

DANUBE TRAVEL STORIES

In the footsteps of the Romans

**Itinerary inspiration from
Schärding (AT) to Ptuj (SI)
based on @TuristuLiber.ro Trip**

**We would suggest extending the trip by a few days to have more
time to experience each destination**

Locations

| Destinations |
|----------------------|
| Schärding |
| Danube Loop Schlögen |
| Enns |
| Sopron |
| Szombathely |
| Ptuj |

Program

Day 0 | Travel & Arrival Day

Individual Arrival & Check-In at a hotel in Schärding

Website to plan your arrival: www.rome2rio.com

Train: www.oebb.at

What to experience at the Danube Upper Austria: www.donauregion.at

Information about the romans in the Danube Upper Austria region:

www.donauregion.at/en/activities-at-the-danube/romans-at-the-danube.html

Schärding: Austria's most beautiful baroque town! Its architecture is a mix of many styles and periods, the highlight probably being the Baroque "Silberzeile" row of houses, an astonishing ensemble of Baroque buildings. Rich market traders used to live there, lending its name to the place because they had pockets full of silver. The late-medieval colors of the old gates, the narrow and mysterious side streets – all this makes Schärding such a very special place indeed.

Day 1 | From Schärding to Passau, Oberranna & Schlögen

Travelling by (E-)bike to Passau on the Inn Cycle Path

The Upper Austrian baroque city, Schärding and the three-river city in Bavaria, Passau are linked by the Inn Cycle Path. The path is lined with castles, palaces, monasteries and also offers particularly impressive fauna and flora with many protected bird and plant species.

(E-) Bike rental: www.eurobike.at

Plan your trip: <https://touren.donauregion.at> from Schärding to Passau

Boat ride with the "Barefoot Boat" from Passau to Engelhartszell

The boat tour from Passau to Engelhartszell shows you the multifaceted beauty of the river landscape. You will also experience the excellent on-board cuisine in a refreshing and authentic way. You can bring your bike on the boat.

Address: Passau - Liegestelle A11, Fritz-Schäffer-Promenade, docking 11 (Passau parking)

More information about boat trips: www.donauschiffahrt.eu

Bike Tour from Engelhartszell to the roman fort Oberranna (late antique castle)

Visit the best-preserved Roman building in Upper Austria: the approximately 1700-year-old "Römerburg Oberranna". During a visit you can use the "Römerspuren App" (Download: [App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)) and learn more about the antique past from Oberranna and how it looked back in roman times. There is even a small quiz about it 😊

Address: Roman Fort Oberranna, Oberranna 5, A-4090 Engelhartszell

After your visit you hop on your bike again and cycle (45 mins-1h) to one of the most famous spots in Austria. The Danube loop Schlögen

Visit & walk around the [Roman park Schlögen](#)

A leisurely walk will take you everywhere in Schlögen Roman Park where you can enjoy nature, culture and culinary delights. Unwind on the hotel's Danube terrace and transport yourself back 1800 years, when Roman soldiers monitored the river from here. While the little ones try their hand at being Romans at the Roman playground in the leisure centre right next to the bathing building, the adults can find out about Roman bathing culture and linger on relaxation loungers before continuing their hike.

Address: Schlögen 2, 4083 Haibach ob der Donau

Evening hike up to the viewing platform of the Danube loop (nice at sunsets!)

To the [viewing point](#) you have to walk. No bicycle allowed. Roman sculptures show you the way, for example up to the famous Schlögener Donaublick. There you can feel the true power and beauty of nature, and there is an almost fairytale view of the Danube's legendary breakthrough valley. In the „Römerspuren App“ there is a quiz waiting for you again.

Overnight stay recommended in Schlögen or nearby hotels

Day 2 | Schlögen & Enns

Morning hike to the viewing platform or leisure time at the danube loop

[Bus & S-Bahn ride from Schlögen - Linz - Enns](#)

The bus stop is near the *Roman park Schlögen* (direction to Linz)
Routeplaner: <https://verkehrsauskunft.oöevv.at/>

Enns arrival at railway station & walk to the city center

Roman experience exhibition in museum [Lauriacum](#)

In one of the most modern archeological Museums visitors can enjoy an exciting trip of discovery into the world of the legionaries in roman times. The exhibition in the Lauriacum Museum invites you on a journey through time along the wet border with all your senses. How does it feel to sit on a Roman saddle, what does Roman ketchup smell like, what does a tuba sound like or how did the legionaries grind the flour for their beloved cereal porridge? These and many other stations will immerse you in the world of the Romans on the Danube!

