leave behind stress of our workplace and at once life is different – slower, but more in harmony. This is probably based on clean air and water as well as country diversity. Having once experienced the magic of Waldviertel you would wish to return soon.

Be careful when selecting what to include in your visit. Mainly families with children like to stay close to



water and fishponds. Equally attractive is the network of cyclist paths. Frequently we meet families with very small children sitting in a miniature trailer behind the bicycle of one of parents. This rich cyclist network continues in the Czech Republic. Rich history you can admire at castles. Do not forget to visit the oldest water castle Heidenrechstein (12. century), Rosenberg and medieval town of Eggenburg. Wine lovers for sure will like visit of Loisium in Langelois and beer lovers visit of

breweries in Zwettl a Weitra. You can observe the picturesque country also from the narrow gauge railway Gmünd - Groß Gerungs – Litschau, which is in operation for more than one hundred years.

To stop in Maissau is highly recommended – visit the amethyst mine. After an interesting visit for sure you will like a small or larger souvenir from a very broad offer of stones in the local shop.

Poppy village Armschlag is the centre of an important brand – poppy. You can walk on the poppy path, visit sample fields and taste poppy specialties in small shops. In Waldviertel, they even fry popular carps in batter including poppy seeds.

Beginning October you can celebrate potato in Geras grown without any fertilizers. A similar celebration is held each September in Litschau, titled „potato pancake“.

Waldviertel means also fish, mainly carp, in more than one thousand fishponds with annual production 500 t, the highest in Austria. The best date for fishing is the end of October –fishing out.

For use of carp, salmon and other skins belongs a patent to Yupitaze in Litschau. Starting from 1999, they produce beautiful handbags, belts, wallets and other accessories, in case you would like to have really something very special.



Waldviertel is known for huge stones. One with weight of one hundred t you can move - the Wackelstein in Amaliendorf. Tourists like to visit the rock formation five brothers, stone – hat in Haugschlag, Fiedelstein close to Litschau as well as the stone pyramid in Ober Neustift (estimated age 200 years) with five floors. If somebody sends you to hell (Hölle), in this case it means to huge rocks in a dense forest close to the border with the Czech Republic.

I highly recommend the visit close to Alt Nagelberg of glass factories - Stölzle Kristall as well as the largest private Austrian glass museum - Apfelthaler.

Visitors interested in art, culture, design and innovation projects should visit the Designcenter in Schrems, organizing such important exhibitions as for instance the exhibition of Hundertwasser. Colourful Waldviertel is also presented in the newly

opened art museum of Waldviertel in Schrems.

Fishing season lasts from March 20 to October 31. You can catch three fish using a one day ticket and 2 using a half-day ticket. Night fishing offers the fishpond Mörterteich in Litschau each Saturday 20.00 – 06.00.

In Weitra you can walk on the beer path, beer production started here in 1321. It is the oldest brewery in Austria. Beer museum is located in the Weitra castle.

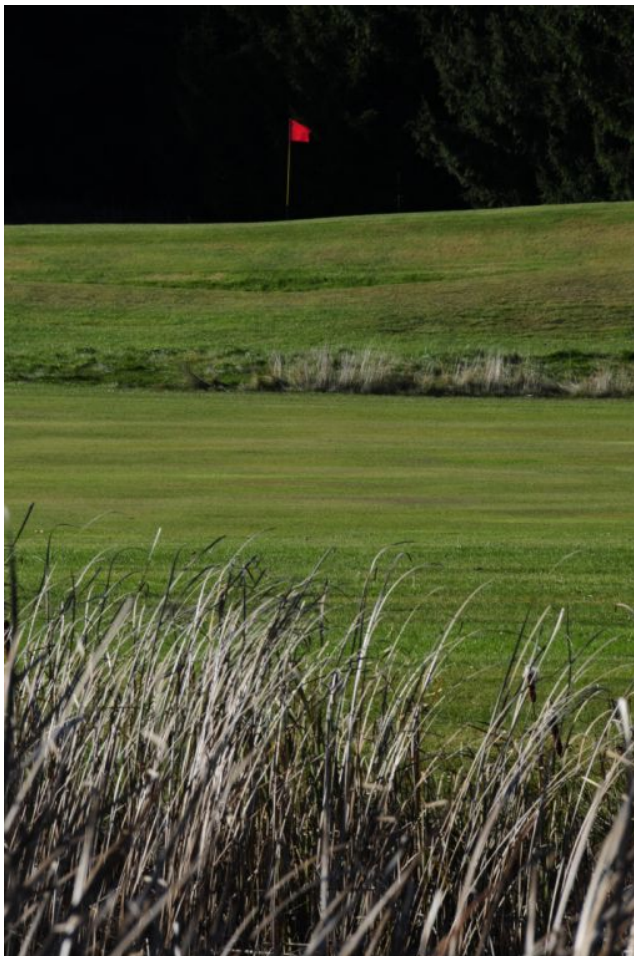
If you prefer not to stay in a standard **** hotel but closer to nature, I recommend bio-farm with the option to taste bio-products.



Waldviertel is also the place for golf. Ten percent of all Austrian golf clubs are located exactly here. Golf resort Haugschlag consists of two championship golf courses – Waldviertel and Haugschlag and is member of Leading Golf Courses of Austria, several times voted the best golf course in Austria. Several PGA European Tour Tournaments were hosted by Haugschlag. Waldviertel was the first golf course and the course is very well protected by

forest. The younger golf course Haugschlag is more open. You can stay in a 4* hotel directly on the signature hole 18 of the Haugschlag golf course and book your tee time online. For more information pls visit www.golfresort.at.

Within the cross-border cooperation with the Czech Republic the golf region Heart of Golf, offering golf on 15 golf courses was established. Using one e-car we can play the first golf course in the Austrian Haugschlag and later continue at the golf course Monachus in the Czech Republic.



Secret hint for a romantic dinner for two after golf: in Rottal, where foxes say good night, amidst a deep forest in a traditional Gasthaus Perzy (est. 1886) with excellent meals including Waldviertel specialties: roast pig with special dumplings, potato pancakes with sauerkraut, carp as well as game.

In Heidenreichstein you can visit one of the largest Trachten-outlets in Austria (folk costumes).

For sure you will like Müssauer sweets in old Waidhofen. Try their specialty- chocolate filled with different wines. Another excellent chocolate but now from a totally different source, Schrems brewery offers chocolate with malt and the taste is wonderful!

In order to round up the picture, Austria is divided into Waldviertel (forest quarter), Weinviertel (wine), Donau Niederösterreich (Danube Lower Austria), Mostviertel (cider), Wienerwald (Vienna forest) and Wiener Alpen in Niederösterreich (Vienna Alps in Lower Austria).

It is not possible to include all options of the rich program offered by Waldviertel to visitors. Having decided on sport, culture or other holiday activity, Waldviertel will satisfy all your needs. Even during a short stay you can gain enough of energy. A very interesting visit can include Waldviertel and Southern Bohemia.

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