

*Theme:*

## The Life and Times of Anton Bruckner

*Main Focal Points:*

The life and times of Anton Bruckner, as illustrated through:

- the places where he grew up, in Ansfelden and Sankt Florian
- where he first worked professionally, in Linz and Upper Austria
- Vienna – scene of much unhappiness but also of triumphs and fulfilment.

From his humble beginnings in Ansfelden to his difficult but productive years in Vienna, his progression was prodigious. It is fascinating to see the contrast between the Baroque splendour of the Abbey of St. Florian (where he was pupil and later teacher) and the simple, gauche man he remained throughout his life.

*Activities will be chosen from:*

- Ansfelden
  - Bruckner's simple birthplace
  - walk from Ansfelden to Sankt Florian – as Bruckner himself often did
- Abbey of Sankt Florian. A hugely important environment for Bruckner – where he received his schooling, learned to play the organ, started teaching, always was welcomed back for a rest from Vienna – and where he is buried underneath the 'Bruckner organ'.
  - soak up the atmosphere of this ancient institute of learning and culture
  - listen to 'his' organ being put through its paces
  - pause by his grave
- Linz and Upper Austria
  - visits to the church and schools where he learned his craft
  - visit the 19<sup>th</sup> C Cathedral for dedication of which Bruckner wrote several pieces
- Vienna
  - work at the Konservatorium and Hofkapelle
  - Musikverein – place where many Bruckner Symphonies received their first performances
  - Burgkapelle (previously Hofkapelle) where Bruckner was organist
  - cottage at Belvedere where Bruckner died.

*Accommodation*

Linz and Vienna – where there is an excellent range and choice of hotels.

*Travel from/to UK*

There is a good choice of flights with scheduled carriers from London to Vienna. Coach transfers between Vienna and Linz.