

## Vorarlberg: What's new in summer 2024

<b>1. Investments &amp; Innovations in hotels/restaurants</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>NEW HOTELS &amp; RESTAURANTS</i>	<i>3</i>
Uncomplicated: Motel by Maier.....	3
Individual: Blaue Rose Feldkirch.....	3
With Bregenzerwald-view: Hotel Marvia.....	3
Architectural jewel: Hotel Kleiner Löwe.....	3
New apartments: Dornbirn camping.....	3
"Dar Lausbuöb" in Lustenau.....	4
Fenkart chocolate world.....	4
Johanniterstüble in Klösterle am Arlberg.....	4
<i>RECONSTRUCTIONS/EXTENSIONS/LARGE-SCALE RENOVATIONS</i>	<i>5</i>
New look for Gasthaus Engel in Götzis.....	5
New takeover of Sporthotel Beck.....	5
Reopened: "Die Traube" in Klösterle.....	5
Hotel Johann: new tenants.....	5
Bregenzerwald charm: Gasthof Hotel Hirschen.....	5
Radiant: Sonne Mellau.....	6
Posthotel Taube in Schruns.....	6
<b>2. Awards in tourism</b>	<b>6</b>
Award-winning: "At the table in Muntafu".....	6
<b>3. New Offers &amp; Products in Vorarlberg's Destinations</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>HIKING, BIKING &amp; Co.</i>	<i>7</i>
Via ferrata Großes Walsertal.....	7
Running around Bludenz.....	7
Hard lido has been redesigned.....	7
The great naturalist adventure Kleinwalsertal.....	7
New gravel tour around Vorarlberg.....	7
<i>NATURE &amp; RELAXATION</i>	<i>8</i>
Rosenegg Castle biotope circular trail.....	8
Quiz on the Wäldletobelweg trail.....	8
New look for Natursprünge-Weg.....	8
<i>ART &amp; CULTURE</i>	<i>8</i>
Crime trail in Bludenz.....	8
Bezaun local history museum gets an extension.....	8
Bregenz Festival renovates the lake stage.....	9
Bregenz Festival: "Der Freischütz" on the lake stage for the first time.....	9
Lechwelten village center.....	9
Propstei St. Gerold cultural meeting point.....	9
Renovated baroque jewel St. Gallus in Bregenz opens in October 2024.....	9
New artistic director at Festival Klassik Krumbach.....	10
<b>4. New &amp; special Events</b>	<b>10</b>

Alpin8 in Brand for the first time .....	10
Old town magic in Bludenz.....	10
Footprint Kleinwalsertal .....	10
Kleinwalsertal Alphorn Festival 2024.....	11
Bregenz Literature Days .....	11
<b>5. Major anniversaries in Vorarlberg</b> .....	<b>11</b>
200 years of Lake Constance shipping .....	11
150 years of the Bezau craft guild.....	11
Preview 2025: 50th Schubertiade Hohenems .....	12
10 years of BUS:STOP Krumbach.....	12
100 years of the Kästle ski brand .....	12
Montafon Tourism celebrates its 75th anniversary.....	12
25 years of Vinobile Feldkirch .....	13
100 years of the Vorarlberg Wind Music Association .....	13
<b>6. Other news</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<i>SUSTAINABILITY</i> .....	<i>13</i>
Austrian Ecolabel for Kunsthaus Bregenz .....	13
Even more environmentally friendly: Biohotel Schwanen .....	13
Austrian Ecolabel businesses in the Bregenzerwald .....	14
Green Gault Millau toque for Walserstuba .....	14
PIZ VHOTEL in the Montafon.....	14
<i>MOBILITY</i> .....	<i>14</i>
Landbus Bregenzerwald.....	14
Innovative mobility concept with the vlow app.....	14
Bregenz Festival shuttle for Bregenzerwald guests.....	15

## 1. Investments & Innovations in hotels/restaurants

### NEW HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

#### Uncomplicated: Motel by Maier

The Vorarlberg real estate group Maier operates several business hotels in Vorarlberg. The latest addition is the "Motel by Maier" in Feldkirch, which opened in September 2023. It comprises 12 double rooms in two categories. There is a choice of 18 m<sup>2</sup> or 30 m<sup>2</sup> rooms with a balcony and small kitchen. Check-in machines allow access around the clock. Free parking is available for guests. Feldkirch train station is around 15 minutes' walk away.

