

Vorarlberg: What’s new in winter 2023/24

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1. What's new in Vorarlberg's ski areas

New Albonabahn I ropeway in Stuben am Arlberg

In the Ski Arlberg resort the new Albonabahn I, an 8-seater monocable gondola ropeway, will replace the old double chairlift on almost the same route. The new ropeway offers skiers added convenience and a connection to Alpe Rauz as well as access to the ski areas of St. Anton, St. Christoph (both Tyrol), Zürs and Lech (both Vorarlberg). The mountain terminal will be moved some 200 metres further down and is now immediately next to the Albona Mitte mountain restaurant.

www.stuben-arlberg.at/en/winter/New-Albonabahn-I

Additional snow-making facilities for the Schröcken ski lifts

The Schröcken ski lifts in the ski area of Warth-Schröcken in Bregenzerwald will be expanding their snow-making facilities in the area around Auenfeld. Skiers will now be able to descend to the valley terminal of Saloberlift also if the winter seasons starts off with poor snow conditions. The ski area lies at an altitude of approx. 1,400 to 2,000 metres. The season is set to start on 8 December 2023.

www.warth-schroecken.at/en

Merger of the ski schools in Brandnertal

The ski school Brandnertal and the ski school Snow Sports Brandnertal have merged and, starting this winter, will be operating under the name "Skischule Brandnertal". The ski school has two locations: Brand and Bürserberg. As a novelty, group courses for children and adults can now be booked online.

www.skischule-brandnertal.at/en

2. Investments in hotels and restaurants

NEW ACCOMMODATION & RESTAURANTS

Balma Lech, Lech am Arlberg

In December 2023, the apartment house Balma is set to open in the hamlet of Zug, featuring an à-la-carte restaurant. It accommodates five apartments ranging from 54 m² to 149 m² in size and sleeping up to four. Designer furniture, an open fire and a private sauna lend a stylish but cosy atmosphere to every unit. As an extra treat, your fridge will be filled with selected delicacies from the region upon your arrival. Breakfast served on request. www.balma.at

Hof 30, Schwarzenberg

In August 2023, "Hof 30" opened in Schwarzenberg in the very heart of the village. The timber construction in typical Bregenzerwald-style accommodates two lofts. The 180 m² Hof loft sleeps up to six, while the 90 m² Tobi loft sleeps a maximum of 4. The holiday apartments are furnished in wood, featuring box-spring beds and a modern kitchen. <https://fewoschwarzenberg.com/hof30>

Alpenstolz Apartments, Damüls

Ever since August 2023, the 39 Alpenstolz Apartments have been open to visitors. Luxuriously furnished, the units are spread over four buildings. You can choose between apartments with two, three or four rooms. The largest apartments sleep up to eight persons. Fresh-roll service for breakfast

is offered. The apartments are self-catering, visitors either arrange for their own dinner or book themselves into a restaurant in Damüls. www.alpenstolz-damuels.at/en

Sonnberg Appartements, Schröcken

The Sonnberg Appartements are set to open in late 2023 in Schröcken in Bregenzerwald. The 17 holiday apartments vary between 48 m² and 76 m² in size and are divided among two buildings with an underground car park. All units feature a balcony. There is sauna in the basement. The bus to the Warth-Schröcken ski area stops right on the doorstep. From Warth-Schröcken skiers have access to the Ski Arlberg ski area. <https://ferienwohnungen-oberboden.at/appartements/sonnberg-appartements>

Unique Places, Bludenz

Four tiny houses called "Unique Places" opened in Bludenz in July 2023. The 60 m² cottages with an upper floor are luxuriously furnished and sleep two to six. There is a fully equipped kitchen as well as a small bathroom and a terrace. From Bludenz, several ski areas are within easy reach by train or bus. Brandnertal, Montafon, Klostertal and the Ski Arlberg ski area are all close by. <https://unique-places.com>

Cabinski, Sonntag-Oberbuchholz

For some years now, Montafon boasts ten minimalist, well-conceived and sustainably designed Cabinski holiday homes. Another twelve Cabinski houses will open in winter 2023/24 in Sonntag in the Grosses Walsertal biosphere park. Constructed from timber, metal and glass, each Cabinski sleeps four to six persons. All come with a small kitchen, bathroom, terrace and a carport. www.cabinski.at

