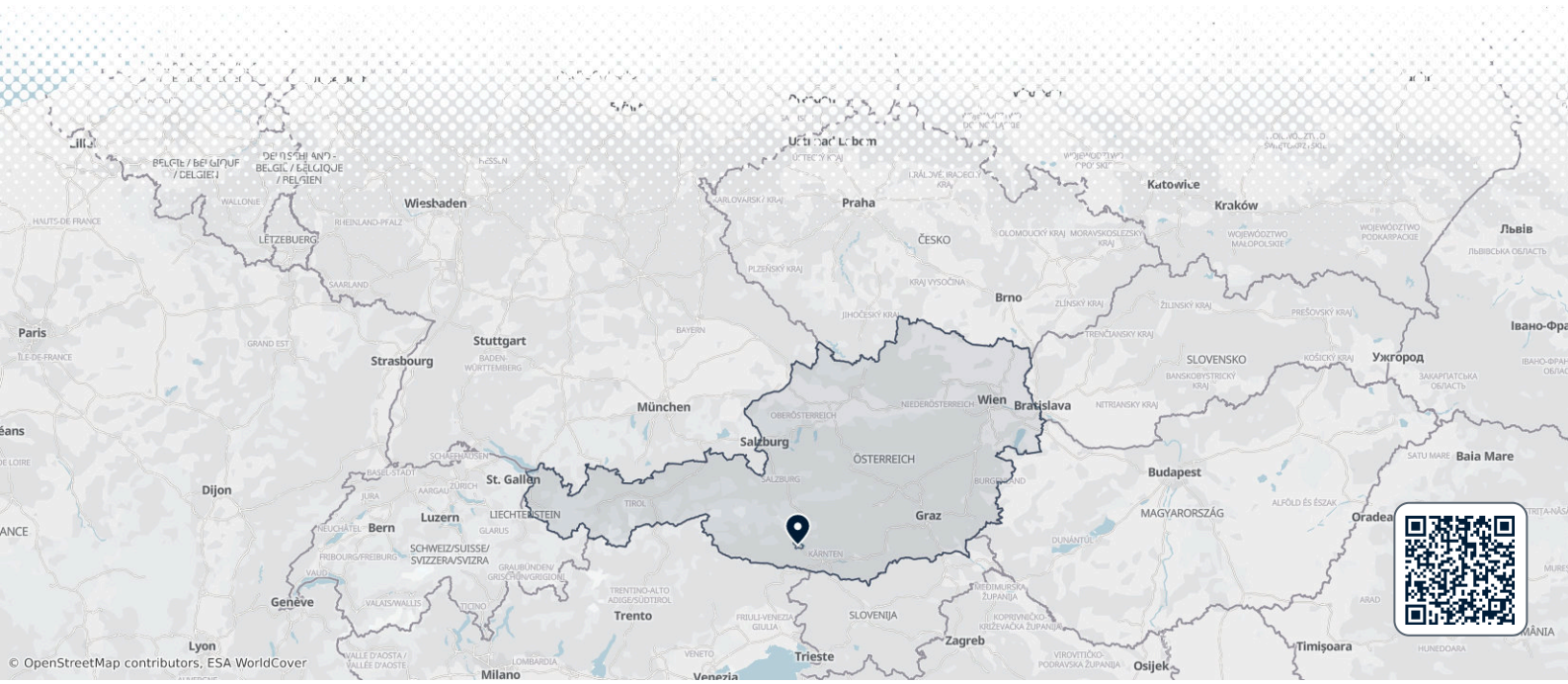


Spittal an der Drau

Carinthia · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Spittal an der Drau is the main town of Upper Carinthia, in the Drau valley, at the foot of the Millstätter See area. The town has about 15,000 people and sits where the Lieser river meets the Drau, at a junction of routes from the Tauern, Salzburg and Italy.

The main attraction is Schloss Porcia, a large Renaissance palace in the town centre. Spittal is also a practical base for the lakes, the Nock Mountains and the Hohe Tauern.

