



EXPLORING THE SIGHTS OF GRAZ

Walks through historic and modern Graz.



GRAZ

GRAZ TOURIST INFORMATION

Herrengasse 16, T +43/316/8075-0, F ext. 15
info@graztourismus.at, www.graztourismus.at



Hauptplatz Take 1,3,4,5,6,7 to visit us!



Holidays in Austria

Imprint:

Responsible for content: Graz Tourismus & Stadtmarketing GmbH.
Concept and design: Pilz Werbeagentur. Photography: Gerhard Wasserbauer, Tom Lamm,
Harry Schiffer, Hans Wiesenhofer, Christian Jungwirt, Pascal Petignat, Elfi Semotan.
Repro: Vienna Print. Printing: Klampfer.
Austria-Export-Prospekt.
All information and prices subject to typographical and printing errors.

(2008, engl.)

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU HAVE?

Three selected walks to the most beautiful
and fascinating sights of Graz.

This brochure aims to help you relax and enjoy your exploration of
both historic and modern Graz. The three walks we have selected
focus on different themes. Or you can of course combine all three
walks in any order you like. We have also included suggestions for
trips to interesting places just outside the city centre.

GRAZ OLD TOWN ROUND WALK

Page 5

HISTORIC AND MODERN: ACROSS THE MUR AND BACK AGAIN

Page 15

ABOVE THE ROOFS OF THE CITY

Page 23

INTERESTING TRIPS OUTSIDE THE CENTRE

Page 33

AUDIOVISUAL CITY TOUR

Let yourself be taken round the city by two extraordinary guides:
the river Mur and Archduke Johann.

This informative and entertaining audiovisual city tour
takes in 32 stops and lasts a total of 80 minutes.
It is available in English or Italian, and from
July 2008 in French or Spanish.



Available from Graz Tourist Information.

Ask about our guided city walks and weekend excursions!

INFORMATION AND BOOKING:

Graz Tourist Information, Herrengasse 16, 8010 Graz
T +43/316/8075-0, F ext. 15
info@graztourismus.at, www.graztourismus.at

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CITY.

Fast forward Graz: imperial city, Renaissance gem, centre of
science and learning, of (modern) architecture, cultural capital...

Over 900 years of living history in the second biggest city in
Austria: the many testaments to its eventful past, references to
the present and so much vision for the future are waiting to be
discovered on a guided walk around the city. Nowhere else in
the world will you find outstanding architecture of all styles in
such a concentrated area – from the Middle Ages through to the
21st century. In 1999 Graz was added to UNESCO's list of World
Cultural Heritage sites.

- 1128/29: First documentary mention as "gradec" (small fortress)
- 1230: Granted town status and walled
- 1379: Designated capital of Inner Austria
- 1440–93: Imperial residence under Friedrich III
- 1564: Residence of Archduke Karl II
- 1585: University founded
- 1594–99: Johannes Kepler in Graz
- 1809: Besieged by the French, coercive destruction of the
fortifications. Clock tower and bell tower ransomed
by the citizens of Graz
- 1945: 15 percent of all residential buildings destroyed
in air raids
- 1958: "Forum Stadtpark" founded
- 1963: University of Music and Dramatic Arts founded
- 1968: "steirischer herbst" founded
- 1985: "styriarte" founded
- 1999: Designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site
- 2003: Cultural capital of Europe



THE SIGHTS OF GRAZ

The three following city walks are a relaxing way to explore the many sights of Graz. Highlights are marked with a 🏰

- A

The Graz Old Town round walk: An enlarged map section of sights 1–22 can be found on page 5.
- B

Graz historic and modern: An enlarged map section of sights 23–34 can be found on page 15.
- C

Above the roofs of Graz: An enlarged map section of sights 35–48 can be found on page 23.

Points where you can join other walks are marked

A

B

C

 in the enlarged map sections.

