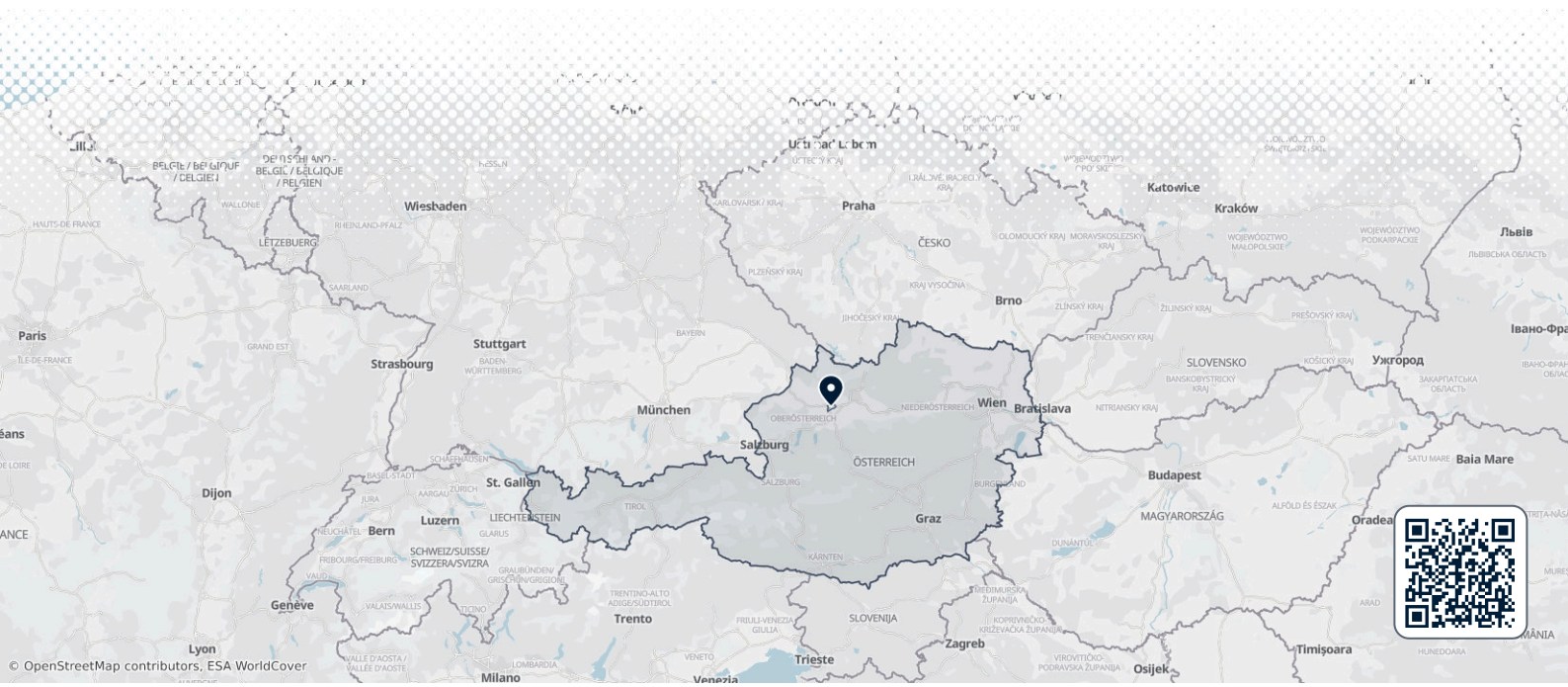


# Wels

Upper Austria · Austria

## TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



## Overview

Wels is the second largest city in Upper Austria, with about 65,000 people, and sits on the river Traun between Linz and Salzburg. It was a Roman town, and its old centre has a long, wide main square lined with coloured Gothic, Renaissance and baroque house fronts.

The city is a regional centre for trade and shopping and has a trade fair ground. It is calmer than Linz or Salzburg, and works well as a day stop for architecture and history.

