Vorarlberg Tourismus GmbH Vorarlberg State Tourist Board
CAMPUS V | Hintere Achmühlerstraße 1c | 6850 Dornbirn | Austria | +43.5572.37 70 33-0
info@vorarlberg.travel | www.vorarlberg.travel

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News from the Vorarlberg ski areas

Diedamskopf launched an avalanche warning system

Starting at the end of the 2025/26 winter season, Diedamskopf in the Bregenzerwald became the first ski area in Austria to use the digital avalanche warning system "Avalanche Alerts". Winter sports enthusiasts will automatically receive alerts as soon as they enter a high-risk zone. No dedicated app or registration is required. The alerts are location-based and thus reach approximately 90 percent of smartphones in German-speaking countries.
www.simagazin.com/

Standalone Vitamin B Brandnertal pass

Starting in the 2026/27 winter season, the Vitamin B Brandnertal Pass will introduce new, standalone day and multi-day passes for the Brandnertal. With the new Brandnertal Pass, guests will benefit from flexible ticket options, attractive family offers, and special Vitamin B deals. These include "Bring a Friend Friday"—every Friday, a companion receives a 50 percent discount on a ski pass—as well as a free day pass for birthday guests (in winter and summer). The new tickets will be available for booking from late September 2026. Those who book online early benefit from dynamic pricing and save an additional 8 percent compared to purchasing at the ticket counter. The previous multi-day WildPass, which was also valid in the neighboring Montafon region, will no longer be offered in the future.
www.shop.bergbahnen-brandnertal.at/en/

Silvretta Montafon invests in the Freda Cable Car

The Montafon region is preparing for the FIS World Championships in snowboarding, freestyle, and freeskiing—scheduled for 6 to 21 March 2027—with a variety of investments. A key step is the renovation of the Freda lift at Grasjoch in the Silvretta Montafon. The detachable, high-speed 4-person chairlift with protective covers—which was previously in operation in Sölden—will replace the existing 2-person chairlift.
www.simagazin.com/

Walmendingerhornbahn cable car in the Kleinwalsertal valley

After more than 60 years, the Walmendingerhornbahn cable car in the Kleinwalsertal will be replaced by a new gondola lift, which will begin operation on 24 December 2026. The new lift will carry 80 passengers, doubling its capacity. The modernization is all about greater comfort, quality, and barrier-free accessibility. Floor-to-ceiling windows ensure beautiful views. The barrier-free design makes it easier to board with prams, wheelchairs, or sports equipment.
www.ok-bergbahnen.com/

Redesigned: Didi's indoor playground at Diedamskopf

The indoor playground at the Diedamskopf mountain station, which covers around 300 m^2, has been redesigned and has been open since August 2026. In addition to space for jumping, building, and playing, there is now also a real snow groomer for children to explore. The play area is open year-round, free of charge, to families with children during lift operating hours.

www.diedamskopf.at/

The Brandnertal Premium guest card includes mountain railway rides

Holidaymakers receive the Premium Brandnertal guest card after just one overnight stay at one of the region's partner establishments. Starting in winter 2026/27, this card will offer even more benefits. Skiers can use the Schedlerhof Lift—popular with beginners—for free. Pedestrians can ride the Brandnertal cable cars and the Muttersbergbahn near Bludenz for free. Also included is the toboggan pass, which covers toboggan rentals at the Brandnertal cable cars in Brandnertal.
www.vorarlberg-alpenregion.at/

Investments & Innovations in the hotel industry & gastronomy

NEW ACCOMMODATION & RESTAURANTS

Uncomplicated: Hotel Ma.Ma with restaurant Lothar in Bregenz

Following a renovation, the Hotel Ma.Ma. opened in July 2026 in the former Hotel Germania in Bregenz. This urban boutique hotel, featuring 42 newly designed rooms, combines personal hospitality with a flexible, contemporary hotel concept. Thanks to digital self-check-in, guests can arrive and depart at their convenience. The hosts offer breakfast. On 1 December 2026, the Restaurant Lothar will open inside the hotel, which focuses on authentic culinary craftsmanship, homemade dishes and personal hospitality. The menu features Austrian classics as well as creative meat, fish and vegetarian dishes, all prepared with care and without the use of pre-made products.
www.hotel-mama.com/
www.restaurant-lothar.com/

