## VIA NOVA **GUIDING IDEA**

## $oldsymbol{\mathcal{V}}$ ision and strength

With the courage to dream, comes the strength to fight. A pilgrimage on the VIA NOVA is a contribution to peace and solidarity, on the way together in 21. Century Europe.

### ${\mathcal J}$ nternational und interdenominational The VIA NOVA is a pilgrimage route for all people and groups

who wish to set out and move on. It connects countries and people across borders.

## $\mathcal{A}$ - mindfulness and respect for creation

When on a pilgrimage, the beauty and diversity of God's creation can be experienced and enjoyed with all senses. Each part of this earth is holy. Mindfulness wakes the love to all living things.

### **X**-breath new spirit

A pilgrimage leads to inner balance and allows the soul room to exhale. Places of strength invite to pause, meditate, be still and listen. The longing for peace, justice and the return to life

## Openness and hospitality

Pilgrims experience warm-hearted hospitality on the VIA NOVA when they knock and ask to be taken in. Encounters become a gift where people open up and share lives.

### - responsibility and healing

By taking the inner path, the responsibility for oneself and the world is discovered and experienced. Wounds can heal and imbalance becomes equilibrium.

#### Awakening and hope

Leaving well-worn paths and setting off on fresh ones leads to new perspectives and finding peace at heart. Hope forges and becomes the basis for a life of calmness and fullness.

# On the way

There is pilgrim-friendly overnight accommodation and places to stop for refreshment all along the pilgrim way. The route is completely signposted in both directions and additionally maps and pilgrimage guide books are available. Qualified pilgrimage guides (male and female) offer fully organised day and/or multiple-day pilgrimage tours. The interactive map on the website can be helpful for personal pilgrimage tour planning and scheduling. Please go to: www.pilgerweg-vianova.eu.

The corresponding App can be downloaded to mobile phone,

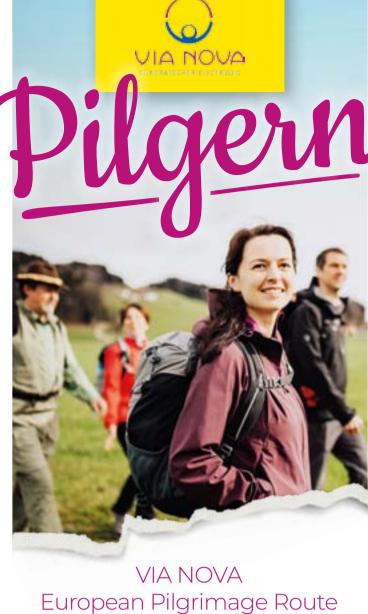


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## European Pilgrimage Route Deutschland – Österreich – Tschechien

www.pilgerweg-vianova.eu





When we set out on the way, step out in the open, the yearning to experience something new comes over us automatically. We leave the burdensome and superfluous at home to go in search of what is in us and what is up with us, what we are searching for or what we would rather leave behind. Those who have ever been on a pilgrimage know that in nature one is particularly open for creative ideas, for new encounters and experiences, for another view of the often stressful, everyday life. Pilgrimages give energy, stimulate the zest for life and conserve the environment. It is the simplest, but perhaps the most effective way, to treat mind, body and soul to a holiday.

## THE IDEA

Der "Europäische Pilgerweg VIA NOVA", which opened in 2005, allows people to set out on their way close to home.



In doing that, we are making a mark in Europe for the search for enduring values, solidarity, justice, for fruitful co-operation and the protection of creation. It has been shown, that ever increasing consumption and ever more material wealth have not led to an increase in people's happiness. The invisible, spiritual reality is mirrored in the visible world. Traces of God are recognisable in the world. Heaven and earth belong together. The VIA NOVA logo also wishes to represent that: the individual, the single being is protected and held in the greater whole, in the cosmos, in the divine. Or another interpretation: The praying person raises their head and points it upwards and beyond with the yearning for heaven and earth to be connected.

### VIA NOVA

# The new way

The name is borrowed from the bible. The first Christians were known as "the disciples of the new way" and reports say that they caused uproar because they did not accept the existing, unjust organisation as given and instead chose the way of Jesus, the way of love and reconciliation (see Acts 9 and 19).

The approximately 1,200 Km long, diverse and easily-accessible pilgrim way was created between Pribram in Bohemia, Czech Republic, St. Wolfgang in Salzkammergut, Austria and Weltenburg on the Danube, Germany. It is flanked by numerous religious treasures on the way such as famous monasteries and places of pilgrimage and also by delightful countryside full of natural beauty. It leads mainly over meadows, forest and field footpaths, passes by lakes, goes through shady woods and open landscapes.

The route passes through three countries and is a symbol for openness between neighbouring countries, peoples, races and religions. It is open to all who wish to follow their longing for meaning, fulfilment or experience of God.