Evening stroll through Enns & check out parts of the walking tour on roman loop road "Via Lauriacum" with app

App:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=digitalcity.solutions.vialauriacum&hl=en&gl=US> or <https://apps.apple.com/at/app/via-lauriacum/id1387950487>

What to experience in Enns: www.donauregion.at/enns.html

Walk to the train Station Enns (20 mins from city center) & Train to Sopron

Information & timetable: www.oebb.at

Check-in at the hotel

What to experience in Sopron: <https://www.visitsopron.com/en/sights>

Find a Tour Guide: www.sopronimuseum.hu

Guided Tour to the Roman sites in the inner city from Sopron

Sopron in hiding: the ancient city of Scarbantia

A visit to the underground exhibition spaces of Sopron, where the city founded in the 1st century AD is revealed. Our walk starts in the Forum Museum, the main square of the Roman city, and continues on the Monastery Street, in the Iseum. The Egyptian mother goddess Isis, a symbol of femininity and fidelity, came to Sopron with the conquests. The walk then takes us to the Tower of Fire, where we will see the Roman walls, and then to the stone vault of the Fabricius House, where we will learn about the Roman beliefs, meet the arch-gods Jupiter, Juno and Minerva, and learn the story of the sun god Mithras.

Medieval inner-city – Fő tér

From the Fidelity Fountain, passing through the Front Gate, you enter the Main Square, whose layout and the location of its buildings have remained unchanged since the 13th century. The names of the Main Square reflect the passage of time and its role in the life of the town. All the buildings in the square are monuments, with the Holy Trinity statue in the centre.

Address: Sopron, Fő tér

Fabricius-house

The Fabricius House is built on the remains of a Roman public building. In 1320, construction of the chapel of St Dorothy began on this site. Later a slab was added to divide the building in two. The lower part became a cellar and the upper part a dwelling. The present form of the building dates from the 17th century. The two-storey loggia of the courtyard and the carved ceiling of the first floor of the street wing date from this period. The Archaeological Exhibition of the Soproni Museum is located in the Fabricius House. 1st century (A.D.) amber rings from Scarbantia

Address: Sopron, Fő tér 6.

Forum Museum- Ruin garden – Scarbantia archaeological park – Exhibition

Four and a half meters below the centre of Sopron lay the ruins of the Roman town Scarbantia. On the basement level of the Iron House on the corner of Új Street-Szent György Street, under the Tourinform office, visitors can see the southern part of the Scarbantia forum in the FORUM SCARBANTIAE exhibition opened in 1994. Based on the forum representation found in Pompeii we can assume that traders were selling their articles during the day at the Scarbantia forum, and from the evening hours and on festive occasions, local citizens were conversing here. Here they could get information from merchants arriving from distant lands or from officials managing the affairs of the Province of the Empire who arrived on the high-traffic long-distance road from Carnuntum (Deutsch-Altenburg, Petronell), Vindobona (Vienna), or Savaria (Szombathely). In Scarbantia, especially around the Forum, travellers could find all the services that were common in major Roman cities. Sanctuaries, baths, comfortable accommodation, shops, workshops and last but not least, wine bars were open for the guests. The game table on display on the Forum could have stood in such an inn.

Address: 9400 Sopron, Szent György u. 2. - Sopron, Új utca 1.

Fire Tower:

The Fire Tower is a symbol of the town of Sopron. It has Roman foundations, its cylindrical part is medieval, its balcony and clock tower are Renaissance, its dome is Baroque. Its Loyalty Gate frames the 2,000-year history of the town centre. The baroque onion dome of the Fire Tower rises to a height of 58 meters with the two-headed eagle, so it can be seen from several parts of the town. After climbing its nearly 200 spiral stairs, its round balcony offers an unparalleled view of the town centre and the Lővérek surrounding Sopron, and in clear weather, you can even see the nearby mountains of the Alps (Rax, Schneeberg).

Address: 9400 Sopron, Előkapu u.2-7.

Day 4 | Szombathely

Walk through city to the Train station (22 mins) & Train to Szombathely

Information & timetable: <https://www.mavcsoport.hu/en>

Address: 9700 Szombathely, Király utca 8/a.

