

ALONG THE DANUBE
Imperial Gardens & New Concepts
Summer 2009



ITINERARY

Day 1 KREMS

Arrival in Vienna and transfer to Krems

Day 2 KREMS

Seitenstetten Abbey – Garden in the courtyard and “God’s quadrangle”

Melk Abbey – Historical gardens with the world-famous abbey at the entrance of the Wachau valley

Artstetten Palace – The private palace of the heir to the throne and its park

Day 3 KREMS - VIENNA

Schallaburg – A Renaissance palace with recently restored as well as newly created gardens

Grafenegg Palace – An impressive historism palace with its country park

”Die Garten Tulln” – Lower Austrian Garden Show and an excursion into the forests of the floodplains

In the late afternoon drive to Vienna

Evening Tour of Vienna with local guide and typical **”Heurigen Dinner”**

Day 4 VIENNA

Klosterneuburg Abbey – Abbey gardens and the “Escorial Palace of the Habsburg family”

Laxenburg Palace – The largest country park of the Habsburg family and the Franzensburg castle

Baden – “Rosarium” rose world and the large spa gardens, former summer residence of the Imperial Family

Day 5 VIENNA

Archaeological Park Carnuntum – Private Roman gardens and reconstructions of Roman mansions

Imperial Festival Palace Hof – The Baroque splendour of the festival palace as well as the garden world

Farewell Dinner at the Restaurant Griechenbeisl

Day 6 DEPARTURE

Departure from Vienna & Transfer to the airport

ALL THIS IS INCLUDED

- 2 Nights in Krems area incl. Half board
- 3 Nights in Vienna incl. Breakfast
- Welcome Drink upon arrival at the hotel in Krems
- Vienna Evening Tour with local guide & typical "Heurigen Dinner"
- Farewell Dinner at Restaurant Griechenbeisl
- Abbey of Seitenstetten entrance & guided tour of abbey and gardens
- Melk Abbey entrance & guided tour of abbey and entrance to the gardens
- Palace of Artstetten entrance & guided tour of Palace Museum and gardens
- Schallaburg entrance gardens
- Palace of Grafenegg entrance & guided tour of the park
- "Die Garten Tulln" entrance & guided tour
- Klosterneuburg Abbey entrance & guided tour of abbey and gardens
- Palace of Laxenburg entrance & guided tour of the park
- Baden entrance & guided tour of gardens and Rosarium
- Carnuntum entrance & guided tour
- Festival Palace Hof entrance and guided tour
- All transportation by modern air-conditioned coach

NOT INCLUDED

- Everything which is not specified under "All this is included"
- Drinks
- Personal extras
- Porterage

DATES

On request between 1.5. and 15.10.2009

RATES

On request

DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTS

ABBAY OF SEITENSTETTEN



Known to be a cultural and spiritual centre within its region, the Abbey of Seitenstetten is famous among its visitors for its magnificent, historical Baroque garden. Protected by surrounding walls, the carefully restored garden invites you for a rest. A small section serves to cultivate healing herbs for aromatic teas, whereas the kitchen garden is used to plant fruits and vegetables for the abbey kitchen. In early summer, the rose garden furthermore boasts a splendid variety of historical rose trees. We welcome you to walk the rosary maze on a quiet pilgrimage journey to your inner self.

ABBAY OF MELK



The Abbey of Melk forms part of one of the most impressive Baroque monuments that can be found in Austria. Apart from the abbey museum in the former imperial rooms, the marble hall, the library as well as the world-famous abbey church, which can be visited all year round, the abbey park can only be visited from May till October. Nonetheless, the following attractions continuously welcome thousands of visitors each year: The Baroque garden pavilion with exotic frescos by Johann W. Bergl, the rose garden, the 250 year-old lime trees near the Baroque water pool, the recently cultivated small Paradise garden, the "Benedictus Trail", or the "Talking Stones".