- 1

Landhaus courtyard 🏰
- 2

Armoury 🏰
- 3

Generalihof
- 4

Painted House/Herzoghof
- 5

Hauptplatz/Town hall
- 6

Luegghaus
- 7

Hof des Deutschen Rittenordens
- 8

Stiegenkirche
- 9

Palais Saurau
- 10

Hofbäckerei Edegger-Tax
- 11

Burg/Double spiral staircase 🏰
- 12

Burggarten
- 13

Stadtpark
- 14

Cathedral 🏰
- 15

Mausoleum 🏰
- 16

Priests' seminary
- 17

Glockenspiel 🏰
- 18

Bermuda Triangle
- 19

Stempfergasse
- 20

Parish church
- 21

Opera house
- 22

Kaiser-Josef-Markt
- 23

Franziskanerviertel
- 24

Franziskanerkirche
- 25

Franziskanerkloster
- 26

Mur Promenade
- 27

Kunsthau Graz 🏰
- 28

Mariahilferplatz
- 29

Murinsel 🏰
- 30

Schlossbergplatz
- 31

Palais Attems
- 32

Sackstrasse
- 33

City museum
- 34

Neue Galerie
- 35

Schlossbergbahn
- 36

Bell tower
- 37

Kasematten stage
- 38

Gothic tower
- 39

Hackher lion
- 40

Cannon bastion
- 41

Stable bastion
- 42

Chinese pavilion
- 43

Turkish well
- 44

Starcke-Haus
- 45

Clock tower 🏰
- 46

Descent to Old Town/ Felsensteig
- 47

Herbersteingarten
- 48

Schlossberg tunnel system
- 49

Schloss Eggenberg 🏰
- 50

Mariatrost Basilica
- 51

Graz universities
- 52

Botanical gardens
- 53

Leechkirche
- 54

Gösting castle ruins
- 55

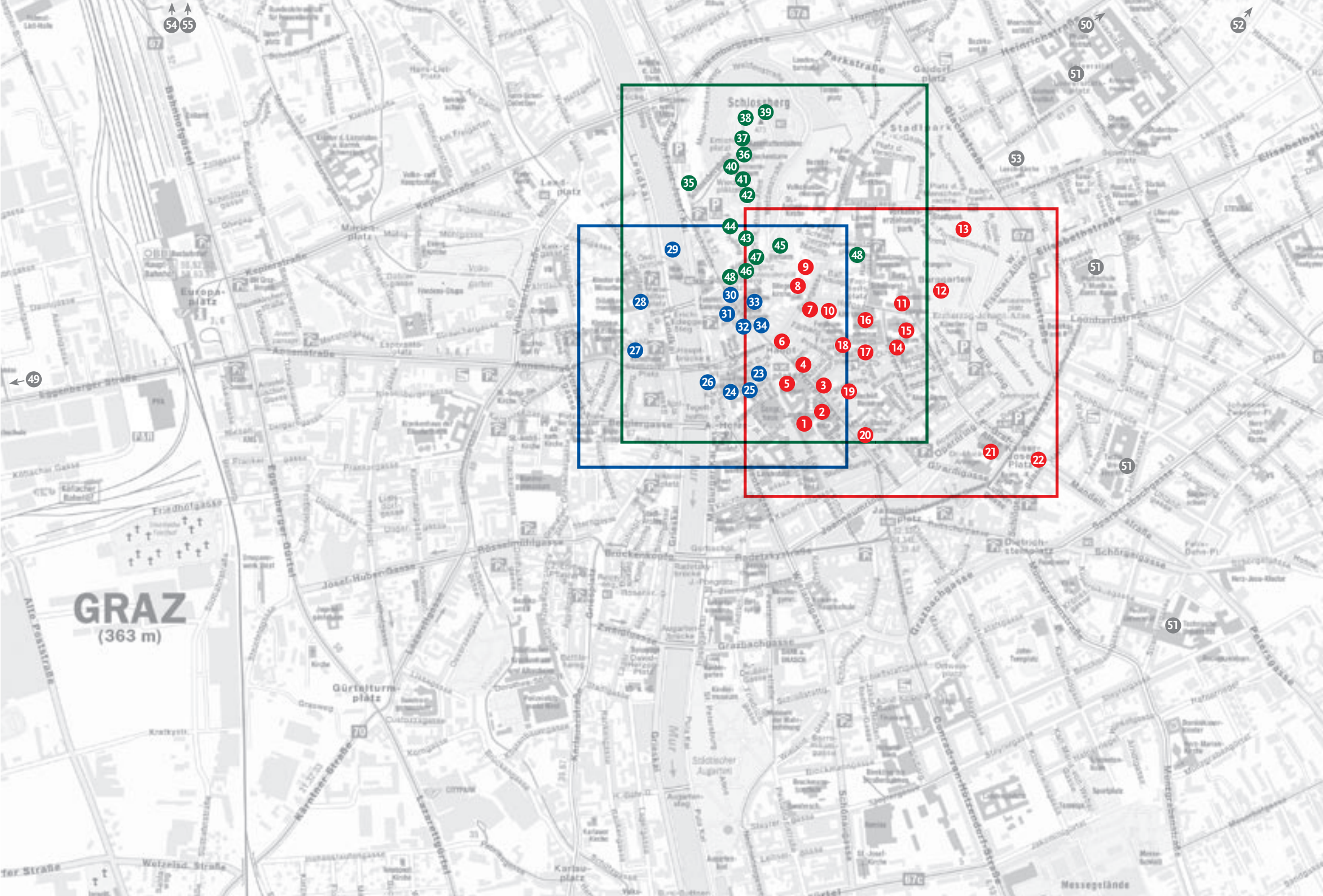
Kalvarienberg

FACTS AND FIGURES

Population: approx. 250,000

Area: 127.6 km²

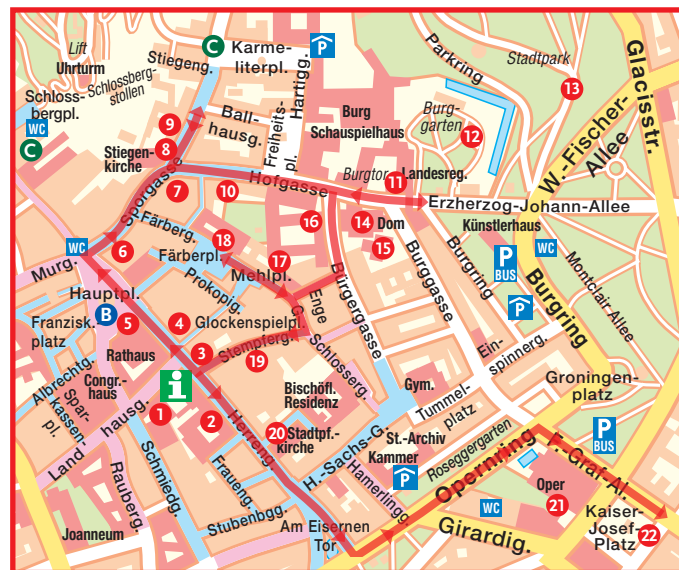
Average altitude: 353 m



THE GRAZ OLD TOWN ROUND WALK.

Stroll through the outstanding historic city centre, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site.

This varied Old Town round walk begins at Graz Tourist Information, Herrengasse 16.



Lose yourself in the city without losing your way: in Graz, a simple stroll is full of surprises. A new discovery awaits around every corner: hidden alleys, romantic inner courtyards, ornate façades and magnificent buildings. Renaissance, Gothic and Baroque architecture interweave to form the “best preserved city centre of Central Europe”, in 1999 designated a world cultural heritage site by UNESCO.

The special atmosphere of the Old Town played an important role in the extremely positive and widespread international resonance that awarded Graz the status of “Europe’s cultural capital 2003”. During the summer months the streets, squares and inner courtyards provide a wonderful backdrop for top-class events.

(www.graztourismus.at)

THE GRAZ OLD TOWN ROUND WALK.

Set off from Graz Tourist Information at Herrengasse 16 – just a few steps take you to the entrance of the Landhaushof courtyard.

* In the magnificent façade paintings of the Lueggghaus several faces are hidden – have you found them yet?

1 LANDHAUS COURTYARD 🏰

The arcaded inner courtyard of the Landhaus is a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance (Domenico dell'Allio). Behind the round arched windows the Styrian regional parliament convenes in the assembly hall.

