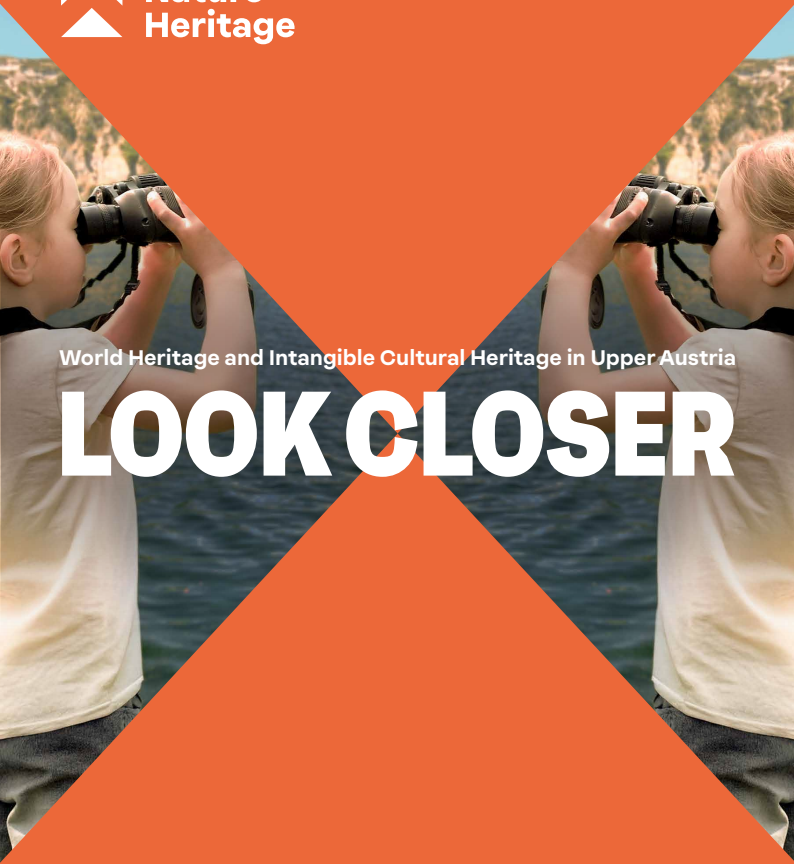
OÖ KulturEXPO 2027

Culture
Nature
Heritage



World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Upper Austria

LOOK CLOSER

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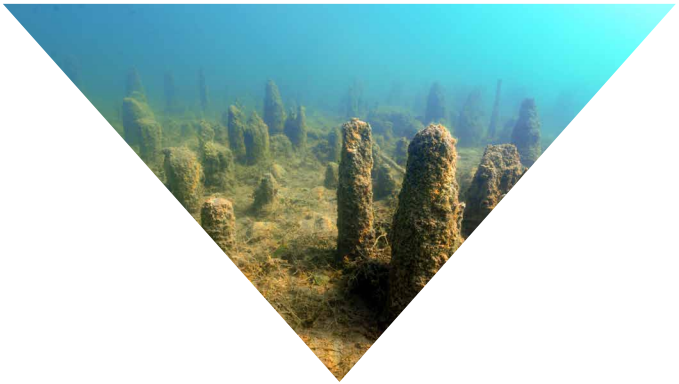


THE ATLANTIS OF ALPINE LAKES

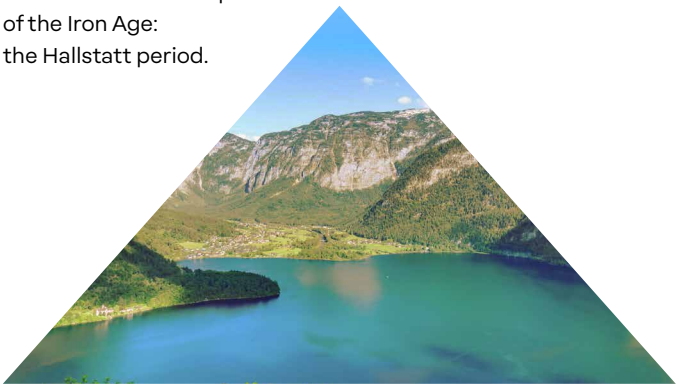
PREHISTORIC PILE DWELLINGS AROUND THE ALPS

One UNESCO World Heritage, in which Austria has had a share since 2011, lies hidden beneath calm waters: the „Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps ". Along with Germany, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland, a total of 111 pile dwellings in the Alpine region form this joint and transnational UNESCO World Heritage. The remains of four of these prehistoric settlements are in Upper Austrian lakes, three of which are in Attersee and one in Mondsee. A fifth is in the Lake Keutschach (Carinthia).

