



FREISTADT

www.freistadt.at

CITY

GUIDE

**WELCOME
TO THE MEDIEVAL
BREWING CITY**

K.K.
ANDESFÜRSTLICHE
STADT



INFO:

Tourist office
Waaggasse 6
+43 7942 757 00
www.freistadt.at

TIP:

The best way to discover Freistadt is to stroll through its streets on a guided walking tour.

Free tour: every Friday at 7 pm (May - Oct.), duration: 1 h, meeting point: in front of the castle

WELCOME FREISTADT

the medieval salt city, the prosperous brewing city, the charming shopping city, the vibrant trade fair city, the diverse sport city, the friendly culinary city. Freistadt means discovering history. Freistadt means experiencing community.

Freistadt means enjoying culinary delights. Freistadt means celebrating festivals. Be part of it! Enjoy arriving, discovering and seeing!

Would you like to discover the city on a guided tour? We offer many different possibilities!

ARRIVE.

If just for a few hours or for some days:
Welcome to our medieval brewing city -
we are happy to see you!

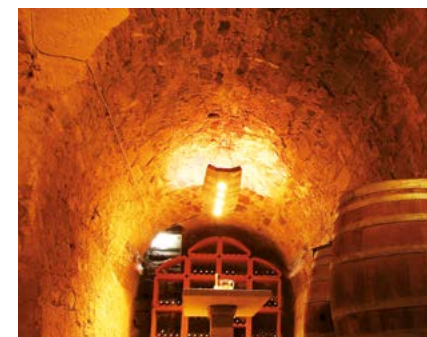
DISCOVER.

Browse through this city guide - we have put together the most important information for you: A bit of history, a sight-seeing walk leading you to the most popular and best-known places and an excursion showing the various places of interest round about.

The QR codes are linked to the website of Freistadt's photo club, where much more and constantly updated information about the city is available. (cityguide-freistadt.at)

EXPERIENCE.

Freistadt invites you to see and experience it. Wander around. Be surprised! By its buildings, squares and people. Search and find: the almost completely preserved city walls with its fortifications, the lovely set out city park, 27 inner court yards, 7 towers, 2 gates, 1 crocodile. Ready, steady, go!



FREISTADT THEN AND NOW

Freistadt was the only sovereign city in Mühlviertel. It was founded around 1220 by the Babenberg Leopold VI on an old trading route from the Danube through the Northern forest to Bohemia.

Settlers received land and built their houses as „freeholders“, from which the name Freistadt was derived. The city was a stronghold against the unsettled Bohemian border, but should also curb the bishops of Passau and be a base for trade with Bohemia (salt and iron). From the beginning Freistadt was granted special privileges: The Staple and Storage Rights (all merchandise coming from or going

to Bohemia had to be displayed for sale in Freistadt for three days), route enforcement and the Mile Law (added in 1363; within a fixed distance, trade and commerce as well as selling beer was the exclusive right of Freistadt's citizens) contributed largely to the city's rise and the citizen's prosperity.

Many things worth seeing in Freistadt today date back to its golden age in the 14th and 15th century. Even the two major town fires in 1507 and 1516 could not stop the economic boom of the city. However, Bohemia and Moravia became crown lands of the Habsburgs in the new land laws of 1627 and

consequently after the Thirty Years' War the privileges of protection towards the North became superfluous. Freistadt lost its importance as a trade city and its function as a border city.

What is left is a small but adorable city, which has only changed slowly over the centuries. After World War II reconstruction of economy went hand in hand with the preservation of medieval values. Therefore many fortifications as well as almost the complete city walls still exist - this is an exception which is only found in very few other Austrian cities. Today we keep this treasure and are pleased about every visitor who discovers it!





1

ST. MARY'S FONTAIN/ PIARISTS' HOUSE

Since 1704 the baroque St. Mary's Fountain, work of the sculptor Johann Baptist Spaz the Younger from Salzburg, embellishes the generously designed main square covering an area of 6,502 m². From 1761 to 1873 the Piarists' Order School was housed in the building, where today the Sparkasse bank stands, followed by the first grammar school of the city. On the opposite side of the main square you can see the exposed wall paintings of a "rich" bourgeois house next to today's municipal offices with its added storeys.