TIP: 2 ARMOURY 🏰

Directly next to the Landhaus lies the armoury, once the most important arsenal in Inner Austria and today the largest historical collection of weapons in the world, containing over 30,000 exhibits.
(Entrance: Herrengasse)

3 GENERALIHOF/ 4 HERZOGHOF

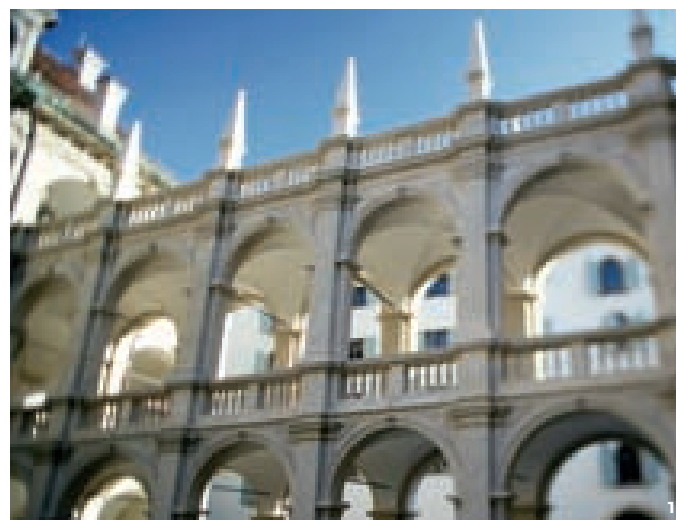
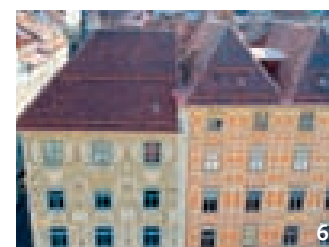
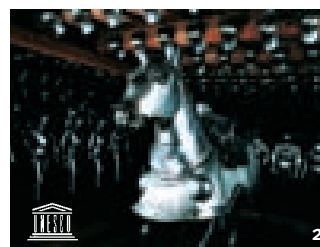
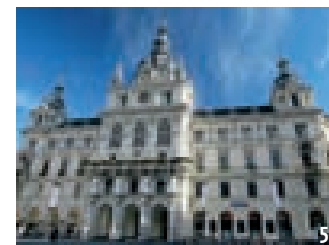
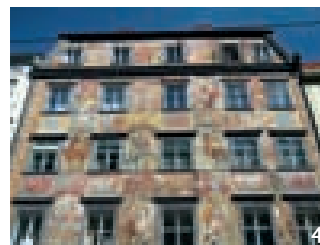
Graz is famous for its romantic inner courtyards – some of which you will discover on this walk, such as the Generalihof (entrance Herrengasse no. 9) and a little further on the “Painted House” (no. 7). The façade was painted with frescoes in 1742 by Baroque artist Johann Mayer and shows the gods of Greco-Roman mythology. The inner courtyard is known as the “Herzoghof”.

5 HAUPTPLATZ/TOWN HALL

The Hauptplatz (main square) and the town hall are the heart of the city. At the centre of the Hauptplatz stands the Archduke Johann fountain, built in 1878 in honour of the “Styrian Prince”. The dome, clock and corner towers of the magnificent Rathaus have dominated the Graz main square since the end of the 19th century.

6* LUEGGHAUS

Amongst the superb façades around the Hauptplatz, the “Lueggghaus” on the corner of Sporgasse is particularly striking thanks to its elaborate stucco façade and arcades.



THE GRAZ OLD TOWN ROUND WALK.

From the Hauptplatz, walk gently uphill along cobbled Sporgasse, one of the most romantic streets in the city.

* “Murnockerl” is the Graz name for the local cobblestones smoothed round by the river Mur and which are used as paving material for streets and courtyards.

7* HOF DES DEUTSCHEN RITTERORDENS

The Gothic arcaded courtyard of the “Hof des deutschen Rittenordens” is paved entirely with “Murnockerl” – cobblestones from the river Mur (entrance: Sporgasse 22).

8 STIEGENKIRCHE (not pictured)

The oldest parish church in Graz was first mentioned in a historical document in 1343. Known chiefly as a church for students, it lies in the historic centre of Graz close up against the southern side of the Schlossberg, concealed behind the heavy walls of a former Augustinian monastery.

9 PALAIS SAURAU

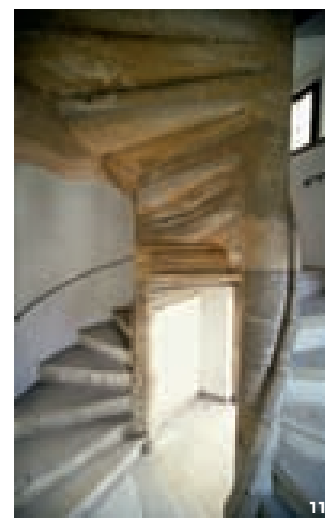
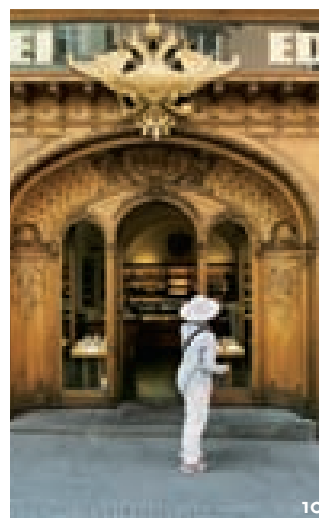
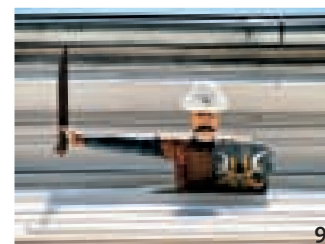
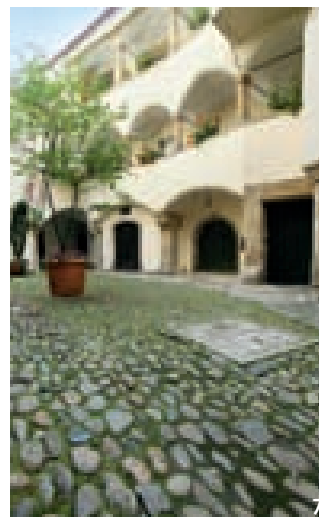
In 1566, close to the Medieval city wall that still stood at that time, Pankraz von Windischgrätz built a large four-winged palace, known today as the Palais Saurau. Sticking out from under the gable is the Turkish warrior, a figure shrouded in legend.

TIP: 10 HOFBÄCKEREI EDEGGER-TAX

A little way down Sporgasse turn left into Hofgasse, where you cannot miss a splendid wooden shop-façade – crowned with a gilded double-headed eagle. This is the Edegger-Tax bakery, where you can sample exquisite confectionery from the imperial era such as their “Sissibusserl” or “Kaiserzwieback” biscuits.

11 BURG/DOUBLE SPIRAL STAIRCASE 🏰

Follow Hofgasse along to Freiheitsplatz square and the Classicist theatre building of the Schauspielhaus (theatre). Just before the Burgtor gate is the entrance to the Burg (Hofgasse 15) – cross the first courtyard to arrive at the double spiral staircase (1499), a masterpiece of stone masonry from the end of the Gothic period (next to Staircase III). Today the Burg is the seat of the Styrian regional parliament.



THE GRAZ OLD TOWN ROUND WALK.

Across the Burgtor walk downhill along Bürgergasse – towards more “Graz classics”.

