



# FACT SHEET

## Nockberge Tourism Region

### Summer 2019

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## Facts and Figures – Nockberge Tourism Region

Geography	The Nockberge Tourism region lies nestled in the soft alpine mountains of the Nockberge. The unique alpine panorama, picturesque valleys, traditional craftsmanship, heart-warming culinary delights, combined with the local's love of life will create a memorable holiday in this pristine natural setting.
Area	704 km <sup>2</sup>
Total Population	24.175
Municipalities	Albeck – Cultural delights in the Valley, hiking dream up in the mountains Deutsch-Griffen – Home of Nature and Tradition Feldkirchen – Shopping city with a love of culture Gnesau – A visit here is always a pleasure Himmelberg – In the realm of water Krems – The largest community in the UNESCO Biosphere Park Nockberge Reichenau – the heart of the Nockberge
Accommodations	512
Total number of beds	6.278
Camp sites	5
Number of overnight stays	508.100 (2018)

Photographs from the Nockberge Tourism Region can be found at:

<http://www.nockberge.at/de/service/presse>



## **The Top 10 in the Region during summertime**

### **1. Experience Nockalm Road and Karlbad**

Spreading over a length of 35 kilometres, the Nockalm road is one of the most beautiful and varied Alpine roads, which can be explored by car, bus, motorbike or bicycle from the beginning of May until the end of October. With over 52 turns in the road, each bend offers new and exciting views of the mountains. A visit to Karlbad, Austria's oldest traditional bath, where you can enjoy a soothing bath in a wooden trough, makes for a certainly unforgettable experience.

### **2. Pine Wood and Spike Root**

The Nockberge region is home to the largest Pine forest in the Eastern Alps.

The Pine, also known as the queen of the Alps, together with the Alpine Spike Root, are the flagships of the regions flora. The pine has a positive, calming effect on the heart and circulation, whereas Spike footbaths and massages have an invigorating effect.

### **3. Feldkirchen's City Museum and Cultural Forum**

Situated inside the medieval Bamberg Amthof, the city museum offers its visitors a comprehensive insight into the history of the town of Feldkirchen. The Amthof Kulturforum have organised an exemplary selection of illustrative exhibits which display Feldkirchen's natural, economic and cultural history. Concerts and theatre performances can also be enjoyed here.

### **4. Heidi-Alm Falkert – Where children's eyes shine**

The Heidi-Alm is a very special experience for all children in the Nockberge region. There are about 100 figurines from the famous children's story "Heidi" displayed in a rustic pine forest setting covering about three hectares of land. A small family climbing trail situated right next to the picturesque lake gives young mountaineers a chance to enjoy their first alpine adventures. And if you'd like, you can try to catch a fish right after!

### **5. Nocky Flitzer & Nocky's AlmZeit**

High in the mountains of the Turracher Hohe, the most spectacular alpine rollercoaster experience awaits you with the Nocky Flitzer. On this unique 1,6 kilometre long downhill track you speed through sharp turns, 360 degree spins, and over bumpy waves from the top of the mountain back down into the valley. For younger guests there is a sensory adventure park in Nocky's alpine pasture with seven exciting stations waiting to be discovered.



## **6. Mythos Edelstein Kranzelbinder – wo es funkelt und glitzert**

On the Turracher Hohe you can also find the wonderful world of Kranzelbinder. Here you will be introduced to the glittering world of gems. The special show in 2017 is dedicated to the topic: "From raw to the polished gemstone". Children can wash gold, dig up stones and try to crack open geodes, discovering the precious minerals inside. This is a sparkling experience for the whole family.

## **7. Walk with King Waldgeist**

High, higher, the highest. On an exciting adventure trail high up on the Hochrindl, experience the ancient stories and legends of the mighty King Waldgeist. Funny, carved wooden figures show you the way and playgrounds and magical panoramic lookouts offer exciting experiences for everyone, young and old.

## **8. The path of the water: Sirnitzer Water Mill – Tiebel River Springs**

Along this 7 kilometer long mill hiking trail, you can enjoy old handcrafts and traditions that are still alive today. This pristine and natural landscape in Muhlgraben creek and along the Widitschbach River allow you to completely relax and breathe in the fresh air.

There is a wonderfully unique spectacle to discover in Himmelberg: The River Tiebel Springs. This small river once served over 100 mills in the area along with some other blacksmiths and factories. Uniquely, the springs do not freeze in winter.

