



Austria

Thayatal National Park, Retz

In northern Austria, near the charming wine town of Retz, the Thayatal National Park forms one of Central Europe's most biodiverse valleys.

The Thaya River winds through steep forested gorges, connecting habitats rich in rare plants and wildlife. Visitors can explore accessible trails, scenic viewpoints, and educational paths that reveal the harmony between nature and culture.

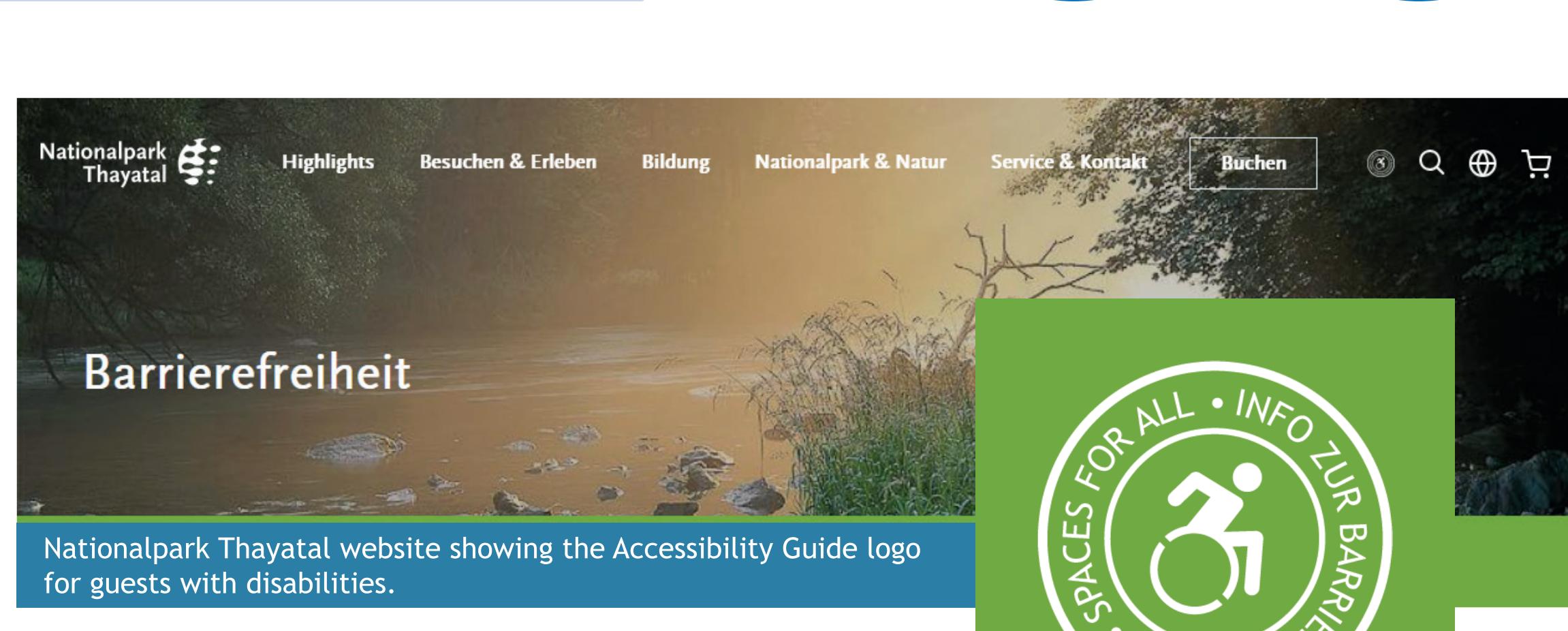
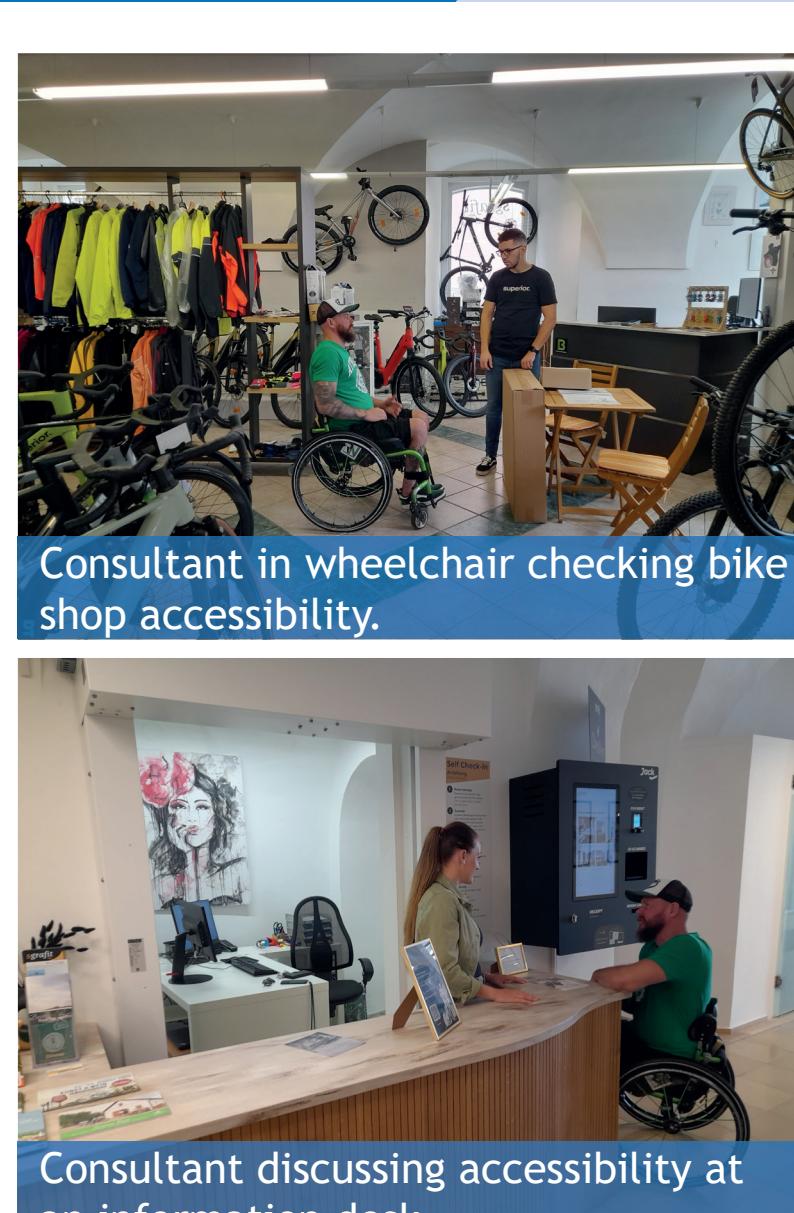
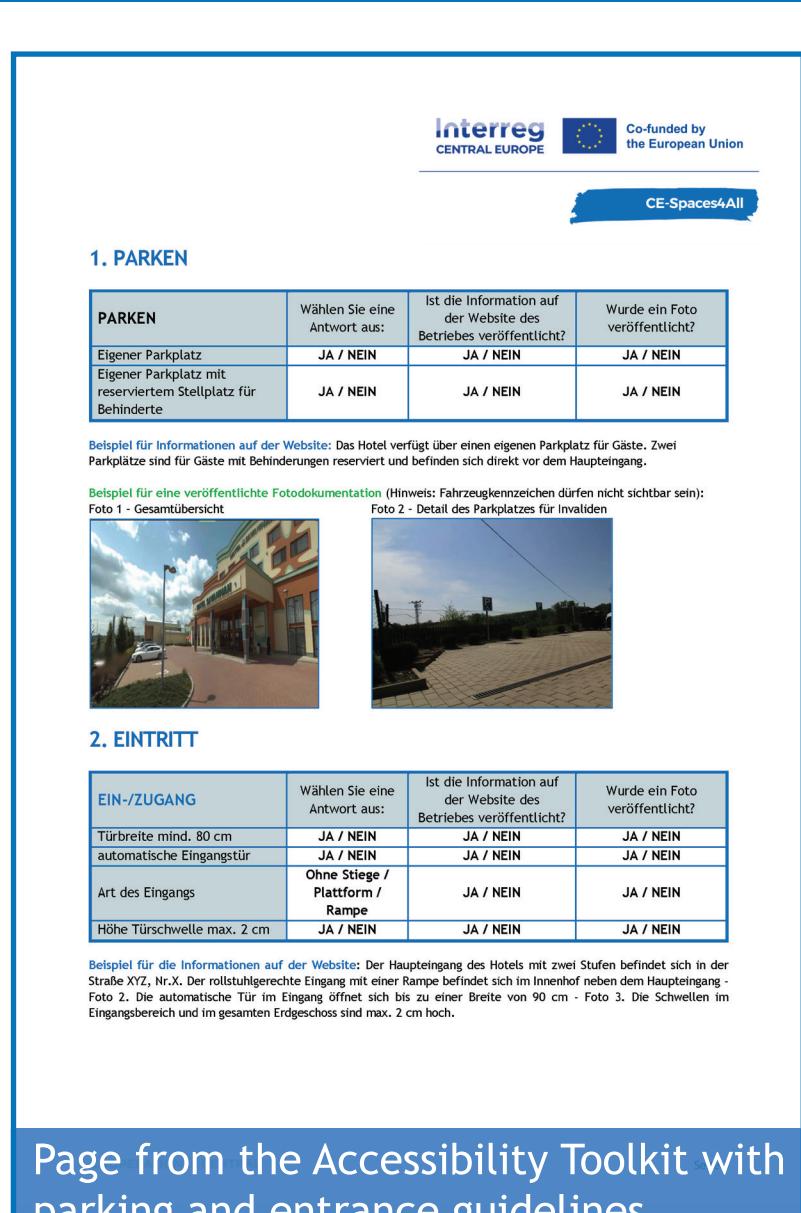
The park's inclusive design invites everyone to experience its tranquil landscapes, medieval ruins, and vibrant cross-border cooperation with the Czech Podyjí National Park.