* Take a look in the second Burg courtyard at the Styrian gallery of honour – portraits of famous Styrians.

TIP: 12* BURGGARTEN / 13 STADTPARK (not pictured)

Go through the Burgtor gate to get to the entrance to the Burggarten (Burg garden) and then on into the Stadtpark (city park). A highlight is the Stadtpark fountain, acquired at the 1873 Vienna World Exhibition.

14 CATHEDRAL 🏰

Kaiser Friedrich III had the cathedral built as court church between 1438 and 1464. To the left, on the south wall of the cathedral underneath a small porch, is the Landplagenbild, the “picture of plagues”, depicting the three plagues (the Black Death, the Turks and locusts) which afflicted Styria in the annus horribilis of 1480.

15 MAUSOLEUM 🏰

Commissioned by Kaiser Ferdinand II while he was resident here as ruler of Inner Austria, this is the most significant Habsburg tomb in terms of art history. The Italian court artist Giovanni Pietro de Pomis was responsible for the planning.

16 PRIESTS' SEMINARY (not pictured)

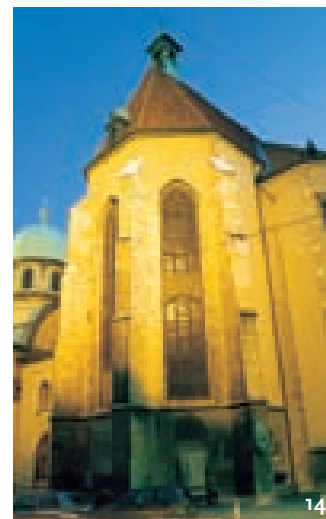
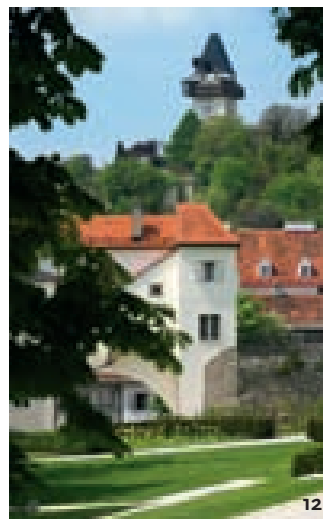
Diagonally opposite the mausoleum, an imposing façade conceals the Renaissance courtyard of the Jesuit college (today the priests' seminary). Next door to this is the “Old University” (Hofgasse 14), founded in 1585.

TIP: 17 GLOCKENSPIEL 🏰

Following Abraham-a-Santa-Clara-Gasse will bring you down to Glockenspielplatz square. At 11 am, 3 pm and 6 pm, two windows open and a pair of carved wooden figures in traditional costume dance to the sound of the Glockenspiel.

18 THE AREA AROUND MEHL- AND FÄRBERPLATZ

Look up from the busy restaurants, cafés and bars and you will be rewarded with a view of the wonderful Renaissance architecture surrounding you – alongside M1, a stunning contrast provided by modern architecture in the heart of the city. With its lively nightlife, this area of town is also known as the “Graz Bermuda Triangle” – because it's easy to go “missing” here for hours...



THE GRAZ OLD TOWN ROUND WALK.

Already hungry and thirsty (again)?
In just a few minutes you'll be at the farmers' market!

* Stempfergasse was also once home to Johannes Kepler – take a quick look at the beautiful inner courtyard (no. 6)!

19* STEMPFERGASSE

Retrace your steps over Mehl- and Glockenspielplatz and through the alleyway of Enge Gasse to arrive in “elegant” Stempfergasse, one of Graz's shopping highlights, lined with extravagant boutiques and top international labels. Now turn left along Herrengasse.

20 PARISH CHURCH (not pictured)

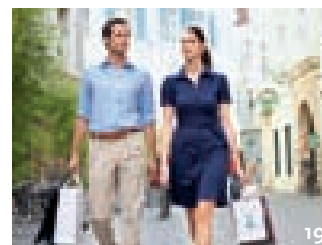
Above the other buildings on Herrengasse looms an opulent Baroque tower belonging to the Stadtpfarrkirche, the City Parish Church. During its eventful history it was for a time a small Gothic chapel in the former Jewish quarter, saw a spell as the church of a Dominican monastery, Baroque and neo-Gothic renovations and the bombs of the Second World War. Portraits of Hitler and Mussolini included in the stained glass windows serve as a reminder of darker times.

21 OPERA HOUSE

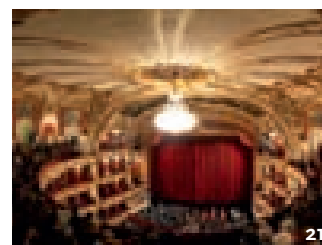
Carry on along Herrengasse and then turn left via the Opernring to reach the Graz Opera House, designed by the famous architects Hemler and Fellner and built in 1899. Here you will find a spectacular mix of tradition and modernism: Hartmut Skerbisch's steel “Lichtschwert” sculpture (sword of light), a symbol of openness and tolerance, forms a stunning contrast to the Opera House.

22 KAISER-JOSEF-MARKT

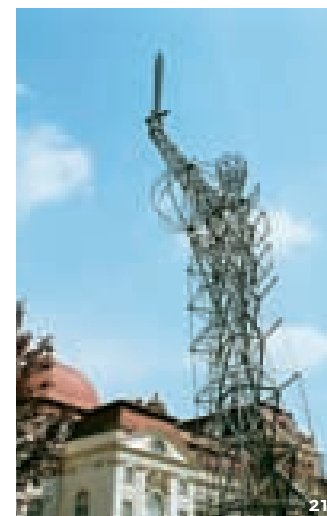
Behind the opera house, Kaiser-Josef-Platz square is home to the largest farmers' market in Graz. Farmers from around the region bring their self-produced goods into the city, offering fruit and vegetables, plants and flowers, pumpkinseed oil, bread and many other specialties for sale. A visual and culinary delight.



