

IEA SHC Task 55

Towards the Integration of Large SHC Systems into DHC Networks

Kick off Meeting

Graz City Information



Willkommen - Welcome – Bonjour - Benvenuto! No matter which language and origin, Graz will welcome you with an ‘international’ smile and a hearty Styrian ‘Grüß Gott’!

Graz is the second-largest city in Austria after Vienna and the capital of the federal state of Styria. It has a population of 294.000 (as of 2009).



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 1999. In the narrow lanes, on the bustling plazas and in the tranquil inner courtyards:

The relaxed Mediterranean atmosphere can be felt everywhere. 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, has enriched 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.

[Click here for the City Map](#)

CULTURAL CAPITAL OF EUROPE 2003

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 this “House

of the arts”, other high-ranking projects like the Island in the Mur by Vito Acconci, the acoustic wonder venue “Helmut-List hall”, the “civic hall” of Graz and the “House of Literature”, contribute to Graz’s lasting attraction as a cultural city and event venue.

SIGHTS

Graz Schloßberg

The word "Schloßberg" literally means "castle mountain", which describes it exactly. It is a hill topped by a castle, in the centre of the city of Graz, Austria.

Among Graz's most famous tourist attractions, the castle, never occupied until its partial demolition by Napoleonic forces because of the Peace of Schönbrunn in 1809, was once a place of refuge for Graz's residents. It was turned into a public park on account of Ludwig von Welden in 1839. The Schloßberg contains an "Uhrturm" (clock tower), which functions as a recognisable icon for the city. Close to the Uhrturm there is a café with views onto the old town..



Additionally, on the western side of the Schloßberg, there are two small cafés, one with table service and the other one with self-service. Next to the terminus of the funicular railway there is a hilltop restaurant with views of western Graz.

Friendly alien - Kunsthaus Graz



Something extra-terrestrial in the World Heritage site of Graz? Like a huge bluish bubble the landmark of new Graz is hovering above the right bank of the river Mur. Since October 2003, Kunsthaus – affectionately called "a friendly alien" by its creators, Peter Cook and Colin Fournier – has attracted people with spectacular architecture and changing exhibitions

of contemporary art. Moreover, Kunsthaus is a symbol of the harmonious co-existence of old and new in Graz. After all, it is growing out of the “Eisernes Haus” which in 1848 caused quite a stir as one of the first cast-iron buildings on the Continent.

Murinsel

What was meant to be a temporary project of the Cultural Capital of Europe, Graz 2003, has turned into an attraction – the island in the river Mur. The New York artist Vito Acconci designed a steel grid structure

in the shape of a half-opened shell. The open part – an amphitheatre for performances but also a resting place for sun-seekers. The covered part – a very trendy café. The island also functions as a bridge between the two banks of the river Mur.



Landhaus



of the building is outstanding. People are especially amazed by the Renaissance-style arcaded courtyard.

UNIVERSITY TOWN WITH AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION

Graz has a long tradition as a student city. 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.

A touch of Northern Italy in Herrengasse, right in the centre of Graz? In fact, the Landhaus is reminiscent of some Venice palazzo. In 1557, the Italian architect Domenico dell'Allio started to construct a prestigious building for the Styrian Estates. It still is the provincial parliament of Styria.

Not only the main façade



CAPITAL OF CULINARY DELIGHTS



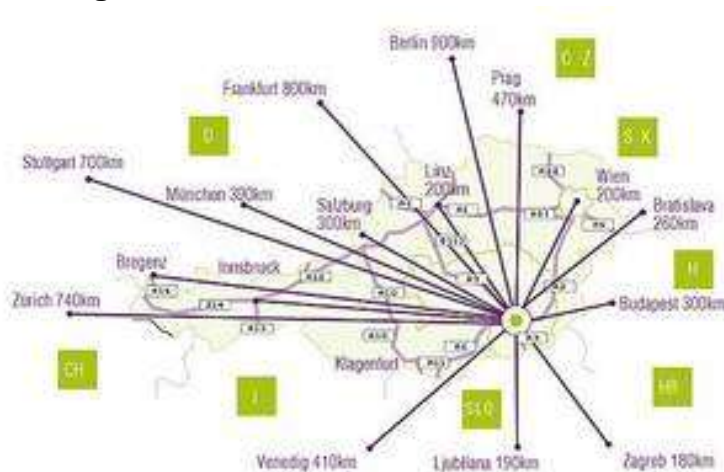
Graz is the city of culinary delights, heaven on earth for food-lovers. The chefs take advantage of the freshest products of the area. With lots of creativity, sense for traditional cooking and international styles they prepare delicious meals, which the gourmets will savour.

If you want to make your night to day click here for [Nightlife](#)

Coming to Graz is the beginning of a new friendship. There is an immediate sense of familiarity and the alleys and squares, impressive buildings, museums and galleries make you want to find out more about this city at the crossroads of cultures.

Travel Information

How to get Graz?



By plane



Graz has its own international airport, which is located approx. 15 kilometres from the city centre, and which in addition to regular flights to Vienna also offers flights to almost all big German cities. Besides that, there are a number of seasonal flights. For further information on flight schedules and connections, please go to the

homepage of the airport Airport Graz, or contact a travel agency. Airport Shuttle Service to the City is easy and inexpensive. There is a public bus service leaving right in front of the passenger terminal from the airport to the city centre of Graz. The Bus will take you first to Jakominiplatz (City Centre) and then further to Hauptbahnhof (main station). The costs are € 1.90 one way.

Also, the train station is located only 300 meters from the passenger terminal. Trains leave to Graz Hauptbahnhof (main station) roughly every hour (fare: €1.90).

Taxis in Graz:

Taxi 889: 0043 (0)316 889

Taxi 878: 0043 (0)316 878

Taxi 2801: 0043 (0)316 2801 Costs from the airport Graz to City Graz approx. € 25.00

By car:

If you decide to fly to Vienna – Schwechat and to take a rental car, then please take the southern motorway A2 towards Graz.

[Click here for the route planner](#)

Parking

There are several multi-storey car parks in Graz:

[Click here for Daytime tariffs](#)

[Click here for Night time tariffs](#)

By train



If you decide to fly into Vienna – Schwechat and take the train to Graz, then please take the shuttle bus service to Wien Dörfelstrasse (Meidling Bahnhof), which operates every 20 minutes, the stop of which is directly outside the exit of Vienna Airport. The price for the one way is € 6.00. Between Meidling Bahnhof station and Graz Hauptbahnhof station, trains depart every hour (from 6:03 am to 9:03 pm).

Every other train includes one change of trains. The price for the one-way economy-class ticket is approx € 35.00. For additional information about further train connections, please go to the homepage of Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB)

Public Transport in Graz

A network of trams and buses will take you from one place in the city to another. You can find everything you need to know about routes, stops, times and fares at the GVB.