## **9. Donner Waterfall and Thunder Canyon**

In the Thunder Canyon, the treasure of the Nockberge is waiting to be found by the most inquisitive treasure hunters. For those of you who have a thrill for heights, you are in good hands with the high rope obstacle course in Innerkrems. The Flying Fox, two large Zip lines and an adventure park provide pure adrenalin.

## **10. Get a taste of Culture in Albeck Castle**

A rich theatrical and cabaret programme ensures high quality, cultured moments in Albeck Castle in 2018. During the spring and summer theatre seasons in Albeck Castle, you can enjoy comedies, cabarets, poetry readings, concerts and much more!



## **Experience unforgettable moments in the Nockberge Region**

The soft rolling Nockberge Mountains offer panoramic views of its grassy pastures and impressive summits reaching up to 2,441 metres above sea level. For active nature lovers, the pristine landscape offers a large range of recreational opportunities. Whether you prefer hiking, cycling, swimming or simply just taking a break from everyday life, the Nockberge region has it all and more to offer. The mild climate offers many possibilities to be active.

### **The Nock Communities**

#### *Albeck – Cultural delights in the Valley, hiking dream up in the mountains*

Albeck is the gateway to the land of the hiking trails, the Hochrindl. Many extensive hiking trails, beautiful viewpoints, green summits, and shimmering mountain lakes lay waiting for you to truly enjoy. Culture enthusiasts will find everything they are looking for at Albeck Castle: high quality concerts, cabarets, as well as specifically themed exhibitions. Carinthian culinary delights can be fully enjoyed in the Castle restaurant.

#### *Deutsch-Griffen – home of nature and tradition*

Rest and relaxation combined with genuine, rural hospitality are the underlying characteristics of the small town Deutsch-Griffen. On the mill hiking trail you can take a closer look at some traditional craftsmanship, step by step. The Hemma pilgrimage trail also passes through this town, stopping at the 12th century fortified church, which towers over the valley – climb the 200 steps to see the remarkable altar.

#### *Feldkirchen – Shopping city with a love for culture*

Nestled between the sparkling warm lakes of FlatschacherSee, MalschacherSee and OssiacherSee, the shopping city Feldkirchen oozes with the flair of the south. Enjoy the Alpine-Adriatic cuisine of Carinthia in one of the numerous cafes and restaurants in the city. High class exhibitions and concerts provide entertaining and exciting summer evenings. Numerous shops throughout the picturesque streets of the city open their doors for you and wait for you to stroll right in.

#### *Gnesau – a visit here is always a pleasure*

In addition to the first Carinthian wood culture hiking trail, which takes visitors on a trip around the world of raw materials from the forests of the Nockberge Mountains, Gnesau also has many culinary delights to offer. Six restaurants in the area create delicious seasonal dishes from the Carinthian region, which have been influenced by Mediterranean cuisine, and include some excellent fish specialities. Camping guests can enjoy a pristine natural landscape, along lovely meadow valleys framed by sprawling mountain ranges.



### *Himmelberg – in the realm of water*

The river Tiesel is Himmelberg's most impressive landmark. This natural jewel originates from the last ice age and bears witness to the history of craftsmanship in the community. Only decades ago, the clear water served more than 100 mills, blacksmiths and factories. The blacksmith museums, "Der Grosse Hammer", as well as the restored Floder mill, allow you to discover the craftsmanship of the past.

### *Krems – the largest community in the UNESCO Biosphere Park Nockberge*

Extensive hiking trails for those perfect moments of happiness in the natural alpine scenery, or pure adrenalin while sliding down the Zip lines in the Adventure Park – Krems has something for everyone! And if that's not enough, you can go rafting, mountain biking or try your hand at archery. Younger visitors can go on an exciting treasure hunt in Thunder Canyon.

### *Reichenau – the heart of the Nockberge*

Located at the gate of the Nockalm road, Reichenau is literally the open door to the heart of this unique mountain landscape. But not only that – the valley is framed by striking Alpine landscapes such as the Hochrindl, the Falkert, and the Turracher Hohe. And of course in this part of the region, the culinary delights are something to savour; in particular fresh fish caught daily from the crystal clear mountain rivers. Treat yourself to the specialities which have been freshly prepared for you to enjoy.