19



21



21



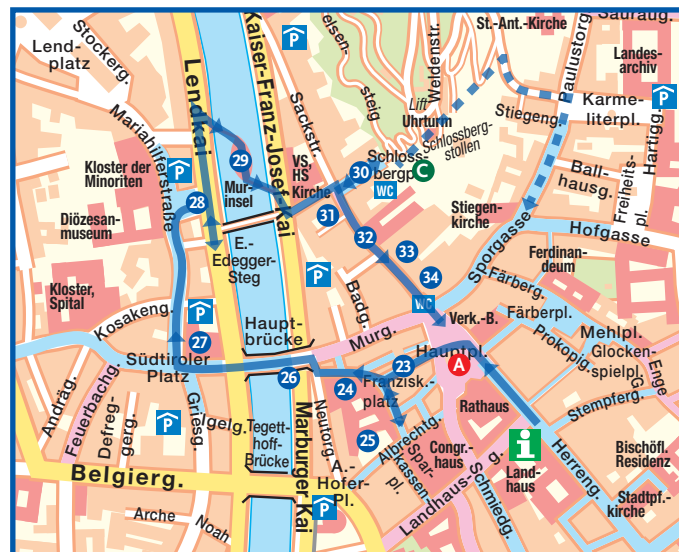
22

HISTORIC AND MODERN: ACROSS THE MUR AND BACK AGAIN.

The spectacular contrast between traditional and modern Graz. Here is where the “Cultural capital of Europe” project has left its clearest traces.



You can also start this walk at Graz Tourist Information, Herrengasse 16, or on the Hauptplatz (main square).



On one side of the river: narrow alleyways that are cool and shady all day long, small boutiques, a rich variety of scents, sun-drenched squares, the lively hubbub of the street cafes, cheerful people of all ages. The playful, 'southern' side of the city.

A couple of steps across the Mur – the river that divides Graz – provide a welcome contrast. Ever since 2003, the year when Graz was cultural capital of Europe, this has been home to the future: the enigmatic “friendly alien” Kunsthaus has made itself at home, nestled between the ancient houses. Local people love the unique beauty of this beast, and see it as the city's new second landmark. A floating shell in the river connects the two sides of the city: the island in the Mur.

HISTORIC AND MODERN: ACROSS THE MUR AND BACK AGAIN.

Follow Herrengasse to the Hauptplatz and from there go left via the narrow, shady Franziskanergasse into the Franziskanerviertel quarter.

* An absolute must is a tasting of Styrian wines such as Welschriesling, Sauvignon Blanc and Schilcher!

23* FRANZISKANERVIERTEL

The Franziskanerviertel quarter is also known as the “Kälberne Viertel” or Veal Quarter, an old name originating from the centuries-old tradition of butchers’ shops that are still to be seen in the area. Today the quarter is also a meeting-point for young and old, with a feel of the south about it both in the surroundings and in the cuisine: whether it’s Italian or Styrian specialities – you’ll find both here.

24 FRANZISKANERKIRCHE

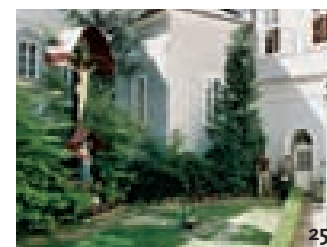
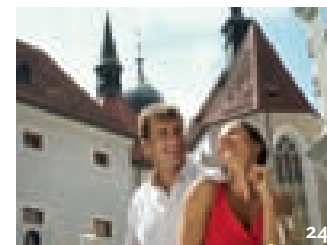
Apart from the Clock Tower, the tower of the Franziskanerkirche church is probably the most definitive landmark on the Graz skyline. It belongs to the oldest monastery in the city, founded in 1239 as a monastery of the Minorites. The stately tower was located in the southwest, up against the town walls, in a strategically important position uncommon for a begging order; it was built in the 17th century as a municipal tower on the orders of the city authorities. Adjacent to the Maria Himmelfahrt parish church, a Gothic hall church, is the monastery of the Franciscans.

TIP: 25 FRANZISKANERKLOSTER

Take a look inside the Franziskanerkloster monastery: the Gothic cloisters leading to the Jacobean chapel are an oasis of calm and peace right in the middle of the hubbub of the city.

26 MUR PROMENADE (not pictured)

From Franziskanerplatz it is just a couple of paces to the Hauptbrücke (main bridge). Here you will find the staircase down to the “Mur Promenade” – an ideal spot to take a short break and maybe dangle your tired feet in the waters of the Mur. The Mur Promenade has in recent years become a favourite relaxation area for locals.



HISTORIC AND MODERN: ACROSS THE MUR AND BACK AGAIN.

Across the Hauptbrücke (main bridge) walk along the other side of the river – before you rises the new, second landmark of the city: the Kunsthaus.

* The idiosyncratic protuberances covering the Kunsthaus are known as “Nozzles”; some serve as a source of light.

27* KUNSTHAUS GRAZ 🏰

Architects Peter Cook and Colin Fournier designed the spectacular Kunsthaus; it was built in 2003. The exciting interplay between the new structure on the banks of the Mur and the old Clock Tower on the Schlossberg has already become the trademark of this city and reveals how productive the tension between tradition and avantgarde can be.

The Kunsthaus houses temporary exhibitions (N.B. closed Mondays!), the “Camera Austria” (photographic exhibitions) and a restaurant.

TIP:

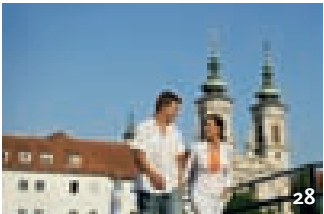
The Kunsthaus Graz is part of the Landesmuseum Joanneum and therefore covered by the Joanneum 1- or 2-day ticket. Detailed information can be found in our “Museums and Galleries” folder.

28 MARIAHILFERPLATZ

Carry on past the Palais Thienfeld, which has been developed into an “art cluster” (housing the Haus der Architektur and Grazer Kunstverein), along the street to Mariahilferplatz, a square dominated by the Mariahilferkirche church, the monastery and cultural centre of the Minorites. The church was built at the beginning of the 17th century, the imposing double tower added later in 1742.

29 MURINSEL 🏰

Built in the cultural capital year of 2003, the “Murinsel” is an unusual landmark that sits in the water. It was designed by New York artist Vito Acconci and takes the form of a floating shell linked by footbridges to the banks on either side of the Mur. It houses a café and an amphitheatre.



HISTORIC AND MODERN: ACROSS THE MUR AND BACK AGAIN.

Crossing the river by the Mursteg footbridge brings you to Sackstrasse and then to Schlossbergplatz square – with a wonderful view of the Schlossberg and the Schlossbergstiege stairs.

* Outside Italy, Graz has the most arcaded inner courtyards in any city. Some of these are to be found in Sackstrasse (no. 9, 11 and 14).

30 SCHLOSSBERGPLATZ

On the right, next to the entrance to the Schlossberg tunnel system, stands the oldest documented building in Graz, the 13th-century Reinerhof, which once belonged to the Rein monastery.

The Schlossbergstiege stairs are one of four ways to get to the top of the Schlossberg. They were carved into the cliff by prisoners of war during the First World War; originally there were 260 steps.