Check in at a hotel

Szombathely is the starting point of the St. Martins Cultural Route, a lot of great ROMAN Heritage: Check out the Via Sancti Martini

Route and information: www.viasanctimartini.eu/en/szombathely/historical-walking-trail

Map: <http://www.viasanctimartini.eu/cultural-database/brochures--issues>

St Martin's Cemetery and the Early Christian monuments of Savaria

It is the oldest and longest-used public cemetery in the country, and probably in Central and Eastern Europe, on the road leading east from Szombathely. According to the archaeological evidence, the cemetery next to the present-day Church of St. Martin was the burial place of the Romans who lived here from the 1st century AD. In the 4th century, a continuous Christian burial ground was established in the cemetery area, the centre of which was probably the tomb of St Quirinus, Bishop of Siscia (Sisak, Serbia), who was martyred in the city. This is the site of the richest collection of Early Christian tombs in Hungary, preserved partly by the Savaria Museum and partly by the Hungarian National Museum. The cemetery's use over the centuries was influenced by the fact that the Roman building that stood here was later identified with the birthplace of Bishop Saint Martin.

Address: 9700, Szombathely, Barátság utca 36.

Savaria Museum <http://savariamuseum.hu>

One of the country's largest and longest-running rural museums was established in 1908, but its predecessor was the Vas County Archaeological Society, which was founded in 1872 and previously exhibited its artefacts in the Sala Terrena of the Bishop's Palace. The collection of Roman artefacts in Savaria, however, goes back much further, since at the end of the 15th century Pietro Ransano, the court historian of King Matthias, already mentioned the Roman monuments collected in Szombathely. The museum is housed in a historicist building designed by Győző Czigler. The institution has an extremely rich Roman collection, with many rarities. Among these, the gold treasure found at Katafa, the jewellery from Balozsameggyes, and bronze and marble sculptures are the most interesting. In addition to the permanent exhibition on display in the museum's upstairs exhibition hall, the most valuable items from the collection have been presented by experts during travelling exhibitions abroad (Cremona, Heidelberg, Aalen, Konstanz, Brno, Lyon, Vienna and Graz). The Lapidarium of the Savaria Museum offers the richest display of Roman stone carvings after the Aquincum collection. In addition to the tombs of the soldiers who founded the city, there is a fragment of an early imperial victory monument, huge statues of Jupiter, Juno and Minerva,

the archetypal gods of the Roman Pantheon, a special milestone and unique altars dedicated to the deities of the Way.

Address: 9700, Szombathely, Kisfaludy Sándor utca 9.

Iseum Roman Isis Sanctuary and Museum

The Iseum is Szombathely's most famous ancient monument, and deservedly world-famous. The huge sanctuary complex is the third largest Roman temple of Isis known in the world today - larger only than the main temples of Alexandria and Rome City, and the largest in the world. But recent research has changed the picture of the sanctuary considerably. And the huge quantity of finds that have been recovered has clarified the chronology of the sanctuary's use and provided important data on everyday life in the sanctuary and its surroundings. In the period before the church was built, Savaria had an important industrial district on the site of the Iseum. Apart from weaving and pottery, bronze casting workshops were the most important. In the first third of the 2nd century AD, the industrial facilities were demolished and replaced by the 42x70 m sanctuary of the Egyptian goddess Isis. From the huge transverse entrance hall, you could walk between the monumental granite columns that still stand today, to the paved courtyard crossed by a colonnaded hall, where the sanctuary of the goddess Isis stood on a high platform. The six-columned main façade was decorated with elaborately carved white marble beams and cornices, full-length images of Isis 'riding' a dog, and Serapis, Mars and Victoria.

Address: 9700, Szombathely, Rákóczi Ferenc u. 6-8.

Járdányi Paulovics István Roman Ruin Garden

The Roman Ruin Garden, named after its first explorer István Járdányi-Paulovics, presents the largest contiguous section of Savaria's remains. The former Bishop's Garden, located next to the Cathedral, owes its existence to a fortunate coincidence. The construction work was halted and excavation and restoration work began. Excavations in the Ruin Garden revealed a series of residential buildings and several important public buildings. The impressive details of the Roman streets paved with basalt stones, the ruins of a small shrine to Mercurius, patron god of trade and travel, an extended section of the city wall and the workshops of the pottery quarter outside the wall were excavated and displayed. But the best known and most impressive feature of the ruined garden is the aforementioned 4th-century mosaic floor, which, even in its fragmentary state, is the largest continuous mosaic floor in Pannonia.

