

# Architecture Trails

For decades, Vorarlberg has been a trailblazer when it comes to architecture and crafts. Ten differently-themed *architectours* take visitors with an interest in architecture and design to hand-picked contemporary and traditional buildings.

Vorarlberg's contemporary architecture has its roots in the 1960s, when a group of fledgling architects who wanted to break new ground formed. Calling themselves the "Vorarlberg Design Artists", they cultivated an absolutely novel style, both in terms of architecture and in the way they cooperated with building authorities and builder owners. Their idea of architecture revolved around notions such as clear lines, minimalist forms, a sparing use of natural resources, blending in harmoniously with the surroundings, and – above all – affordability. This new thinking soon caught

on and attracted international attention. Today, virtually all municipal buildings and many private homes as well as reconstructions and adaptations of traditional buildings in Vorarlberg are architect-designed. Indigenous timber has been the building material of choice since time immemorial. Energy-efficient design is common standard. In this respect as well, Vorarlberg's architects are genuine pioneers.

Compiled by the Vorarlberg Architecture Institute vai and the Vorarlberg State Tourist Board,

10 full-day and half-day tours shed light on the regional architecture. They take visitors to urban and rural regions and are accessible by private car or public transport. The tours allow for plenty of time to take a walk, visit a museum or other public buildings, and for culinary breaks.

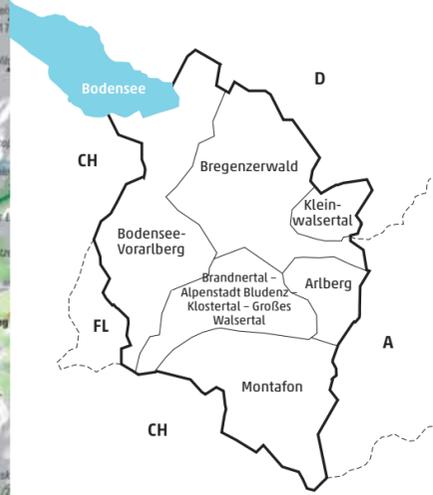
[www.vorarlberg.travel/architecture](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/architecture)



## Six Regions to Uncover

On a map, Vorarlberg looks fairly compact. Its multi-faceted character reveals itself at second glance. The landscape between Lake Constance and the Arlberg, Silvretta and Raetikon mountain ranges is strikingly colourful. In each village, the Alemannic dialect sounds a little different. Just as different are the architectural styles.

[www.vorarlberg.travel/en/regions](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/en/regions)



Werkraum Bregenzerwald, Andelsbuch



water pavilion St. Arbogast

## Orientation & Organisation

The presented tours can be easily fit into your own plans. Containing a description of the various tours and objects in detail, the free Vorarlberg app "Urlaub und Freizeit" ("Holidays and Leisure", in German only) helps you find your bearings. To find out more about this app, see overleaf!

The team of Bodensee-Vorarlberg Tourismus will happily compile an extensive programme for groups of 12 persons on request, including e.g. accommodation, inns and restaurants, guided themed tours and other visits. Your contacts for professional excursions, also private groups, are the Vorarlberg Architecture Institute

(vai) and the Energy Institute Vorarlberg (EIV). You will be accompanied by specially trained multi-lingual (German, English, French) guides. We can also organise talks and lectures on sustainable building or regional development, and arrange for meetings with architects, craftspeople or builder-owners.

For contact data, check out our website [www.vorarlberg.travel/architecture](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/architecture)

## Getting Things Done

An itinerant exhibition titled "Getting Things Done" is dedicated to architecture in Vorarlberg. First on show in 2014 at the Werkraum Bregenzerwald, it now travels the Culture Forums which the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosts at 32 venues around the world. Curator Wolfgang Fiel has put together an exhibition which highlights the eminent significance of local craftsmanship and the exceptional cooperation of all stakeholders who contribute to the development of the built environment in Vorarlberg. [www.gettingthingsdone.or.at](http://www.gettingthingsdone.or.at)



## Village Spaces

In many rural regions, contemporary architecture revolves around one individual object. In Vorarlberg, however, a genuine culture of design competitions for public buildings evolved in the 1990s which integrated squares and village spaces in architectural design. Village centres, neighbourhoods, and even commercial parks, have transformed into a line-up of high-quality contemporary design.

The state of Vorarlberg supports this development as well as the preservation of decentral structures by is regional planning and sponsoring policies. At local level, a number of advisory boards have been designated to ensure coherent village scapes.