31 PALAIS ATTEMES

Built on a grand scale, Palais Attems has dominated Sackstrasse since 1702. Over the years the family – who owned the palace up until 1962 – made very few changes to the original building, allowing the Baroque Palais Attems to be preserved intact, together with its authentic stucco ceilings and original wall panelling.

32* SACKSTRASSE

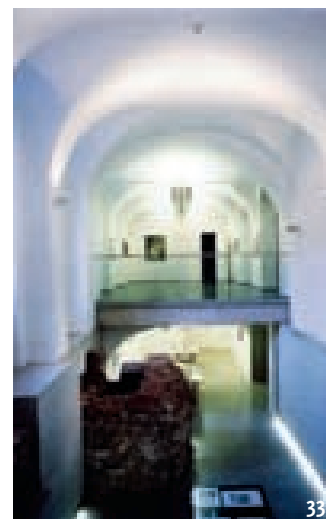
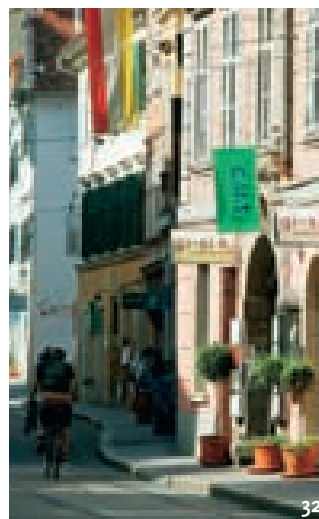
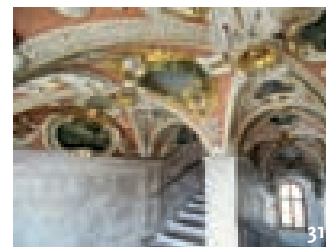
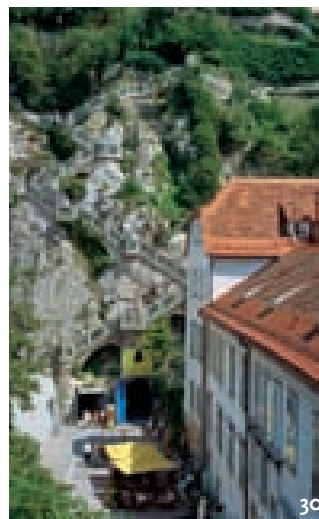
Sackstrasse is also known as the “Kunstmeile” (art mile) – and for good reason: it is home to a large number of the finest art and antiques shops in Graz. Don't forget to take a look at the inner courtyards here!

33 CITY MUSEUM

The stadtmuseumgraz is a venue for anyone interested in the urban development of Graz, its political, economic and social history and in art and culture with a Graz context. It is located in the Baroque Palais Khuenburg, a building that is itself steeped in history: in 1863 the Austrian heir to the throne, Franz Ferdinand, was born here.

34 NEUE GALERIE

The Neue Galerie Graz was created in 1941 by dividing the Landesbildergalerie of the Joanneum, which had been founded in 1811, into an ‘old’ and ‘new’ gallery. The Neue Galerie became a new museum (in the Palais Herberstein in Sackstrasse 16) showing works from the 19th and 20th centuries.



ABOVE THE ROOFS OF THE CITY.

Our third walk takes you up onto the Schlossberg. Enjoy the wonderful view looking down onto the sea of red tiled roofs of the Old Town.

The third walk begins on Schlossbergplatz.



Where in the world but Graz would you find a beautiful mountain, covered in trees and footpaths, right in the middle of the city? The Schlossberg draws people: in the spring its fresh greenery enjoys the first rays of sun; in the summer it offers shady trees and open-air performances; in the autumn it is ablaze with colour; and in the winter it provides respite from the grey of the city below.

Once you're on top of the Schlossberg there's a lot to discover and a fabulous view to enjoy: from here you can see the red-tile roofscape, the hills and the mountains in the distance.

ABOVE THE ROOFS OF THE CITY.

There are four ways to get to the top of the 473-metre high Schlossberg: on the Schlossbergbahn funicular railway, in the glass lift that ascends inside the mountain or by foot up the Schlossbergstiege stairs and via Karmeliterplatz.

* The “Liesl” was cast from 101 Turkish cannonballs in 1587 and so strikes 101 times, three times a day, at 7 am, 12 pm and 7 pm.

ON THE SCHLOSSBERG

Over 1,000 years ago the small fort that stood on a rock ledge here gave the city its name. Derived from the Slavic word ‘Gradeč’, Graz means “little castle”. After 1544, according to plans drawn up by Domenico dell’Allio, it was extended into a huge Renaissance fortress, now listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the strongest fortification of all time. Even Napoleon found it impossible to capture at the beginning of the 19th century; it was only in 1809, when he had occupied Vienna and was threatening to destroy the Austrian capital, that Graz surrendered. Almost all of the fortifications were razed to the ground – only the bell tower and clock tower were allowed to remain, ransomed by the citizens of Graz and so spared.

35 SCHLOSSBERGBAHN

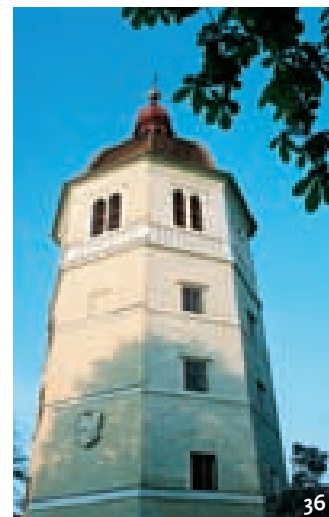
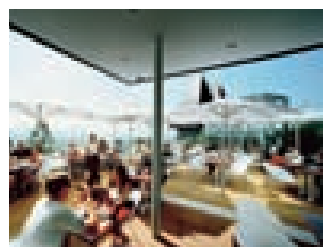
The Schlossbergbahn (funicular railway) can be reached from the Hauptplatz by following Sackstrasse past Schlossbergplatz as far as Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Kai. It ascends from the lower station at an incline of 61 % (!) – as it has done for the last 100 years. (GVB transport tickets are valid here too!)

36* BELL TOWER

Our first stop on the Schlossberg is the bell tower, built in 1588, which houses Graz’s most famous bell, the “Liesl”. It is unclear whether the name originates from an earlier chapel dedicated to St. Elisabeth or from the word “Verlies”, meaning dungeon (the fortress’s cruellest prison was in the cellar vault). The bell weighs nearly 5 tonnes: it took two blacksmiths working full tilt to construct the special ringing mechanism that allowed it to sound.