## When to visit

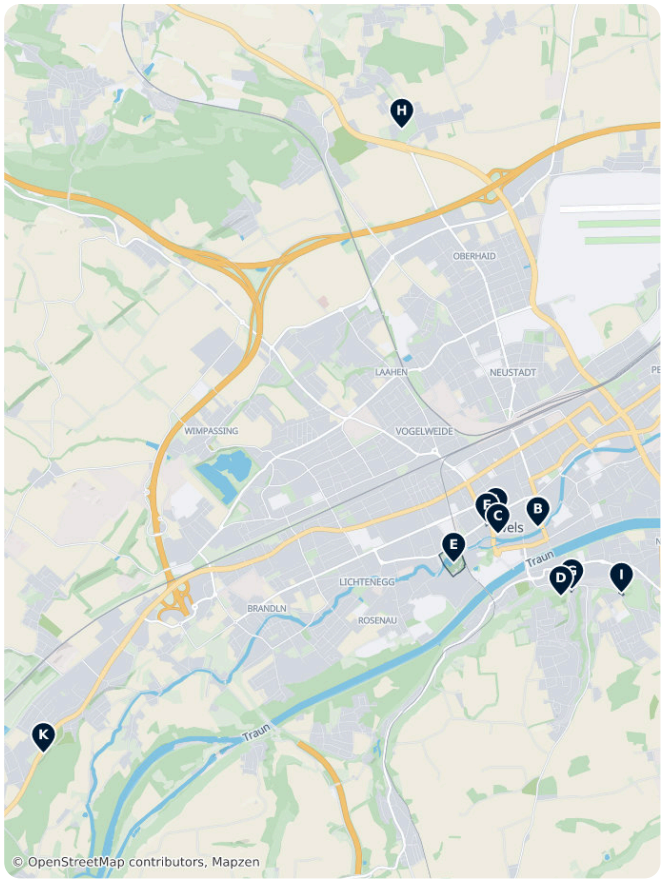
April to October is best for walking the old town and the surrounding countryside. Summer is warm and lively, with events on the main square. December has a Christmas market. Winter is cold and quiet.

| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 4° / 11°<br>Feels like 0° | -3° / -12° | 14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| February | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 6° / 14°<br>Feels like 2° | -2° / -11° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| March | Fair<br>Fair for cycling | 10° / 18°<br>Feels like 7° | 1° / -6° | 15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| April | Good<br>Good for cycling | 15° / 23° | 5° / -1° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| May | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 20° / 27° | 10° / 4° | 18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| June | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 24° / 31° | 14° / 8° | 19 rainy days · Calm winds |
| July | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 25° / 33° | 15° / 10° | 20 rainy days · Calm winds |
| August | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 25° / 33° | 15° / 11° | 17 rainy days · Calm winds |
| September | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 21° / 28° | 11° / 6° | 14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| October | Good<br>Good for cycling | 16° / 24° | 7° / 0° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| November | Fair<br>Fair for cycling | 10° / 18° | 2° / -5° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| December | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 5° / 11°<br>Feels like 1° | -1° / -10° | 15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |

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

## Top sights

- A Burg Wels is the old castle of the city, where Emperor Maximilian I died in 1519.
- B Burgmuseum is a museum of the city history in the castle area.
- C Lederertурm is a medieval tower in the old town wall.
- D Marienwarte is a lookout tower with views over the city.
- E Welser Tiergarten is a small city zoo.
- F Medien Kultur Haus is a culture and media centre.
- G Schloss Aigenegg, H Schloss Puchberg, I Schloß Traunegg and J Schloss Pollheim are castles and manor houses in and around the city.
- K Naturschutzgebiet Kuhschellenrasen is a protected meadow with spring flowers.
- The Stadtplatz is the main square, with painted facades.

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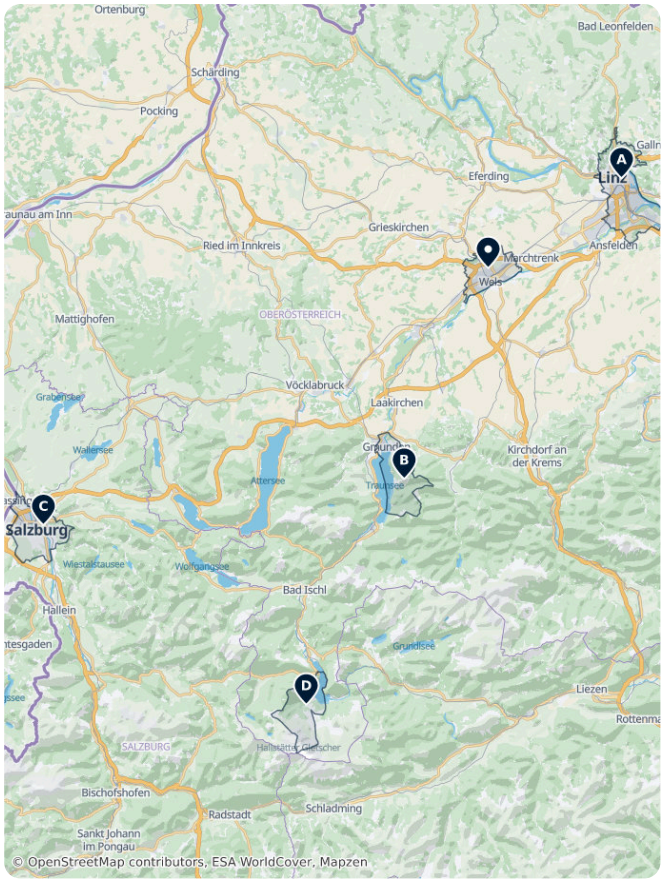
## What to experience

- Walk the Stadtplatz.
- Visit the castle and museum.
- Climb the lookout tower.
- Take the train to Linz.
- Cycle along the Traun.