Conveniently located: Cube alpine stay

In Bürs near Bludenz, the Hotel Cube opened in February 2026 with eleven double rooms and 16 apartments for two to six people. Instead of a reception, there is a 24/7 self-check-in. The hotel is designed for families and business travellers: the deliberately functional rooms either feature a large desk or are equipped with a kitchen. Air conditioning and high-speed Wi-Fi are standard. Parking spaces in the underground car park can be booked, and ski and bicycle storage are available. The two restaurants on the ground floor—the Japanese steakhouse Akiko and the Snash Burger Bar—appeal to both, hotel guests and locals.
https://cubestay.at/

New concept: VAYA Post Montafon

The new VAYA Post Montafon will open in early December 2026 in the centre of Gaschurn. To this end, the historic former Posthotel Rössle has been extensively modernised and integrated into the alpine concept of the Austrian VAYA Group. The hotel offers cosy rooms and suites, a restaurant serving half-board meals and regional specialities, and a spacious wellness area with indoor and outdoor pools, saunas, a steam room, relaxation rooms, and a fitness area. The Versettla cable car—and thus the Silvretta Montafon ski area—is just a few minutes away. The property is the VAYA Group's first hotel in Vorarlberg.
https://www.vayaresorts.com/en/

Selected: Vermalagut

In St. Gallenkirch in the Montafon, the Tschanhenz family will open the Vermala Gut chalet village in December 2026. The complex, designed with an abundance of wood, comprises 21 luxurious chalet units with private wellness areas, including an outdoor sauna and hot tub. In addition, the Bergquellbad—a communal wellness area with a heated pool—is being created.

The offer also includes an à la carte restaurant, which is open to guests from the valley as well, plus breakfast and dining service in the chalets.
www.vermalagut.at

Elevation: die tannbergerin

In December 2026, the "die tannbergerin" apartment building will open in Hochkrumbach near Warth. It is located at an altitude of just under 1,700 metres, right next to the Hotel Adler on the Hochtannberg pass. The property is run by Vanessa Wüstner and Laszlo Szabo, who also jointly operate the nearby Widdersteinhütte in the summer.
www.tannbergerin.at

At the ski lift: AAALodge in Warth

The new AAALodge will open in Warth in December 2026. The three letters "A" stand for "Arlberg All Access". The building is located right next to the Dorfbahn Warth, making it ideal for skiers. There are eight apartments to choose from, ranging in size from 35 m² to 125 m². The largest unit can accommodate up to eleven people. A 400 m² wellness area featuring a pool, saunas and a fitness room rounds out the amenities. Guests can enjoy breakfast and snacks in the fireplace lounge.
www.aaa-lodge.com/en/

CONVERSIONS/EXTENSIONS/MAJOR RENOVATIONS

Renovated: Alpenrose Schruns

The Hotel Alpenrose in Schruns in the Montafon is getting a fresh new look in several phases. Since July 2026, the indoor pool, the restaurants with their buffet area, and the hotel bar have featured a modern design. New treatment rooms have been added to the Alpine Spa. At the end of August 2026, the panoramic outdoor pool with a large sunbathing area opened. From December 2026, 19 new rooms and suites on the 5th and 6th floors are available. The selection includes 28 m² double rooms as well as suites measuring 37 m² and 45 m². A new addition is a clothed sauna for families.
www.spa-alpenrose.at/en

