



Snapper Alex couldn't resist hitting the trails himself



If natural gnar is your thing, head to Anninger mountain, a short hop south of the city

THE LOWDOWN VIENNA

Getting there:

Vienna has an international airport, plus railway and bus stations. Once there, we'd recommend hiring a car.

Accommodation:

Look for a hotel in the south-west or north-west of the city, not the congested centre, if your main goal is to ride.

Best time to visit:

Late spring, summer or early autumn.

More info:

www.wienerwald.info/mountainbiken

SINGLETRACK SYMPHONY

TRAIL TALES

Helene Fruhwirth tells us about the great riding spots within easy reach of Austria's capital

the city, which has great natural tracks filled with rocks, roots, loam, technical sections and steep.

Recommendations here include the Kiental trail (aka Canadian trail), which has a fast, flowy top section with flat turns and off-camber traverses, followed by a rough, rooty and rocky bottom half. Also, the descents from the Husarentempel [Temple of the Hussars], which has stunning views over Vienna. There's a black run with a rocky top half, plus a red that shares the smoothest parts. The nearby Anninger blue trail makes an easy end to the day.

Viennese fancy

An hour's drive from the city are the Wexl Trails (www.wexltrails.at), which Helene describes as "a mountain biker's dream spot". The bike park on the lower slopes offers a tow-lift and eight trails built with progression in mind. Higher up are cross-country routes with incredible views, plus the Wu Trail – a fun, flowy track from the

Not her usual ride, but Helene reckons hire bikes are a great way to get around the city



top of the 1,743m Hochwechsel. This is 35km long, with 1,100m of elevation.

In the Area Wien Nord (www.trailforks.com/region/trailarea-wien-nord), in the north of Vienna, you'll find the Wurzel Trail 2.0 – "winding natural singletrack that uses the terrain to perfection". Up the northern side of



Wexl Trails bike park has a host of great tracks, from short DH runs to a 35km route

Pics: Alex Chapman

IN ASSOCIATION WITH 

READERS' RIDES

SHOW US YOUR PRIZED STEEDS AND WIN SOME GRIPS!

Send a pic of your bike to mbuk@ourmedia.co.uk or post it on Instagram with the hashtag #odirides. If we pick your photo for this column, you'll win a set of ODI grips, courtesy of Freewheel.co.uk. Pick from the Vans, Elite Pro and Reflex models, in the colour of your choice.



STUNNING STEED

Tanwall tyres don't always work, but we reckon Darren Toplis's Lapierre XRM pulls it off



MIRTH MACHINE

A pink 24 Bicycles Porn King with dual-crown fork? In the early '00s, this would've made Sam Bingley 'da man'. Now, it just makes us chuckle



ONLY ITS OWNER COULD LOVE IT!

A gravel bike conversion is a top idea – but Jamie Ansell's sharp-saddle-and-toe-clips combo looks lethal!



Trailcenter Wien Hohewand Wiese is an urban bike park on the edge of Vienna

the valley are the Fun Line and Flow Line, which are more manmade in feel and are liberally strewn with berms, jumps and rollers.

Nearby is the Trailcenter Wien Hohewand Wiese (www.hohewandwiese.com), a small hill home to a summer toboggan run (a must-ride!), 10 fun bike trails and a small lift (open to bikes outside of peak season), which takes you halfway up the hill. From there, you can lap the lower part of the bike park or pedal up to get to the longest downhill runs, which include blue-graded flow trails, steep, off-camber downhill runs and some fun jump lines.

Of course, if you're in the area, it'd be a shame to not explore one of the most beautiful cities in Europe – and one of the best ways to see the sights of Vienna is by bike, following the Ring Strasse (Ring Street), which circles around the historic centre. ⚙️



GEAR CHANGES UNFOLD THE FUN

Kids' balance bikes invariably end up being carried almost as much as they are ridden, so this smart foldable design from UK-based start-up Be Fun makes a lot of sense. Collapsing the frame requires no tools, and it's then easy to store in your car boot or home, or indeed, to lug around once your kid gets tired/distracted, in the provided carry sack. Cleverly, it's designed to be left upside-down when folded, to keep muddy wheels off clean surfaces. An adjustable seatpost and handlebar height mean it can grow with your child, and its 3kg weight should make it a breeze for little rippers to manoeuvre. Be Fun say the frame is constructed from a robust blend of plastic and aluminium composites, to guarantee a hardwearing and rust-free bike. Furthermore, it boasts puncture-proof tyres and 'premium' wheel bearings. It's aimed at children aged two to five, and the black frame is available with either 'Everglade grey' or 'Blossom pink' (not Barbie pink, thankfully!) trim. ⚙️

Be Fun balance bike £99.99, www.befunwheels.com