Accessibility Information Toolkit for Tourism Providers & Education & Consultancy

The Accessibility Toolkit helps tourism businesses share clear information for visitors with disabilities. It includes simple manuals, a video tutorial, and examples showing how to make an Accessibility Guide for hotels, restaurants, and tourism attractions. A special web icon helps customers easily find accessibility details. The toolkit also gives tips on promotion and shows how accessibility benefits both guests and businesses. It helps make tourism more open, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

The Education part of the project helps people learn how to make tourism more accessible. Two online webinars were prepared for tourism service providers. The webinars for tourism service providers explain why accessibility information is important and shows how to create an Accessibility Guide step by step. Examples of good practice were presented. It gives tips on how to promote barrier-free services to visitors. Webinars help people work together to make travel open and welcoming for everyone.

The accessibility consultancy helps tourism providers check and improve the accessibility of their facilities. The consultants are wheelchair users and trained experts. They bring real-life experience and practical advice.



Facilitating access to tourist destinations and promoting the region



Sports wheelchair with electric assist for accessible trips.

A cyclist and a woman using an electric-assist wheelchair riding together.

A sports wheelchair with an electric support wheel was purchased to help people with limited mobility visit places outside the town.

This wheelchair makes it easier to move on longer routes, hills, or uneven paths.

Visitors can plan their trip using a leaflet and online information about accessible facilities and excursion destinations.

They can also borrow the wheelchair from local service providers when needed.