<https://motel-bymaier.at/motel-feldkirch/>

#### Individual: Blaue Rose Feldkirch

The self-check-in boutique hotel Blaue Rose opened in Feldkirch in December 2023. The small hotel is located in a carefully renovated 500-year-old house in the city center. All the work was carried out by local craftsmen. The "Blaue Rose" has 18 individually furnished rooms, ranging from 10 m<sup>2</sup> economy single rooms to 21 m<sup>2</sup> family rooms. One of the double rooms is wheelchair accessible.

[www.blauerose.at/en](http://www.blauerose.at/en)

#### With Bregenzerwald-view: Hotel Marvia

The Hotel Marvia on the Bödele above Dornbirn celebrated its opening in mid-December 2023. It is located in the former Berghof Fetz, which closed down in summer 2023. Host family Metzler, who also run the Hotel Gretina in Bezau, have modernized the restaurant and kitchen. The 10 rooms will be redesigned from spring 2024. All have a balcony with a beautiful view of the Bregenzerwald. The hotel also includes the legendary party location "Felsenkeller", which can be used for events of all kinds.

[www.berghoffetz.at](http://www.berghoffetz.at)

#### Architectural jewel: Hotel Kleiner Löwe

At the beginning of April 2024, the new city hotel Kleiner Löwe will open on the centrally located Kornmarktplatz in Bregenz. The plans for the narrow, five-storey building, which houses just eight rooms, were drawn up by the multi-award-winning Basel architects Herzog & de Meuron. The eye-catching feature of the building is a barrel roof made from over 30 wooden arches. The breakfast bar for hotel guests and the lounge, which is also open to external visitors, are located on the first floor with a view of the inner garden. The hotel takes its name from the "Gasthaus zum Löwen" brewery, which was located here in the 19th century.

[www.kleinerloewen.at/en](http://www.kleinerloewen.at/en)

#### New apartments: Dornbirn camping

From the beginning of June 2024, 14 new apartments will be ready for occupancy at the Dornbirn campsite. They are located in two pavilion-like wooden buildings and offer space for a total of 56 guests. The apartments are equipped with wooden floors and wooden furniture. They have a sleeping area, a kitchenette, bathroom, WC and seating both indoors and outdoors. Guests can also indulge in culinary delights in the Frischluft restaurant right on the campsite.

[www.camping-dornbirn.at/?lang=en](http://www.camping-dornbirn.at/?lang=en)

### "Dar Lausbuöb" in Lustenau

There has been a new restaurant on the blue square in Lustenau since February 2024. "Dar Lausbuöb" is always open from Tuesday to Sunday from 9 am. In summer, the menu focuses on salads and tapas, while in winter it is home-style cooking and hot soups. The restaurant also serves lunch menus, breakfast and fresh cakes on all opening days.

<https://lausbuoeb.at/restaurant-bistro/>

### Fenkart chocolate world

The new "Fenkart Schokoladenwelt" opened in Hohenems in mid-March 2024. The Fenkart family, who have been running the Schlosscafé since 1948 and have also been producing chocolate for many years, rely on the elaborate "from bean to bar" process. Everything is homemade: from roasting the cocoa beans and conching to the finished chocolate bars and pralines. Visitors can find out how this is done and how new varieties are created in the chocolate world, which extends over three floors. Stations include the workshop, the studio and the manufactory. The enlarged store offers sweet souvenirs. The "Fenkart Chocolate World" is open daily (except Tuesday) from 10 am to 6 pm.

<https://www.schokoladengenuss.at/>

### Johanniterstüble in Klösterle am Arlberg

The Johanniterstüble opened in December 2023 within the historic walls of the former Johanniter monastery. In the parlors, vaulted ceilings and wooden ceilings are reminiscent of the long past of the oldest building in the municipality. The kitchen serves home-style cooking and regional dishes such as Kässpätzle. The Johanniter monastery was founded in the 13th century to provide travelers with accommodation, fire and water. The village of Klösterle and the Klostertal valley owe their names to the monastery.

[www.johanniterstube.com](http://www.johanniterstube.com)

## RECONSTRUCTIONS/EXTENSIONS/LARGE-SCALE RENOVATIONS

### New look for Gasthaus Engel in Götzis

The renovated Gasthaus Engel in Götzis will reopen its doors in spring 2024. The faithfully renovated inn on the centrally located Garnmarkt will once again become a meeting place for locals and guests. The interior remains the same. The bar, kitchen, windows and building services will be modernized. The restaurant can seat 76 people. There will also be a new guest garden.