New tenant: Tschofen in Bludenz

The TSCHOFEN in Bludenz's Old Town reopened under new management on 1 October 2026. Daniel Fischer took over the listed building on Rathausgasse as leaseholder. The boutique hotel, where historic stucco meets casual modern comfort, offers double rooms, suites and studio apartments, as well as a panoramic sauna and free underground parking for hotel guests. The gastronomy on the ground floor—restaurant, coffeehouse, bar—attracts hotel guests and locals alike. The restaurant focuses on upscale alpine cuisine with modern interpretations of Vorarlberg dishes.
www.dastschofen.at/

Please wait: Hotel Gutwinski

The reopening of the Gutwinski Hotel in Feldkirch's Old Town, originally scheduled for December 2026, is expected to be postponed until early 2027. Archaeological finds were discovered during the renovation work, which must first be examined and documented. As part of the renovation, the historic city hotel will gain approximately 400 square metres of additional basement space. Among other things, a small spa area with a sauna and whirlpool,

as well as a fitness room, will be built there. In addition, direct access to the hotel's parking spaces in the underground car park of the neighboring Montforthaus will be established.
www.gutwinski.cc/en/

New offers & products in Vorarlberg's destinations

ART & CULTURE

Pre-Christmas workshops in the Bregenzerwald

Anyone who wants to make their own Christmas gift or learn specific skills can now attend half-day workshops on select dates at the Werkraum Bregenzerwald in Andelsbuch in the Bregenzerwald. Four different topics are on the schedule for November 2026: On 6 November 2026, the focus will be on paper folding for the Christmas season. On 7 November 2026, participants will learn how to ferment sauerkraut the traditional way. An introduction to "Ossa Sepia," an ancient jewellery-casting technique, will take place on 13 and 14 November 2026. "Repair Your Furniture" is the theme for 28 November 2026.
www.werkraum.at/

„Inn Utopie“ at the Hirschen in Schwarzenberg

For 18 winters, "Hirschens feiner Musiksalon" hosted weekly music evenings—now it's time for a five-day festival, which will take place for the first time as "inn Utopie" from 16 to 20 March 2027 at the Hirschen. International musicians, chefs, and artists will perform, cook, and interpret inn—the guests will come from the village and from all over the world. There will be regulars' tables with a diverse crowd, conversations about architectural, culinary delights, and art, accompanied by multi-course menus and plenty of wine. From 9 p.m., the main acts will perform for a maximum of 140 guests per evening. The band Cordoba78 is a guaranteed part of the line-up. Festival passes and overnight packages are available for the entire festival week.
www.hirschenschwarzenberg.at/en

Werkraum Bregenzerwald: Crafts + Design

Handwerk+Form is one of the most important platforms for contemporary craftsmanship in the Bregenzerwald. It brings together a competition, a festival, and opportunities for exchange, highlighting the diversity, innovative spirit, and social significance of the region's craft culture. The tenth edition of Handwerk+Form in October 2026 served as the starting point for the subsequent exhibition at Werkraum Bregenzerwald. A rotating selection of submitted and award-winning objects and concepts will be on display through 23 October 2027. Visitors can touch the exhibits, experience the materials, and learn more about how they were created. A diverse supporting programme featuring workshops and lectures complements the exhibition.
www.werkraum.at/

Kunsthaus Bregenz: Torkwase Dyson

Through 24 January 2027, the Kunsthaus Bregenz is presenting the first institutional solo exhibition in Austria by the American artist Torkwase Dyson. She describes herself as a painter, but also works with large-scale sculptures, drawings, architectural installations, and sound.

Her works, created specifically for the KUB, explore historical and contemporary forms of exploitation, racism, and environmental destruction.
www.kunsthaus-bregenz.at/

vorarlberg museum

Until 21 March 2027, the vorarlberg museum in Bregenz is presenting the exhibition "Delphina and Three Deserters—Family Memories of Humanity and Courage in an Inhumane Time." The exhibition centers on Delphina Burtscher from Grosses Walsertal, who supported her deserted brothers and her fiancé during World War II. Two of the men were sentenced to death and executed; Delphina herself was arrested. Personal mementos, photographs, historical documents, and audio interviews tell the family's story and shed light on how desertion, resistance, and persecution were dealt with during the Nazi era.
www.vorarlbergmuseum.at/en

