

Conferences in Graz - Austria

GRAZ



Graz – the second largest city in Austria with 260.000 inhabitants - offers ideal conditions for successful conventions. There are many reasons for choosing Graz. However, all event organisers have one thing in common – they are highly enthusiastic about picturesque Old Town, the attractive cultural program, the quality and diversity of the cuisine and the excellent infrastructure of the conference venues.

OLD TOWN EXUDING SOUTHERN CHARM

Since the Middle Ages, a friendly and prosperous town has been growing around the Schlossberg hill; a town cherished by its inhabitants. In fact, it was the unique ensemble of architectural styles spanning from Gothic, Baroque, Renaissance, Art Nouveau to modernity that made UNESCO add Graz to its World Cultural Heritage list. In the narrow lanes, on the bustling plazas and in the tranquil inner courtyards: the relaxed Mediterranean atmosphere can be felt everywhere in this charming city.



CULTURAL CAPITAL OF EUROPE



Graz is full of contrasts. This is particularly true of its cultural life. The „steirische herbst“, one of Europe’s most prestigious festivals of contemporary art, enriches the cultural scene as much as the classical culture: opera, theatre and the “styriarte“, the festival of classical music that has gained an international reputation under star conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt. In 2003, Graz was a celebrated and hugely successful Cultural Capital of Europe. That year also saw the landing of a “friendly alien” in the city, the striking art centre designed by the British architects Peter Cook and Colin Fournier. Beside the Kunsthaus, other high-ranking projects of the celebratory year 2003 include the Island in the Mur by Vito Acconci, the acoustic wonder venue Helmut-List-Halle, the Graz Stadthalle and the House of Literature, all of which contribute to Graz’s lasting attraction as a cultural city and event venue.

UNIVERSITY TOWN WITH AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION

The largest and oldest of Graz’s four universities is the Karl-Franzens-University, founded in 1585. The University of Technology (1811) dates back to the days of Archduke Johann. At the University of Music and Dramatic Arts, students of orchestra conducting, chamber music, lied and concert singing, choir, opera, jazz and drama are taught. The ‘youngest’ of the four universities is the Medical University Graz, which only recently achieved independent status. A total of approx. 40,000 students attend courses at twelve faculties and with several



new universities of applied science and academic and scientific research institutions, Graz can be considered an academic centre of international repute.

GRAZ – AN INNOVATIVE BUSINESS LOCATION



Of all the high-tech products developed in Austria, a third can be traced back to Graz. Just to mention a few examples: Germany's high-speed trains roll along on undercarriages constructed in Graz. Chinese paper factories work with technology developed in Graz. The largest film studios in Hollywood use precision parts made in Graz for particularly low-noise cameras. Scientists from Graz participate in more than ten international space travel projects.

The Graz automobile cluster employs 30,000 people; more than 40 vehicle manufacturers have chosen Graz as a site of production, development or research.

CONFERENCE VENUE GRAZ

Around 120 international conferences are taking place in Graz every year. 15% of overnights stays in Graz can be attributed to convention, seminar, trade fair and incentive travellers. They account for more than 130,000 overnight stays, with an upward trend. Located right in the centre of the Old Town, the Convention Center Graz has enjoyed an excellent reputation for decades as a conference venue, particularly among organisers of academic and scientific congresses. But since 2003, Graz has a whole range of new multifunctional event locations on offer for seminars, meetings, exhibitions, trade fairs and corporate activities as well as for leisure programmes and celebrations.



What's more, the quality and services of the conference hotels have also been considerably extended



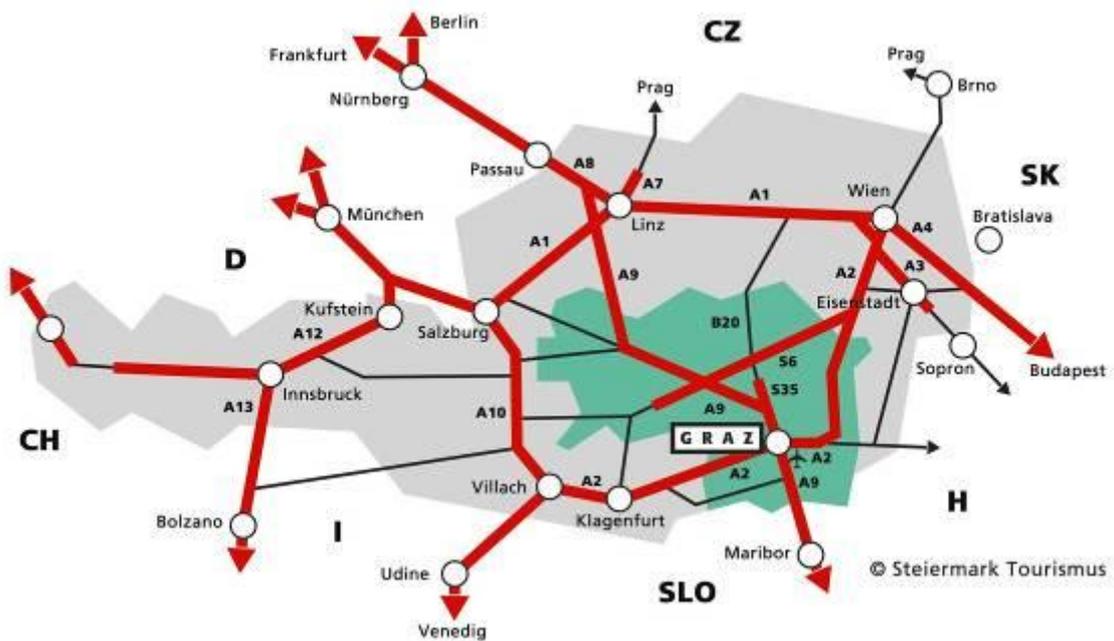
and enhanced over the last few years. The airport, Graz Thalerhof, offers daily flights to and from Vienna, Frankfurt, Zurich, Munich, Berlin, London and other destinations, making Graz an easily accessible location. But what business travellers and conference participants generally appreciate most is the city's manageable size (many hotels and event locations lie within walking distance of each other), the typical hearty food of the region, the excellent local wines and, of course, the friendliness and hospitality of the people of Graz. To this list of outstanding features should be added the wide variety of available supporting programmes, the theatres and museums, the many top-notch cultural festivals and the abundance of interesting excursion destinations in the lovely green countryside surrounding Graz.

