

**GARDENS OF THE KAMP VALLEY**  
**Abbeys, Castles and other Gems along the Kamp River**  
Summer 2009

**ITINERARY**

**Day 1**

Arrival in Vienna and transfer to Krems, End the day with an included dinner at the hotel.

**Day 2**



We leave our hotel in the morning heading north for **ROSENBURG CASTLE**, a medieval fortress which has been transformed into a mighty Renaissance Palace during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Nowadays it claims it's fame for being an important breeding station for falcons and other birds of prey. Tour first the palace (with audio guides) before you move on to the former tournament place to watch an exciting falconry display.



A short drive will bring you to the **BENEDICTINE ABBEY OF ALTENBURG**, one of the religious and cultural centres of the "Waldviertel". and famed for the unique frescos of Paul Troger. See the interior on a guided tour before reaching the "Gardens of the Religions", a new project started in 2006. Created with modern means of garden design this garden invites you to learn about inter religious dialogue from the point of view of the Roman Catholic Church.



Afterwards time for lunch in the area before making your way down south again to one of the most famous wine town in Austria, Langenlois to visit the **LOISIUM**, a unique centre which has been founded in the largest wine growing town in Austria. Visitors are received above ground in the Visitors' Centre, which was designed and built by the internationally renowned American architect Steven Holl, while underground they can explore the Cellar World, which will spirit them away into a mystical world of sensual experience. Staging design and arrangement are the work of a team of enthusiastic and culturally aware specialists from the Swiss communications agency Steiner Sarnen Schweiz. The idea for **LOISIUM** came from three local families, who also made their cellars available.

All in all, the journey covers a distance of around 1km. This is a journey through time, through cellars that are around 900 years old, to a modern company that reflects the very latest winemaking techniques.

The secret of the wine myths and the question of how long the wine needs to mature are all part of the experience. Both the natural magic of the loess-lined cellars and the very special installations designed by Hugo Schär, artistic director of the Swiss agency, are an invitation to the visitor to linger just a little while longer. The whole attraction has one underlying thread: the history of wine, as carved in the graffiti adorning the gateway to the underworld. The centre's attractive layout and the events regularly staged there are designed to make the **LOISIUM** the hub of the Lower Austrian wine industry.

Having had some time for sampling (and/or buying) some of Austria's best wines a short ride will bring you back to Krems. Relaxing Dinner at the hotel is included.

### Day 3



We start the day with a short drive to the **KITTENBERGER GARDENS**, a paradise for lovers of nature and gardening. 30 different themed gardens invite the visitor to journey through the entire botanical world.



Afterwards we move to **GREILLENSTEIN PALACE**, where you visit an interesting combination of a Renaissance Palace from 1590 and baroque garden sculptures from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. On an extensive tour you will be shown the authentic furniture of the Registry, Court Room, Chapel, Library and Festival Hall. See also the "bathroom" from 1600. The impressive gardens will take you to a mystical world of dwarfs, elves and old legends. Sandstone statues, ivy hedges and a huge amount of bushes and old trees will add to the atmosphere.



A short drive will bring us to the **CISTERCIAN ABBEY OF ZWETTL**. First we will enjoy a 3 course lunch at the Abbeys tavern before we start the visit of this medieval monastery and its gardens. On a guided tour you will see the highlights, e.g. the Chapterhouse, the Cloisters and the Abbey Church. The second part of the visits is formed by a walk through the historical gardens which have been re-vitalised recently. Included dinner at the hotel will finish off this exciting day.

### Day 4

A short cruise on the Danube River before heading back to Vienna (arrival at noon) will end this tour.

## ACCOMMODATION

Rooms will be reserved at the **PARKHOTEL KREMS** (3 star) or similar in Krems or the surrounding area

## ALL THIS INCLUDED

- 3 nights accommodation including half board in the Krems area
- Welcome drink upon arrival at the hotel
- Rosenberg Castle entrance & guided tour (audio guides) of castle and gardens
- Rosenberg Castle Falconry Display & Show
- Altenbrug Abbey entrance & guided tour of abbey and gardens
- Loisiium entrance & guided tour (audio guides)
- Greillenstein Palaca entrance & guided tour of palace and gardens
- Zwettl Abbey entrance & guided of abbey and gardens
- Kittenberger Gardens entrance to gardens
- Transport by modern air-conditioned coach
- Lunch on Day 3 at Zwettl

## 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