Vorarlberger Landestheater "Andernorts"

While the Kornmarkt theater is undergoing renovation, the Vorarlberger Landestheater will perform at various venues throughout the state during the 2026/27 season. Daniela Egger's play "Das Glück im Inneren der Lawine" is scheduled for 18 and 19 November 2026 at the Theater am Saumarkt in Feldkirch. The play offers a critical examination of nature, tourism, and home. At the Theater KOSMOS in Bregenz, the Christmas fairy tale "Das Vamperl," based on Renate Welsh's story, will premiere on 2 December 2026. This child-friendly stage adaptation tells the story of a little vampire who sucks the evil out of people instead of blood. Performances are scheduled for December and early January. Starting 16 January 2027, the Theater KOSMOS will present "Dangerous Liaisons," based on the novel by Choderlos de Laclos, in a stage adaptation by John von Düffel.
www.landestheater.org/

Art forum & Montafon local history museum

In the Montafon, contemporary art meets regional history this winter: In its 2026/27 winter exhibition, the Kunstforum Montafon in Schruns juxtaposes the works of two contemporary artists, Angelika Loderer and Stefania Batoeva – while the Montafoner Heimatmuseum in Schruns, in its exhibition "IMWANDEL," is showing historical postcard images from the local Wolf photo studio dating from 1930 to 2000 through Easter 2027. Large-scale projections using four projectors illustrate the massive changes in the valley's landscape and tourism industry.
www.kfm.at/
www.stand-montafon.at/

FIS Ski Museum in Damüls

In addition to the permanent exhibition on "130 Years of Vorarlberg Ski History" at the Ski Museum in Damüls, the special exhibition "The Woodcarver of Damüls" will run until April 2027. It is dedicated to the local artist Johann Martin Bischof (1838–1928), who was known for his artfully crafted religious carvings. On display are crosses and other wooden works that showcase his craftsmanship and artistic design. The exhibition also offers insights into his life.
https://www.skimuseum-damuels.at/general-8

New: "Kultur vor.you" cultural voucher

Since 1 November 2026, the new "Kultur vor.you" cultural voucher has expanded the range of offerings from Bodensee-Vorarlberg Tourism. The voucher is available online with a flexible value and can be redeemed at participating cultural institutions in the region for concerts, theatre, readings and other events. Participants include the Symphonieorchester Vorarlberg, the Schubertiade Hohenems, the poolbar Festival, the Spielboden Dornbirn and the Kammgarn Hard. The full value of the redeemed voucher benefits the respective cultural institutions.

www.bodensee-vorarlberg.com/en/

CULINARY DELIGHTS & ENJOYMENT

Restaurant Hörnlingen is expanding

The Hörnlingen in Rankweil stands out in several ways: top chef Dominic Mayer and his team offer exclusively surprise menus. Guests can choose the number of courses as they wish. In addition, the kitchen consistently follows the "From leaf to root" and "From nose to tail" principles. From October 2026, the inn will feature 15 additional seats and an expanded kitchen. A standalone wine bar with a wine shop is being created in the vaulted cellar.
www.hoernlingen.at/

New dining room area by Emanuel Ganahl

Since July 2026, the Esszimmer by Emanuel Ganahl has been housed in its own restaurant area within the renovated Hotel Alpenrose in Schruns. The passionate chef has explored diverse culinary styles in more than 20 countries; his time in Japan had a particularly profound influence on him. Today, he combines international influences with alpine cuisine. One of his signature dishes is Muntafun-style sushi, a regional take on the Japanese classic.
www.das-esszimmer.at/

LUNI Café | Bakery | Patisserie new in Au

On 3 December, LUNI Café | Bakery | Pastry Shop will open in Au. With fresh bread and pastries, pastry and a selection of specialty coffees, the new establishment will round out the culinary offerings in the town centre and create another gathering place for locals and guests.
www.lunibaeckerei.com