When to visit

May to September is best for the lakes, the palace gardens and summer theatre. Autumn is good for walking. Winter is quiet in town, with ski areas such as Bad Kleinkirchheim and Katschberg within reach.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	4° / 10° Feels like 1°	-4° / -12°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 13° Feels like 2°	-3° / -13°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18°	1° / -8°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22°	5° / -2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	9° / 4°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	13° / 7°	21 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	25° / 31°	15° / 9°	22 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	15° / 9°	20 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	16° / 23°	7° / 1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 17°	3° / -6°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 11° Feels like 2°	-2° / -11°	Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Schloss Porcia is a 16th century Renaissance palace with an arcaded courtyard, used for summer theatre.
- B Stift Millstatt is a former abbey above the Millstätter See with a Romanesque cloister.
- C Stiftsmuseum Kreuzgang Millstatt shows the history of the abbey in the cloister.
- D Millstätter See is the large lake east of town, with beaches and boat trips.
- E Egelsee is a small lake for a quiet swim.
- F Ortenburg is the ruin of a medieval castle west of town.
- G Drautalperle is a leisure and water park.
- H Museum Carantana is a museum of early Carinthian history.
- I Schloss Heroldeck is a small castle above the lake.



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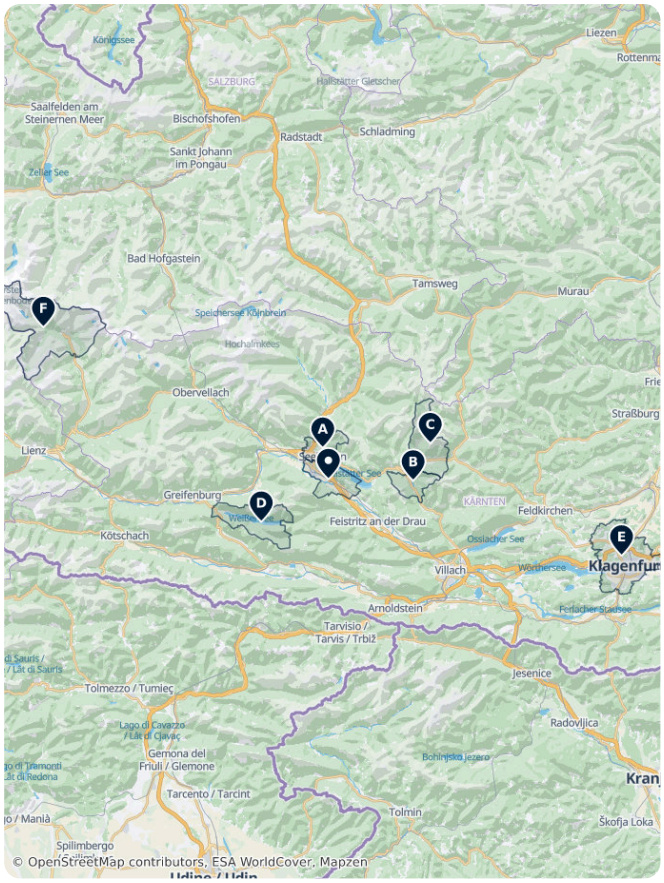
What to experience

- See the palace courtyard.
- Swim in the Millstätter See.
- Visit the abbey cloister.
- Cycle along the Drau.
- Drive on to the Hohe Tauern.

Day trips

- A Seeboden is about 10 minutes away by car.
- Millstatt is about 20 minutes away by car.
- B Feld am See is about 25 minutes away by car.
- C Bad Kleinkirchheim is about 35 minutes away by car.
- D Weißensee is about 40 minutes away by car.
- Villach is about 35 minutes away by car.
- E Klagenfurt is about 1 hour away by car.
- F Heiligenblut is about 1 hour 15 minutes away by car.



Where to explore

- Seeboden, Bad Kleinkirchheim, Feld am See and Weißensee are the nearest preferred destinations.
- Klagenfurt and Pörtschach are the Wörthersee options.

Getting there

- By air: Klagenfurt Airport is about 1 hour away by car. Salzburg is about 1 hour 45 minutes.
- By train: Spittal-Millstättersee is on the Tauern railway, with direct trains from Salzburg and Villach. Check times on ÖBB.
- By car: Leave the A10 Tauern motorway at Spittal Ost or Spittal West.