Unfortunately there is no website yet

### New takeover of Sporthotel Beck

Since the start of the winter season, the Sporthotel Beck in Brand has had a new hotel manager: the Jäger family, who previously ran the "Alpenlodge" in Brand, have taken over this task. For the time being, nothing will change at Sporthotel Beck. The Jäger family wants to preserve the character of the Sporthotel with its striking architecture and gently develop it into a successful symbiosis of tradition and modernity. The Sporthotel Beck should be a place for special encounters, for the revival of old stories and the creation of new ones.

[www.sporthotel-beck.at/en/](http://www.sporthotel-beck.at/en/)

### Reopened: "Die Traube" in Klösterle

"Die Traube" in Klösterle am Arlberg looks back on a long history. The stone-walled building has housed an inn since the end of the 19th century. Tanja and Tobias Schöpf took over the business in December 2024. Tobias cooks innovative and intuitive dishes, preferably using ingredients from suppliers in the region, game he has hunted himself and foraged produce from the forest and fields. Tanja looks after the maximum of 26 guests.

[www.wirtschaft-traube.at/en](http://www.wirtschaft-traube.at/en)

### Hotel Johann: new tenants

Hotel Johann with its adjoining restaurant in Lauterach has had new tenants since December 2023: Natalie and Neven Krizman, both of whom previously worked in Damüls, are now in charge of the hotel. As part of the new takeover, the restaurant was given the new name Nevo. The kitchen line focuses on regional and Austrian specialties, prepared with high-quality products. Guests dine either in the sleek, modern restaurant or, in summer, in the romantic garden.

[www.johann-lauterach.at/](http://www.johann-lauterach.at/)

### Bregenzerwald charm: Gasthof Hotel Hirschen

Host family Fetz from Hotel Gasthof Hirschen in Schwarzenberg offers even more comfort: since spring 2023, six rooms and suites have been presented in a new style. By May 2024, 21 rooms will be transformed into twelve spacious apartments. Next to the elegant Bregenzerwald house, whose history dates back to the 17th century, a bathhouse with saunas and outdoor pool is being built. All around, a garden invites you to linger.

[www.hotel-hirschen-bregenzerwald.at/en/](http://www.hotel-hirschen-bregenzerwald.at/en/)

### **Radiant: Sonne Mellau**

After a major renovation, the Hotel Sonne in Mellau in the Bregenzerwald will reopen in mid-July 2024. Four extra-large suites will be created. A workout room and a yoga room will also be added. Exercise enthusiasts will have direct access from these rooms to the new sun deck with pool and lounge. An exclusive private spa area with a large whirlpool tub, infrared cabin, steam bath and daybed completes the wellness offer. The hotel bar also has a central location.

<https://sonnemellau.com/en>

### **Posthotel Taube in Schruns**

The Posthotel Taube has shaped village life in Schruns since 1840. After extensive renovation work, the traditional hotel reopened its doors in December 2023. The four-star superior hotel consists of four buildings: the historic Posthotel Taube with high-quality rooms and suites as well as three à la carte dining rooms, the newly built Alpgues House with the spa and wellness area, the Nescherina House with two seminar rooms and a garden pavilion with Teppanyaki grill as well as the rustic "Jagdhaus" restaurant. In addition, three team chalets are being built for employees in Tschagguns.

<https://www.posthotel-taube.at/en/>

## 2. Awards in tourism

### **Award-winning: "At the table in Muntafu"**

At the "Gourmand World Cookbook Award 2023", the cookbook "Zu Tisch im Muntafu" (Muntafu means Montafon in the regional dialect) was awarded a prize. The book contains 41 recipes contributed by 29 chefs from the Montafon, private individuals and students from the hospitality school for tourism professions. The book also goes into the history and culinary-cultural characteristics of the valley. The concept of the book, the stories and the design were created by the Dornbirn agency zurgams, the independent imagery by the Vorarlberg photo studio Matak. The publisher is Montafon Tourismus.

[www.montafon.at/en/my-montafon/cuisine/montafon-recipes](http://www.montafon.at/en/my-montafon/cuisine/montafon-recipes)

### 3. New Offers & Products in Vorarlberg's Destinations

#### HIKING, BIKING & Co.

##### Via ferrata Großes Walsertal

In early summer 2024, a new, moderately difficult via ferrata of category C will open on the Wandfluh in Sonntag-Stein in the Großes Walsertal Biosphere Park. Over a length of 200 meters, climbers will overcome around 150 meters in altitude in around an hour. Along the way, there are wonderful views of the alpine valley and its mountains. The start is around 30 minutes' walk from the Sonntag-Stein cable car mountain station.