Künz BackHandwerk in Andelsbuch expands

Following extensive new construction and renovations, Künz BackHandwerk in Andelsbuch has been presenting itself in a renewed form since summer 2026. At the heart of the expansion is a new show bakery that offers insights into the traditional art of baking and confectionery. The café and sales area have also been redesigned and complemented by an outdoor dining area. Dominik and Michael Künz have been running the family business in the fourth generation since autumn 2023. Among other things, they rely on long dough fermentation and natural raw materials from the region.
www.raiffeisen.at/

Bistro Tralala in Damüls—also in winter

Since Whitsun 2026, the Uga Valley Station in Damüls has been home to a new dining spot: the Bistro Tralala. Located right next to the Uga Express, it rounds out the dining options right at the entrance to the ski area—it's also open in winter, making it a go-to spot for skiers and snowboarders.
www.facebook.com/

OUTDOOR & Co.

Ratrac ride in Brandnertal

A Ratrac ride lets you experience the winter wonderland of Brandnertal from a whole new perspective. From the valley station of the Loischkopfbahn, a piste basher takes you up to the Fuchsbau mountain restaurant at 1,450 metres. There, you'll have time to enjoy a hot or cold drink, soak up the mountain hut atmosphere, and take in the view of the snow-covered valley before the piste basher heads back down to the valley. The experience, which lasts about one and a half to two hours, costs 30 euros per person, including the ascent and descent as well as a drink. Reservations can be made no earlier than 24 hours before the ride.
www.skihuette-fuchsbau.at/

Guided winter hikes in the Alpenregion Bludenz

Exploring selected destinations in the Alpenregion Bludenz together. Hiking guides Anna Engstler of ANNAWANDERT and Angelina Holzer of AngelinasBERGE team up in the winter to offer guided hikes in the region under the name "Die Wanderführerinnen." The tours are for anyone who wants to consciously make time for the mountains. The offerings range from guided snowshoe tours to lantern hikes and full-moon hikes.
https://www.wanderfuehrerinnen.com/

Awards

Austrian Tourism Innovation Award 2026 goes to Vorarlberg three times

Three venues in Vorarlberg were honoured at the 2026 Austrian Tourism Innovation Awards. The Festspielhaus Bregenz received first prize in the category for venues accommodating 1,000 or more participants. The jury praised the venue's international network and its commitment to sustainability, noting that it covers approximately 70 percent of its energy needs through geothermal energy, lake water, and its own electricity generation. Lechwelten in Zürs am Arlberg was recognised for its concept, which combines international openness with local roots. The St. Gerold priory received an award for its blend of cultural heritage, regional identity, and contemporary use. Both venues took third place in their respective size categories. For the first time, the Innovation Award focused on events centres and their role in congress tourism.
www.convention.cc/en/

Vetterhof in Lustenau named a TRIGOS winner

The Vetterhof in Lustenau was honoured with the TRIGOS, Austria's most prestigious award for responsible business practices. The prize in the "Regional Value Creation" category went to the Vetterhof project "Agriculture as a cooperative network": Four farms coordinate their crop rotations, swap land, share machinery, and work towards closed nutrient cycles. This collaboration extends beyond cultivation and connects agriculture with processing, gastronomy, education, and consumers. In this way, the model strengthens regional economic cycles and promotes resource-efficient, economically sustainable agriculture.
www.trigos.at/

REAR Award 2026 for the Fire Station and Cultural Centre with Women's Museum in Hittisau

The Fire Department and Cultural Centre, which houses the Women's Museum in Hittisau, was honoured with the inaugural REAR Award (Reflect Architecture Award). The award recognises buildings that have stood the test of time over decades of use while maintaining their architectural quality and social significance. Opened in 2000, the building—designed by Vorarlberg architects Andreas Cukrowicz and Anton Nachbaur-Sturm—brings together the fire department, the music association, and the Women's Museum under one roof. The jury highlighted the successful integration of the various functions and the sensitive approach to the hillside location.
www.rear-award.com/
www.vorarlberg.orf.at/