Address: 9700, Szombathely, Mindszenty József tér 1.

Sala Terrena

The Romanesque exhibition on the ground floor of the Bishop's Palace, next to the Ruin Garden, promises to be a unique attraction. Once the first archaeological museum in Hungary, this magnificent room in the palace of Bishop János Szily is decorated with splendid paintings by István Dorffmeister dating from 1784. Most of them were modelled on Roman pieces found in the soil of Savaria and engravings by the 18th-century Piranesi.

Boat trip – Boating lake (Csónakázótó)

Address: 9700 Szombathely, Bartók Béla körút

Day 5 | Ptuj

Walk to railway station (20 mins)

Take a train to Ptuj

Address: Železniška postaja Ptuj, Osojnikova cesta 2, 2250 Ptuj

Information & timetable: www.oebb.at

Check in at a hotel in Ptuj

What to experience in Ptuj: visitptuj.eu/en/
visitptuj.eu/en/see-do/

Guided tours in Ptuj: visitptuj.eu/en/see-do/tours/guided-tours/

Guided tour of Ptuj Castle: pmpo.si/?lang=en

Address: Na gradu 1, 2250 Ptuj

Day 6 | Ptuj

Rent a bike

Address: TIC, Mestni trg 4, Ptuj

Visit the Archaeological Park Panorama

Suggestion: GUIDED ROMAN TOUR WITH TOUR GUIDE GREGOR VALENTAN

Join us on a time travel adventure. Guides in period costumes will take you back to the ancient Roman city of Petoviona, as Ptuj was called back then. Petoviona was the largest Roman settlement in the territory of modern Slovenia, and is believed to have had a larger population than Ptuj today. As we follow the paths of ancient Romans, you will learn about Roman monuments, explore legionaries' gear, visit the archaeological park, discover the Roman way of life, their trades and gods. You will also get to taste wine prepared using an ancient recipe. Ave!

Address: PANORAMA ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, Raičeva ulica, 2250 Ptuj, Guide

Roman Camp

RIMSKI KAMP/ROMAN CAMP, Štuki 23, 2250 Ptuj

Visit PTUJSKA KLET/PTUJ WINE CELLAR

Memorable flavors, rich tradition, exceptional vineyard location, attributes that the Romans knew already over 2,000 years ago, topmost technology - one of the most modern in the world - and immense knowledge about the cultivation and production of wine. All of this and much more is hidden in the wine flavours and aromas of Slovenia's oldest and most awarded winery - Ptujška klet). Guided tour of the cellar, audio-visual presentation titled »When the drop sparkles«, cheese bread roll and tasting of 4 wine samples.

Address: Vinarski trg 1, 2250 Ptuj, +386 2 787 98 27

Rent a bike

Address: TIC, Mestni trg 4, Ptuj

Visit MITREJ I & MITREJ III

In the Roman Empire Ptuj was an important, magnificent city (Poetovio) and a base camp. Soldiers from the east brought Mithraism, a Persian religion with mysterious rites that were only attended by men. Five magnificent shrines to the god Mithras have been discovered in Ptuj. Five magnificent shrines to the god Mithras have been discovered in Ptuj, and you can see the foundation, altars, reliefs and cult imagery in the remnants of Mithraeum I and Mithraeum III, two ancient Roman shrines from the 2nd and 3rd century.

Info: https://pmpo.si/stalne_zbirke/mithras-shrine-i/?lang=en & Info: https://pmpo.si/stalne_zbirke/iii-mitrej/

Address: Mithraeum I – Spodnja Hajdina, 2288 Hajdina & Mithraeum III - K Mitreju 7, 2250

Visit TUNNELS UNDER THE PTUJ CASTLE

Project partner Tura Ptuj: Explore the tunnels under the Ptuj Castle, and learn about the history and urban legends hiding in these underground corridors. Legends combined with local wine tasting in the dark is a very special experience.

If you would like to go by bicycle → pick up at address: TIC, Mestni trg 4, Ptuj– the rent-a-bike system, they need to fill out a form and the bikes are in front of the building

Departure