Getting around

The centre is walkable and flat. A free town bus covers the main streets, and buses link the lake villages. A car helps for the wider region. Cycling is easy.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The town centre is compact and flat, with the castle and the main streets close together.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The Drau cycle path passes through town, and lake routes lead to the Millstätter See.

Driving

A car helps for the lakes and mountains. The A10 has toll tunnels towards Salzburg. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. Motorways in Austria need a vignette.

Food & drink

Carinthian food includes *Kärntner Kasnudeln*, filled pasta, and *Reindling*, a raisin yeast cake. Lake fish and local dairy are common. Cafes in the old town serve coffee and cakes.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Wiener Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and pan-fried veal cutlet, traditionally served with potato salad or parsley potatoes and a wedge of lemon.

Tafelspitz
Boiled beef in broth, served with roast potatoes and a sauce of apples and horseradish — a favourite of Emperor Franz Joseph.

Viennese Goulash · Wiener Saftgulasch
A rich beef stew slow-cooked with onions and paprika, typically served with a bread dumpling or bread roll.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Käsekrainer
A grilled pork sausage studded with melty cheese, a classic order at Vienna's ubiquitous Würstelstand (sausage stands).

Sausage Stand Snack · Würstel vom Würstelstand
Grilled or boiled sausages (Bratwurst, Frankfurter, Bosna) served with mustard, bread and a pickle from street kiosks.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Apfelstrudel
Thin pastry rolled around spiced apples, raisins and breadcrumbs, usually served warm with vanilla sauce or cream.

Sachertorte
A dense chocolate cake with a thin layer of apricot jam under a dark chocolate glaze, famously served with unsweetened whipped cream.

Kaiserschmarrn
A fluffy shredded pancake caramelised with sugar and dusted with icing sugar, served with plum or apple compote.

Marillenknödel
Apricot dumplings wrapped in potato or quark dough, rolled in buttery breadcrumbs — a Wachau and Viennese summer specialty.

DRINKS

Viennese Melange · Wiener Melange
The signature Viennese coffee: espresso topped with steamed milk and milk foam, the centrepiece of coffeehouse culture.

Grüner Veltliner
Austria's flagship crisp, peppery white wine, widely poured in Vienna's Heuriger (wine taverns).

Sturm
A cloudy, lightly alcoholic partially-fermented grape must, available only for a few weeks in autumn.

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Safety & health

Spittal is very safe. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112. The mountain rescue number is 140.

History

Spittal takes its name from a medieval hospice for travellers on the route over the Tauern. Count Gabriel von Salamanca built Schloss Porcia in the 16th century, and later the Porcia family held it. The town grew with the railway and trade, and today it is a regional centre for the lakes and the Hohe Tauern.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