Hotel Post Bezau is Austria's Best Wellness Retreat 2026

The Hotel Post Bezau in the Bregenzerwald has been named "Austria's Best Wellness Retreat" for the seventh time at the 2026 World Spa Awards. The award recognizes the hotel's holistic wellness concept, which combines health programmes, exercise, nutrition, and relaxation. The programme includes, among other things, detox and yoga offerings as well as regenerative treatments. The hotel's location in the heart of the Bregenzerwald's natural surroundings is

also an integral part of the concept. It provides the setting for retreat and relaxation and complements the hotel's health offerings in the Bregenzerwald.
www.hogapage.ch
worldspaawards.com

The Walser traditional costume as intangible cultural heritage of humanity

The traditional costumes of the Großwalsertal and Kleinwalsertal valleys were added to the Austrian Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage in October 2026. This recognition honours not only the traditional clothing itself, but also the knowledge of how to make and care for it, the associated dialect expressions, and the passing down of this craft through generations. To this day, the traditional costumes are worn at weddings, church festivals, and other occasions. In the Kleinwalsertal, characteristic elements include the pleated "Juppa", the embroidered "Onderrock", and the sequined crown "Chrans".
vorarlberg.orf.at

Events & Anniversaries 2026/2027, with an outlook to 2030

Major event: FIS World Championships in Montafon and Kühtai

From 6 to 21 March 2027, Montafon in Vorarlberg—as the main venue—and Kühtai in Tyrol—as a co-host location—will become the international hub for snowboarding, freestyle, and freeskiing. At the largest winter sports event ever held in these two regions, athletes from 40 nations will compete for world championship titles. A total of 31 events are on the programme, with 87 medals up for grabs. Even during the competitions, the Montafon remains a versatile holiday and ski region. The competitions are concentrated on selected runs and venues. All other slopes and lifts remain fully available as usual in Montafon.
www.montafon.at/

Weinberg Arlberg is repositioning itself

From 4 to 13 December 2026, Weinberg Arlberg will present a refined concept. In terms of content, the event is evolving from a traditional wine and culinary event into an international platform for enjoyment, knowledge, and discussion of future trends in the world of wine. The programme features more than 40 events, including masterclasses, tastings, wine dinners with lectures, and discussions. In the long term, the new Weinclub Arlberg also aims to create a year-round community for producers, hosts, restaurateurs, and wine enthusiasts.
www.weinbergarlberg.at/

The "Varieté at Lake Constance" theatre relocates

The variety show on Lake Constance is moving from the Dornbirn Exhibition Center to the Festspielhaus in Bregenz. From 3 to 13 December 2026, the show will be on the programme at its new venue for the first time. Under the artistic direction of Vorarlberg entertainer Heinz Wendel, the production—which was tailor-made specifically for the large stage in Bregenz—combines live music, international acrobatics, dance, and nostalgia under the motto "la Boom," inspired by the film "La Boum."
www.varieteambodensee.at

First ski season opening in Kleinwalsertal

From 11 to 13 December 2026, the Kleinwalsertal will host its first-ever ski season opening. The event kicks off on Friday with a performance depicting the history of winter sports at the Kesslerlift in Riezlern. Under the title "Pioneering Spirit in the Snow," Kleinwalsertal-born artist Mathias Kessler will guide the audience through the evolution of skiing—from its Walser origins, through the first skiing pioneers, to modern freestyle. Historical skis and costumes, choreographed skiing elements, music, and lighting come together in a show lasting about one hour. The show begins at 7 p.m., admission is free. On 12 and 13 December 2026, a "Ski-Testival" will follow: At several locations, skis and snowboards can be tested for free from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ski schools will also offer technique tips and guided test runs.
www.kleinwalsertal.com/en/

