



Visiting Vorarlberg Safely



Vorarlberg – The Art of Taking Pleasure in Life

Vorarlberg is a small Austrian state roughly four times the size of Vienna, approximately on a par with Saarland in Germany. With 400,000 inhabitants, it draws attention in many respects: as a dynamic business powerhouse, a trailblazer of contemporary wood architecture, an inspiring cultural centre, and an environment distinguished by astonishing natural diversity.

Natural Environment

From north to south, Vorarlberg measures 100km, which makes it ideal for exploring, since everything is nearby. Vorarlberg's excellent public transport connectivity adds to this sense of accessibility. For a relatively small space, there is great natural diversity. Plains sit cheek-to-cheek with Alpine heights, rivers, bogs and forests stretch between them. All in all, Vorarlberg boasts 39 "Natura 2000" nature protection areas. Liners and cruise ships depart from Bregenz harbour.

Recreational Environment

Vorarlberg is well known as a top recreational area, both in winter and in summer time. Fortunately, this has not taken a toll on the landscape.

The development and cultivation of Vorarlberg's mountains and valleys has always been carried out in a measured manner. Nature lovers continue to have their pick of quiet, secluded places.

Linguistic Environment

Vorarlberg is unique in Austria in that its population alone can claim Alemannic roots, as opposed to the otherwise commonplace Bavarian origins. The dialect or, more precisely, dialects, which vary from village to village and valley to valley, audibly testify to this. For samples, just check out the free "Sprachgenie" brochure published by the Vorarlberg State Tourist Board (German only).

Business Environment

Vorarlberg is among Austria's most potent economic powerhouses. Some of the most famous family-owned businesses founded in, and still operating out of Vorarlberg are Doppelmayr, the global market leader in ropeway construction, Blum GmbH (fittings), Alpa (plastic packaging), Wolford (bodywear) and the fruit juice manufacturers Rauch and Pfanner. Vorarlberg plans to be self-sufficient in terms of energy by 2050. Energy efficiency and resource conservation are already top priorities. Many projects promote e-mobility. Vorarlberg mostly uses hydro-power to generate energy.

Cultural Environment

The arts are close to Vorarlberg's heart. As such, it often implements bold, innovative projects. The contemporary (wood) architecture and design-oriented crafts catch the eye. Music festivals such as Bregenz Festival and Schubertiade are known around the globe, but there are many other top-class cultural events from spring to winter. Vorarlberg authors have made waves in literature, too. Writers like Michael Köhlmeier, Monika Helfer, Arno Geiger and Doris Knecht have won important literary awards. In a total of six holiday regions with distinctive individual characteristics, attentive and cordial hosts work to ensure that your holidays are pleasurable and stimulating from beginning to end.

How to Reach Vorarlberg

Getting around

Vorarlberg's public transport network is very well developed. No need to use your own car at all! Nearly every village can be accessed by train and bus, from early to late hours, with a remarkable range of connections to choose from. Railway and bus schedules have been smartly coordinated: when you change from one to the other, there is barely any waiting time. With public transport of such a high standard, getting to know a wide variety of villages and regions is a piece of cake. Route planner: www.vmobl.at All regions offer inclusive cards. Most of these cards double as tickets for public transport in the region and partly even beyond. www.vorarlberg.travel/mobile-on-vacation

... by Train

Vorarlberg is within easy and climate friendly reach by train from virtually all of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Various direct services and quick transfer connections operate daily.

Austria: Direct connections from Vienna, Graz and Villach; also night trains. www.oebb.at

Germany: Direct connections from Munich, Frankfurt am Main (NEW), Stuttgart, Dortmund, Cologne and transfer connections, e.g. via Munich. Destinations in Vorarlberg can be conveniently reached from the Oberstaufen im Allgäu (G) station. For trips to Kleinwalsertal take the train to Oberstdorf im Allgäu (G). www.bahn.de

Switzerland: direct connections either via St. Gallen to Bregenz or via Sargans to Feldkirch. www.sbb.ch A direct service between Rohrschach and Bregenz operates on weekends at two-hour intervals. www.s-bahn-bodensee.com

... by Car

Vorarlberg is well connected to the European motorway network. Toll stickers are required on the S16 and A14 motorways in Vorarlberg (with the exception of the section between Hörbranz and Hohenems). Kleinwalsertal and Bregenzwald can be accessed without an Austrian toll sticker.