## Day trips

- A Linz is about 25 minutes away by car or 15 minutes by train.
- B Gmunden is about 45 minutes away by car.
- C Salzburg is about 1 hour 10 minutes away by car or by train.
- D Hallstatt is about 1 hour 25 minutes away by car.
- Lambach Abbey is about 15 minutes away by car.




## Where to explore

- Linz is the nearest preferred destination.

## Getting there

- By air: Linz Airport is about 20 minutes away by car. Salzburg is about 1 hour 10 minutes, and Vienna about 2 hours.
- By train: Wels is on the Westbahn line, with fast trains to Linz, Salzburg and Vienna. Check times on ÖBB.
- By car: Leave the A1 Westautobahn at Wels.

## Getting around

The old town is walkable and mostly traffic free. City buses cover the rest. The station is a 10 minute walk from the main square. Cycling is easy.

### Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

**High**

The old town is flat and mostly pedestrian, with the main sights close together.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

**High**

Flat roads and river paths along the Traun suit cyclists.

## Driving

A car is not needed in the city. It helps for the lakes of the Salzkammergut. Parking in the old town is limited. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. Motorways in Austria need a vignette.

# Food & drink

Upper Austrian food includes *Knödel*, dumplings, roast pork with sauerkraut and *Linzer Torte*, a jam tart. Look for local beer and cider. The city has many cafes on the main square.

## 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

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

## History

Wels began as the Roman town of Ovilava and became an important regional city. In the Middle Ages it was a trading town on the Traun, and its castle was a residence of Emperor Maximilian I, who died here in 1519. Today it is a modern city with a preserved old centre.

## Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
**EUR €**

EMERGENCY
**112**

ELECTRICITY

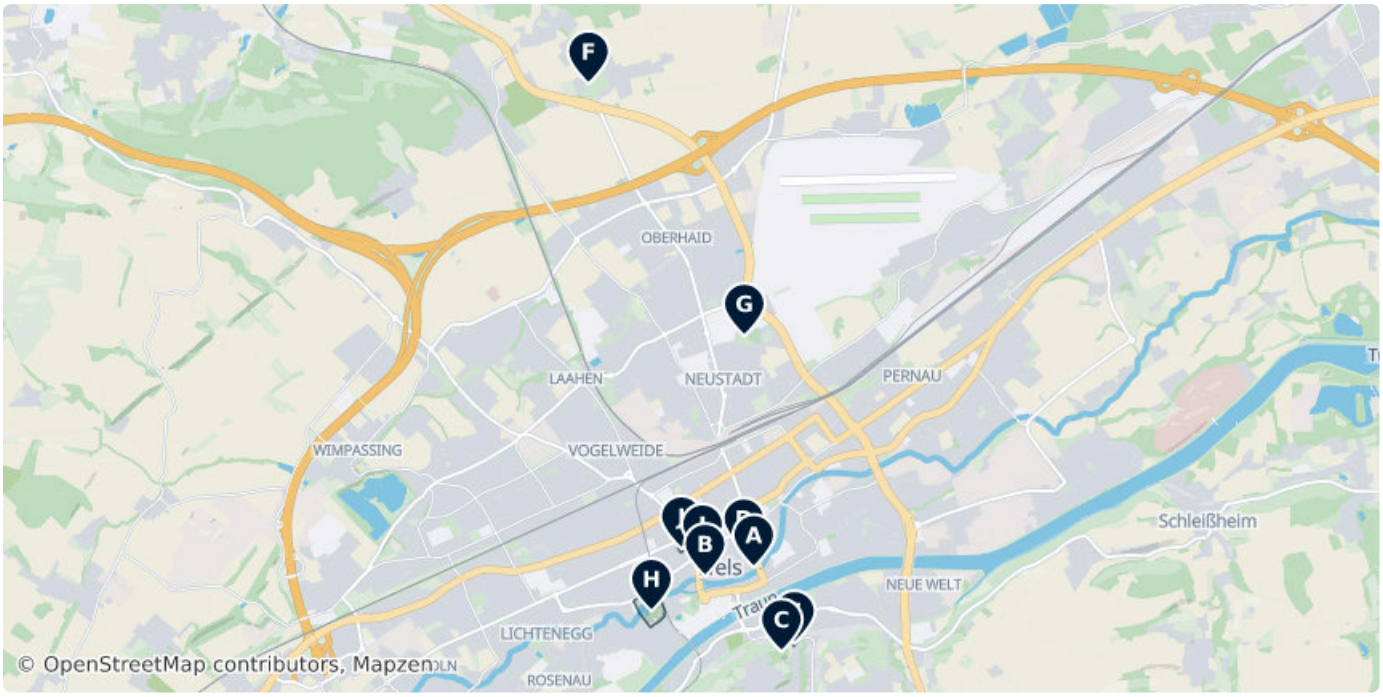
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
**Safe to drink**

