



Austria

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.vmobil.at. All regions offer inclusive cards. Most of these cards double as tickets for public transport in the region and partly even beyond. Scheduled buses and ski buses operate in the winter sports region. Holders of ski passes and/or guest cards travel for free. www.vorarlberg.travel/mobile-on-vacation

... by Train

Vorarlberg is within easy and climate friendly reach by train from 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, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Cologne and transfer connections, e.g. via Munich. Destinations in Bregenzerwald 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 Rorschach 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 Bregenzerwald can be accessed without an Austrian toll sticker.

... by Bus

Bregenz and Dornbirn have intercity bus stations. www.flixbus.at

... by Plane

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

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

Direct train services to Vorarlberg



Vorarlberg – six appealing regions to choose from

On a length of merely 100 km from north to south, Vorarlberg's natural scenery is surprisingly varied. From the shores of Lake Constance with its Mediterranean flair, it takes no more than 90 minutes to drive through rolling hill country up to high alpine settings. Each of the six holiday regions has its own distinctive character, honed by unique landscapes and cultural traditions.

Unparalleled combination: Lech Zürs am Arlberg

One-of-a-kind winter sports facilities, heartfelt hospitality, excellent food, and an inspirational combination of old and new – these are the ingredients that make Lech Zürs am Arlberg one of the leading winter sports destinations in the Alps. More space, more time – surrounded by breathtaking scenery. It comes as no surprise then that the Lech Zürs am Arlberg holiday region is a member of "Best of the Alps", an association of the eleven most prestigious tourism destinations in the Alps.



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Taking pleasure in creating: Bregenzerwald

The Bregenzerwald region is not only a prime destination for nature lovers, but also for visitors looking for cultural, architectural and culinary attractions. Skiers will find a variety of slopes for all levels of proficiency in several ski areas, all of them offering spectacular panoramic views to boot. Mountains, alpine pastures, and forests beckon to be explored on foot or by bike, either setting out on your own or on a guided tour. Festivals such as Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg, concerts and special museum exhibitions add to Bregenzerwald's rich cultural tapestry.



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Meeting place: Bodensee-Vorarlberg

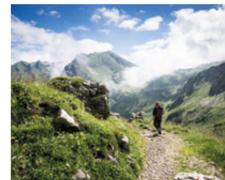
Urban culture and outdoor fun are the most prominent attractions of the Bodensee-Vorarlberg region, which comprises the towns of Bregenz, Dornbirn, Hohenems and Feldkirch. Hiking, cycling, architecture, culinary delights, boat cruises – all within easy reach around Lake Constance and in the mountains bordering the Rhine Valley. The region also boasts ski resorts, such as Laterns and Bödele near Dornbirn. Culture vultures will find rich pickings in museums, concerts, theatre performances and festivals, such as the Bregenz Festival or the Schubertiade in Hohenems



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Small in size, big on scenery: Kleinwalsertal

A visit to Kleinwalsertal is synonymous with outdoor activity. Leave your daily worries behind and relax. With three distinct altitude levels, Kleinwalsertal's terrain is ideally suited for hiking, mountaineering, and climbing in summer or downhill and cross-country skiing and ski touring in winter. The valley's secluded position makes it exceptional, too. Surrounded by picturesque mountain scenery, it can only be reached by car from neighbouring Germany and offers a wealth of varied alpine landscapes in a unique geographical location.



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A heaven for nature lovers, foodies, families: Brandnertal, Alpenstadt Bludenz, Klostertal, Grosses Walsertal

This region owes its charm to the three distinctive valleys – Brandnertal, Klostertal and the Grosses Walsertal biosphere reserve – surrounding the lively Alpenstadt Bludenz. All of them offer a wealth of leisure time, sports and family fun options, in summer as well as in winter. Visitors are sure to find what both body and soul need to recover from the stresses of day-to-day life: Expect a multitude of ways to experience nature, enjoy regional delicacies and benefit from heartfelt hospitality.



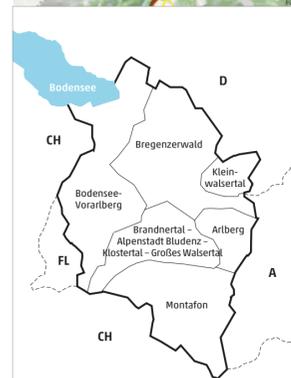
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Personal, authentic and one-of-a-kind: Montafon

With a length of 59km, this valley in Vorarlberg's south is home to eleven charming towns and villages and a real paradise for those in thrall to the great outdoors as well as to excellent food and drink. Millions of years ago, geology worked its magic to create an unparalleled variety of alpine scenery in a small space. Alpenmosaik Montafon comprises 56 themed trails that help visitors make the most of this phenomenon. In wintertime, five ski areas featuring 297 kilometres of perfectly groomed slopes offer endless choices, from athletic and adventurous to unforgettable family fun.