[www.vorarlberg-alpentregion.at/en/walsertal/via-ferrata-wandfluh.html](http://www.vorarlberg-alpentregion.at/en/walsertal/via-ferrata-wandfluh.html)

##### Running around Bludenz

The Alpine town of Bludenz has newly signposted its running routes. There are currently seven routes with a total length of 45 kilometers to choose from. They are floodlit, so running is possible at any time of year or day. The six-kilometre city circuit, for example, runs through the city. The nine-kilometre Brunnenfeld loop takes runners along forest and woodland paths close to the city. Those who prefer more challenging terrain can take on one of the two trail running routes.

<https://www.vorarlberg-alpenregion.at/en/>

##### Hard lido has been redesigned

The lido in Hard is one of the most popular and largest lidos on Lake Constance. It has now been renovated and rebuilt. Guests will be able to marvel at all the changes from June 2024. For example, the entrance area, changing rooms and sanitary facilities have been redesigned. A children's pool with a slide and an adventure pool have also been added. The technology will also be modernized and supplemented by a photovoltaic system.

<https://hard.at/aktiv-in-hard/strandbad-hard/>

##### The great naturalist adventure Kleinwalsertal

In Kleinwalsertal, families can experience several naturalist adventures, taking a close look at nature and solving puzzles. Young and old nature explorers can learn interesting facts on the "Wild animals", "Schwarzwasserbach" and "Insects" adventure trails. Equipped with a researcher's book and the researcher's set, they head out into nature. In addition to the explorer book, the Locandy app offers exciting radio plays.

<https://www.kleinwalsertal.com/de/Region/Natur-bewusst-erleben/Das-gro%C3%9Fe-Naturforscher-Abenteuer>

##### New gravel tour around Vorarlberg

Cycle around Vorarlberg on a gravel bike in two to four days: The new gravel tour makes this possible. The maximum version covers 280 kilometers from Lake Constance to the mountains and back again. Along the way, cyclists master almost 7,000 meters in altitude. For particularly challenging sections, there are more leisurely or somewhat shorter variants.

From summer (Jul/Aug) 2024, gravel enthusiasts will also find further attractive gravel tours in Brandnertal, Silbertal, Bregenzerwald, Lech Zürs am Arlberg, Laternsertal and the Großes Walsertal Biosphere Park.

[www.vorarlberg.travel/route/von-den-3000ern-bis-zum-bodensee/](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/route/von-den-3000ern-bis-zum-bodensee/)

## NATURE & RELAXATION

### Rosenegg Castle biotope circular trail

In Bürs near Bludenz, the newly renovated circular trail through the Rosenegg Castle biotope invites you to explore nature. The 2.6-kilometre trail runs more or less flat through the forest to a pond and the ruins of Rosenegg Castle, the seat of the Counts of Werdenberg-Heiligenberg in the 13th century. Information boards along the way provide information about special natural features.

<https://www.vorarlberg-alpenregion.at/en/tours/circular-trail-biotop-schloss-rosenegg-buers.html>

### Quiz on the Wäldletobelweg trail

Since the summer of 2023, the 3.4-kilometre Wäldletobelweg trail has been tracing the history of Klösterle. Eight newly erected stations provide insights into special events. These include, for example, the construction of the Arlberg Railway and the Wäldletobel Bridge in the 19th century. From this summer, a quiz will enhance the experience.

<https://www.vorarlberg-alpenregion.at/en/klostertal/waeldletobel-trail-kloesterle-am-arlberg.html>

### New look for Natursprünge-Weg

Since the end of summer 2023, the 4.7-kilometre-long, interactive Natursprünge trail in Brandnertal has been boasting new attractions. All 11 stations have been given a new look. They provide information about the special features of nature and pose tasks and questions. The new companion for children is the clever fox Brandolin. With his amulet pass, available at the Dorfbahn ticket office, little explorers can set off and learn new things.

<https://www.vorarlberg-alpenregion.at/en/brandnertal/naturspruenge-path-brandnertal.html>

## ART & CULTURE

### Crime trail in Bludenz

A meeting of old school friends is abruptly disrupted when a stone and a threatening letter are thrown through the window. Who is threatening the women and, above all, why? This is the question to be solved on the new crime trail through the town of Bludenz. Small groups of two to five people can set off in search of clues and clues. The guessing game lasts around two hours and can also be booked online.

<https://www.vorarlberg-alpenregion.at/en/>

### Bezau local history museum gets an extension

In April 2024, the newly built extension to the listed museum of local history in Bezau in the Bregenzerwald will open. The style of the new building matches that of the existing, typical Bregenzerwald farmhouse. It also has a pitched roof and a wooden façade. While the exhibitions in the old building provide an insight into the former living conditions in the Bregenzerwald, the new building is primarily dedicated to women's crafts in the Bregenzerwald and the Bezau Baroque master builders. The renovation will also make barrier-free tours possible in the future.

