

LinZ: Stillness, steel and stars

“LinZ.changes” is the city’s slogan and indeed Linz has a strong desire for innovation and an enthusiasm for new ventures. No other Austrian city has undergone such a transformation and this city on the Danube has become both successful and dynamic offering its residents a high quality of life, a place where visitors can sense this spirit of renaissance for themselves.

The season of wonder

As the days grow shorter, Linz presents itself in a unique light. The fragrance of spicy ginger bread and rich Linzer torte fills the air at Christmas markets and in patisseries, a beautifully illuminated city silhouette that unites modern and historic architecture, and the temptation of shopping in Linz’s city centre make the weeks before Christmas a magical time.

Stillness, steel and stars

Culture is alive in this European City of Culture 2009, which provides a lively and surprising choice of attractions all year round. Yet visitors in search of peace and quiet will find calm refuge in Linz’s many churches and also in traditional Christmas markets in the old market square and on Pfarrplatz, blissfully devoid of piped music.

The **Finnish Christmas village** on the old market square is a tannoy-free zone, where you can browse for traditional Nordic handicrafts, nibble at delicious food stalls and admire high quality designer products (26.11. – 22.12.2010). Another venue guaranteed to be without a PA system is the **Winter Market** on Pfarrplatz (27.11. – 23.12.2010).

Boat trips from Linz along the Danube Valley are ever popular with visitors, who enjoy the picturesque landscape drifting slowly by, and no less so in winter. The early dusk brings the delightful spectacle of artistically illuminated bridges and facades along the Danube Cultural Mile, their reflections glittering in the water.

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Nativity scenes are an important part of advent here and can be found in a host of shop windows, churches and other public places. The Advent celebrations are crowned by christkindl markets on the main square, in the park and other smaller markets in courtyards and squares all over the city (20.11. – 24.12.2010).

An ice rink on the roof of a city multi-storey car park is a great favourite with both adults and children. Entrance is free to the **Eisbox** on the roof of the OK building and ice skates can be hired for a small charge (28.11.2010 – 09.01.2011)

Steel World in the visitors' centre at voestalpine AG provides a brilliant insight into steel as a material, with state of the art media technology and interactive displays (Tuesday – Sunday, all year round).

Visitors to the **Ars Electronica Center** experience a new dimension of travel through space and time in the Deep Space exhibition, as they are immersed in a high-definition 3D stereo universe. Further exhibition rooms show digital environments and images of man from a new perspective (Tuesday – Sunday, all year round).

Everyone can try their hand at the traditional craft of **candle making** in the courtyard of Hauptplatz 19, and take their handiwork home with them (13.11. – 23.12.2010).

Concerts and choral recitals in the Brucknerhaus and some beautiful churches set the spiritual scene for Christmas and Linz's theatres, variety stages and cinemas offer great entertainment for long winter evenings.

Linz sees in the New Year with theatre, concerts, boat trips and the Silvesterlauf, a race around the old town. 1st January is a little less hectic, with the traditional **Aperschnalzen** display at 11.00 in front of the Landhaus and a **New Year's Concert** by the Bruckner Orchestra at 16.00 in the Brucknerhaus.

Travel to Linz

“**Linz Advent Weekend**”, Linz Tourist Office's weekend package includes two nights in a 3 or 4 star hotel with a festive activity programme from Euro 96 per person including a Linz-3 Day Card. The best way to arrive is by train to award-winning Linz railway station or by air to Blue Danube Airport Linz, which is served by several flights daily from major middle European cities.

Information

www.advent.linz.at | www.linz.at/tourismus | www.linz-tourismus.info

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