### **New: Imagefolder & Accommodation Directory**

In addition to the pristine landscape with all its mysterious paths and peaks, the many wonderful hotel and guesthouse hosts add to this region's uniqueness. Travellers are welcomed here with open arms and a whole-hearted smile. Accommodation within the region ranges from 4 star superior hotels to cosy guesthouses. Here, everyone will find their own personal holiday destination, that match their needs and desires. In order to help you in your search, our new accommodation directory comes packed with many ideas for day trips and excursions, along with useful travel tips and a complete list of all hotels, guesthouses and inns in the region.



## **Nockberge Biosphere Reserve – Experience Nature and Ancient Traditions**

‘You cannot say that you have been somewhere unless you have been there on foot’. Goethe was right when he said this, and the people in the Nockberge Biosphere Reserve live by the same motto. Sublime and powerful, this protected habitat is an alpine gem with unique natural treasures and rare animal and plant species. The coexistence of man and nature, living and working together side by side in natural harmony, are the most important elements within the Biosphere Reserve. In 2012, the Nockberge Mountains were awarded the title of Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. Spreading over the provinces Carinthia and Salzburg, it covers an area of over 1500 square kilometres and is the largest Biosphere Reserve in Austria. In order to actively explore this natural habitat, you can experience an unforgettable adventure tour accompanied by one of our specially trained Biosphere Reserve rangers.

Whether it be a sunrise hike, a herbal tour or a barefoot hike – here at Nockberge Biosphere Reserve, you can experience nature with all your senses. Traditions and stories from years ago are retold by our park rangers during individual seminars and workshops, in the heart of nature.

## **Austria’s first online bookable all year round trail: The new Nockberge Trail**

The new Nockberge trail is Austria’s first online bookable all year round trail. In summer, experience the trail as a wonderful hiking route, and in winter as a spectacular skiing route. The new Nockberge trail leads you on a magnificent mountain hike over the ridges and peaks of the Nockberge region. Divided into five daily stages during the summer months and four days in winter, the route starts in Katschberg and crosses the mountain regions of Innerkrems, Turracher Höhe, Falkert and Bad Kleinkirchheim. When it comes to hiking and skiing tours, the Nockberge trail offers it all and more. While grassy peaks and windy trails await in summer; in winter you can explore a gentle paradise covered in powdery snow on your touring skis. In addition, the stages of the tour are connected to the amenities of comfortable hotels. After a hard day on the trail you can come back and relax, enjoy many of the spa treatments on offer or sit down to a lovely dinner consisting of many regional delicacies from Carinthia. All routes on the trails are suitable for all levels, and the cable cars are there to support you during your ascent. As soon as you arrive in the Nockberge region you will be met with a truly magical mountain experience. The stages of the trail lead you directly through the heart of the UNESCO Biosphere Nockberge Reserve, filled with remarkable alpine peaks, such as the “Königsstuhl”. Reaching a height of 2,336 meters, it is the highest point on the trail and is where the provinces of Carinthia, Styria and Salzburg meet. From here you can witness unforgettable, panoramic views that will take your breath away. **Nockberge Trail info and booking centre:**

Plan and book your individual hiking or skiing trip on the Nockberge Trail: Simply book online, the Trail booking portal offers limitless choices and a comprehensive service. Along the trail, you can find a number of selected partner companies, such as a practical luggage and shuttle service and our trail hotline is available to ensure a carefree outdoor experience with the best service. [www.nockberge-trail.com](http://www.nockberge-trail.com)



### **On tour: The new hiking and cycling guide**

If you would like to stay active during your holidays or explore the Nockberge region by bike or on foot, you can rely on the newly published cycling and hiking guide. Countless tours and routes are available for every requirement and level of difficulty ensuring that both athletes and families can find the best route to make their holiday an unforgettable one. This guide takes everyone on a journey back to the roots, allowing people to enjoy real experiences in nature and marvel at the beautiful cultural landscape surrounding them. These two guides can be ordered online, and can be found in the local tourist offices as well as within the hotels and guesthouses themselves.

### **Magic Moments: Experience the diversity of the Nockberge Mountains**

The Nockberge Mountains have always been home to magical experiences for curious visitors and their families, inviting them to explore and discover. In order to fully experience and understand nature, various daily programmes invite you to immerse yourself in the natural paradise of the Nockberge region, to discover exciting new things and to create unforgettable moments which last for an eternity. All programmes are clearly detailed in the new folder “Magic moments”. For example, the sunrise walk to the summit of Falkert Mountain is magical, especially when the sun begins to rise and its rays bathe the surrounding mountains in a hue of golden shimmering light.