<https://www.bezau.at/leben/kultur/heimatmuseum-bezau/>



### Bregenz Festival renovates the lake stage

As soon as the 2023 festival summer came to an end, renovation work began on the Bregenz Festival's lake stage. Firstly, the stage set for "Madame Butterfly" had to be dismantled. Secondly, preparations for the 2024 season began: the concrete core of the stage will be renovated by then, the backstage area will be reorganized and the technology will be modernized. At the same time, the stage design for the opera "Der Freischütz" is being created. The work by Carl Maria von Weber will be on the program in summer 2024 and 2025.

<https://pressefoyer.at/en>

### Bregenz Festival: "Der Freischütz" on the lake stage for the first time

The 78th Bregenz Festival will open on July 17, 2024 with a premiere: for the first time in the Festival's history, Carl Maria von Weber's opera "Der Freischütz" will be performed on the lake stage this season and next summer. For this new production, the lake stage will be transformed into a barren winter landscape with wooden huts and bare trees. Another premiere is the performance of Gioachino Rossini's youthful work "Tancredi" in the Festspielhaus. The opera will be performed twice more after its premiere on July 18, 2024.

<https://bregenzerfestspiele.com/en>

### Lechwelten village center

With "Lechwelten", Lech am Arlberg is getting a new, modern village center with stores, offices and event rooms. The new glass and timber building consists of two sections. The centerpiece is a multifunctional hall that offers space for up to 650 visitors and plays all the technical and acoustic roles. Depending on requirements, it can be divided into two or three rooms. There is also a large foyer and a rooftop bar. The first events will already take place in April 2024. The entire complex will open in June 2024.

<https://www.lechzuers.com/en/lechwelten>

### Propstei St. Gerold cultural meeting point

The Propstei St. Gerold in the Großes Walsertal biosphere reserve has always been a center for culture and encounters. The complex has recently been given a new lease of life. In several stages, with great care and in cooperation with the Vorarlberg architect Hermann Kaufmann, the Propstei has renovated its listed buildings. The project was completed with the reopening of the main building in mid-April 2024, the patron saint's day of St. Gerold. The challenge was to combine historical features with modern production. The craftsmen produced replicas of historical heating cladding using laser printers, for example. Modern technology and fire protection equipment are concealed in wooden walls and floors. On the renovated roof, a wood and steel construction surrounds wooden beams from the 17th century. The reopened building houses guest rooms, seminar rooms, offices and church rooms. It is also the venue for concerts and exhibitions. The first exhibition is entitled "The Holy Anhauche" and can be seen until November 10, 2024.

<https://propstei-stgerold.at/>

### Renovated baroque jewel St. Gallus in Bregenz opens in October 2024

The Roman Catholic parish church of St. Gallus in Bregenz is an impressive Baroque-style church with a fascinating history dating back to the early Middle Ages. Parts of the walls date back to the 5th century. Inside the imposing baroque building are numerous works of art, including the high altar

made up of 40 different silver objects. The church is due to reopen in October 2024 following a thorough renovation.

<https://www.pfarre-st-gallus.at/>

#### **New artistic director at Festival Klassik Krumbach**

Emmanuel Tjeknavorian is the new artistic director of the classical music festival in Krumbach, which the musicians and siblings Alex Ladstätter and Natalia Sagmeister have built up over the past few years. Tjeknavorian is a violinist and one of the most sought-after Austrian conductors. He has already made several guest appearances at the Schubertiade in Vorarlberg. For the festival, Emmanuel Tjeknavorian is taking a "time-out" from his travels to present a unique program with companions and friends in the Bregenzerwald. Klassik Krumbach will take place from July 5 to 7, 2024.

<https://www.klassik-krumbach.at/>

## 4. New & special Events

#### **Alpin8 in Brand for the first time**

Alpin8 is a mountain running event in which participants run uphill under their own steam for 8,848 meters - the equivalent of the height of Mount Everest. The organizers call this challenging task "Everesting". Alpin8 will take place for the first time in Brand in Brandnertal from June 21 to 23, 2024. A maximum of 250 participants will run up the mountain seventeen times in a time window of 36 hours. The gondola will be in operation for 36 hours on the way down.