Restaurant M75, Brand

Jana and David Kegele opened their Restaurant M75 in Brand. The young entrepreneurs focus on modern tradition, high-quality produce, careful preparation and passionate service. Whenever possible, ingredients are sourced in Vorarlberg. The range of foods covers anything from *Rösti* (traditional shredded potato cake) and curries to sweet-water fish and steaks. <https://m75.at>

Hotel Blaue Rose, Feldkirch

The self-check-in boutique hotel Blaue Rose opens in Feldkirch in December 2023. The small hotel is located in a carefully renovated 500-year-old house in the town centre. All the work was carried out by craftsmen from the region. The "Blaue Rose" has 18 individually furnished rooms, ranging from 10 m² economy single rooms to 21 m² family rooms. One of the double rooms is wheelchair accessible. www.blauerose.at/en

REDESIGNS/EXTENSIONS/MAJOR RENOVATIONS

Hotel Hirschen, Schwarzenberg

The Fetz family, landlords at Hotel Hirschen in Schwarzenberg, have high-flying plans: In early 2023, a facelift of six rooms and suites was completed. In a next step, 21 rooms will be converted into spacious apartments. Right next to the elegant Bregenzerwald building whose history dates back to the 17th century, a bathhouse with saunas and outdoor pool is being built. All around, a bliss-filled garden will invite guests to linger for a while. The new apartments will be completed by early 2024. www.hotel-hirschen-bregenzerwald.at/en

Hotel Gretina, Bezau

Hotel Gretina in Bezau in Bregenzerwald opened in 2017. The landlords have now taken over the neighbouring building and are fitting two 60 m² apartments and a 45 m² studio there. Each of the three units sleep two. The large apartments are on the first floor and feature a loggia. The studio comes with garden use. The new apartments can be booked starting January 2024.

<https://hotel-gretina.at>

Posthotel Taube, Schruns

Posthotel Taube has been central to village life in Schruns ever since 1840. Famous guests of the hotel include Ernest Hemingway, who spent some weeks with his family here in the winters of 1924/25 and 1925/26. Following a serious facelift and redesign, this tradition-steeped hotel is set to reopen on 1 December 2023 as a four-star superior hotel. The main building, the historic Posthotel Traube, features three à-la-carte restaurant lounges and some of the 48 luxuriously equipped rooms and suites. The highly popular *Tauben* garden and *Tauben* bar, formerly *Tauben* cellar, will be reopened as well. The new Alpgues Haus adjacent to the main building accommodates a spa and a wellness complex. The new Nescherina tract features two rooms for workshops and meetings. In addition, the owners are building three well-equipped team chalets for their staff in Tschagguns. www.posthotel-taube.at/en

Löwen Hotel Montafon, Schruns

Since January 2023, Löwen Hotel Montafon has been welcoming guests with 23 additional rooms, flexible conference spaces, a novel gastronomic offer and inspiring interior design. The new *Haus Montafon* tract boasts new rooms as well as several conference facilities such as *Saal Montafon*, which, at 200 m², offers the largest conference venue in the valley. In addition, locals, visitors and hotel guests can look forward to dining in the new Brasserie Leonis restaurant, which serves Austrian cuisine with a French touch. The hotel's much-loved newly revamped *Löwengrube* club is the perfect place to end an adventure-filled day in Montafon. www.loewen-hotel.com/en

Almhof Schneider, Lech am Arlberg

In Lech, the Schneider family from Hotel Almhof Schneider is renovating a historic Walser building whose roots stem from the 14th and 15th centuries. Starting December 2023, Sonnenhof can be rented on a weekly basis. The rustic, two-storey building features six bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen and a living room. A Finnish sauna has been installed in the basement. Sonnenhof guests can use all facilities of Hotel Almhof. www.almhof.at/en/sonnenhof

Genuss- & Aktivhotel Sonnenburg, Riezlern

Genuss- & Aktivhotel Sonnenburg in Kleinwalsertal is extending its spa amenities. Starting in winter 2023/24, hotel guests will be able to swim in the valley's first ever rooftop infinity pool. Open all year round, the water is heated to a pleasant 28 degrees in winter, and to 23 degrees in summer. From the pool (10 m x 4 m) you can enjoy wonderful panoramic views. www.genuss-aktivhotel.com/en