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Disclosure

Publisher: Vorarlberg Tourismus GmbH, Dornbirn.
Photo credits page 1: Lucas Tiefenthaler, Alex Kaiser/Bregenzerwald Tourismus, Daniel Zangerl/Lech Zürs Tourismus, Petra Rainer/Bodensee-Vorarlberg Tourismus, Alex Kaiser/Alpenregion Bludenz Tourismus, Andre Tappe/Kleinwalsertal Tourismus, Stefan Kothner/Montafon Tourismus
Text: Kitz Kommunikation. Concept/design: Vorarlberg Tourismus.
Basis for the map: © Printmaps.net / OSM Contributors.
Printed by: Samson Druck GmbH, Salzburg. Printed in Austria.
While every care has been taken in processing the data received, no liability is accepted for the correctness of the information given. Data as of: September 2023.



... more Information

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Austria

Vorarlberg: Breathtakingly beautiful all year round

Located at the westernmost tip of Austria, Vorarlberg is on 'good-neighbourly' terms with adjacent Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Vorarlberg's landscapes range from the gentle shores of Lake Constance and the low-lying Rheintal and Walgau areas to mountain valleys and Alpine summits reaching altitudes of up to 3,000 metres. The region is famous for the wide variety of its natural scenery, a thriving cultural life, stunning contemporary architecture, and culinary delicacies inspired by local tradition.

Vorarlberg is easy to reach and offers visitors, from wherever they might travel here, a wealth of attractions to explore throughout the year. And it is not just lovingly curated landscapes that this small region is proud of. Among its merely 400,000 inhabitants, surprisingly many show great pleasure in creating and innovating, a passion from which visitors stand to benefit: lively cultural activity and groundbreaking architecture – Vorarlberg is a pioneer when it comes to state-of-the-art sustainable building – authentic hospitality, excellent leisure facilities and culinary excellence. An outstanding public transport network provides climate-friendly options for exploring. "Respect your limits" is the guiding principle for mindful encounters with nature. Attentive hosts offer a heartfelt welcome, inviting guests to spend quality time in inspiring surroundings.

Summer fun

Forests and mountain summits beckon everywhere for hikers to explore. In many places, cable cars offer a convenient way to reach higher altitudes and enjoy panoramic views. Hop on a bike and get moving – along the shores of Lake Constance, down in the valleys, or on mountain trails. If you prefer swimming or water sports, linger awhile at Lake Constance or spend some care-free time at one of the many outdoor and natural pools. Another attractive option is taking a cruise on Lake Constance, crossing national borders along the way. If you are more into art and culture, interesting museums abound, and festivals staged at special locations present both locals and visitors with new cultural experiences. Prime among them is the internationally renowned Bregenz Festival, where the largest floating stage in the world is the perfect setting for open-air opera performances.

Autumn magic

Crisp autumn days with blue skies and stunningly colourful foliage add extra pleasure to hiking and biking. The lidos at Lake Constance keep their doors open until about mid-September. Swimming in Lake Constance is a pastime that is available all year round, with many natural bathing sites providing easy access. Cruise boats operate until mid-October. Museums accommodate visitors at any time of the year and have a range of attractions on offer, from contemporary art to Vorarlberg's specific flora and fauna. Musical performances are being staged, and the theatre season is starting off. Freshly harvested produce gets expertly transformed into culinary delights.

Winter bliss

White is the colour that now dominates the landscape. Towns and villages alike stage romantic advent markets to ring in the Christmas season. The cruise boats on Lake Constance have special St Nicholas cruises on offer and bring the year to a close with a superb New Year's gala. Well-known ski resorts see skiers gliding down snow-covered slopes and hillsides, while others might prefer swishing along groomed cross-country trails, enjoying the peace and quiet of a winter hike or whooshing downhill on a sled. Some resorts offer classy après-ski events for relaxed evenings full of music and fun. Concerts, theatre and comedy performances can be found mostly in the towns, with exhibitions and museums opening up new perspectives. Many villages mark the end of winter with a special tradition called *Funkenabbrennen*: on the weekend following the last Sunday of the carnival season, bonfires built up several metres high are set alight, the fire meant to dispel winter.