<https://www.alpin8.eu/en/>

#### **Old town magic in Bludenz**

The picturesque alleyways with arcades and small squares are ideal for town festivals. On July 5 and 6, 2024, Bludenz will be transformed into a town of magicians and jugglers for the first time. There will be performances, light shows, music and culinary delights at numerous locations in the old town on these two days and on the evening of July 5.

<https://www.bludenz-events.at/festival/>

#### **Footprint Kleinwalsertal**

Kleinwalsertal wants to become the leading platform for nature development. To this end, the valley is hosting its first nature education festival from 6 to 7 June 2024. It bears the name "Footprint Kleinwalsertal". The program includes lectures by experts from the fields of behavioural biology, geoecology, climate communication and biodiversity research. As part of the festival, the Footprint Kleinwalsertal Award will also be presented for the first time in the categories of science and practice.

<https://footprint.kleinwalsertal.com/de>

### Kleinwalsertal Alphorn Festival 2024

Every two years, Kleinwalsertal hosts a major alphorn festival. The next one will take place from September 11 to 15, 2024. During this time, alphorn groups from near and far will provide special sound experiences on the mountains and in the valley. Alphorn hikes take place and those who wish can take alphorn courses. The finale of the Alphorn Festival on Sunday is particularly impressive. The program includes concerts by renowned alphorn groups from German-speaking countries as well as the final choir with all the alphorn players.

<https://www.kleinwalsertal.com/en/Activities/Culture-and-Culinary/Alphornfestival-2024>

### Bregenz Literature Days

Under the title "River City", the city of Bregenz is organizing the first "Bregenz Literature Day" on 30 March 2024. On this day, 52 short readings will take place at four reading venues in the peripheral "Achsiedlung", where around 2,000 people live. Guests include Tonio Schachinger, Barbi Markovic, Armin Thurnher, Andre Pilz and Verena Roßbacher. In future, the new festival will take place every two years at Easter in the districts of the provincial capital.

<https://bregenzerliteraturtage.com/>

## 5. Major anniversaries in Vorarlberg

### 200 years of Lake Constance shipping

Lake Constance shipping is celebrating its 200th anniversary with a fleet rally on April 27, 2024. The first passenger steamboat on Lake Constance went into operation on November 10, 1824. The "Wilhelm" offered space for 124 passengers. It traveled between the German city of Friedrichshafen and Romanshorn as well as Rorschach in Switzerland. Other steamships were soon on their way. Bregenz was initially served by German ships. But in the k. u. k. Monarchy, however, there was a desire to establish its own shipping company. From 1884, the steamships "Austria" and "Habsburg" were in operation. The "Caroline", "Bregenz" and the semi-saloon steamers "Kaiser Franz Josef I." and "Kaiserin Elisabeth" joined the fleet after a few years.

To this day, the cruise and excursion ships sail on Lake Constance under the Austrian, German and Swiss flags. Vorarlberg Lines", with its home port of Bregenz, operates six ships of different sizes. The "MS Austria", the largest passenger ship on Lake Constance, can accommodate up to 1,200 people.

<https://www.vorarlberg-lines.at/en>

### 150 years of the Bezau craft guild

Craft guilds have a long tradition in the Bregenzerwald. Just think of the Bregenzerwald Baroque builders' guilds from the 17th and 18th centuries. At that time, Bezau and Au had the most members. The Bezau craft guild can look back on 150 years of history in 2024 and is looking forward to two major events in its anniversary year. Firstly, the guild will find a new home in the expanded Bezau local history museum. Secondly, it will play a key role in the 11th Crafts Exhibition, which will take place this year from September 4 to 8 as part of the Dornbirn Autumn Fair.

[www.handwerksausstellung.at/2024/01/30/150-jahre-handwerkerzunft-bezau/](http://www.handwerksausstellung.at/2024/01/30/150-jahre-handwerkerzunft-bezau/)

### Preview 2025: 50th Schubertiade Hohenems

In 1976, cultural manager Gerd Nachbauer and baritone Hermann Prey founded the Schubertiade Hohenems. Since then, the Schubertiade, which now takes place in Hohenems and Schwarzenberg in the Bregenzerwald, has developed into the most important Schubert festival in the world. While Hermann Prey ended his festival duties a few years after it was founded, Gerd Nachbauer is still in charge of the Schubertiade today. This is all the more remarkable given that the Schubertiade is financed privately and without public funding. In 2025, the Schubertiade will take place in Hohenems for the 50th time.