... by Plane

The nearest regional airports are Lake Constance-Friedrichshafen (D), Allgäu-Memmingen (G) and St. Gallen-Altentrhein (CH). The nearest international airports are Innsbruck, Zurich (CH) and Munich (G).

Up-to-date information on travelling to Vorarlberg can be found at www.vorarlberg.travel/getting-there

Direct train services to Vorarlberg



More Space, More Time: Arlberg

In Lech Zürs am Arlberg, visitors can find "More space for thought and ample time for the senses". The Lech Card, which is available from hosts for visitors staying one night or longer, gives admission to many attractions. Lech Zürs am Arlberg enthralls guests with its culinary delights, too. Considering the compact size of the village, the number of award-winning restaurants is remarkable. The region also includes the cosy villages of Stuben am Arlberg and Klösterle at the foot of the Arlberg mountain.



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Taking Pleasure in Creating: Bregenzwald

If you enjoy being out and about in the great outdoors and have an eye and an ear for beauty, this is where you should be heading. Bregenzwald has garnered a reputation for a surprising mix of traditional and contemporary architecture, innovative craftsmanship, ingenious cooking and its Cheese Road. Festivals such as the Schubertiade Schwarzenberg spice up the summer. Museums such as the Women's Museum, the Angelika Kauffman Museum, the Werkraum Building and the Museum of Baroque Master Builders open up new horizons. 12 themed "Umgang Bregenzwald" trails document the region's creative spirit.



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A Place of Encounters: Bodensee-Vorarlberg

Visiting festivals such as the Bregenz Festival, encountering contemporary art at Kunsthaus Bregenz, strolling through the medieval lanes of Feldkirch, listening to the Schubertiade concerts in Hohenems, exploring the secrets of nature in the interactive Inatura nature show in Dornbirn, hiking, cycling, marvelling at contemporary architecture, fine dining, exploring Lake Constance on a cruise: a visit of the Bodensee-Vorarlberg region has something different in store every day.



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Affectionate, Natural, Family-Friendly: Brandnertal, Alpenstadt Bludenz, Klostertal, Grosses Walsertal

Three alpine valleys, Brandnertal, Klostertal, and the Grosses Walsertal biosphere reserve, as well as Alpenstadt Bludenz make for the charm of this region. Programmes ranging from entertaining to educational encourage you to explore nature. Picture-perfect mountain lakes, crystal-clear brooks, craggy gorges, waterfalls and climbing walls just wait to be discovered. Chefs will treat you to regional delicacies. "Using nature without harming it" is what people in the Grosses Walsertal biosphere reserve subscribe to.



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Relaxed and Energised: Kleinwalsertal

This tucked-away corner of Austria, which is accessible by road only via Germany, is framed by 36 summits. Visitors can enjoy being active at their own pace and experiencing nature hands-on when staying in the serene world of the Walsertal mountains. Guided adventure-filled tours add up to the range of summer activities on offer. As one of Austria's dedicated foodie regions, Kleinwalsertal boasts heartfelt hospitality and excellent dining, inspired by the Walsertal traditions, always with a focus on premium products.