37 KASEMATTEN STAGE

Do you have any idea what a ‘casemate’ was? Casemates were stores that were also used as sleeping quarters for prisoners. Today the Kasematten stage is the atmospheric backdrop for dazzling operas and concerts. From here it is not far to the plateau at the top and the Gothic fortress gate.



ABOVE THE ROOFS OF THE CITY.

The Schlossberg is covered by an extensive network of footpaths. You can easily stroll from one sight to another without any great effort.

* The huge cistern was built in the 16th century and has a capacity of 900,000 litres.

38 THE GOTHIC GATE (not pictured)

Rediscovered in 1982, the fortress gate led from the “outer ward” to the interior of the Medieval castle and was known as the “back gate”. In the Middle Ages there was a crenellated gate tower with two archways, the outer of which is still well preserved today. In 1894 the plateau was made into a panoramic terrace. The Gothic gate was excavated between 1998 and 2001 and made accessible to the public.

39* HACKHER LION

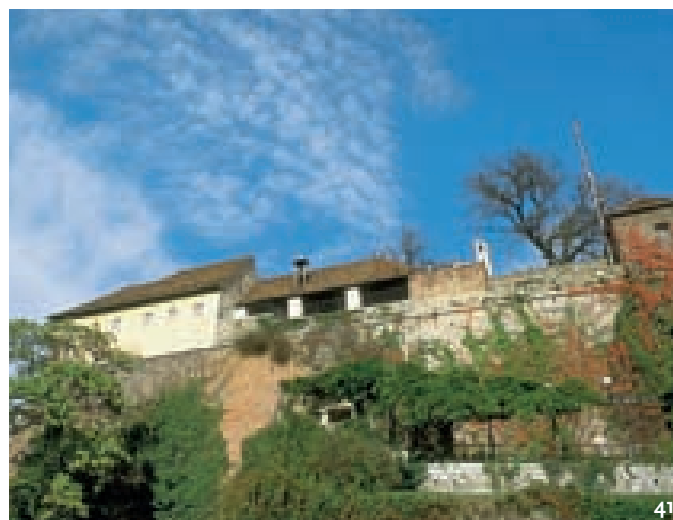
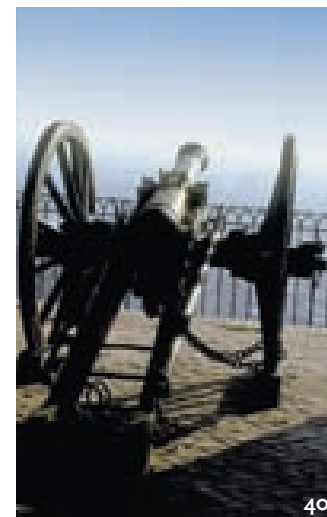
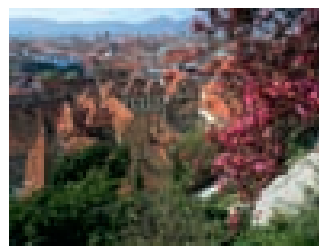
The Hackher Lion is a monument to the last military defender of the Graz fortress, Major Franz Xaver Freiherr von Hackher, who in 1809 together “with a handful of soldiers” withstood months of siege laid by the superior force of the French. Since there was no portrait of Major Hackher a statue of a lion was erected in his honour instead. In the middle of the plateau area is the large cistern.

40 GARRISON MUSEUM AND CANNON BASTION

Head from the plateau area back past the bell tower to the cannon bastion and the garrison museum, opened in 1981 as an auxiliary of the city museum. Uniforms, weapons, equipment and plates guide the visitor through the military history of the city of Graz. The four cannons in the cannon bastion commemorate the siege of the Schlossberg by French troops.

41 STABLE BASTION

The first path on the right leads to the next stop: the stable bastion. With its 6-metre thick walls and 20-metre high walls, it was also once used as a prison, cannon platform and store. From 1725 onwards a fire alarm point stood here, with four cannons, the “four Evangelists”, as the fire alarms.



ABOVE THE ROOFS OF THE CITY.

On the Schlossberg it's a gentle stroll in the direction of the Graz landmark – passing other sights on the way.

* Do the clocks work differently in Graz? No. The fact that there was originally only a big hand for the hours and the minute hand was added later led to the hands being reversed on the clock tower.

42 CHINESE PAVILION

The Chinese Pavilion was built in 1890 and replaced an older Romanesque vine-covered terrace. The stone bench with weathered inscriptions and Gothic tracery on the rear side is known as the “Bishop’s seat” since according to legend it was here in 1796 that, released after enduring 40 years’ imprisonment in the dungeons of the Schlossberg, the Bishop Count Nádasdy died.

TIP: 43 THE TURKISH WELL (not pictured)

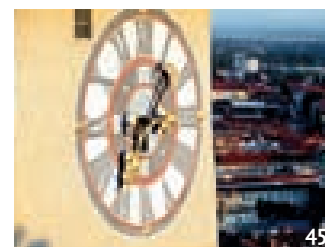
From 1554 to 1558 this “deep well” was dug 94 metres down to the groundwater of the Mur in order to be able to provide the fortress with enough water during prolonged sieges. It acquired its current name only in the 19th century, because there were supposedly Turkish prisoners involved in digging it.

44 STARCKE-HAUS

In 1575 a powder tower was built at the foot of the stable bastion which was then destroyed by the French in 1809. A winegrower’s house was built on its ruins and grapes planted on the terraces below. It was named after court actor Gustav Starcke, who lived in the house. Today it holds a restaurant whose terraces provide a wonderful view over Graz.

45* CLOCK TOWER 🏰

And finally you come to the clock tower, the traditional landmark of the city. And, although the clockwork in the 28-metre high tower has struck the hour precisely since 1712, it is still possible to lose track of time beneath this romantic symbol of Graz with its wonderful view over the city. The originally Medieval defence tower acquired its current structure in around 1560, as did the distinctive wooden walkway for the fire brigade. Three bells strike in the clock tower and three crests adorn its walls.



ABOVE THE ROOFS OF THE CITY.

There are a lot of stories surrounding the Schlossberg. One thing is for sure: many of the young people from Graz come here for their first kiss...

* A ride on the Fairytale grotto train inside the mountain will provide a welcome diversion for children.