<https://www.schubertiade.at/en/home/index.html>

### 10 years of BUS:STOP Krumbach

Ten years ago, the village of Krumbach in the Bregenzerwald inaugurated a remarkable project. Seven architectural firms from seven countries designed seven bus stops. Architects and craftsmen from the region were responsible for the implementation on site. Since then, the original structures, known as "Wartehüsle" (bus shelters) in the regional dialect, have not only become places to get on and off the bus, but also popular sightseeing destinations. The plans for the works were drawn up by Sou Fujimoto from Japan, Alexander Brodsky from Russia, Smiljan Radic from Chile, Architecten de Vylder Vinck Taillieu from Belgium, Ensamble Studio from Spain, Rintala Eggertsson Architects from Norway and Wang Shu and Ly Wenyu from China.

[https://www.krumbach.at/Bus\\_Stop\\_Krumbach/English](https://www.krumbach.at/Bus_Stop_Krumbach/English)

### 100 years of the Kästle ski brand

Racers such as Toni Sailer and Primin Zurbriggen won on Kästle skis. Founded by Anton Kästle in 1924 and based in Hohenems, the company was internationally successful for many years. After changes of ownership from the 1990s onwards, the brand lost its appeal. Kästle has been experiencing a revival since 2019. The company is once again producing small series for alpine skiers and cross-country skiers. Kästle has also returned to the Ski World Cup. The history of the well-known Vorarlberg ski brand will be told in a special exhibition at the FIS Ski Museum Damüls from March 24, 2024 with the theme "100 years of Kästle".

<https://www.damuels.at/en/events/event-calendar.html>

### Montafon Tourism celebrates its 75th anniversary

In 2024, Montafon Tourismus celebrates its 75th anniversary, which began with the founding of the tourism association shortly after the Second World War. A decisive turning point was the merger of the valley's local tourism organizations 11 years ago to form Montafon Tourismus GmbH. This merger strengthened the region and enabled synergies in budget and marketing. Montafon Tourismus is currently undergoing a development process from a destination management organization (DMO) to a habitat management organization.

The overarching goal is to shape and promote tourism for the benefit of the region and its 16,000 inhabitants.

<https://www.montafon.at/de>

### 25 years of Vinobile Feldkirch

For wine lovers, “Vinobile Feldkirch” has been a must-attend event for many years. This year, the wine fair is celebrating its 25th anniversary. To kick things off, the organizers are inviting visitors to the Vino Enjoyment Week from 19 to 25 April 2024. The program includes dinner evenings with wine accompaniment, a walk in the footsteps of Feldkirch winegrowing and a wine and pleasure rally. The trade fair itself, at which around 130 winegrowers will present themselves, will take place at Montforthaus Feldkirch from April 26 to 28, 2024.

<https://feldkirch-leben.at/erleben/veranstaltungen/vinobile>

### 100 years of the Vorarlberg Wind Music Association

Vorarlberg has a particularly high density of music associations. The state has 96 municipalities and 129 music associations, in which around 8,000 musicians are active. Founded in 1924, the “Vorarlberger Harmoniebund”, now the “Vorarlberger Blasmusikverband”, sees itself as the umbrella organization for these music associations. Its tasks include organizing competitions, further training and events. Event highlights in the anniversary year include the festive concert on the Day of Brass Music in Feldkirch Cathedral (May 5, 2024), the performance of the magical brass music show “Zirkus Luft-i-kuss” at the Festspielhaus in Bregenz (June 2, 2024) and the “World Record of Brass Music” on August 25, 2024. Around 10,000 brass musicians will perform together on the Vorarlberg and Swiss sides of the Rhine. From May 17 until spring 2025, the vorarlberg museum in Bregenz will be showing the special exhibition “tuten & blasen”. Numerous concerts and brass band festivals in the towns and villages complete the festival program.

<https://www.vbv-blasmusik.at/>

## 6. Other news

### SUSTAINABILITY

#### Austrian Ecolabel for Kunsthaus Bregenz

Kunsthaus Bregenz has been working intensively for several years to make its operations even more sustainable. Last year, for example, all light fittings were converted to LED. The building has held the ÖKOPROFIT seal since 2015. Since the beginning of 2024, the Austrian Ecolabel has also recognized the efforts for more sustainability and accessibility.

[www.kunsthhaus-bregenz.at](http://www.kunsthhaus-bregenz.at)

#### Even more environmentally friendly: Biohotel Schwanen

“Reduce to the max” is the motto at Biohotel Schwanen in Bizau. The strategy of host Emanuel Moosbrugger is to consolidate what is already there and continuously improve the existing facilities. In recent months, the hotel has implemented numerous measures to become even more sustainable and energy-efficient. The newly installed heat pump with borehole heat exchanger reduces the hotel's the hotel's energy consumption. The expansion of the kitchen improves the team's working conditions and enables them to work even more efficiently. The Biohotel Schwanen hands over parts of the old kitchen to the “Creative Institute Vorarlberg - Campus Väre” in Dornbirn. The horizontal greening of the exterior façade helps to insulate the building. The renovations were planned by architect Hermann Kaufmann and Linz-based design studio March Gut. Local tradesmen were responsible for the implementation.