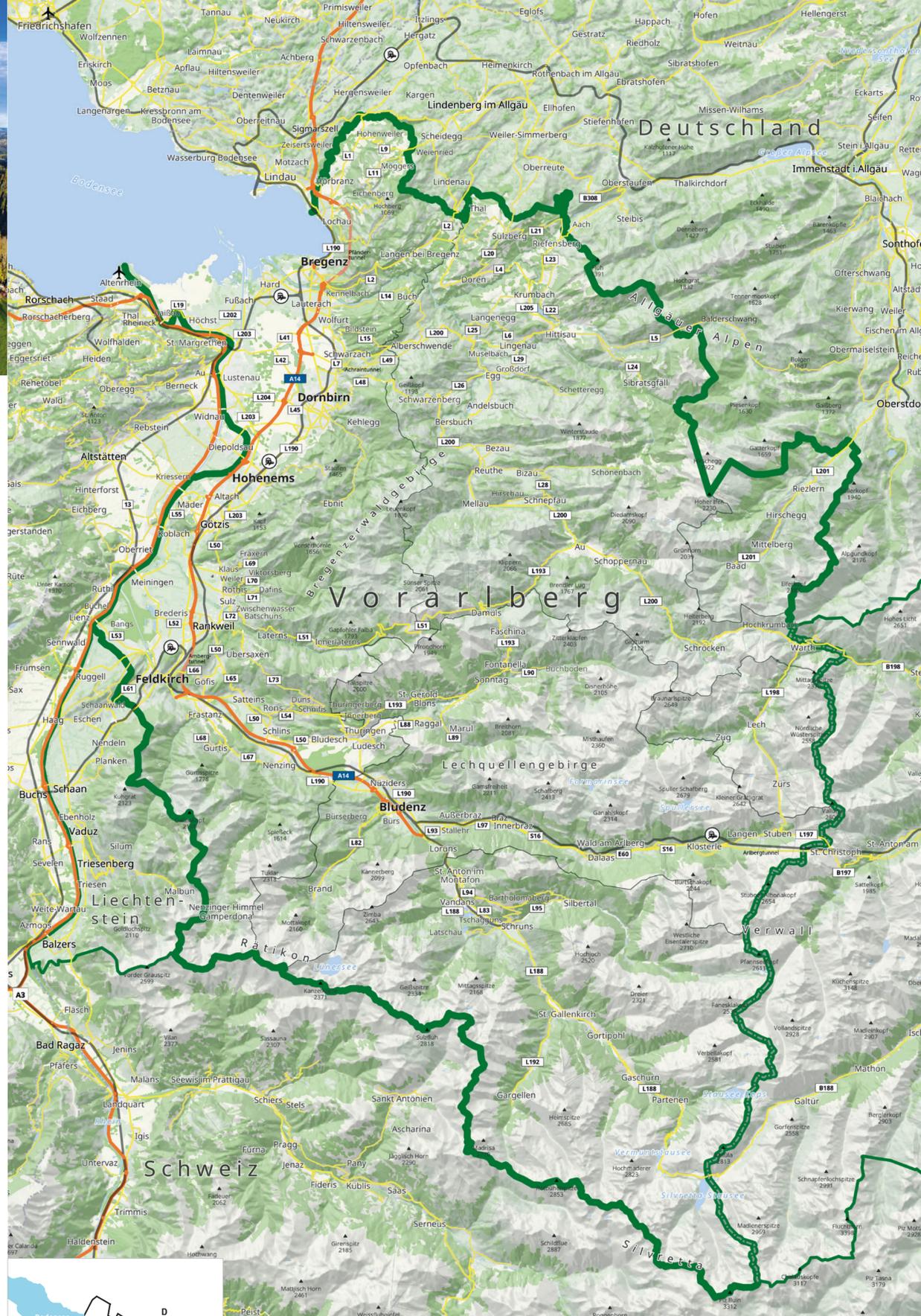
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Real Mountains, Real Experiences: Montafon

Montafon is a 39km long, high-alpine valley dotted with eleven tourist resorts which attract lovers of nature and of all good things in life. The landscape is dominated by mountains, among them mount Piz Buin, at 3,312 m above sea level Vorarlberg's highest peak. Montafon is as varied and diverse as it gets. You can hike on historic trails, head for mountain peaks on a mountain bike or e-bike, dine like a king in mountain lodges, explore mountain forests, as well as challenge yourself in ambitious sports activities. The ultra-scenic Silvretta high-alpine road is definitely worth a detour.



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More Information?

Social Media

You can experience Vorarlberg in real time on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube and Pinterest. At www.vorarlberg.social the social media community shares some of Vorarlberg's most attractive aspects – wonderful inspirations for explorers. For useful information and special offers, consult the Social Guide. #visitvorarlberg #myvorarlberg



Disclosure

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Mountains and Lakes Galore

Glorious views from mountain peaks. The fragrance of forests and meadows. Crystal-blue water. What a joy to be out and about in the great outdoors! Many surprises await being discovered if you have an open heart and a curious mind: from sandy beaches in the Rhine delta nature sanctuary and amazing Alpine flora to sculptures and installations on artist-designed trails.

With the natural scenery so unexpectedly diverse, outings on foot, by bicycle or e-mountain bike are more than rewarding. Valley low or mountain high, Vorarlberg boasts a wide choice of hiking trails and cycling paths. Lifts and cable-cars take outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers up to higher altitudes. Some hotels and tourist boards run a programme of guided walks.

Cyclists can explore the shores of Lake Constance, pedal along rivers, conquer alpine passes or ride up and down mountains on curving trails. And if you crave some adrenaline, why not opt for climbing, canyoning or rafting? If you prefer a more serene ambience, choose between six superbly located golf courses. The lakeside pools and lidos along Lake Constance provide for scenic opportunities to bask in the sun or take a dip in the lake. Add a string of outdoor pools at Lake Constance or along rivers and lakes.