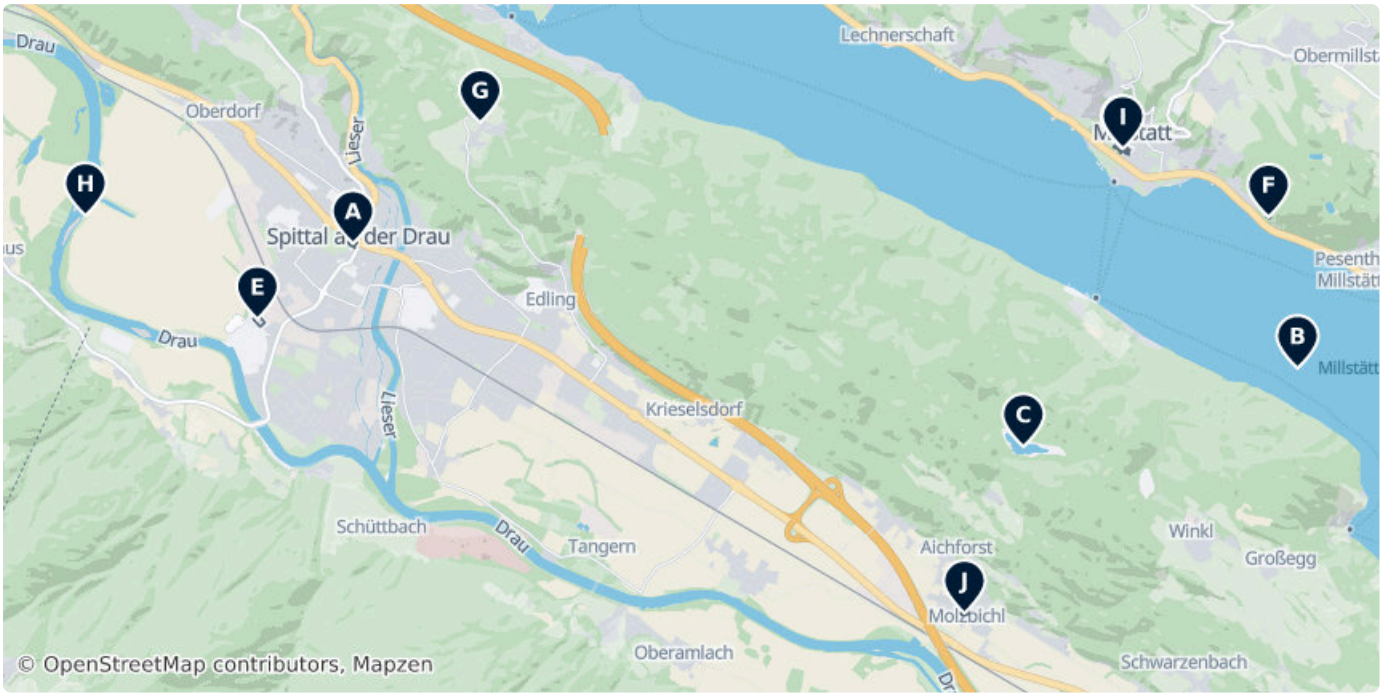
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Spittal an der Drau Essentials

Spittal an der Drau features the 16th-century Schloss Porcia, one of Austria's most significant Renaissance palaces, and the nearby Millstätter See, the second-largest lake in Carinthia. The area preserves deep historical roots at Millstatt Abbey, founded around 1070, and its associated cloister museum. Natural landmarks include the protected Egelsee mire lake and the Drau River valley views from the DrAUENland platform. Cultural sites such as the Romanesque-Gothic Sankt Wolfgang church and the archaeological heritage at Molzbichl provide insight into the region's medieval history.





A Schloss Porcia

Schloss Porcia is a castle in Spittal an der Drau, in the Austrian state of Carinthia.

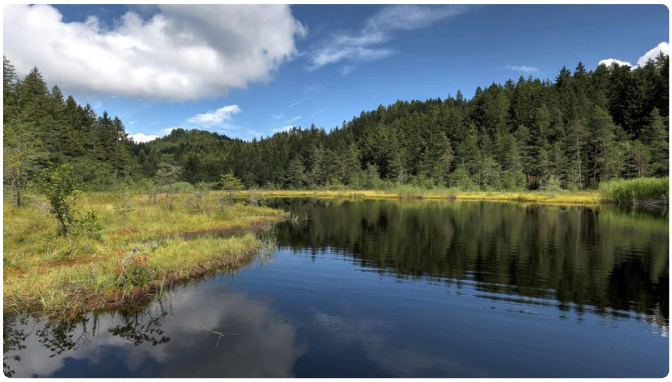
1 Burgplatz, Spittal an der Drau 9800, Austria (46.79782, 13.49582)



B Lake Millstatt

Lake Millstatt is a lake in Carinthia, Austria.

9872, Austria (46.78953, 13.58753)



C Egelsee

Egelsee is a mire lake in Carinthia, Austria. The lake and its environment are part of a protected landscape area.

9701, Austria (46.78432, 13.56091)



D Millstatt Abbey

Millstatt Abbey is a former monastery in Millstatt, Austria. Established by Benedictine monks about 1070, it ranks among the most important...

1 Stiftgasse, Millstatt am See 9872, Austria (46.80414, 13.57047)

E Drautalperle

Modern aquatic center featuring indoor and outdoor swimming pools, water slides, and a wellness area with saunas.