WHITE GOLD FROM THE KAMMERGUT

HALLSTATT-DACHSTEIN/ SALZKAMMERGUT

The cultural landscape of Hallstatt-Dachstein/Salzkammergut has been a UNESCO World Heritage since 1997 and thus Upper Austria's first inscription in the international list of sites worth protecting. The core region – Hallstatt and Lake Hallstatt – including the surrounding areas as far as the Dachstein massif and the Hoher Dachstein and the municipalities of Gosau and Obertraun, all form part of the Salzkammergut. Salt has been extracted here since prehistoric times becoming one of the most important economic products and export goods of this cultural landscape. The accompanying cultural heyday, documented in detail by archaeologists, commenced around 800 BC and gave its name to an entire period of the Iron Age: the Hallstatt period.



ON THE FRINGES OF AN EMPIRE

FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE - THE DANUBE LIMES

The border of the Imperium Romanum, the Roman Empire, once ran along beside the Danube. The remains of legionary camps, watch towers and forts tell the tale of the way of life in Antiquity, on the edge of the global empire, which shaped large parts of Europe for many centuries. However, this river border also nurtured social and cultural development thus shaping Europe in a decisive manner. The following sites are in Upper Austria: Oberranna (fortlet), Schlögen (vicus, castle), Wilhering (watch tower), Linz (Martinsfeld settlement, Schlossberg fortification) and Enns (Gräberstraße, Canabae, St. Laurenz, legionary camp).

TIMELESS GIANTS

ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS

More than a fifth of the continent was covered in forest, primarily beech forests. As humans began to develop more permanent settlements, however, these forests were rooted out to make way for farming and grazing land thus reducing them to a third of their original size.

UNESCO lists 94 forest areas in 18 European countries as one World Heritage Site under the heading „Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe". The Dürrenstein Wilderness Area (Lower Austria), covering 3685 hectares, in Austria has featured on this list since 2017 as have the large areas of the Limestone Alps National Park (Nationalpark Kalkalpen, Upper Austria), spanning 5252 hectares.

PASSING ON WHAT IS CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Impressive buildings, moulded landscapes or archaeological sites are not the only testament of human culture. Culture can also be expressed by festive events, rituals, skillsets and forms of knowledge passed on from one generation to the next. This is what is meant by intangible cultural heritage in the spirit of UNESCO. Upper Austria has an amazing diversity when it comes to intangible cultural heritage. Around 70 of the traditions and activities currently listed in the National Register mirror this cultural richness and reveal regional peculiarities.

LOOK LOOK

CULTURAL EDUCATION THAT INSPIRES

The OÖ KulturEXPO 2027 cordially invites you to come and discover Austria's World Heritage Sites in an exciting new way. With a wide range of activities for both the old and young alike, World Heritage and intangible cultural heritage are brought to life, made tangible and can be experienced first-hand.
The different formats available will be sure to spark curiosity, impart knowledge in a comprehensible manner and inspire a desire to find out more about culture, history and the peculiarities of our region.

The second edition of the OÖ KulturEXPO puts the spotlight firmly on Upper Austria's UNESCO World Heritage Sites, bringing them to life. These include the Prehistoric Pile Dwellings at Attersee and Mondsee, the cultural landscape of Hallstatt-Dachstein/Salzkammergut, the Roman Danube Limes, and the ancient beech forests (National Park Kalkalpen), as well as intangible cultural heritage. All of them testify to the variety, the history and the special identity of our province. Our heritage is equally alive in our traditions. It is our duty to preserve it and keep it alive.

Enjoy the OÖ KulturEXPO 2027!

Mag. Thomas Stelzer
Governor of Upper Austria

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