

# Klagenfurt – the lively Renaissance gem at Lake Wörthersee



Klagenfurt am Wörthersee (94,000 inhabitants) is the capital city of Austria's southernmost province, Carinthia.

Klagenfurt excels with its special charm and beauty and is particularly worth living in thanks to its location on the eastern shore of Lake Wörthersee. The wonderful old town is also a highlight; it is not without good reason that Klagenfurt is called the "Renaissance gem at Lake Wörthersee". Italian master builders determined the 800 year old town with its excellently restored palaces, inner courtyards and squares. Klagenfurt has been awarded the coveted Europa Nostra Diploma for the exemplary preservation of its old town three times.

## Lively ambience

Klagenfurt is not only a large museum but also a popular shopping centre. Daily farmers' markets attract people to the city and also the attractive pedestrian area with its designer boutiques, department stores, street artists, cafés, bars, traditional pubs and top-class restaurants is an absolute must for all those who love to stroll.



Here, in the south of Austria, the people know how to party: the Old Town Magic Festival (Altstadtzauber), a huge city festival with jugglers, musicians, magicians and lots of action; the big New Year's Eve Carnival with a brass band playing from the tower, music groups, mulled wine and champagne stalls; the atmospheric Christmas Market and a harbinger of spring, the Easter Market, are only some of the festivals that take place every year.

## Klagenfurt is the capital city of events

Klagenfurt am Wörthersee is Austria's "capital city of events" all year round. The crowning highlights of the event year are the Beach Volleyball Grand Slam and the Carinthia Ironman Austria. It was not without good reason that Klagenfurt am Wörthersee has received the "Austrian Event Award" twice.

Sports fans can test their fitness at the 'Carinthia Runs' (Kärnten Läufe) running event which had 5,000 participants from different countries in 2008.

It not only includes a half marathon but also a children's race. But the absolute highlight was definitely the 2008 European Football Championship. Three group matches were played in the brand new Wörthersee stadium in the host city of Klagenfurt.



## Culture to sense and discover

Those on a culture trip will get their money's worth in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee: be it literature, theatre, museums, galleries, castles or churches – here, at the birthplace of the famous novelist Robert Musil and the famous writer Ingeborg Bachmann, you will be provided with plenty of diverse cultural offers.

The Ingeborg Bachmann Literature Competition, which is held every year in June, is the most outstanding literature event in the German speaking area and the only competition with literature being read and rated live. All year round you can follow in the footsteps of Ingeborg Bachmann, the poet from Klagenfurt, and visit the places where she lived, learned and worked. Robert Musil's birthplace in Klagenfurt can also be visited. Stadttheater Klagenfurt, the city theatre built in modern style, enthralls with productions of different genres all year round. Musicals, plays, operas or operettas – the performances in Klagenfurt's temple of the muses are presented by top-class performers.





### **Even the ancient Romans were here**

The provincial museum, Landesmuseum, with its collection of Roman finds such as the famous life-size statue called 'The Youth from Magdalensberg', and many other museums ranging from folklore to mining museums, will give insights into the history of Carinthia. In addition, large and small galleries host exquisite exhibitions.

### **Exploring and admiring castles**

Klagenfurt am Wörthersee is particularly attractive for castle lovers: 23 well-preserved castles can be visited, some even on the inside. 56 churches and chapels as well as numerous religious treasures can be explored on church tours.

### **Walking, running, swimming and other activities at a leisurely pace**

Those who are keen on sports combined with enjoyment will love the leisurely running routes along the water and through the lush green countryside on well-kept paths with good signposting. Klagenfurt has one of the most scenic half marathon routes in Austria; 11 drinking fountains provide refreshment. Sportspeople who love competitions and community sport are spoilt with a large number of running events: Carinthia Ironman Austria, Carinthia Runs, Klagenfurt City Half Marathon, Car-free Lake Wörthersee, Klagenfurt Days of Sport and the Business Run, just to name but a few. For cyclists Klagenfurt offers a 120 kilometre long network of perfectly looked after, safe cycling routes.



In the eastern bay of Lake Wörthersee you are awaited by one of Europe's largest inland lakeside lidos. In his time Robert Musil wrote about the lake and walks along its shores. Dozens of outdoor and indoor tennis courts are available to tennis players. The Klagenfurt-Seltenheim golf course, one of Austria's most scenic and interesting golf courses, will enthrall golfers. Horse riders will also find a large number of riding stables and farms available to them. Klagenfurt is also prepared for rain – though it rarely does: there is a modern public indoor pool centre with long water slide, saunas, solarium and restaurant in the middle of the city.

### **Winter sports in the city**

Klagenfurt not only offers plenty of activities in summer. It also has a lot on offer in winter. Freezing temperatures will invite ice skaters to enjoy skating on the Lendkanal waterway as well as many small lakes. If Lake Wörthersee freezes over, it becomes the largest natural ice skating area in Austria.