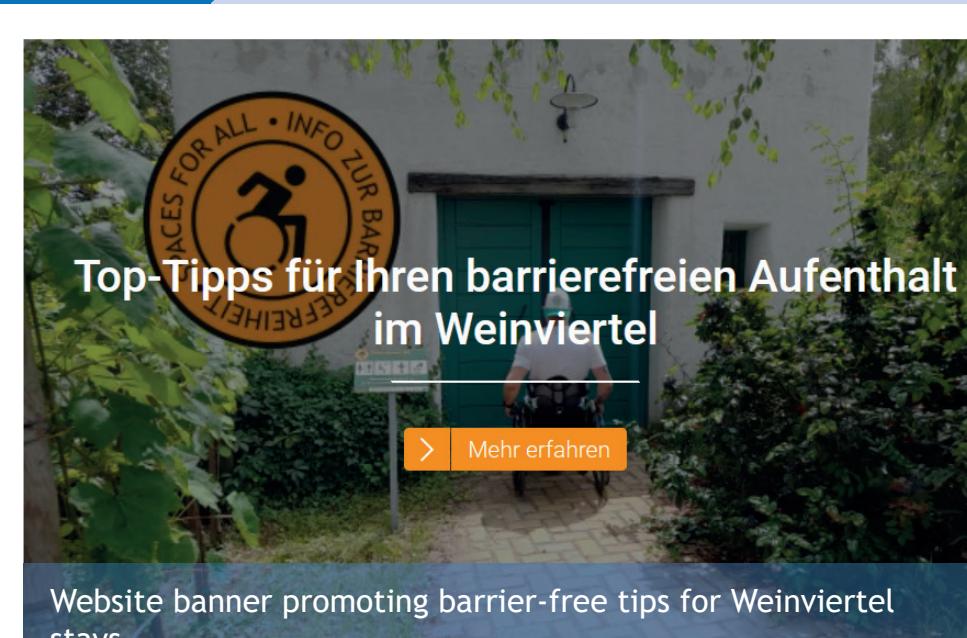
This tool helps more people enjoy the region's sights, nature, and cultural places in a safe and independent way.

Mapping Accessibility & Sharing Tourism for All

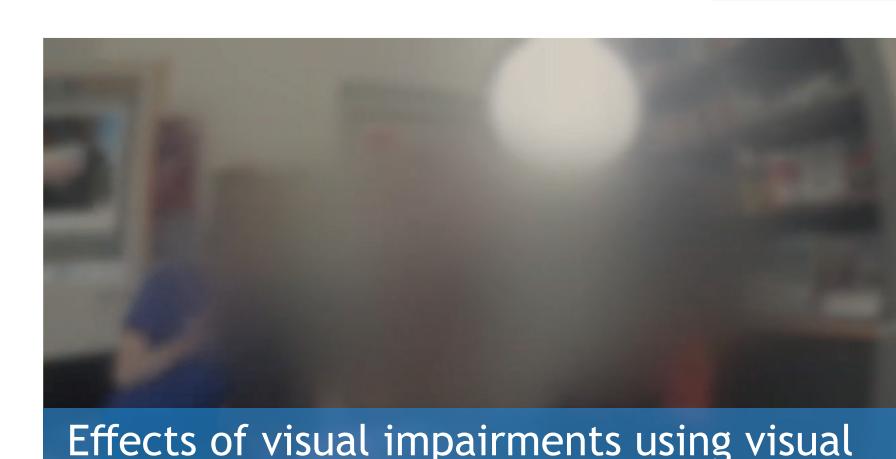
The Mapping Accessibility Tool helps collect and share information about how accessible tourism places are. It covers hotels, restaurants, museums, and other attractions in the Retz region.

A special field team - including a wheelchair user or visually impaired persons, mapping expert and a note-taker check every site and measures important accessibility features. The results are shown online in the Web Accessibility Viewer (WAV), where everyone can easily see which places are barrier-free.