Spring in the air

March sees the first trees along Lake Constance start to bloom. The vast lake stores heat and makes for a milder climate, with fresh green gracing its shores early in the season. In the towns, life is slowly moving back outdoors again, with cafés and restaurants putting out tables and chairs and menus featuring fresh spring produce. While some enjoy the spring sunshine in the valleys, others are still into winter sports, the higher lying resorts being open until early April. Sunshine skiers tend to follow a rhythm of their own, hitting the slopes in the morning and whiling away the afternoon on mountain lodge sun decks, some even with live music playing. Cultural events, such as the *Bregenzer Frühling* Dance Festival, also add to the charms of spring.

For more information see www.vorarlberg.travel/en



Did you know that ...

- the first-ever ski course for guests in skiing history was held in Zürs am Arlberg in 1906?
- it was master builders and craftspeople from Bregenzerwald who built the stunning Baroque churches and monasteries around Lake Constance? In the 17th century, Au im Bregenzerwald saw the rise of a guild of master builders whose skills were much in demand.
- Grosses Walsertal is a UNESCO biosphere park?
- a 31-leg hiking tour takes you all around Vorarlberg? The *Min Weag* (local vernacular for My Way) circular tour comes with a handy printed guidebook.
- the first designer hotel in Austria is located in Dornbirn? Designed by architects Baumschlager Eberle, Hotel Martinspark was opened in 1996.
- James Bond did a stint on the Bregenz Festival stage? In 2008, the floating stage featured as a location in Quantum of Solace.
- Vorarlberg's scenery is so varied because it is where five geological zones meet.

Social Media

Experience Vorarlberg in real time on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, X and LinkedIn. Share your Vorarlberg holiday and leisure time impressions using the hashtags [#visitvorarlberg](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/visitvorarlberg) [#myvorarlberg](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/myvorarlberg)



A wide variety of natural scenery

While the vast expanse of Lake Constance gives off a seaside vibe, just a few kilometres away, mountain summits rise up to almost 3,000m in altitude. Although small in size, Vorarlberg comprises an astonishingly wide variety of landscapes – pleasant low-lying areas, river valleys, forests, moors, alpine pastures, and towering summits await.

Vorarlberg is a beautiful region. To ensure that it stays this way, great emphasis is placed on protecting and preserving the habits of numerous species of animal and plant life. Areas that are particularly vulnerable and valuable have been designated as reserves, where nature is allowed to thrive freely and strict rules apply for human intervention.

Protecting and preserving nature is also high on the agenda of tourism operators. Coming up with innovative energy schemes and implementing a plethora of environmentally friendly measures, they make a strong contribution towards sustainable development. The same holds for everyone who behaves mindfully and respectfully during whatever activities they pursue out in nature. The "Respect your limits" campaign reminds people to consciously experience nature and put its protection first. This includes, for example, respecting off-limits warnings on trails and slopes, refraining from entering wildlife quiet areas and, as a matter of course, taking your litter back home with you.

Water and forests

Lakes, rivers, moors, and forests are refreshing places to be when temperatures are up. During the colder months, they radiate a special kind of peace and tranquillity. The best way to take in the beauty of these landscapes is to explore them on foot. You will also find bike and mountain bike trails that take you along lakes and streams or through forests. The internationally renowned Rhine delta nature reserve, which is located directly on Lake Constance, is home to numerous rare animal and plant species. Some bird species overwinter in the shallows and on the partly reed-covered shores. Moors, of which Vorarlberg boasts quite a few, count among the most precious of nature's assets.



Schröcken © walser-image.com



Bike-Tour © Stefan Kothner / Montafon Tourismus



vorarlberg museum © Petra Rainer / Bodensee-Vorarlberg Tourismus



restaurant Motitz Hohenems © Angela Lamprecht



Kleinwalsertal © Dietmar Denger

Boundless creativity

Culture vultures will find a wide range of attractions in Vorarlberg, from impressive exhibitions to Literaricum Lech, with striking architecture being naturally conspicuous.

Theatres, museums and exhibition spaces in Vorarlberg feature lively activity throughout the year. Visitors will come across eye-catching works of art also in the public space. In some towns, and even high up in the mountains, art spots invite visitors to pause for a while and reflect.

Stunning buildings

Preserving the traditional while making room for innovation ranks high in Vorarlberg's mindset in a number of fields, architecture and craftsmanship among them. Keeping traditional design and building techniques in mind, the results are surprisingly modern creations, specifically designed to fit their designated uses and locations. Over the past few decades and owing not least to public-sector building projects acting as role models, Vorarlberg has witnessed the rise of an architectural culture that garners international attention. Masterpieces include buildings such as museums, schools, kindergartens, town halls, cultural event spaces and convention centres, hotels and restaurants.

