

## Graz Region – from city to countryside in 10 minutes

The Graz Region combines the Mediterranean lifestyle of the capital of Styria with the vast natural and cultural landscapes of the surrounding area. Graz is the second largest city in Austria, the only capital of delight, a City of Design and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Just outside the city, forests, hills, alpine pastures, vineyards and top tourist destinations await visitors, opening up new perspectives all year around. It's a region that epitomises variety and changes from urban flair to unspoilt nature in a matter of minutes.

### GRAZ – A CITY OF CONTRASTS

Old meets new. Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque mingle with modern architecture. The Graz “city crown” architectural ensemble, the unique red rooftops and the hidden courtyards have made the old town of Graz into a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The baroque Eggenberg Palace also shares this special honour. The Schlossberg and its **clock tower, a landmark** well-known beyond the city limits, stand tall in the heart of the city.

Graz was the only **European Capital of Culture** in 2003. There remain visible and tangible traces of this opulent Capital of Culture year to this day. It is impossible to imagine the current cultural scene without the Island in the Mur, Graz Art Museum or the Austrian Sculpture Park in Premstätten, for example.

[www.regiongraz.at/sightseeing](http://www.regiongraz.at/sightseeing)

### CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS IN 2026

In addition to the **Opera House and Schauspielhaus** theatre, several international festivals such as the **Styriarte** classical and traditional music festival (26.06.-26.07.), **La Strada** dramatic arts festival (31.07.-08.08.), the **steirische herbst** autumn arts festival (24.09.-18.10.) and the **Klanglicht** light and art show (23.10.-07.11.) all offer culture at its finest.

With its special annual topic of **BLOOM** (21.03. – 08.11.), the **Universalmuseum Joanneum** explores the meaning of flowers from an artistic, scientific and cultural historical perspective at eight different locations.

From 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September, visitors can see a modern interpretation of Hugo von Hofmannsthal's famous play “**Jedermann**” (Everyman) on the open-air Kasemattenbühne stage at the Graz Schlossberg.

Anniversary events such as the **30th anniversary Styrian Chamber Music Festival** (29.7.-06.09.) and the **40th anniversary Mountainfilm Graz festival** (17.-21.11.) serve to underline the cultural continuity.

[www.regiongraz.at/events-en](http://www.regiongraz.at/events-en)

### GASTRONOMY AS A STAGE

It shouldn't be any surprise that Graz is **Austria's only capital of delight**. After all, when it comes to gastronomy, there's so much on offer here – whether it's in traditional Styrian inns, stylish modern restaurants and bars, cosy cafés, popular ice cream parlours, or at the vibrant and lively outdoor dining areas on almost every street corner. The gastronomy in the wider Graz region is also

imaginative and varied: traditional Styrian inns, excellent restaurants, mountain lodges, wine taverns and romantic picnic spots await visitors wherever they go.

A key fixture in the summer calendar is the **VOLLMUND** series of gastronomic events, which in 2026 will once more combine extraordinary locations with first-rate cuisine. On eight dates from June to September, the “VOLLMUND Nights” invite visitors to dine in special places – to the Graz Uplands, to the Packer Reservoir or the Graz vineyards. Michelin-starred and award-winning chefs including **Alexander Posch, Florian Wörgötter and Michael Winkler** will serve exclusive menus in the open air and under the full moon. The combination of regional gastronomic excellence, natural scenery and the full moon atmosphere is sure to create a unique culinary experience.

[www.regiongraz.at/culinary](http://www.regiongraz.at/culinary)

### **TOP TOURIST SIGHTS IN THE SURROUNDINGS**

The region’s top tourist sights are varied and multifaceted. Whether it’s the Austrian open-air museum in Stübing, the Lipizzaner stud farm in Piber, the Arnold Schwarzenegger Museum, the NOVA Köflach thermal spa, the oldest surviving Cistercian monastery in Rein, the Austrian Sculpture Park in Premstätten or the fascinating Lurgrotte, the largest water-filled stalactite cave in Austria – there’s something on offer for everyone.

[www.regiongraz.at/excursions](http://www.regiongraz.at/excursions)

### **GET ACTIVE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

Graz is the gateway to the region’s **hiking paradise**. From the Hebalalm to the Gleinalm to the Schöckl, any number of superb walks are available that are certain to thrill everyone who loves the great outdoors. Almost no other region is home to such varied natural scenery or such an attractive range of outdoor experiences – all in the immediate vicinity of a state capital of international culture and delight.

Fans of cycling can also find an attractive range of enjoyable tours and trekking options in the Graz Region. **18 e-bike pleasure cycling tours** take active holidaymakers to the most beautiful destinations and gourmet restaurants around Graz. The popular **Mur R2 cycle path** is the main cycling route in the Graz Region. It wends its way from the mountainous areas in the north to the flat plains of the Graz basin in the south, passing through the centre of the state capital on the way.

[www.regiongraz.at/hiking](http://www.regiongraz.at/hiking) [www.regiongraz.at/cycling](http://www.regiongraz.at/cycling)

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