46 WAY DOWN TO THE OLD TOWN/FELSENSTEIG

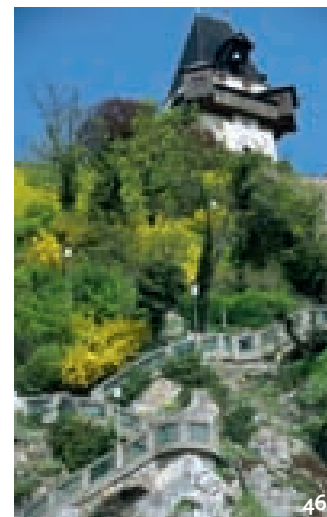
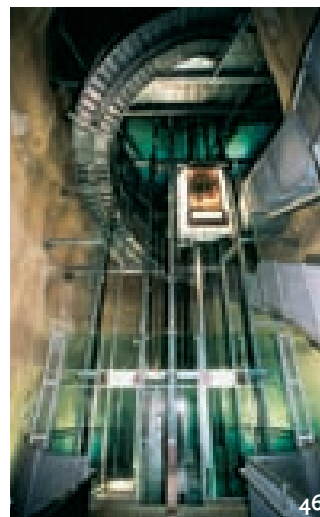
There are three options for the route back down to the Old Town: in the comfort of the spectacular glass lift inside the mountain, or on the footpath down to Karmeliterplatz square in the direction of Sporgasse; probably the most romantic way takes you past the fascinating Herbersteingarten down the Schlossbergstiege, nearly 260 steps.

47 HERBERSTEINGARTEN (not pictured)

In 1930 access was opened up to the Herbersteingarten from the "Kriegssteig", so that the "hanging gardens of Graz" could be visited by the public. Mediterranean plants (such as fig trees, lemon trees, ginko trees and wisteria) make the terrace one of the finest examples of garden architecture from the interwar years.

48* THE SCHLOSSBERG TUNNEL SYSTEM

During the Second World War an extensive 6.3-kilometre long system of tunnels with 20 entrances was built on the inside of the Schlossberg to serve as an air raid shelter for up to 40,000 people. These tunnels are still partly in use today; for example as a footpath through the mountain from Schlossbergplatz to Karmeliterplatz, or as the entrance to the "glass lift" and to the "Dom im Berg", an underground events hall. The fairytale grotto railway also uses part of the old tunnel system.



INTERESTING TRIPS OUTSIDE THE CENTRE.

Just a few minutes away from the Graz Old Town you will find many more beautiful sights of the city – most of them easily reached by public transport.

* Does Schloss Eggenberg look familiar to you? It's often used as a setting in German-language films.

49* SCHLOSS EGGENBERG 🏰

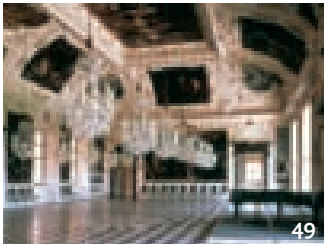
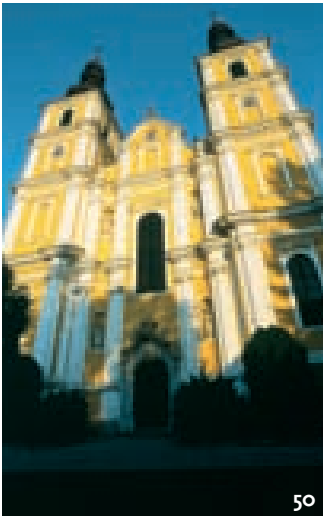
A journey into the universe. Time made into a work of architecture. In 1625 Prince Johann Ulrich von Eggenberg built a palace themed around macrocosmic symbolism: four towers for the seasons, 12 gates for the months and 365 windows for the days of the year. The Schloss is part of the Landesmuseum Joanneum and besides the state rooms also houses the Alte Galerie, the numismatic collection, the magnificent planetary garden and a wonderful park.
(Tramline 1, Schloss Eggenberg stop, about 15 minutes)

50 MARIATROST BASILICA

This double-towered pilgrimage church sits on top of a hill on the eastern edge of Graz. It was commissioned by the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit in 1714 and most probably built by architects Andreas and Johann Georg Stengg. At its heart stands a statue of the Virgin Mary, whose famous miracles drew great numbers of pilgrims as early as the 17th century. (Tramline 1, terminus Mariatrost, about 20 minutes)

51 GRAZ UNIVERSITIES

Around 40,000 students live in Graz and attend the four universities of the city. Of these, the Karl-Franz University has the longest tradition stretching back to its founding in 1585. Its name derives from Archduke Karl II and Kaiser Franz I. Since the end of the 19th century teaching has been concentrated on one campus. The Erzherzog-Johann University has produced many internationally renowned architects in the past and present, and the Graz University of Music and Dramatic Arts has the oldest jazz department in Europe.



INTERESTING TRIPS OUTSIDE THE CENTRE.

Modern architecture, sacred art or Medieval ruins:
surroundings to contemplate with a deep breath of fresh air!

* The greenhouses of the Botanical Gardens are just one example among many striking pieces of architecture.

52* BOTANICAL GARDENS, THE GREENHOUSES

If you thought that “extraterrestrial” architecture first arrived in Graz with the Kunsthaus, then you’ve never seen Volker Giencke’s greenhouses. In the middle of Graz’s elegant villa quarter on Schubertstrasse, three sloping parabolic cylinders of acrylic glass interfuse. They are laid out specially to provide ideal growing conditions for plants from four different climate zones. (Tramline 1, Lenaugasse stop, about 10 minutes)

53 LEECHKIRCHE

The oldest Church of Our Lady in Graz is completely hidden just off Glacis. The Leechkirche was built in 1202 but destroyed by Hungarians. Construction of the current church began in 1275. It is one of the most precious early Gothic buildings in Austria. The stained glass in the choir is of particular note.

(Bus line 31, Zinzendorfsgasse stop, about 10 minutes)

54 GÖSTING CASTLE RUINS

This once proud Medieval castle fell into ruin following a fire in the 17th century. Today there remains only the castle chapel and the keep together with a few fragments of wall. The tower holds a small museum and a café and offers a fine view over the Graz basin and the hills of eastern Styria. (Bus line 40, Gösting terminus, about 20 minutes + 20 minutes by foot)

55 KALVARIENBERG (not pictured)

The “Austein” at the end of Kalvarienbergstrasse is, like the Schlossberg, a dolomite rock next to the river Mur in the Graz city area. In 1629 Johann Stengg built the church around the altar carved into the rock. The Graz Kalvarienberg (calvary) is the most important and largest scenic portrayal of the Passion of Christ in the open air. Many of the sculptures date back to the second half of the 17th century.

(Bus line 40, Gösting terminus, about 20 minutes + 20 minutes by foot.)

