

GGI LEADERSHIP FORUM 19-22 JUNE 2014 EISENBERG, AUSTRIA

General Information

General Information about Burgenland

Burgenland is the 7th largest of Austria's 9 provinces (*Bundesländer*), at 3,966 km². The highest point in the province is Geschriebenstein, at 884 metres, the lowest point is 114 metres, near Apetlon. Burgenland has a very long border: to the west it borders the Austrian provinces of Niederösterreich and Steiermark, to the northeast it borders Slovakia, Hungary to the east and Slovenia to the farthest south. Burgenland and Hungary share the Neusiedler See, known for its reeds, shallowness as well as the mild climate throughout the year. The Neusiedler See is Austria's largest lake serving as a large tourist attraction bringing ornithologists, sailors and wind/kite surfers into the region north of the lake. It is primarily agricultural, but industry and tourism are being developed.

Language

The dominant language spoken in Austria is German. Minority languages covered by the *Volksgruppengesetz (Ethnic Groups Act)* are Croatian and Hungarian (found mostly in Burgenland) and Slovene (found mostly in Carinthia). In Burgenland, the language of instruction in a school depends on the number of students in that school speaking a second language. Hungarian language instruction at the elementary level is provided for the Hungarian minority in Burgenland. For the largest ethnic minority in Austria, the Carinthian Slovenes, secondary education is provided in Slovene; a so-called "minority education right".

Culture

A borderland battleground for nearly 1,000 years, Burgenland has many castles, fortified churches, and walled villages. Burgenland means "land of castles" and this may implicate that the land was in danger of the attack of the Ottomans for many years in the 17th century. Meanwhile the Habsburgs had to build a lot of castles to protect their population.

The South Burgenland area is still a meeting point of three different cultures, three different countries: Austria, Slovenia and Hungary. In 1976 five groups - later extended to six - were recognised as ethnic minorities in different parts of Austria: The Slovenes (in Carinthia and Slovenia), the Croats (in Burgenland), the Hungarians (in Burgenland and Vienna), the Czechs and Slovaks (in Vienna). In 1992, the Roma became the latest ethnic minority group to be recognised. In addition, there are many migrants, e.g. Turks living in Austria, as well as those coming from former Yugoslav countries such as Serbs, Croats and Bosnians.

The Region

The city of Jennersdorf, situated in Austria's most eastern state, is the ideal destination if you are looking to combine city life, recreation and tranquillity. It is a good idea to visit the Raab National Park, a nature paradise stretching over three countries, and discover its many highlights. Unwind in a thermal bath, go cycling or canoeing on the river Raab.

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The famous thermal region offers many hot springs e.g. in Loipersdorf or Szentgotthard in Hungary. Wine connoisseurs can explore the origins of many world class wines, for instance the famous Uhdler wine. To explore perfectly the region it is suggested to visit the beautiful city Graz, the famous Zotter Chocolate Factory and castle in Riegersburg and certainly some well-known thermal spas around.

The hotel í The Eisenbergí

The hotel (<http://www.TheEisenberg.com>) is located at the border triangle Austria, Slovenia and Hungary - in Eisenberg at the Raab and renovated by the founder of Geneva Group International, Claudio Cocca. Not far from the thermal spa region it offers a lot of wellness facilities such as spa, sauna, steam bath, massage. The wine cellar of the hotel is waiting for its guests with a huge variety of special and famous wines.

These include the surrounding nature with its leisure facilities, high-quality equipment and the personal, homely atmosphere with 14 suites (including apartments) in the house as well as a particularly attentive service.

This philosophy runs in the hotel's food products, homemade jams, spreads, free-range eggs, fresh herbs, homemade bread and in other products from the region.

Climate

Burgenland has a continental climate. The average temperature during the day in June is 25°C with maximum temperatures above 28°C.

Entry regulations / Visa

Most people do not require a visa (only a valid passport) for a stay of three months or less in Austria. On the website of the Austrian Foreign Ministry <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/los-angeles/practical-advice/visa-and-residence-permit/visa-regulations.html> you can find all detailed information about entry regulations and which nationals would need a visa.

Please note everybody is responsible himself for travel arrangements and Visa