Aparthotel Kleinwalsertal, Mittelberg

Ever since August 2023, Aparthotel Kleinwalsertal in Mittelberg has stepped up its attractions for families. There is a brand new Aktivpark which features a pool with a hydro-flow system, massage nozzles, massage loungers, a rest & relax area with mountain views, an outdoor relax area, a spacious play area for children, a ball sports hall and table tennis facilities.

www.aparthotel-kleinwalsertal.at/en/spa-wellness/indoor-pool/activ-park-2023

Hotel Tradizio, Mittelberg

The Wölger family of Hotel Neue Krone in Kleinwalsertal is giving a facelift to its hotel and, in the process, decided to give it a new name. Mindful of the family's Italian roots, the hotel will open in December 2023 as Hotel Tradizio. In addition to the 13 rooms that were fully redesigned in spring 2023, visitors can look forward to twelve new deluxe rooms, each with living area of 30 m², starting in December 2023. The hotel now also features a new sauna and relax area including a steambath and Finnish sauna. The restaurant has been extended by a cosy winter garden. <https://tradizio.at>

Hotel Alpenstüble, Mittelberg

Hotel Alpenstüble used to be a traditional bed and breakfast with a wellness area. As of December 2023, the hotel has been converted to apartments only. There are 16 new units altogether, ranging from 50 m² to 70 m² in size. As the landlords care about regionality, they commissioned craftspeople from the region with the redesign and interior decoration works. An optional breakfast service offers a range of regional produce. <https://alpenstueble.at>

Fairrooms, Raggal

Fairrooms in Raggal in the Grosses Walsertal biosphere park offers 20 rooms at affordable rates and a 24-hour self-check in. The rooms were overhauled only a few months ago. Starting December 2023, the hotel will boast even more innovations. The dining hall, bar, fitness room and playroom will present themselves in a new design. Moreover, the hosting family is currently upgrading the panorama sauna and the ski and bike shed. A new Stüble (small lounge) will be opened which can be rented for birthday parties and other functions. <https://portal.gastfreund.net/fairrooms/448300>

VAL BLU Resort, Bludenz

VAL Blu Resort in Bludenz combines a 56-room hotel and a public pool with numerous recreational amenities. This year, all rooms were upgraded and redesigned. In addition to furnishing and interior decoration, the facelift also covered the bathrooms. In the future, the hotel will cater even more to sports and health-minded visitors. Since the soft opening in summer 2023, all rooms have now become available for booking. www.valblu.at

Campingplatz Dornbirn

At the beginning of December 2023, Dornbirner Seilbahn AG will take over the campsite in Dornbirn at the foot of the Karren. In addition to the current 103 pitches for motorhomes and tents, 14 new flats will be built, most of which will be constructed in timber. Each of the apartments has four beds (56 beds in total), a kitchenette, a bathroom, WC and indoor and outdoor seating. The flats can be booked from December 2023. <https://camping-dornbirn.at/?lang=en>

3. New attractions & offers in Vorarlberg's holiday regions

ART & CULTURE

Tanzcafé Arlberg on the entire Arlberg for the first time

Sun, snow, skiing and sound: the Tanzcafé Arlberg Music Festival has been delighting audiences with this mix since 2013. Just in time for the 10th edition, the Tanzcafé, which was previously based in Lech Zürs, is now taking place across the entire Arlberg region. This means that snow-loving concert fans can also enjoy the stylish open-air festival in St. Christoph, St. Anton and Stuben. Tanzcafé Arlberg will take place from 31 March to 14 April 2024. The line-up will be announced in January 2024.

www.tanzcafe-arlberg.com/en

STAGE Bregenz – Fair for contemporary art and collective design

Wintery Bregenz will be the venue of a premiere: the first "STAGE Bregenz – Fair for contemporary and collective design" will be hosted from 22-25 February 2024 at Festspielhaus Bregenz. Some 55 renowned galleries will take part, focusing on the creative diversity in art, design and architecture in the Lake Constance region. <https://stage-bregenz.art/en/>