This full-day tour starts in the urban Rhine valley and heads to the Bregenzerwald. The half-day tour starts in the Rhine valley and heads to the Grosses Walsertal biosphere park.

### Route 1 (full day)

Village centre of Lochau (design of the village centre) – Wolfurt (town centre) – Langenegg (civic centre) – Krumbach (bus stations) – Hittisau (village square) – Andelsbuch (civic centre, *Werkraum* Bregenzerwald) – Schwarzenberg (centre of village) – Dornbirn (inatura nature discovery show Dornbirn, vaiDOMA) – Lustenau (Millennium Park, Kirchpark market centre) – Bregenz (Festival and Convention Hall, Welle am Hafen café, vorarlberg museum, Kunsthaus Bregenz).



### Route 2 (half day)

Exclusive residential neighbourhood of Dornbirn (villa Dr. Leo Herburger, villa Guntram Hämmerle) – Mäder (eco-school, Johann-Jakob-Ender hall) – Götzis (Am Garnmarkt) – Ludesch (civic centre) – Raggal (municipal building) – St. Gerold (civic centre, equestrian hall, St. Gerold provostry, cemetery).



## Art & Culture

Vorarlberg's cultural buildings epitomise its cultural heritage, ranging from Roman excavations to rural and artisanal achievements and a still visible industrial history. Social developments such as the award-winning Islamic cemetery have set new architectural standards.

The state capital of Bregenz has become a hub for culture & art institutions. The opening of the vorarlberg museum in 2013 completed the project featuring a "culture mile" and a new town centre. At a more general level, however, Vorarlberg subscribes to decentralism. The number of architecturally outstanding cultural buildings all over the country is amazingly large.

The stop-off points of this day tour are in the Rhine valley. The half-day tour starts in the Rhine valley and heads to the Bregenzerwald.

### Route 1 (full day)

Bregenz (vorarlberg museum, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Festival and Convention Hall) – Schwarzach (cemetery) – Dornbirn (vai Vorarlberg Architecture Institute, inatura nature discovery show Dornbirn, vaiDOMA) – Hohenems (Jewish Museum, Salomon Sulzer Hall) – Altach (Islamic cemetery) – Götzis (culture stage AMBACH, water pavilion St. Arbogast) – Rankweil-Brederis (open-air museum Villa Rustika) – Feldkirch (Montfort house).



### Route 2 (half day)

Bregenz (Festival and Convention Hall, vorarlberg museum, Kunsthaus Bregenz) – Sulzberg (civic centre) – Doren – Riefensberg (traditional costume-making atelier Riefensberg) – Hittisau (firefighters' depot and culture centre/women's museum Hittisau) – Lingenau (parish church St. John the Baptist) – Andelsbuch (*Werkraum* Bregenzerwald) – Schwarzenberg (Angelika Kauffmann Museum) – Bödele – Dornbirn (vai Vorarlberg Architecture Institute, inatura nature discovery show Dornbirn, vaiDOMA).



## Timber & Material

The development of architecture in Vorarlberg has also spurred a revival of craftsmanship and timber construction. Today's widely prevalent aesthetics which is marked by uncluttered structures, minimalist forms and unprocessed surfaces has formed in several phases by the interaction of ambitious, technically adept designers and innovative craftspeople. Here old and new blends naturally, and ties in remarkably with age-old building traditions.

Timber constructions combine economy, ecology and craftsmanship and require most accurate planning. The white fir which is used for facades and interior construction is characteristic of Vorarlberg.

This day tour starts in Dornbirn, Vorarlberg's largest town, heading for the Bregenzerwald. The half-day tour highlights examples in the Rhine valley and in the Grosses Walsertal biosphere park.

### Route 1 (full day)

Dornbirn (LCT One – Life Cycle Tower) – Bödele – Schwarzenberg (Angelika Kauffmann Museum) – Andelsbuch (*Werkraum* Bregenzerwald) – Hittisau (Markus Faisst timber workshop, firefighters' depot and culture centre/ women's museum Hittisau, village square) – Riefensberg (traditional costume-making atelier Riefensberg) – Krumbach – Doren (primary school).