# Wels Essentials

Wels, situated along the Traun River, features a well-preserved historic core centered around the medieval Ledererturm and the imperial Burg Wels. This selection highlights the city's architectural heritage, from the Gothic elements of the Stadtpfarrkirche to the Neo-Romanesque facade of Herz-Jesu-Kirche. Visitors can explore the city's oldest zoo at the Welser Tiergarten or take in panoramic views of the Traunviertel region from the Marienwarte observation tower.






## A Burg Wels

An imperial palace-style castle located southeast of the city center, once a residence for Emperor Maximilian I. It now serves as a cultural venue housing municipal museum exhibits.

Am Zwinger, 4600 Wels, Austria (48.15663, 14.02806)

wels.at/Kultur-und-Bildung/Museen-d... , +43 7242 2357350



## B Ledererturm

The last remaining tower of the medieval city fortifications. This protected monument stands at the western end of the Stadtplatz and serves as a landmark of the old town.

Stadtplatz, 4600 Wels, Austria (48.15601, 14.02292)



## C Marienwarte

A brick observation tower situated on the Reinberg hill in Thalheim. It provides panoramic views of the city of Wels and the surrounding Alpine foothills.

10 Buchenstraße, Thalheim bei Wels 4600, Austria (48.15071, 14.03097)



## D Stadtpfarrkirche

A Roman Catholic parish church featuring historic Gothic stained glass and architectural elements that date back to the 14th century.

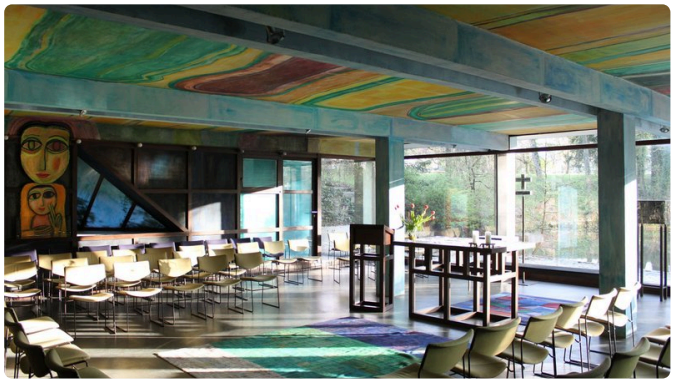
Pfarrgasse, 4600 Wels, Austria (48.15779, 14.02701)



## E Schloss Aigenegg

A historic manor house and estate located in the Bruckhofstraße area of Thalheim bei Wels.

(48.15129, 14.03235)



## F Schloss Puchberg

A castle in the Puchberg district that functions as an educational and seminar center for the Diocese of Linz.

Schloss Puchberg, 4600 Wels, Austria (48.19060, 14.01063)

bildungshaus-puchberg.at



## G Herz-Jesu-Kirche

A Neo-Romanesque Catholic parish church in the Neustadt district, characterized by its twin-tower facade and ornate interior.

(48.17289, 14.02706)

## H Welser Tiergarten

The city's oldest zoo and public park, featuring a variety of domestic and exotic animal species within a landscaped green space.

1 Stadtpark, Wels 4600, Austria (48.15355, 14.01726)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

wels.at/welsmarketing/oesterreich-poi/detail/401930/tier...

## I Schloss Pollheim

A historic castle complex near the city center, historically associated with the noble Pollheim family.

(48.15738, 14.02265)

## J Marktplatz Wels

A central pedestrian square and market area surrounded by historic townhouses, serving as a hub for local commerce.

6 Hamerlingstraße, Wels 4600, Austria (48.15795, 14.02042)

We–Sa 06:00–12:30

## DATA SOURCES

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