Valley of Sound Kleinwalsertal

In March 2026, the Valley of Sound music festival made its debut in the Kleinwalsertal. At ten venues spread across the valley and mountains, 15 acts performed live music, DJ sets, and electronic beats on outdoor stages, in mountain huts, and at restaurants, offering a diverse programme ranging from rock 'n' roll to hip-hop. From 4 to 7 March 2027, the festival will return for four days, once again combining alpine nature, winter sports, and musical diversity between the valley station and the summit cross.
https://www.valley-of-sound.com/en

100 years of the Pfänderbahn cable car

On 20 March 2027, the Pfänderbahn cable car will celebrate its 100th anniversary. To mark the occasion, guests can look forward to new cabins providing even greater comfort from 5 March 2027. Since its opening in 1927, the Pfänderbahn has connected Bregenz in approximately six minutes with the 1,064-metre-high Pfänder mountain, which offers a spectacular view of Lake Constance. At the time, it was the third cable car in Austria. Following several modernisations, the year-round cable car has transported over 40 million visitors since its inception. The Pfänderbahn is Ökoprofit-certified and its seminar room at the mountain station holds the Austrian Ecolabel for Green Meetings.
www.pfaenderbahn.at/en/

40 years of the Bregenz Master Concerts

The Bregenz Master Concerts will celebrate their 40th anniversary during the 2026/27 season. Six Master Concerts at the Festspielhaus Bregenz will feature international artists and orchestras, including Nigel Kennedy, the Wiener Symphoniker, and pianist Khatia Buniatishvili. An accompanying programme at the Mehrerau Abbey Church, educational programmes for students, and artistic set design interventions await audiences during the anniversary season from 14 November 2026 to 21 May 2027.
www.bregenzermeisterkonzerte.at

20 years of the Angelika Kauffmann Museum

The Angelika Kauffmann Museum in Schwarzenberg will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2027. To mark the occasion, the summer exhibition "20 Years of the Angelika Kauffmann Museum" will be on view from 1 May to 31 October 2027. The museum is housed in the modern exhibition spaces of a historic Bregenzerwald building. Angelika Kauffmann (1741–1807), who had her roots in Schwarzenberg, was one of the most sought-after portrait painters of her time. She was an internationally successful artist of the Classical period and moved in the intellectual and artistic circles of Europe.
www.angelika-kauffmann.com/

10 years of :alpenarte

The :alpenarte festival in Schwarzenberg will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2027. Since its first edition in spring 2017, the festival has combined classical music with visual arts, culinary experiences, and music education. The focus is on young musicians from Austria and abroad who perform in the Angelika-Kauffmann Hall. The festival aims to make classical music accessible in a variety of ways, thereby appealing to different generations.
www.alpenarte.eu/en/

125 years of the Bregenzerwald Railway and 40 years of museum railway operations

On 15 September 1902, the Bregenzerwaldbahn began operations. The 35-kilometre-long narrow-gauge railway connected Bregenz with Bezau and facilitated the transport of timber, agricultural products, and other goods, as well as the trail for people from the Bregenzerwald to Bregenz and into the Rheintal valley. It thus became an important transportation link and gave new impetus to the region's economic development. After regular rail service was discontinued, the "Wälderbähnle" began operating as a museum railway between Bezau and Schwarzenberg on 26 September 1987. Thus, 2027 will mark two anniversaries: 125 years since the opening of the original railway and 40 years of museum railway operations.
www.waelderbaehnle.at/

PREVIEW

The Flying Dutchman on the lakeside stage

In the summer of 2027, Giuseppe Verdi's “La traviata” will be performed once again on the lakeside stage, followed by Wagner's “The Flying Dutchman” in 2028 and 2029. The premiere is on 19 July 2028. The opera, which tells the story of a cursed sailor's odyssey who can find redemption only through true love, will be staged by American director Yuval Sharon, who previously directed "The Excursions of Mr. Brouček" at the Festspielhaus during the 2026 festival. British artist Es Devlin is responsible for the set design. She returns to Lake Constance following her work on "Carmen" (2017/18). Wagner's work, which premiered in 1843, will be performed on Lake Constance for the third time, following productions in 1973 and 1989/90.
www.pressefoyer.at/