New location for Haus Habakuk, Bludenz

Kasperl, Helmi and magician Tintifax were the much-worshipped TV stars of many Austrians when they were young. The puppets were manufactured by Arminio Rothstein, better known as Clown Habakuk. After the demise of Arminio Rothstein, Christian Mair, a Vorarlberg puppet player and cabaret artist, was able to acquire these puppets. In 2022, he set up a small puppet atelier and exhibition in Bludenz. In October 2023, Christian Mair and his puppets moved into a much larger building in the centre of Bludenz. The new site accommodates a larger exhibition and atelier, as well as a stage for live performances, and the Habakuk café. www.habakuk.at

Exhibitions in Vorarlberg's museums in the winter season 2023/24

- Brazilian-born artist Solange Pessoa uses materials such as soil, moss, wax, leather, blood and feathers. Her works are on display at *Kunsthaus Bregenz* from 11 November 2023 to 4 February 2024. www.kunsthaus-bregenz.at/en
- "The Canapé is my Pleasure" is the title of a special exhibition at the *vorarlberg museum* from 11 November to spring 2024. It revolves around Biedermeier-era lounge furniture from Bregenzerwald. Effective as of 1 February 2024, a new museum director has been appointed. Michael Kasper, formerly head of the Montafon museums, will follow Andreas Rudigier, who is to take over the management of the Tirol State Museums. www.vorarlbergmuseum.at/en
- The *Women's Museum Hittisau* is Austria's only museum devoted to women and documents cultural creation by women. "Spick and Span" is the ultra-clean title of the current exhibition on show at two sites: in Hittisau and in the Lech Museum in Lech am Arlberg. Until 27 October 2024 the central theme is cleaning – inside, outside, everywhere, and aspects of cleaning and cleanliness, role models and ecology. www.frauenmuseum.at
- Up until 10 March 2024, the *Jewish Museum Hohenems* will be showcasing the photo documentation "A Place of Our Own" by the Israeli artist and photographer Iris Hassid, who accompanied four young Arab students in Tel Aviv in their day-to-day lives. The outcome makes the many different facets of contemporary Arab identity in Israel visible. www.jm-hohenems.at/en

- The *Vorarlberg FIS Ski Museum Damüls*, a small museum in the former vicarage of Damüls, focuses on local history and winter sports. Since 2017, the museum has been certified by the FIS and is thus Vorarlberg's only FIS Ski Museum. Exhibits, mainly collected by Christian Lingenhölle from Bregenz, provide insights into the over 100-year ski history of the village. In addition to historic skis, the focus is on equipment and a colourful selection of memorabilia. On the 2nd floor, the new biennial special exhibition "Nona" is dedicated to the multifaceted potential of swinging: at scenic spots in Damüls and in the neighbouring villages of Fontanella Faschina in the Großes Walsertal Biosphere Park, large wooden swings invite visitors to swing. Why the swings are located in the mountains and how we can find relaxation in digital times through swinging is explained to visitors on a tour. www.damuels.at/en/walsertal/vorarlberg-fis-skimuseum.html

DINING & PLEASURE

New Fenkart World of Chocolate, Hohenems

A paradise for chocolate lovers is set to open in Hohenems in the Vorarlberg Rhine valley: Construction work on the new Fenkart Chocolate World on Schlossplatz is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of 2024. In the glass-walled chocolate factory, visitors can find out how chocolate is made and learn interesting facts about this sweet specialty. There is a lot to see and taste: colourful fruit, seeds and spices traditionally refine the chocolate bars and pralines. A new addition is a spacious 160 m² shop. The ice cream parlour on Schlossplatz, the coffee house, and the guest garden have been given a facelift. www.schokoladengenuss.at

"Tisch Zwölf", Dornbirn & Andelsbuch

The "Tisch Zwölf" concept combines a sustainable, healthy and delicious lunch with new networking opportunities. Another aspect is important to the initiators, who include restaurant owners and vegetable producers: "We want to change the future," they say. Their goal is to make communal catering fit for the future. This is to be achieved with well-prepared regional, seasonal food and dining options in special places. Once a week, "Tisch Zwölf" is staged in Andelsbuch in Bregenzerwald, and once at CampusVäre in Dornbirn. The communal meal is highly popular - seats at the long table are almost always fully booked. www.tisch-zwoelf.at

New initiative "Echt Lech" making high-alpine farming visible, Lech Zürs am Arlberg