2

CASTLE FREISTADT WITH KEEP

Passing under a late Gothic round arch you reach the castle with its massive keep from the 14th century. The 50 metres high keep was originally an observation or refuge tower and now hosts the Castle Museum. The collection of verre églomisé pictures is situated in the castle chapel.





3

CASTLE ALLEY

Coming from the Castle Court and passing the romantic Castle Alley with its three Gothic bowfronts you will reach Böhmergasse. The inn "Goldener Hirsch" is the birthplace of the painter Karl Kronberger.



4

BÖHMERTOR

Böhmertor is a gate built with massive blocks of stone showing nowadays only the three outer walls which remained standing after a fire in 1880, which destroyed three wooden storeys, the low wedged roof and the baroque ridge turret. Impressive characteristics are the Gothic pointed arch with two slits above for the flybeams of the drawbridge and the embrasures on the three storeys. One storey was reconstructed in 2011.





5

LIEBFRAUENKIRCHE

The Church of Our Lady, originally built as a hospital church in 1345, was surrounded by Freistadt's cemetery until the 19th century, still witnessed by its surrounding wall. Remarkable are the gravestones of some wealthy citizens. The death pillar or pillar of light dating back to 1448, which once was in the cemetery, is now situated in the Eastern chancel. The adjacent building hosts the former convent school for girls.



6

SCHEIBLINGTUM

Back on the promenade we continue alongside the pond (Fraunteich), which was once built for flooding the city moat. The 21m high tower Scheiblingturm (at the new footbridge) was constructed for the protection of the water inlet in the same period as the Dechanthofturm, 1444-47. The reconstructed wall-walk at 7 m height shows the former fortification on the inner city wall. A view through the trellised gate shows the outer ward and the outer garden.

TIP: Get the chance and get rappelled down the dungeon!
www.derhoehenflug.at





7

CITY SMITHY

The old city smithy, already mentioned in the 15th century, is situated directly next to the Scheibling-turm. Most probably a blacksmith's, wagonmaker's and tool smith's workplace had been there on the antique salt road even before the city was founded. In 1748 the house was one-storeyed (according to the house description) - room and chamber on the upper floor, workshop downstairs.

8

SALZHOF

Following Salzgasse we reach the oldest building in town, the "Old Fortress", later on called Salzhof (mentioned for the first time in 1390). At the back, facing towards the city moat, there are the remains of the tower, which was destroyed in a fire and has not been reconstructed completely. The building functioned as a salt depot. The horse-drawn railway, which was built in the 19th century, bypassed the city, so the Salzhof was no longer needed as an interim storage. It was sold, then completely renovated in 2003 and converted into today's cultural centre. The renovation and extension work was carried out in close cooperation with the National Heritage Trust. The combination of old elements and modern, contemporary architecture is highly convincing and worth seeing and has even been awarded a prize.





9

CROCODILE IN PFARRGASSE

Shortly after the turn of the century a crocodile escaped from a circus, which was giving a performance in Freistadt, and Freistadt's hunters shot it in a huntsman like manner, others even say, it died a natural death. The grocer Kaspar Obermayr asked for this trophy to get it stuffed. He hung it up in the passage of his house and always told people that he had strangled the crocodile with his own hands on the Nile in Egypt.



10

HOUSE WAAGGASSE 13

The house in Waaggasse 13 is considered the most beautiful Gothic house of the city. You can see a deeply incised Gothic front door, a Gothic ribbed vault inside, a large protruding upper floor with alternating moulded blind and a charming bowfront at the side. Another typical characteristic is the elevated fire wall.



FREISTADT

Stops on sightseeing walk





11

„BÖCKHOF“ SAMTGASSE 8

Behind the front the most beautiful inner Renaissance courtyard of the city is hidden. Especially noteworthy is the front door from 1592 and the columns in the inner courtyard, which express the great art of masonry of the city.



12

ARCADE COURT WITH PASSAGE

The beautiful arcade courts show the medieval ambiance of doors and windows framed in stone. The passage between Samt- and Böhmergasse is especially charming, before we draw our attention to the main square. To be mentioned in particular are the fire walls elevated on instruction of Emperor Maximilian I in the "Innsbruck" style, which were incorporated into building regulations after the two large fires of 1507 and 1516.

At the other end of the passage you reach Böhmergasse. There are three ways now to reach our next stop on the sightseeing walk: pass the Böhmertor and turn right past the beautifully set out city park or go through the castle alley (Schlossgasse) and downhill towards the playground or across the main square and down the steps.