Feel-good interiors

It is not only the perfect combination of old and new architecture that catches the eye, interiors, too, have the power to amaze. Materials such as wood, loam, wool, loden, and stone create a feel-good atmosphere which guests can experience in many newly designed or carefully upgraded buildings and rooms – be it when staying overnight, when out wining and dining or when enjoying cultural treats.

Architecture to explore

If regional architecture piques your interest, the easiest way to experience it is to stroll through the towns and villages while keeping an eye out for local attractions, something you can do at any time of the year. On top of that, you can book guided tours in many towns and in some museums:

- Themed ArchiteCours provide recommendations for self-guided exploration, with topics as varied as "Architecture and Landscape", "Timber and Loam", "Art and Culture", "Crafts and Innovation", or "Village Spaces".
- "Places to dwell" is the motto under which Vorarlberg State Tourism has collated a list of spaces and buildings featuring particularly imaginative design.
- In Bregenzerwald, the 12 *Umgang* Bregenzerwald village walks offer unexpected insights.
- Likewise in Bregenzerwald, *Werkraum Haus* Andelsbuch is always worth a visit: Designed by Swiss architect Peter Zumthor, this hall-like glass-fronted building showcases innovative craftsmanship from Bregenzerwald.
- During the summer months, the *Walser Kulturwege* trails take you on a journey through the Kleinwalsertal region's history and architectural tradition.
- Other ways to gain insights into Vorarlberg's cultural life include guided tours and themed trails designed by artists, with art installations and interactive stations along the way.

For more information see www.vorarlberg.travel/culture www.vorarlberg.travel/architecture

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 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, locally sourced and refined – that's the motto the many award-winning inns and restaurants subscribe to. Visitors can savour both traditional and contemporary delicacies also in many mountain restaurants and ski lodges. Wherever possible, ingredients are sourced locally or are sometimes even homegrown.

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. Artisanal food manufacturers and farms are no less innovative and creative. Over 3,500 family-run farms call the area between Lake Constance and the mountains their home, and approximately 15 per cent of these adhere to strict organic standards. The range of produce they offer includes both the traditional and the unexpected, from the Japanese shiso herb to saffron to water buffalo meat and dairy products. However, farmers do not just supply valuable foodstuffs, to a large extent it is them who maintain and take good care of Vorarlberg's cultivated landscape. Alpine transhumance, which has been practised here for ages, strongly contributes to this as well.

Fabulous cheese

On many hiking trails you will come across alpine farmsteads, called alps, catering to visitors in the summer. Some manufacture Vorarlberg's famous cheeses 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, which also has a role to play in *Kässpätzle* or *Käsknöpfle*, a typical local dish.

Superb quality

Agriculture and tourism have always had close ties with each other in Vorarlberg. Meat is sourced primarily from local farms or neighbouring Austrian regions, fish from Lake Constance or small fish farms. Vegetable farmers in the Rhine Valley and in Bregenzerwald supply all the fresh produce you can wish for. All around the year, they deliver their fresh harvest to markets, hotels, restaurants, and households.

Rheintaler *Riebelmais*, a type of ground maize grown in the Rhine Valley, 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 well in the Rhine Valley and nearby suntrap mountainsides and are often turned into juices, ciders and fine spirits. Tantalising pear spirit *Sabirer* is considered the crown jewel 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 from cheese houses, delis, numerous artisanal food producers and directly from farm shops. Held throughout the year in the towns and in some villages, weekly markets offer a broad range of seasonal fruit and vegetables as well as refined delicacies.

For more information see www.vorarlberg.travel/food-and-drink

Facts about Vorarlberg

Population: 406.395 (1 January 2023)

Extension: north-south: 84 km; west-east: 53 km

How many mountain summits are there in Vorarlberg? More than 700

What is the altitude difference between Vorarlberg's lowest point on Lake Constance and its highest point on Piz Buin? Nearly 3,000 metres (Note: the lowest point is at 395, the highest at 3,312 metres in altitude)

Where does Vorarlberg rank as a business location among the most innovative regions worldwide? At number 4

How many litres of milk does it take to produce 1 kilogram of mountain cheese? About 10 litres

What is Sig? a) A spelling error b) A goat cheese c) *Walder chocolate* (from Bregenzerwald) Whey, a by-product of cheese manufacturing, is cooked slowly until caramel forms. The result is called *Sig*. Because of its sweet taste, it was originally also referred to as *Walder chocolate*.



Bus Stop Krumbach © Felix Friedmann / Bregenzerwald Tourismus