GRAZ – excellent infrastructure for event and conference tourism and a charming city with great hospitality and friendly people – the ideal choice for your conference.



HOW TO GET THERE

Graz is located in the very heart of Europe - this is of benefit to all participants, who will be able to reach Austria and Graz easily either by plane, car or train.



The number of passengers at the airport Graz Thalerhof has expanded substantially over the last few years. Every year, almost one million passengers, among them approx. 68% business travellers, benefit from the direct traffic link to Europe's main financial centres. The airport's infrastructure is subject to continuous modernisation and extension works. The new tower, for instance, meets the highest security demands and the brand-new, ultra modern departure terminal will ensure sustainable quality and enable further passenger expansion.

Graz Thalerhof Airport
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 807 Graz Thalerhof
 T +4 / 16/2902-0
 F +4 / 16/2902-81
info@flughafen-graz.at
www.flughafen-graz.at

AUSTRIAN FEDERAL RAILWAYS
 T +43/1/93000-0, www.oebb.at

AUTOMOBILE CLUBS
 ÖAMTC Steiermark: T +43/316/504-0, www.oeamtc.at
 ARBÖ Steiermark: T +43/316/27 16 00, www.arboe.or.at

But not only travelling TO Graz is easy - the public transport network offers modern and efficient accessibility within the whole city. With this excellent service all delegates will be able to explore the City: <http://www.holding-graz.at/linien.html>

HOTELS IN GRAZ



The range and quality of the city hotels on offer in Graz have improved considerably in recent years. The Graz Convention Bureau has a long experience in handling hotel reservations and bookings for conference delegates. The experts from the Graz tourist office are familiar with all the hotels and can assure best accommodation for all participants in all price categories.

Online Booking: www.hotel.graz.at

Hotels in Graz	Rooms	Beds	No. of hotels
Category A (4 star)	1757	3336	21
Category B (3 star)	776	1418	26
Other accommodation	761	1458	24
Total	3294	6212	71

SOCIAL PROGRAMME & ENTERTAINMENT

You can experience high culture in the opera house and Schauspielhaus (city theatre) but also cabaret, traditional folk music, jazz, rock or techno. You'll be surprised by the variety!



Shopping in Graz is not only about buying, but also about everything pleasurable that goes with it.

Nowhere else can you find so many different bargains so close to one another: exclusive brand names in the boutiques around Herrengasse; antiques on the "Art Mile" in Sackstraße; fresh, tasty morsels at the farmers' markets –not to speak of spontaneous samples like a Stamperl of homemade schnapps or the famous

Kürbiskernöl (pumpkin seeds oil).

However you choose to spend the sunlight hours, a perfect day is best ended in one of the numerous romantic beer and wine gardens, delicious restaurants and outdoor cafes of the old town.

CITY WALKS / CITY TOURS

DISCOVER GRAZ!



World Heritage and Cultural Capital. Graz has many faces: Renaissance residence and student city. Romantic arcaded courtyards, bustling squares, medieval alleys, southern charm. A panorama of old and new. From the clocktower with its unusual hands to the island made of glass and steel. From the emperor's mausoleum to the "Kunsthhaus" – the "friendly alien". Have a sensuous experience of a captivating city.

MORE ABOUT GRAZ!

To see more – go up Schlossberg with a view of the unique Graz roofscape – red roofs, blue "Kunsthhaus" bubble, green spaces all around. And pay a visit to the Landeszeughaus (Provincial Armoury) housing the largest collection of historical weapons in the world. A more intensive approach to the city.



GRAZ ALL AROUND!

Get on, lean back, listen. City impressions on a larger scale. From Eggenberg Palace to Mariatrost, past late 19-th century architecture to contemporary buildings on the university campus, from event venues to unspoilt countryside, between rows of trees, around the centre, to the outskirts.



Also available - the open-top bus and the tour with a wide-angle view. In the enjoyment of culture and of a light wind even on hot summer days. It's fun pottering through Graz in such a way.

EXCURSIONS



WELCOME TO STEIERMARK (STYRIA) ...

... THE GREEN HEART OF AUSTRIA!

In Steiermark (Styria), you'll find all the attractions of Austria in one province. Between the unspoilt nature of the Dachstein glacier and the enchanting scenery of the wine region, there is an abundance of lovely scenic spots and many impressive cultural treasures.

www.steiermark.com

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