13

WEYERMÜHLTURM

The tower Weyermühlurm from the 14th century projects quite a lot into the city moat. It protected the emergency mill, which provided flour and bread in times of siege (building between tower and city wall). Instead of today's steps there was the third entrance to the town, the so called "post gate" (which burned down in 1883). Later on the municipality built the wide steps.



14

SOUTH FRONT/ TOWER OF THE OLD CITY HALL

Continuing alongside the city moat you will now reach its most friendly part, the Southern front. It is characterized by the completely preserved historic city wall (first mentioned in a document in 1337), the tower of the late Gothic old city hall with its battlements (built in 1520) and the high buildings, which, standing directly on the inner city wall, are reinforced by supporting walls. The walk continues through the moat in Lederertal directly to the Dechanthofturm.





15

DECHANTHOFTURM

This tower situated directly on the outer ward wall, is about 21 metres high and has a diameter of 7.5 metres. It was only built in 1440 after the Hussite Wars and counts among the latest fortifications of the city. The tower protected the water outlet from the city moat and the barrier walls. Next to it you can see a splendid baroque building, the Dean's Court. The next two houses towards Linzertor show embrasures and machicolations.



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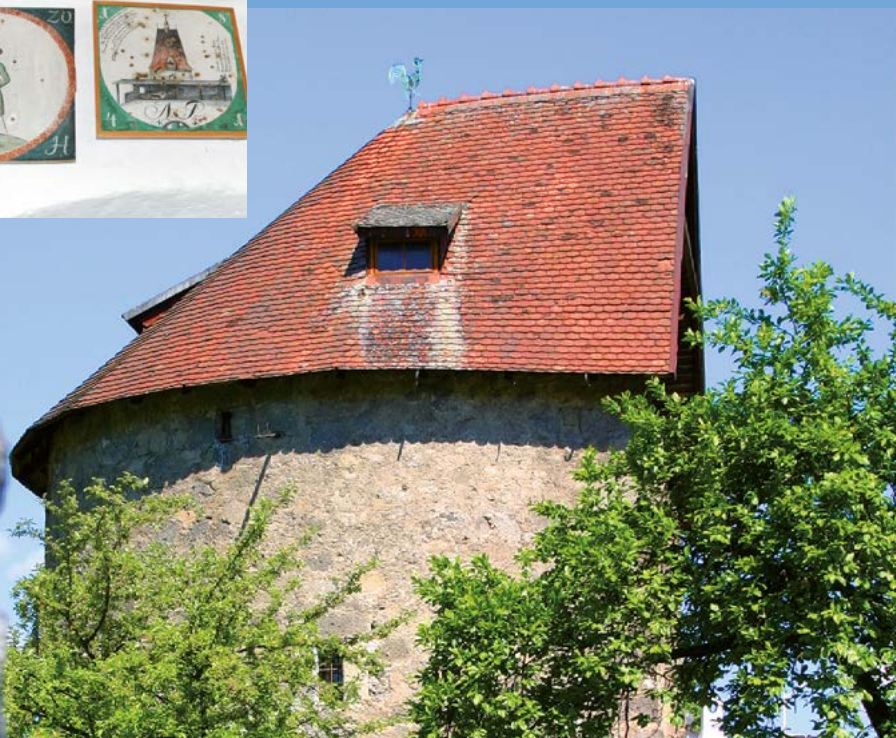
LINZERTOR

The city gate Linzertor at a height of 28 m is one of the most massive gate towers in Middle Europe and is considered Freistadt's landmark. You can discover the slits of the former drawbridge, the Austrian double-headed eagle, an embrasure in form of a keyhole and the picture of Saint Catherine of Alexandria with wheel and sword, the patron saint of Freistadt. The inscription "K. u. K." reminds us that Freistadt was an imperial-royal sovereign city.



BÜRGERKORPSTURM

Passing the outer ward we reach the tower Bürgerkorpsturm, once called Heimatbundturm. This semicircular tower is about 13.5 metres high with a wall thickness of 2.7 m at the base and 1.2 metres at the top. This section of the city moat has a depth of 4.2 metres. It is presumed that the tower was once open at the back and that all four storeys could be used for defence. In addition there was a connection to the wall-walk. The embrasures of this tower are directed towards the outer ward and the city moat. Nowadays the tower is walled up at the back and hosts the citizens guard/the citizens corps, hence its name. Wooden water pipes, found in the city moat in 1988, are shown in the outer ward.