Am Bahndamm 14 (46.79281, 13.48654)

drautalperle.at/category/english/

F Schloss Heroldeck

Late 19th-century historicist castle situated on the southern shore of Lake Millstatt, currently used as a Christian retreat and conference center.

Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Straße, 9872 Millstatt am See, Austria (46.79958, 13.58472)

schlossheroldeck.com



G Sankt Wolfgang

Roman Catholic pilgrimage church located on the Wolfsberg ridge, featuring Gothic architectural elements and views of the surrounding lake region.

(46.80585, 13.50817)

H Aussichtsplattform DrAUENland

Modern wooden observation platform offering elevated views over the Drau River landscape and the surrounding Upper Carinthian mountains.

9800, Austria (46.79968, 13.46984)

I Stiftsmuseum Kreuzgang Millstatt

Museum housed within the Romanesque cloister of Millstatt Abbey, showcasing medieval stonework and religious artifacts from the Benedictine monastery.

(46.80412, 13.57058)

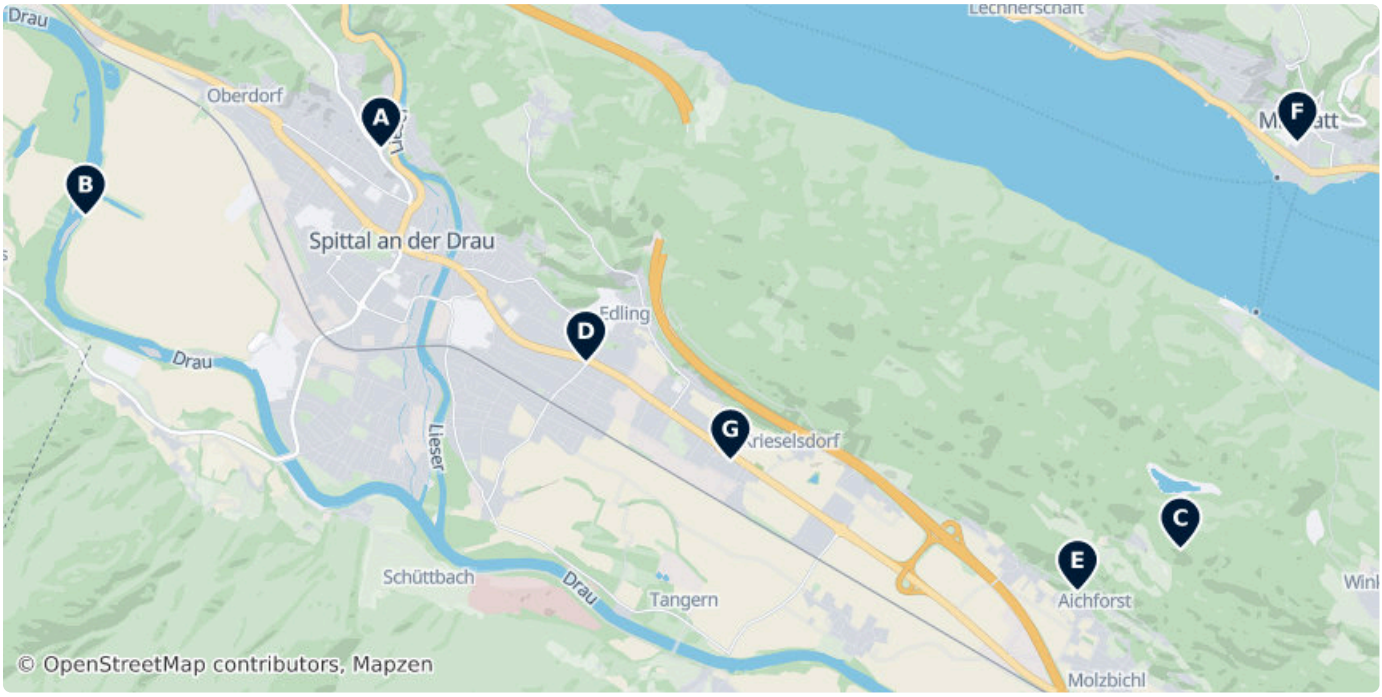
J Friedhof Molzbichl

Historic cemetery associated with the early medieval monastery of Molzbichl, featuring archaeological remains and the nearby Museum Carantana.