Selected tips for outdoor activities

Ever so pleasurable: Hiking from breakfast to lunch and then on to dessert on themed culinary hikes which can be booked as day packages in some regions. Bregenzerwald has themed architecture rides and "culinary rides" on an e-mountain bike.

Most unusual: Artist-designed themed trails showcase artwork and installations. The objects along the "Geotrail Rindberg" in Sibratsgäll are evocative of a major landslide that happened here. The "Gäuertal Alpkultour" trail in Montafon casts an unconventional light on the cultivated landscape. Skyspace in Lech Zürs am Arlberg opens up novel vistas of the skies.

So pretty! Ride up the mountains on a cable-car and enjoy the sweeping views. From mount Pfänder near Bregenz, you can take in almost all of Lake Constance. Visitors can admire awe-inspiring mountainscapes from Diedamskopf near Au-Schoppenau in Bregenzerwald, from Muttersberg close to Alpenstadt Bludenz, from Hochjoch in Montafon, from viewing platforms at Walmendingerhorn in Kleinwalsertal and from Rükfokopfer near Lech Zürs am Arlberg.

Thrills for adrenaline junkies
Curves and bends: Taking a downhill ride on a mountain bike? With a choice of 30km of trails of all variants, Bikepark Brandnertal offers an ideal terrain for mountain bikers.

Rock'n rugged: Feel ready for a climbing tour? Vorarlberg has 33 practice crags for beginners and professionals. In Montafon, mountain climbers can even climb up the retaining wall of a reservoir. The Klostertal via ferrata takes experienced climbers up the mountain right next to a waterfall.

Nerve-jangling: Designated outdoor guides are available to accompany you on outdoor programmes of all kinds. Rafting and canyoning provide you with a new perspective on nature. Drifting downhill on a paraglider from the Bregenzerwald peak is an unrivalled experience, also available on tandem flights. At several forest and rope parks, you can venture into climbing, balancing and zip-lining.

Family Fun
In full swing. Sliding, swinging, climbing, swooshing down the zip-liner: several destinations promise some all-out fun. The Golm adventure mountain, for instance, featuring a forest chute park and the Golm Alpine coaster, the Hochjoch adventure mountain in Montafon, as well as several rope and climbing gardens.

Mind-broadening: Interactive educational trails reveal the secrets of nature, such as the *Natursprünge* trail in Brandnertal, the Schmuuggi-Luggi trail in Montafon and Ferdinand's Riddle Chase in Bregenzerwald. In Kleinwalsertal, mascots Burmi and Burmina accompany young researchers on the Nature Explorer Adventure trail. The Arlenzauber trail in Lech Zürs revolves all around fairies and myths. The interactive nature show in Dornbirn has lots of fascinating information about nature and wildlife for adventurers of all ages.

Refreshing! The lakeside pools and lidos at Lake Constance, natural bathing sites along lakes and rivers, and several outdoor pools, invite you take a refreshing dip in the water and go for a swim. Hiking trails along bodies of water and through gorges, such as Rappenloch gorge near Dornbirn, offer a cool escape on a hot day.

For more information see www.vorarlberg.travel/en

Visiting Vorarlberg Safely

Safety First in Vorarlberg's Summer Tourism

Covid-19 continues to require dedicated measures. As a guest or visitor to Vorarlberg, you can rest assured that hosts, ropeway operators, organisers of cultural events and everyone else involved in tourism will do their utmost to create and maintain safe social interactions.

Thorough hygiene concepts monitored by a dedicated Covid officer, a reliable Covid-testing infrastructure, track-and-trace registration and flexible cancellation conditions offered by accommodation establishments all contribute to enjoyable, carefree holidays in Vorarlberg. By now, we have had ample practice regarding the implementation of all measures, and staff undergo training on an ongoing basis.

For an update of current regulations – from entry to rules in force at your holiday destination in Vorarlberg – go to www.vorarlberg.travel/visiting-safely

Exhibitions and Concerts

Listen to music you never heard before. Encounter exceptional stories and ideas. Immerse yourself into the conceptual ideas of artists. Try your own hand and experiment. A string of festivals, small cultural events, museums and exhibitions in Vorarlberg invite visitors to experience all that and a lot more.