The Karlsbad, a unique alpine bathhouse with a view, provides the ultimate relaxation. After a wonderful hike, stop and enjoy a relaxing bath prepared for you in this old farmhouse. Steaming hot spring water and unforgettable views are included.

### **Fun for the whole family**

Falkert offers many exciting adventures for our smaller guests, especially the Heidi Alm adventure park with over 100 figurine characters from the famous TV show “Heidi”. Another unique attraction is located on the Turracher Hohe Mountain – the Nocky Flitzer – an exciting roller coaster which begins at 1,600 metres above sea level, and brings you on a unique ride back down into the valley. Or you can enjoy beautiful sunny days in “Nocky’s Almzeit”, a very special adventure for all the family. The lake trail invites you on a leisurely hike around three natural lakes; Grünsee, Schwarzsee and Turracher See. The Hochseilpark Nockberge in Innerkrems provides plenty of thrills with its archery course and a mega flying fox Zip Line. On the Hochrindl Alm, you can take part in the so called “Hiasl Almmatura“, which tests your awareness of alpine traditions and deepens your knowledge of alpine farming and life in the mountains. The numerous day trip opportunities in the region, such as the famous Nockalm road as well as a host of different museums like the gemstone museum Kranzenbilder or the city museum in Feldkirchen guarantee a fun day out for the whole family.



## **Dive In!**

After all of these exciting adventures, why not take a moment to relax. The lakes of the region, Flatschacher See and MalschacherSee, with their warm temperatures and high quality drinking water, provide the perfect spot for a relaxing dip. MalschacherSee is tranquil and peaceful, providing relaxing moments for all the family. Flatschacher See is very popular and often reaches temperatures of up to 27 degrees. OssiacherSee is the third largest lake in Carinthia with an area of 10.5 km<sup>2</sup>. At the Hobitsch campsite in Gnesau, you can also enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the outdoor swimming pool.

## **Culinary and Cultural Delights**

If you visit the Nockberge region to taste the local delicacies, you can look forward to Alpine Cuisine with an Adriatic influence that won't disappoint. Local restaurants and their hosts are ready to spoil you with homemade delights all year round. In Landgasthaus Zeilinger in Himmelberg, you can enjoy top quality, award winning food, and in the much loved restaurant Fisch Zigi in Ebenen Reichenau, serves freshly caught fish on a daily basis. You can also enjoy delicious Alpine food in any of the huts along the Nockalm Road. The local farmers produce fresh alpine cheese, butter, salami and other cured meats which you can enjoy right there in the hut or bring it home with you. Wash it all down with a sip of local homemade pine schnapps. Younger visitors can enjoy a scoop of homemade ice cream made by the Huber family, who produce 160 different varieties of ice cream on their mountain farm 1600 metres above sea level. Enjoy regional wine and light southern cuisine on some of the lakeside restaurant terraces which guarantee an enjoyable evening.

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## **Carinthian Seal of Quality**

The Carinthian Seal of Quality guarantees a very high standard of service and quality. In order to receive this coveted seal of approval, there is a specially designed catalogue of criteria which needs to be fulfilled. Once approved, on-going inspections and further training ensure



the promise of superior quality is kept. Carinthia is the only region in Austria providing this Seal of Quality throughout all segments of the Tourism industry.

*Proud number certified companies in the Nockberge region*

The Nockberge region proudly boasts an especially high number of certified hospitality companies: At the time of writing, there are 31 companies united under the Carinthian Seal of Quality. The following companies will be added this year: Hotel Berghof (Innerkrems), Trippelgut (Feldkirchen), Rafflwirt (Deutsch-Griffen), Stoichart Hütte (Hochrindl), Gasthof Zeilinger (Himmelberg), Buschenschank Spiess (Feldkirchen) and the Farm house "Wugganig" (Albeck). Farm house hotels showcase the main attractions of the region in particular through their specialisation in family holidays and through providing a genuine experience of nature. Another interesting factor is the unique number of winter and summer sports schools, which have been awarded the Carinthian Seal of Quality. In addition, the many different day trip destinations including the Nockalm Road, the Heidi park children's experience, the gemstone museum Kranzelbinder and many more, underline the high quality standard and recreational value of the region. Dietmar Rossman, Managing Director of the Nockberge region, is proud to say: "The quality of our hosts is unique. We offer a very high level of service, which is always orientated towards customer satisfaction. Combined with our unique landscape, we offer our guests a delightful natural experience with authentic, experienced hosts".