7 Molzbichl, Molzbichl 9701, Austria (46.77327, 13.55520)

Hidden Gems: Chapels & Views

This collection features a series of secluded sacred sites and elevated vantage points surrounding Spittal an der Drau in Upper Carinthia. It highlights historical chapels such as the Antoniuskapelle on the Fratres hill and the Domitianskapelle, alongside contemporary landmarks like the DrAUENland observation platform. The selection includes the 'Roter Stuhl' outdoor art installation and scenic viewpoints like Lug ins Land, which offer perspectives over the Drau valley and the surrounding alpine landscape.





A St. Anton am Fratres

Dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua, this chapel is situated on the southern slope of the Fratres hill, overlooking the town of Spittal an der Drau.

(46.80354, 13.49460)

B Aussichtsplattform DrAUENland

An elevated observation tower designed to provide views of the Drau river landscape and the surrounding riparian forests.

9800, Austria (46.79968, 13.46984)

C Lug ins Land

A scenic viewpoint offering panoramic vistas across the Drau valley and the Upper Carinthian mountains.

(Unnamed Road), 9701, Austria (46.78056, 13.56161)

D Unsere Liebe Frau vor Spittal

A small Marian chapel located on the outskirts of Spittal, serving as a traditional site for local devotion.

67 Villacher Straße, Spittal an der Drau 9800, Austria (46.79128, 13.51178)

E Hl. Magdalena

A secluded chapel dedicated to Saint Mary Magdalene, located on the hillsides east of Spittal an der Drau.

1 Baldersdorf, Aichforst 9800, Austria (46.77813, 13.55298)

F Domitianskapelle

A chapel dedicated to Saint Domitian, the legendary patron of Millstatt, located on the northern slopes of the valley.

155/1 Georgsritterplatz, Millstatt am See 9872, Austria (46.80387, 13.57141)