Vorarlberg's calendar of cultural events is densely packed, especially from spring to autumn. Starting in March, the "Bregenz Spring" festival features modern dance. From April to October, the Schubertiade festival stages high-class concerts in Hohenems and in Schwarzenberg in Bregenzerwald. At the *Montfort Zwischen-töne* you can take part in concerts, panel debates and impromptu events at several three-day sessions. In July and August 2022, the Bregenz Festival will be putting on show Giacomo Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly* in a spectacular performance on the lake-side stage. The colourful programme is rounded off by concerts, opera performances at the Festival House and a number of theatre productions. At the poolbar festival in Feldkirch, you can listen to music from avant-garde to pop during six weeks in summer. From Early August to mid-September, the *Montafon Resonanzen* stage concerts at unusual sites. Culture lovers flock to Lech Zürs am Arlberg in July and August for concerts of classical music, jazz nights, literary readings or philosophical talks at *Philosophicum* Lech in September. In early September, FAG Bregenzerwald, a programme that combines talks, music and culinary outings, has all the potential for having a good time.

Museums worth a visit

Bregenz boasts two special attractions: Kunsthaus Bregenz, a stunning glass-sheathed cube-like structure whose exhibitions feature the work of contemporary artists, and the vorarlberg museum, which explores Vorarlberg's past and present. The latter catches the eye with an impressive façade adorned by thousands of concrete flowers. A special showroom on the museum's 4th floor opens up spectacular views of the scenery of Lake Constance. Both museums also organise regular creativity workshops for children.

The *inatura* nature adventure museum with its annexed Science Center in Dornbirn is highly popular among nature explorers and lovers of experimentation.

The Jewish Museum in Hohenems features changing exhibitions on current issues and a permanent exhibition, as well as guided visits of the Jewish quarter.

In Bregenzerwald, the Women's Museum in Hittisau, the Angelika-Kaufmann Museum in Schwarzenberg, the Riefensberg Museum of Traditional Costumes, the new Museum of Baroque Master Builders in Au, and Franz-Michael-Felder Museum in Schoppennau all merit a visit.

The Lech Museum, which features changing exhibitions, has found its home in the historic "Huber Hus".

For more information see www.vorarlberg.travel/culture



vorarlberg museum © Gregor Lengler



Arlberg © Daniel Zangerl/Lech Zürs Tourismus



Körbersee, Hochtannbergpass © Popp & Hackner



Tannenwipfel-Panna Cotta © Angela Lamprecht



Jazz Picknick © Patrick Saly/Montafon Tourismus

Buildings and Crafts

For many years, Vorarlberg has been a trailblazer of contemporary architecture. Innovative craftspeople, mainly those forming part of Werkraum Bregenzerwald association, have also made a name for themselves.

Vorarlberg surprises with an unexpected mix of traditional and contemporary architecture, both in the towns and in rural areas. As in times long past, timber from local forests is the building material of choice for facades as well as for interior design. Modern-day planners attach utmost attention to designing the buildings to be as energy efficient as possible.

If you are interested in the creations of Vorarlberg's architects and craftspeople, there are numerous tour options. Themed Architecture Tours, which you can undertake on your own, provide a very good overview. There is a choice of day and half-day tours, some even using public means of transport.

In Bregenzerwald, 12 themed "Umgang Bregenzerwald" trails, all village walks, document the love of creation and innovation in this region. You can always sign up for a guided visit.

In Kleinwalsertal, the "Walser Kulturwege" trails give a hands-on idea of the history of this high-lying valley. On these leisurely trails, you will be able thoroughly explore the villages.

In the towns of Bregenz and Feldkirch, guided visits are organised on various themes and given dates. One outstanding attraction in Bregenz are the backstage visits of the Bregenz Festival. On these tours, visitors can experience the jaw-dropping lake-side stage up close and personal.

Vorarlberg is dotted with a string of "places to dwell", inviting visitors to a lovely stroll or brief hike. These include Skyspace Lech, a masterpiece by the US-American light artist James Turrell, the acoustic resting space Hellwald bei Bludenz, the St Gerold provosty in the Grosses Walsertal biosphere reserve,

the St Arbogast water house near Götzis and seven unusual bus stops in Krumbach in Bregenzerwald.

The Werkraum Building in Andelsbuch in Bregenzerwald is devoted to modern craftsmanship, showing works by innovative Werkraum craftspeople from Bregenzerwald and artisanry and crafts from other European regions in changing exhibitions.

For more information see www.vorarlberg.travel/architecture

Holiday Destination Vorarlberg!
Give feedback for a chance to win a special holiday experience.
Take part now!
www.tmona.at/xn26

Inclusive Cards

Spanning four countries, the region of Lake Constance is home to numerous sites which merit a visit. Whether a museum or a look-out, a Baroque monastery or a delicatessen manufacturer, if you are planning several outings, make sure to benefit from the different inclusive cards.