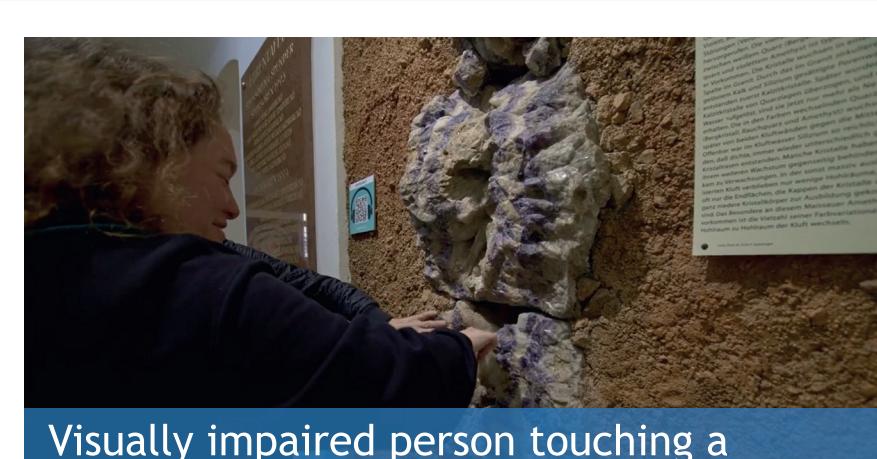
A leaflet called „Star trips in Weinviertel barrier-free“ presents six tips for barrier-free trips in Retz and the surrounding area. Details about accessibility and a QR code linking to other barrier-free trips are provided. Tested barrier-free trip destinations and businesses are published on the website www.weinviertel.at/barrierefreiheit.



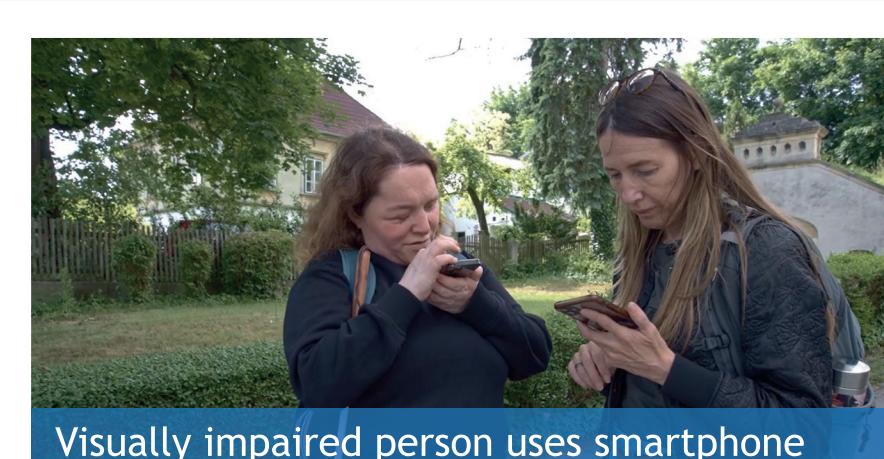
Raising awareness for persons with visual impairments



Effects of visual impairments using visual effects.



Visually impaired person touching a museum exhibit to explore by touch.



Visually impaired person uses smartphone with voice output for independent navigation.



Hand touching a 3D tactile city map for orientation.



Visually impaired person walking with a companion inside a church.

People with visual impairments experience the world in different ways, and their disability is not always visible.

A video filmed in the Weinviertel region of Austria shows how to support and communicate with people who are blind or have low vision.

The film follows two people with different visual impairments on a day trip to Eggenburg - from arriving by train, visiting the museum and St. Stephen's Church, walking along the historic city walls, to having lunch together.

Viewers see the trip through the participants' eyes and hear their personal experiences in short interviews.

The video helps raise awareness, shows common barriers, and offers ideas to make places more accessible. It is available in German and English, both with subtitles.