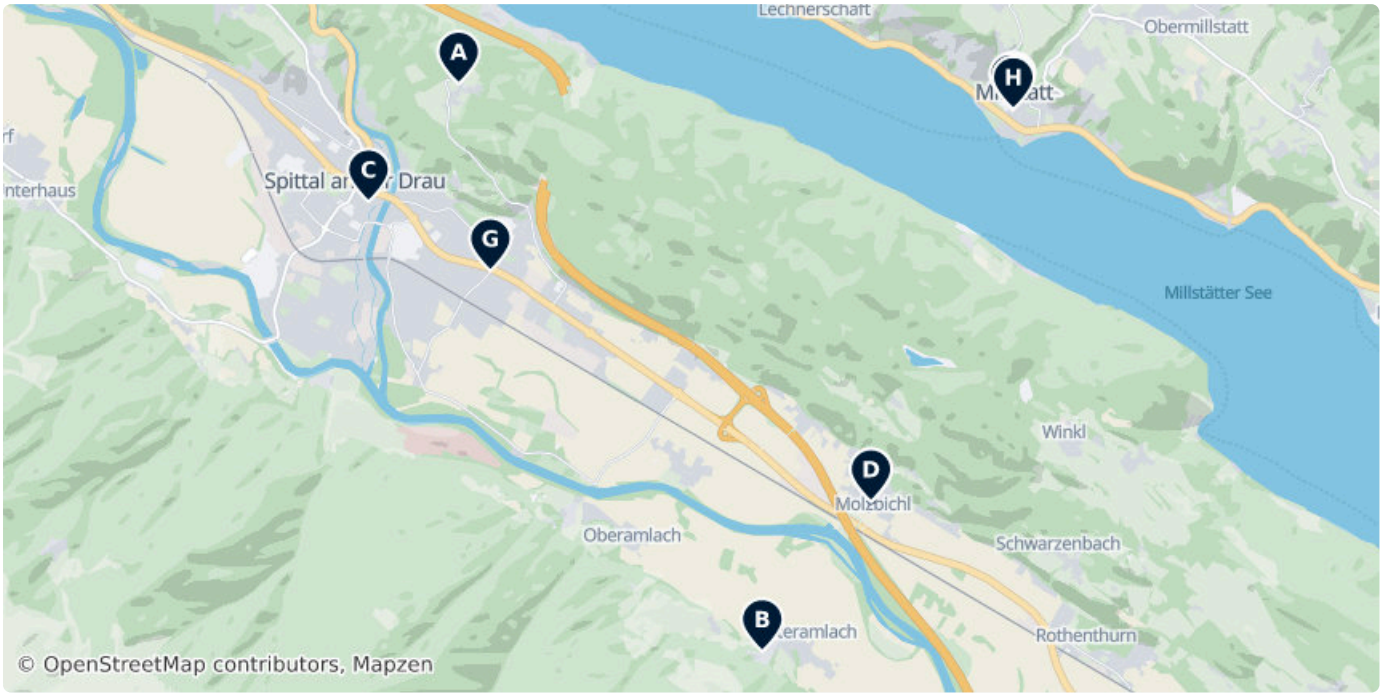
G Roter Stuhl

A large-scale outdoor art installation featuring a giant red chair, positioned as a landmark within the rural landscape.

144 Villacher Straße, Spittal an der Drau 9800, Austria (46.78565, 13.52389)

Historic Religious Sites

This collection showcases the spiritual and architectural heritage of Upper Carinthia, centered around Spittal an der Drau and Millstatt. It includes the ancient foundations of Molzbichl—Carinthia's oldest monastery site—and the Romanesque mastery of Millstatt Abbey with its dedicated chapels. From the hilltop Wolfgangskirche overlooking the Millstätter See ridge to the Stadtpfarrkirche near Schloss Porcia, these sites represent centuries of history, from early Christian settlements to the medieval influence of the Benedictines and the Order of St. George.





A Sankt Wolfgang

Roman Catholic church situated on the Wolfsberg hill, part of the Millstätter-See-Rücken ridge in Seeboden.

(46.80585, 13.50817)



B Hl. Markus

Roman Catholic church located in the village of Molzbichl.

38 Unteramlach, Unteramlach 9800, Austria
(46.76156, 13.54280)



C Stadtpfarrkirche »Mariae Verkündigung«

Located south of Spittal's main square and adjacent to Schloss Porcia, this parish church serves as a central landmark of the town's religious history.

1 Litzelhofenstraße, Spittal an der Drau 9800, Austria (46.79667, 13.49790)

D Friedhof Molzbichl

Christian cemetery in Molzbichl, site of significant archaeological finds related to early medieval Carinthia.

7 Molzbichl, Molzbichl 9701, Austria (46.77327, 13.55520)

E Kirche St. Salvator und Allerheiligen

The main abbey church in Millstatt, featuring a significant Romanesque portal and Gothic vaulting.

85 Stiftgasse, Millstatt am See 9872, Austria (46.80415, 13.57124)

kath-kirche-kaernten.at/pfarren/detail/C3002/die_pfarre_...

F Pfarrkirche Heiliger Tiburtius

Site of the oldest known monastery in Carinthia, founded around 784, featuring an early Christian museum nearby.

7 Molzbichl, Molzbichl 9701, Austria (46.77328, 13.55520)

G Unsere Liebe Frau vor Spittal

A historic chapel situated at the southern entrance of Spittal an der Drau.

67 Villacher Straße, Spittal an der Drau 9800, Austria (46.79128, 13.51178)

H Domitianskapelle

Dedicated to the legendary Duke Domitian, this chapel is part of the Millstatt Abbey complex and houses the saint's reliquary.

155/1 Georgsritterplatz, Millstatt am See 9872, Austria (46.80387, 13.57141)

I Geumannkapelle

A side chapel within Millstatt Abbey, historically associated with the Geumann family and the Order of St. George.

85 Stiftgasse, Millstatt am See 9872, Austria (46.80410, 13.57110)

J Lorettokapelle

A replica of the Holy House of Loreto, located within the grounds of the former Benedictine Millstatt Abbey.

85 Stiftgasse, Millstatt am See 9872, Austria (46.80420, 13.57154)

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