### Route 2 (half day)

Klaus (commercial precinct, sports hall, secondary school) – Zwischenwasser (kindergarten, parish church St. John the Baptist, funeral chapel and music rehearsal room) – St. Gerold (civic centre) – Blons (civic centre) – Sonntag (Haus Walserstolz) – Raggal (municipal centre) – Ludesch (municipal centre) – Feldkirch (factory building of the Lot carpentry).



## Old & New

In the mid-1970s, it was mainly ambitious designers and builder-owners who, against massive resistance, fought for the preservation of historic structures. Interest in the mostly rural heritage was always directed to building structures, the materials used, and the rich artisanal experience, but never to formal imitations. This is how a striking dialogue between trad and mod evolved.

When preserving a village structure is of the essence, the saddleback roof becomes a first choice (e.g. Felder Museum Schoppernaut). Wherever novel uses need to be integrated, new solutions are adopted (e.g. traditional costumes atelier in Riefensberg).

Route 1 starts in Bregenz, heading for the Bregenzerwald. Route 2 starts in Dornbirn, heading for the Walgau (Schlins and Nenzing).

### Route 1 (1 day)

Bregenz (vorarlberg museum) – Wolfurt (village centre) – Lingenau (parish church St. John the Baptist) – Hittisau (village square) – Riefensberg (traditional costume-making atelier Riefensberg) – Lingenau – Schwarzenberg (Angelika Kauffmann Museum) – Schoppernaut (culture and business centre).



### Route 2 (1 day)

Dornbirn (municipal pool Dornbirn, inatura nature discovery show Dornbirn, vaiDOMA) – Lustenau (town hall) – Hohenems (Jewish Museum) – Götzis (Am Garnmarkt) – Röthis (village centre, kindergarten) – Sulz (Freihof Sulz) – Schlins (Wiesenbach hall, primary school and vicarage) – Nenzing (Antenne Nenzing).



## Crafts & Innovation

Craftsmanship is one of the main pillars of building culture in Vorarlberg. The selection and processing of materials has even become the basis for an architectural language and aesthetics in its own right. Clear lines and a radical reduction of form direct attention to the surfaces in particular. Their fine textures, but also their ability to age, are a hallmark of unprocessed materials. The timber-clad facades which turn silvery grey as they weather are the most striking example.

Artisanal perfection also manifests itself in the way facing concrete, steel and glass are processed, and in the many interior surfaces. Designed by the Swiss architect Peter Zumthor and realised by Bregenzerwald craftspeople, the *Werkraum* building in Andelsbuch is a *piece de resistance* to showcase craftsmanship and artisanry.

This tour takes visitors to the Bregenzerwald.

### Route 1 (1 day)

Bregenz – Sulzberg (civic centre) – Riefensberg (traditional costume-making atelier Riefensberg) – Hittisau (Glanzstück jewellery workshop, village square, firefighters' depot and culture centre/ women's museum, timber atelier Markus Faisst) – Lingenau (Bregenzerwald cheese cellar) – Egg (Metzler cheese & whey) – Andelsbuch (*Werkraum* Bregenzerwald, upholstery showroom Mohr) – Schwarzenberg (Angelika Kauffmann Museum) – Hard (Michelelohof).



## Information & Orientation

Where to locate a site? What do the buildings look like? The interactive map at [www.vorarlberg.travel/architectours](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/architectours) makes planning your stay and finding your bearings easy.

The free Vorarlberg app "Urlaub und Freizeit" ("Holidays and Leisure") comes in handy when out and about. Under the heading of *Architectours* it describes the different routes and sites in detail. Most sites are linked to the Austrian architecture data base nextroom. Moreover, the app suggests accommodations of outstanding architectural interest. You can also insert useful tips about restaurants, recreational facilities, sites worth seeing and a lot more.

The app is free for download at: [www.vorarlberg.travel/apps](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/apps) (in German only)



## Nature & Landscape

Functional buildings such as bridges, harbours, sports grounds or cableways require interference with nature and the natural landscape, which is always challenging. On the one hand, they must offer strength and stability to resist the forces of nature, on the other they must blend in seamlessly with natural spaces and the surroundings.

Vorarlberg's architects have shown subtle instinct in tackling this ambivalent task: Whether a graceful pavilion, a bold waymark or a sculptural construction - the facilities and buildings you will visit on this tour all around Vorarlberg manifest a strong architectural presence all while interacting harmoniously with their surroundings.

You will find more details on this novel tour as of late 2015 at [www.vorarlberg.travel/architecture](http://www.vorarlberg.travel/architecture)



### Disclosure

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