

Vorarlberg:

Always Worth A Visit

**VOR
ARL
BERG**



Viewed from the Austrian shore, Lake Constance appears as large as the sea, while just a few miles further south, you will find the towering mountain ranges of the Alps. Vorarlberg's varied natural scenery and landscapes are impressive. The cultural programme is attractive. The passion for well-designed objects harboured by the people of Vorarlberg manifests itself also in contemporary architecture and creative craftsmanship. There are many surprising things to discover in Austria's very west. Attractions that are worth seeing, tasting, feeling and visiting.

Natural Scenery: Power & Energy Places

There are many places of happiness and power in Vorarlberg. It is reported of them that a special energy can be physically felt there, it has a subjective effect of being strengthening, calming and restful. In the past, monasteries and churches were often built exactly at such places. Two such special places are the Basilica in Bildstein and the Sunset Steps at the Bregenz Molo at sunset.

Pilgrimage Church Basilica Bildstein

The baroque basilica, the pilgrimage church of the village of Bildstein, towers above the Rhine valley, on the site where Marian apparitions are said to have occurred in the 17th century. Several pilgrims' footpaths lead up to the church with its two towers, and the view over the Rhine valley to Lake Constance compensates for the climb. A breathtaking view opens up especially from the panorama square between the rectory and the parish hall. Bildstein can be reached from Götzis by train and bus within an hour. If you like, you can also walk up from Schwarzach station in just under 45 minutes.



Sunset at Lake Constance

The so-called sunset steps at the Bregenz Molo are an ideal place to watch the sunset in summer. From this perspective, the sun slowly sinks directly into Lake Constance, the sky turns orange-red and there are breathtaking atmospheres. From Bregenz, the lake has a vastness reminiscent of the sea. The Sunset Steps are very close to Bregenz harbour and Bregenz railway station. The lake stage of the Bregenz Festival is only a few minutes' walk away, and the Kunsthau Bregenz, the Vorarlberg Museum and the Landestheater are just a stone's throw away.

Yummy: Sig – A Bregenzerwald speciality

Sig is an almost forgotten Bregenzerwald speciality, elaborately handmade from whey. Whey is left over from cheese production and is mixed with butter, sugar and cream during further processing. The whey is boiled down until the liquid evaporates and only the caramelised milk sugar remains. Because Sig tastes caramel-like and sweet, people like to snack on it and it has been given the nickname "Bregenzerwald chocolate". And by the way, Sig is also supposed to be good for the digestion.

Sig can be eaten on its own or spread on sandwiches, or made into desserts such as terrine or parfait, or even as a filling for curd dumplings.





Culture: KUB Kunsthaus Bregenz

The Kunsthaus Bregenz is a renowned exhibition house for contemporary art.

The artists are invited to react to the architecture or to enter into a symbiosis with it. The boundaries of what is feasible and conceivable are shifted anew with every exhibition. In the realisation, those responsible rely on the exceptionally high competence, quality and flexibility of Vorarlberg companies. The KUB is known for its architecture (designed by Swiss architect Peter Zumthor).

The glass facade lends the building a transparent lightness and is also a weather skin and an essential component of the light guidance system.

Current exhibition 22/4 – 2/7/23: Monira Al Qadiri

Al Qadiri, one of the most important artists in the Gulf region, deals with petro-culture and the dependence of our society on fossil energies. She works with drill heads, covers objects with car paint, creates jewellery reminiscent of science fiction...

Keep Moving: The Schlossberg in Hohenems

For a quick excursion with a bit of exercise (up and down) and a good view, the Schlossberggrunde in Hohenems is a good choice (walking time: just under 2 h). With the country bus you can reach the palace in Hohenems in a good 10 min.

From there a shady hiking trail leads between the church and the palace in the direction of Oberklien past the former quarry, the timber yard and the Spitzenecksee lake. After the turnoff, the Alpine Steig leads through rockfall terrain and bizarre rock formations. Caution is advised despite the concrete steps and fall protection. A forest path and a meadow lead to the Alt-Ems castle ruins and the "Gsätzle" vantage point in a few minutes.

Return along the hiking trail past the "Stoffels Sägemühle" museum back to the starting point "Schlossplatz".



Personal tip shared by ...

... Werner Ströhle (Founder and visionary of the Hypomeeting Götzis, recipient of the Grand Decoration of Merit of the State of Vorarlberg)

Governor Markus Wallner awarded Werner Ströhle (Honorary President of the State Association for the Promotion of Athletics) the Grand Decoration of Merit of the State of Vorarlberg (the highest recognition of the state for an honorary commitment) in March 2023 for his "exemplary social performance".



"My personal excursion tip leads to the Montafon to the Alpengasthaus Rellseck, a unique vantage point at 1,500 m above sea level - with a panoramic view of the Montafon mountains from the pinnacles of the Rätikon to the giants of the Silvretta mountains. From the Bartholomaeberg baroque church, the inn is easily accessible in a 1.5-hour hike. From mid-July to mid-September, a rustic mountain breakfast is held in the open air on Wednesdays, where Montafon specialities such as Sura Kees and „Brösel" are served alongside homemade jams, hearty farmhouse bread and scrambled eggs. If you like, you can also take the bus transfer from the Hotel Bergerhof (€ 6.50 per person, with registration. T +43 (0)5556/73117, info@hotel-bergerhof.at) to the Alpengasthaus Rellseck."



... Bjorn Páree (Photographer from the Netherlands)

"Visiting the Hypo Meeting in Götzis is a fantastic experience for two full days in the Möslé Stadium. However, if you are not from the area, like me, I can recommend staying a few days longer to feel the great Austrian atmosphere."

From Götzis you can go to the city of Bregenz in 30 min. (by train station "Bregenz Hafen"). My favourite thing to do is to take the Pfänderbahn up the mountain and have a great view over the mountains, the city of Bregenz and over Lake Constance. At the top there is a restaurant right by the mountain station and a couple of inns or alps within a few minutes walk. You can take the train or walk (good shoes) back to town or take a longer hike. Personally, I love walking back to town and Lake Constance. I've never taken a boat on Lake Constance as it's not so my thing, but there are several options for round trips or by scheduled boat. I would recommend checking out the options online. Personally, I just love walking along the Bregenz lakeside promenade – it's very chilled out, especially at sunset. For people who like to shop – Bregenz has a pedestrian zone with a selection of shops."

Getting Around in Vorarlberg

Vorarlberg boasts a highly developed network of public transport - from the cities in the Rhine Valley to the valleys and holiday regions, buses and trains are modern and comfortable.



The current timetables of all lines are available on the mobility platform Vmobil (fahrplan.vmobil.at).

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