Seven mountain farms from Lech, Zug, Oberlech and Zürs have joined forces and founded the "Echt Lech" association in a bid to showcase their day-to-day life with the animals on the steep mountain slopes on the Arlberg. They sell their specialities under the label "Echt Lech", ranging from fresh hay milk to pork, beef and poultry and various sausages. The initiative equally wants to raise awareness for animals and agricultural work, as well as for high-quality agricultural produce. <https://echtlech.at>

Walch's Rote Wand Gourmet Hotel with "Friends & Fools", Lech Zürs am Arlberg

The Walch family from Walch's Rote Wand Gourmet Hotel in Lech has high-flying plans. Over the next few years, their premises in Zug near Lech am Arlberg are to become home to a culinary lab, a cookery school, a bakery, charcuterie and fromagerie. The hotel has founded the community programme "Friends & Fools" to involve as many interested stakeholders as possible and to generate the

necessary funding for these projects. There is a choice of four packages which can be redeemed over five years as gift certificates for Rote Wand services and which offer a discount of some percentage points on overnight stays in the hotel. Moreover, community members can take part in exclusive events such as cooking workshops. www.rotewand.com/en/friends-and-fools

OUTDOOR & more

Fontanella & Faschina, more swings added to experience high-flying thrills

For a number of years, visitors of Damüls have been stunned by four giant swings installed in the mountains. Starting this winter, four additional swings will be added in the neighbouring villages of Fontanella and Faschina in the Grosses Walsertal biosphere park. The swing frames are handmade and built from massive oakwood. In winter, they invite visitors to swing across the snow-carpeted landscape all while enjoying jaw-dropping views.

www.vorarlberg-alpenregion.at/de/walsertal/schaukeln-im-grossen-walsertal.html

SUSTAINABILITY

Three Vorarlberg museums win eco-labels

Vorarlberg's museums implement different concept to show their commitment a sustainable use of natural resources. Three museums, the vorarlberg museum in Bregenz, the interactive inatura nature show in Dornbirn and – a recent addition – the Women's Museum in Hittisau in Bregenzerwald, have been awarded the Austrian Eco-Label. This label is presented to companies and institutions which meet defined criteria and undergo certification.

www.umweltzeichen.at/de/kultur/museen?cert_number=1328

Hotel Goldener Berg wins the EU Ecolabel

As the first ever hotel in Lech Zürs am Arlberg, and one of a select few in Vorarlberg, Hotel Goldener Berg has been awarded the Austrian eco-label and the EU eco-label.

www.goldenerberg.at/de/lifestyle-hotel-arlberg/hand-in-hand-mit-unserer-natur

New LED lighting at Kunsthaus Bregenz

In early 2023, Kunsthaus Bregenz (KUB) replaced all its lights with LEDs as part of its energy efficiency programme, which has been running for several years. On the three upper floors alone, 660 lamps were refitted. The lighting on the escape routes and basement floors was replaced as well. Thanks to these measures and daylight-dependent regulation, Kunsthaus Bregenz will in future be able to save more than 50 per cent of the electricity previously consumed for lighting.

www.kunsthau-bregenz.at/en/news/lighting-replacement

First small hydroelectric station in Lech Zürs am Arlberg

Lech Zürs am Arlberg has completed another project to increase sustainability. Since January 2023, a small hydroelectric station supplies renewable energy to the region. The plant covers some 15% of the power demand. In a bid to achieve self-reliance and security of supply, another hydroelectric station is in the pipeline. www.lechzuers.com/en/actual-press-releases

4. Other news

ARRIVAL

New weekly service from London to Friedrichshafen

Friedrichshafen airport is situated in Germany, a mere 35km from Vorarlberg. The winter schedule now features two new flight connections from and to London. Starting 16 December 2023 until 30 March 2024, Easyjet will be flying on Saturdays from London Gatwick to Friedrichshafen and back. Moreover, Lufthansa will be operating a service from London Heathrow to Frankfurt and back from 16 December 2023 to 25 March 2024.

www.bodensee-airport.eu/press/lufthansa-erweitert-das-flugangebot-ab-friedrichshafen

5. Further information, texts and photo material

Further information, texts and photo material at www.vorarlberg.travel/presse-portal
 General information on Vorarlberg as a holiday destination www.vorarlberg.travel

6. Experience Vorarlberg in real-time

Inspiration & information: Our Social Guide Vorarlberg shows the social media community all there is to discover in Vorarlberg: vorarlberg.social

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