DEAN'S COURT

The splendid baroque Dean's Court was built in the 17th century under Dean David Josef von Stein. The deanery Freistadt comprised of about 60 parishes. Via a narrow alley you will reach the parish church. The size of this building represents the importance of Freistadt's church district.





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PARISH CHURCH „KATHARINEN-MÜNSTER“

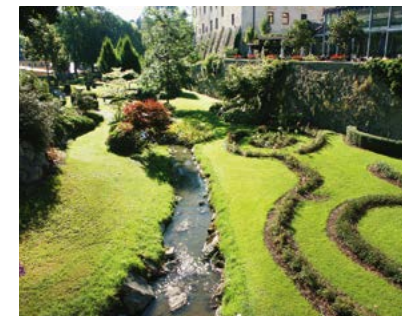
The parish church is Austria's only five-naved basilica, with an impressive Gothic Eastern chancel (made by Math. Klayndl). The splendid baroque church tower was built by Johann Michael Prunner and is 67 metres high. A church guide is available in the church.



20

CITY MOAT AND CITY PARK

The large city moat is embedded between the protecting city walls all around the old town centre. The city park between the gate Böhmertor and the southern side is ideally suited for a stroll around the old town following winding paths lined with botanical rarities, a tiny stream and the historic walls of the city. Several benches and places invite you to rest a while. Big and small children will find enough space for romping and exercising on the generously designed playground and various stops within the „Höhenflug“ project.



THE HÖHENFLUG

The „Höhenflug“ is an adventure production with high and low wire elements. Different sights are played on and around: flying fox, slacklines and many other challenges expect you! Work physically on Freistadt's old town and experience it from a completely new angle: because 30 metres above ground Freistadt does not only look different, but it also smells different and even sounds different! Insights for climbers, outlooks for high-flyers, thrills for old and young!

Booking: +43 664/4545960, office@derhoehenflug.at,
www.derhoehenflug.at





GUIDED TOURS

Groups of at least 8 people up to max. 50 people can book guided tours of the brewery. Brewing seminars are also available for small groups.

Public tour: every thursday at 11 am, 1,5 h, no reservation required

Further information can be obtained directly at the brewery.

www.freistaedter-bierakademie.at

Monday to Saturday from 9 am

OPENING HOURS

Brewery „Braucommune“ in Freistadt

Monday to Thursday from 8 am to 4.30 pm

Friday from 8 to 12 am

Restaurant „Freistädter Brauhaus“

Daily from 9 am

Beer Shop „Freistädter“

Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm

Saturday from 9 to 12 am

Phone: +43 7942 757 77

www.freistaedter-bier.at

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BREWERY FREISTADT

Freistadt's history can not be imagined without the brewing community. The Habsburg Duke Rudolf IV granted the brewing license to the citizens of Freistadt in 1363. At first beer was brewed in different houses, but after some time they joined forces by creating the first early form of today's inns. The duke's privilege, however, was not purely unselfish: he demanded a so called "impost" of 10% for every mug of beer. Little by little the citizens united into larger brewing groups, finally there was only one wheatbeer and one brown beer brewery left in the city. In 1746 the township acquired all brewing licenses. They founded the "brewing community" (Braucommune), in which 149 house owners from the old town have been and still are the owners of the brewery together. The brewing community proved its importance for the city outwardly by building a common brewery, which was inaugurated in 1777 and has been the place of business for the city's most important company. Smart management and far-sighted decisions by the dynamic team succeeded in transforming the "old" brewery into an ultra modern, thriving, leading industry, which even has its own brewery restaurant. In 2013 the brewery was a setting for the border crossing Provincial Exhibition "Alte Spuren - Neue Wege" (hence "Old Traces - New Ways").



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SCHLOSSMUSEUM (CASTLE MUSEUM)

If you are interested in the city's history and want to travel into the past, you will certainly be satisfied in the Mühlviertler Schlossmuseum (Castle Museum). About 17,000 exhibits of folk culture, crafts and city history from eight centuries as well as regularly changing special exhibitions are shown in the lovingly set out Castle Museum of Freistadt. Apart from a unique collection of "Sandl" verre églomisé pictures, marksmen-targets and St. Peter ceramics, many antique handicraft equipment is presented and the tower room up on the keep is open to visitors. On nine floors, the museum shows topics such as faith and superstition, scales and measurements, customs and popular devotion, jurisdiction, furniture and everyday objects. From the very top you will have an unforgettable view of the city.

GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours for 8 people or above are possible at any time

- please make an appointment in advance!

Public tour: every friday at 5 pm (May to Oct.), 1 h,

no reservation required

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday from 9 to 12 am and from 2 to 5 pm (Oct. to May)

from 9 am to 5 pm (June to Sept.)

Saturday, Sunday and holiday from 2 to 5 pm

Advance reservation requested!

Phone: +43 7942 722 74, www.museum-freistadt.at



ALL AROUND

THURYTAL

Via the bridge next to the former tannery Böck in Obere Hafnerzeile you will reach Thurytal, where the fitness path with its numerous activity stages also starts. This picturesque landscape alongside the river Aist owes its name to the Thury family's hammer mills. At the second hammer you can try your luck and forge a nail or emboss a "Thury Thaler" (within the setting of a guided Thurytal tour, information available in the tourist office or your accommodation establishment). The route continues to the devil's rock. There the devil tried to block the Felldaist with giant boulders to avoid the construction of the city - fortunately he did not succeed!

HIKERS' ROCK

The hikers' rock on the promenade (see city map) is the starting point of all IVV hiking paths. Best marked routes for all difficulty levels are available - e. g. the Planet Hiking Path leading past 11 planet stops (15.6 km), the 28 km long Medieval Adventure Trail or the Water Hiking Path via St. Peter (7 km). Hiking maps are available at inns and banks, in your accommodation establishment or in the tourist office.



MUSEUM ROUTE GOTHIC ROUTE

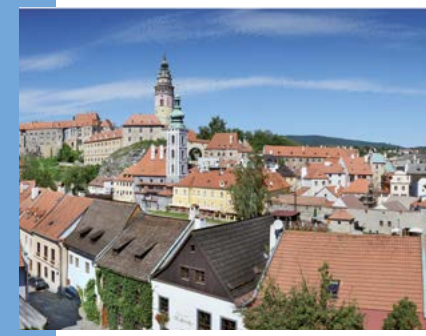
If you have more time to spend, a tour along the Museum Route, offering 28 museums with a comprehensive view of our ancestors' living and working environment is worthwhile (e.g. laundry museum, dyer museum etc.) or on the Gothic Route dedicated to architectural and craftsmanship masterpieces (further information and hiking maps are available in the tourist office).

HORSE-DRAWN RAILWAY

Travelling as in the Imperial era is possible in Kerschbaum: a 500 m long line section, the horse-drawn railway museum and a restaurant invite you on a nostalgic tour. Information and booking: phone +43 7949 6800

ČESKÝ KRUMLOV

The small Czech city, just 40 km away, is a World Heritage cultural site of UNESCO and a jewel on the Vltava absolutely worth seeing (Egon Schiele museum).



Imprint: Responsible, owner, publisher, Pro Freistadt Verein für Tourismus und Wirtschaft, 4240 Freistadt, Hauptplatz 1; Photos: Fotoklub Freistadt, Studio für Fotografie - Gabriele Lackner Strauss, Martin Pröll, Archiv Tourismusverband Mühlviertler Kernland, OÖ Tourismus/Erber; Concept/design: wazek & partner; Editing: Pro Freistadt Verein für Tourismus und Wirtschaft; Printed: Plöchl Druck GmbH, A-4240 Freistadt; Kindly supported by Juliane Peterbauer, Kons. Fritz Fellner, Kons. Emil Vierhauser; typesetting and printing errors excepted.

BASIC PHRASES

ENGLISH

GERMAN

Hello	Hallo
Good Morning	Guten Morgen
Good Evening	Guten Abend
See you later	Bis später
Thank you	Danke
You're welcome	Bitteschön
Excuse me	Entschuldigen Sie bitte
I'm sorry	Es tut mir leid
How are you?	Wie geht es Ihnen?
I'm doing well	Mir geht's gut
What's your name?	Wie heißen Sie?
My name is...	Ich heiße...
I don't understand	Das verstehe ich nicht
I don't speak German	Ich spreche kein Deutsch
Do you speak English?	Sprechen Sie Englisch?
Repeat, please	Bitte wiederholen
How much is that?	Wie viel kostet das?



INFOS ZUR REGION:



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