Regional Inclusive Cards in Vorarlberg

Cable cars and public transport, museums and tourist attractions: all six Vorarlberg holiday destinations offer Inclusive Cards which double as admission ticket. The card is included in the price of accommodation in Bregenzerwald and in Grosses Walsertal (if you stay 3 nights or longer), in Kleinwalsertal, in Montafon (Montafon guest card) and in Brandnertal/Bludenz/Klostertal (guest card and guest card premium). The Lech Card (valid up to 21 days), Montafon Brandnertal Card (3 to 21 days), Lake Constance Vorarlberg leisure card (valid for up to 3 consecutive days), Bodensee Card PLUS for excursions around Lake Constance and the V-CARD for excursions all around Vorarlberg are all on sale at attractive rates. www.vorarlberg.travel/en/inclusive-cards

V-CARD

The V-CARD is an ideal choice for frequent travellers to Vorarlberg. It is valid for one-time admission to cable-cars, museums, and pools. The V-CARD sells at EUR 78 for adults and EUR 39 for teenagers, and is valid from 1 May through 31 October. www.v-card.at (in German only)

Bodensee Card PLUS

The cards are valid all year round for rides on Lake Constance vessels and for one-time admission to more than 160 attractions around Lake Constance. It is on sale for three or seven days with a flexible choice. www.bodensee.eu/en

Treats for the tastebuds

Fresh, regional and refined – that's the motto in the many award-winning inns and restaurants. Mouth-watering dishes prepared using chiefly regional delicacies are also served at restaurants and inns on mountain-tops and right beside the ski slopes. Specialised hosts cater to your every wish and whim. Most spa facilities were newly opened or have been upgraded in recent years.

Vorarlberg is lucky. A booming economic and cultural region, it is also known for its excellent cuisine and its many innovative chefs, who transform regional delicacies into inventive taste-bud-ticklers. They source most of their ingredients from small manufacturers and farms located right here. Over 4000 farms call the area between Lake Constance and the mountains their home, and approximately 15 per cent of these adhere to strict organic standards. While growing valuable produce, the farmers also maintain and take good care of the cultivated landscape. Alpine transhumance, which has been practised in Vorarlberg for ages, strongly contributes to this as well.

On many hiking trails you will come across alpine farmsteads, called alps. Some manufacture Vorarlberg's famous cheese from cow, sheep and goat milk, first and foremost the spicy mountain and alp cheeses. A speciality in Montafon is "sura kees", a low-fat aromatic cheese.

Meat is sourced primarily from local farms or neighbouring Austrian states, fish from Lake Constance or small fish farms.

Vegetable farmers in the Swiss Rhine Valley and in Bregenzerwald supply fresh produce ranging from aubergines to courgettes. All around the year, they deliver their fresh harvest to markets, hotels, restaurants and households. Rheintaler *Riebelmais*, a type of ground maize, also grows in the Rhine Valley and it serves as a key ingredient in "Riebel", a traditional local delicacy found at well-curated breakfast buffets and on dessert menus. Apples, pears, cherries, plums, berries and other types of fruit thrive particularly in the Rhine Valley and nearby suntraps.

They are often turned into juices, ciders and fine spirits. Tantalising pear spirit "Subirer" is considered the king of Vorarlberg drinks. More and more chefs enjoy foraging for herbs, mushrooms and other treasures in the wild, or growing their ingredients in their own gardens.

Culinary souvenirs

Culinary souvenirs from Vorarlberg are widely available at cheese houses, delis and directly from shops attached to farms. At weekly markets held in the towns and some villages you can source fresh vegetables, fruit and refined delicacies.

Treats for the body

If you want to pamper your body, Vorarlberg's Feel Well hosts are just the ticket for you. They offer fasting treatments, healing mud baths, slimming and beauty treatments, relaxed pampering days and activities in nature. The ambience in the usually quite modern, light-flooded wellness and spa areas is designed to contribute to a harmonious overall experience.

For more information see www.vorarlberg.travel/en

Vorarlberg Magazine

Enjoying Vorarlberg with all senses – this is what the stories featured in the Vorarlberg Magazines all revolve around. They put the spotlight on nature discovery, sites of outstanding natural beauty, foodie attractions, cultural projects, architecture and design, as well as outdoor activities. In addition, you will find many useful tips and hints for your holidays.

You can read all stories online, download the Vorarlberg Magazines, or order your personal copy at www.vorarlberg.travel/magazine