<https://biohotel-schwanen.com/>

### Austrian Ecolabel businesses in the Bregenzerwald

The following have been awarded the Austrian Ecolabel: AlpHus Appartements in Warth, the Hotel Jägeralpe in Warth, Karin Beer Appartements in Schoppernau, the Hotel Gasthof Krone in Hittisau, the Hotel Gasthof Adler & Apartments in Schoppernau and the Frauenmuseum Hittisau.

[www.umweltzeichen.at/de/home/start](http://www.umweltzeichen.at/de/home/start)

### Green Gault Millau toque for Walserstuba

In 2024, the gourmet guide Gault-Millau awarded a Green Toque for the first time to establishments that place particular value on sustainability. The first Green Toque went to Jeremias Riezler and his wife Bettina from the Biohotel Walserstuba in Kleinwalsertal. Both have been following a “radically organic and regional approach” for years. The hosts not only use only certified organic and seasonal food, but also revive old breeds, varieties and recipes. In addition to the Green Toque, the Walserstuba's cuisine has also been awarded three classic Gault Millau toques.

<https://www.walserstuba.at/>

### PIZ VHOTEL in the Montafon

The PIZ VHOTEL (PIZ virtual hotel) is an online knowledge and exchange platform that helps Montafon hosts to manage and organize their business responsibly. There are currently ten virtual rooms in the PIZ VHOTEL, based on the structure of a hotel. They contain information on more than 60 topics such as the integration of regional products, employee management and the correct communication of sustainability activities. The platform also offers the opportunity for interactive exchange as well as recommendations for action and implementation aids.

<https://piz.montafon.at/piz-vhotel>

## MOBILITY

### Landbus Bregenzerwald

The cross-border Bregenzerwald Landbus route 890 has recently started using e-buses for the first time. The line runs from Egg via Oberstaufen to Riefensberg. The Vorarlberg transport association is continuously expanding its fleet of e-buses. The aim is to have 130 e-buses in operation by the end of 2025.

[https://www.regiobregenzerwald.at/Bregenzerwald\\_und\\_Oberallgaeu\\_verstaerken\\_Zusammenarbeit\\_und\\_schaffen\\_neue\\_Angabote\\_im\\_oeffentlichen\\_Verkehr](https://www.regiobregenzerwald.at/Bregenzerwald_und_Oberallgaeu_verstaerken_Zusammenarbeit_und_schaffen_neue_Angabote_im_oeffentlichen_Verkehr)

### Innovative mobility concept with the vlow app

The vlow app sees itself as an innovative contribution to mobility. Its aim is to bring drivers and passengers together and thus reduce private transport. The idea has been particularly well received in the Bregenzerwald. Regio Bregenzerwald has initiated a series of measures to promote awareness and use of the app in the region.

[vlow . startschuss im bregenzerwald](#)

### Bregenz Festival shuttle for Bregenzerwald guests

Stay in the Bregenzerwald in the countryside and travel in comfort to the Bregenz Festival's lake performance: A new service makes this possible. A bus takes you from the Bregenzerwald to Bregenz. After the performance, a special bus takes guests back to the Bregenzerwald. Bregenzerwald Tourismus also offers packages with one to three nights' accommodation, festival ticket and public transfer. If you book three or more nights or stay overnight in the Bregenzerwald, you will also receive the Bregenzerwald & Großes Walsertal Guest Card for free mountain railroad and bus travel as well as relaxing hours in the outdoor pools.

<https://www.bregenzerwald.at/package/bregenzer-festspiele/#tomasiframe-3>

## 7. Further information, texts and images

Further information, texts and images at [www.vorarlberg.travel/en/press-portal/](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/en/press-portal/)

General information about Vorarlberg as a vacation destination at [www.vorarlberg.travel/en/](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/en/)

## 8. experience Vorarlberg in real time

Inspiration & information: On our social media channels, the community shows what there is to discover in Vorarlberg:

 [Urlaubsland Vorarlberg](#)

 [visitvorarlberg](#)

 [visitvorarlberg](#)

 [visitvorarlberg](#)

 [Vorarlberg State Tourist Board](#)