PALACE OF ARTSTETTEN



Just slightly off the Wachau valley, on a small inclination, the enchanting Palace of Artstetten lies. The wide parkland is not only home to impressive, ancient trees, but also serves as an interesting window into the past: travel back into the times of the Emperor Franz I, the Arch Duke Carl Ludwig or the Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand! Especially worth seeing are: the chestnut alley, laid out according to geological power lines - a stroll through times long gone. The year 2008 will only make it possible to host guided visits (starting with 15 people) after earlier registration. The palace and its museum preserve the memorial of the Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne, who was assassinated in Sarajevo

SCHALLABURG PALACE



The Schallaburg, about 5 km from Melk, counts among the most beautiful Renaissance castles north of the Alps. The origins of the castle date back to the time of the Middle Ages and resurface in the Roman living castle and the Gothic chapel, which can still be seen today. In 1572, the Schallaburg received its present appearance: the characteristic arcade courtyard, decorated with terracotta, as well as the extensive tournament fields whose modern face dates back to 1973/74. At the heart of the castle, you will find formal box tree ornaments, lined by beautiful singular examples of old timber and ornamental plants. Two apple orchards continue to underline the significance of fruit trees in the ornamental gardens of the Renaissance Age. Visitors are invited to take a rest in their shade ... The Schallaburg is well known for its annual cultural and archaeological exhibitions receiving international acclaim

PALACE OF GRAFENEgg



The palace of Grafenegg, with its country park stretching over 32 hectares, is one of the most significant historic palaces of Austria. It is about 50 minutes by car from Vienna. Not only the romantic palace itself, but also the extensive park area mark its long, eventful course of history. Today, the country park is home to more than 2.000 conifers and deciduous trees, featuring quite exotic species, too. A walk through the park thus equals meeting a splendid variety of images and scenes. Such is for instance the new open air stage, called the "Wolkenturm", a recently built,

architectonic highlight of the park. Other artistic objects throughout the park continue the park's tradition as a showcase for contemporary art. In 2008, both the park and the palace of Grafenegg will be one of the locations of the Lower Austrian Province Garden Show, together with "The Gardens of Tulln".

“DIE GARTEN TULLN”



„Die Garten Tulln”, consisting of 40 different sample and show gardens, will remain open for visits every year from 2008 onwards, rather than simply being a one-year show. They are cultivated according to strict ecological principles and are a source of ideas for every garden fan who wishes to implement these in his or her private garden. A tree tops trail including a lift, a boat tour and an adventure playground are only some of the additional highlights the Gardens of Tulln will have to offer. Open for visits in April 2008.

ABBEY OF KLOSTERNEUBURG



The abbey of Klosterneuburg counts among the richest hot spots for sacred art in Austria. Since 2006, the abbey welcomes its visitors with its redesigned, magnificent atmosphere. The impressive Baroque Sala Terrena, which stretches over two floors, can now be accessed by the public and conveys an impression of the abbey's rich cultural heritage. The Sacred and the Imperial Route lead you through the sumptuous rooms of the abbey, including the world-famous "Verdun Altar" as well as the imperial Baroque suites. Additionally, the wine culture trail takes you on a discovery journey of the mighty Baroque cellar vaults of the abbey.

PALACE OF LAXENBURG



The operating company of the palace of Laxenburg was founded jointly by the federal provinces of Vienna and Lower Austria in 1962. The aim was to restore the castle as well as the adjoining park area. This project entails the conservation of several unique building parts, like the "Franzensburg" which is a major attraction in itself, as well as the care of the castle park (280 ha in size). A mile stone in the restoration of the park was reached in 1999; continuous efforts are being made to give the park back its original, artistic appearance.

BADEN



The city of Baden near Vienna has long come to be known as a former summer residence of the Imperial Family far across the borders of Austria. It looks back on a long tradition of garden culture. Baden offers wonderful garden areas, like the Doblhoff park featuring the largest rose plantation of Austria, or the historical spa gardens right next to the Congress Casino of Baden. It is really the rose plantation ("Badener Rosarium") with more than 20.000 rose trees of 600 different plant species Baden is especially known for. Like this, it is of little wonder that the Biedermeier town has earned the title "Most Beautiful Flower and Garden City of Europe" during the European flower competition "Entente Florale" in 2005.

CARNUNTUM



Just 35 minutes from Vienna, travel back into the time of the ancient Romans and become a witness to the re-enactment of the former Danube metropolis Carnuntum. Marvel at the archaeological treasures and excavations, the reconstructed Roman houses and take part in one of the large festivals that are organised throughout the course of the year: Find yourself back 2000 years ago!

FESTIVAL PALACE HOF



Being one of the largest, most splendid courts of the Habsburg monarchy, Schloss Hof served as a glittering stage for sumptuous receptions and lavish celebrations during the 18th century. The imperial tradition of the old days has now been revived. Following a careful renovation of the palace building parts with utmost attention to detail, a unique Baroque building ensemble reopens its doors to visitors. The pompous representation halls and the private dorms of Prince Eugen and the Empress Maria Theresia, a refined Baroque garden landscape as well as an idyllic manor farm form spots of living history. They invite you to embark on an exciting rediscovery of the Baroque Age.