



Vienna Alps – Austria's most scenic train ride & hidden nature paradise

Recommended length: 2 nights



Semmering Railway © Niederösterreich Werbung / Michael Liebert

Situated just one hour south of Vienna, is the start of the Vienna Alps arc – a spectacular range of summits sprinkled with pretty, cultural villages. The area is connected by the UNESCO world heritage accredited Semmering Railway - Europe's first mountain railway and technical masterpiece (built 1848 – 1854). The core route from Gloggnitz to Mürzzuschlag includes 15 tunnels, 16 viaducts and 100 arched bridges, and overcomes 459 meters in altitude.

The Vienna Alps have been a popular 'Sommerfrische' (engl. Summer holiday) hotspot for centuries. Sigmund Freud holidayed at the Rax to get a break from his exhausting life as a doctor and therapist. At Ottohaus mountain inn, Sigmund Freud performed his first psychoanalysis on the inn keeper's daughter. Viktor Frankl, the founder of logotherapy, climbed the rocky Rax by various routes. He believed that climbing at the Rax taught him about life. The Looshaus on Kreuzberg mountain was designed as a country house by Adolf Loos in 1928. Today it's a hotel and restaurant.

One of the hiking highlights in the region is the Vienna Waterpipe Hiking Trail. Established along the most beautiful sections of the water pipeline that supplies drinking water for Vienna. The springs are located in the Lower Austrian (Vienna Alps)/Styrian Alps and travels to the capital in 36 hours.

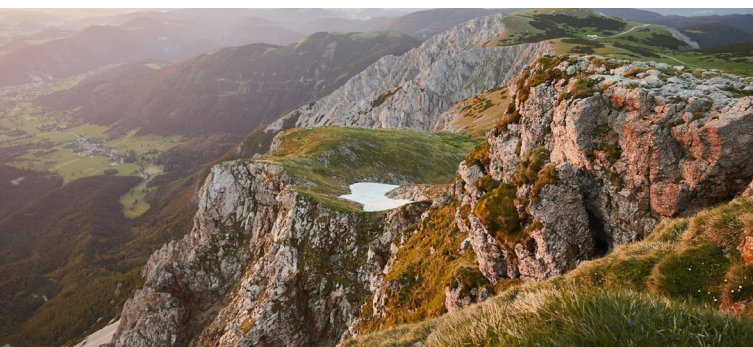
How to spend your time in the Vienna Alps

DAY 1:

- Train from Vienna to Mürzzuschlag via the Semmering railway for stunning views
- Cable car up to the summit and hike 30min to Ottohaus where Sigmund Freud used to spend his summers
- Overnight: Hotel Looshaus am Kreuzberg

DAY 2:

- Schneeberg Railway from Puchberg to the summit of the Schneeberg, the highest peak of Lower Austria
- Baumgartner Station for Schneeberg Buchten
- Hiking on Schneeberg mountain
- Overnight: Schneeberghof in Puchberg



Schneeberg © Niederösterreich Werbung/Andreas Jakwerth



Rax © Niederösterreich Werbung / Robert Herbst