Personalities from Vorarlberg

Olympic champion Alessandro Hämmerle

When the FIS World Championships in snowboarding, freestyle, and freeski take place in the Montafon from 6 to 21 March 2027, the people of Vorarlberg will be cheering on one athlete in particular: Alessandro Hämmerle, a two-time Olympic champion who grew up in Gaschurn in the Montafon. His specialty is snowboard cross, a competition in which a group of at least four riders tackle a downhill course simultaneously. Alessandro Hämmerle won the gold medal in this event at the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing and again in 2026 in Milan-Cortina. The athlete prefers to spend his free time at home with his wife, family, and friends. In the summer, he has recently been spotted more and more often on golf courses, as that's where he can really unwind.
www.instagram.com/

The unconventional museum director Stefania Pitscheider Soraperra

Stefania Pitscheider Soraperra, born in Brixen, South Tyrol, and a native speaker of Ladin, studied art and architectural history, history, philosophy, and archaeology in Vienna, Graz, and Salzburg. She worked at institutions including the Kunsthistorisches Museum and the Kunsthalle Wien before taking over as director of the Women's Museum in Hittisau in 2009. The fact that a small museum in the Bregenzerwald, of all places, became the centre of her life fits with her vision of culture: it should not take place in an ivory tower, but rather address social issues, spark discussions, and bring people together. At the Women's Museum, she works with her team to make women's and gender history visible and to shed light on current social issues from a gender perspective. The exhibitions are developed through dialogue with a wide range of people, whose experiences and knowledge continually open up new perspectives.
www.frauenmuseum.at/

Other news

ARRIVAL

New direct connection from Friedrichshafen to Schruns

From December 2026, the existing ÖBB regional express line REX 1 will be extended beyond Lindau to Friedrichshafen. This will create a direct connection from the German Lake Constance region via Lindau-Reutin and Bregenz to Schruns in the Montafon. Trains will run every two hours, allowing passengers to travel without changing. The service will feature modern ÖBB Cityjets equipped with Wi-Fi, power outlets and USB ports, as well as spacious bicycle areas. In Friedrichshafen, there are connections towards Ulm.
www.presse.vorarlberg.at/land/

Additional flight connections from Friedrichshafen to London

In December 2026, easyJet will expand its flight offerings between London-Gatwick and Friedrichshafen. In addition to the regular Saturday flights, there will also be flights on Thursdays from 10 through 31 December, and on Sundays, the route will even be served through 3 January 2027. This means that Lake Constance Airport will be accessible directly from London three days a week during the Advent season. The additional flights make it easier for guests from the United Kingdom to visit the Christmas markets and other attractions around Lake Constance.
www.wochenblatt-news.de/

FROM THE TOURISM OFFICES

The Bludenz tourist office is moving to Mühlgasse

The Bludenz Tourist Office has opened its new location on Mühlgasse under the name "Mühlgasse 5". Together with the "Hingucker" Concept Store, it has created a meeting point that brings together tourist information, personal advice, and selected products from the region all under one roof.
www.vorarlberg-alpenregion.at/bludenz/en

Alpine region website wins 3rd place at the Advertising Grand Prix

The website for the Vorarlberg Alpine Region was awarded bronze at the 2026 T.A.I. Advertising Grand Prix. In the "Destination Websites" category, the new website impressed by presenting the four experience areas—Bludenz, Brandnertal, Klostertal, and the Grosses Walsertal Biosphere Park—under one umbrella while preserving their individual identities. The platform enables the centralized management of cross-regional content, which can also be displayed individually. Full-text search, filters, and the integration of external content make navigation easier.
werbegrandprix26.submit.to

Additional information, texts, and images

For more information, texts, and images, visit www.vorarlberg.travel/presse-portal
General information about Vorarlberg as a holiday destination can be found at www.vorarlberg.travel

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