

HEIN RICH

The small guide through Feldkirch

A day in Feldkirch ^{p 5}

A day around Feldkirch ^{p 17}

Good to know ^{p 28}

Feldkirch makes history ^{p 31}

Map of the area ^{p 50}

Overview suggestions and sights ^{p 52}

Personal histories and memories ^{p 54}

Publisher: Montforthaus Feldkirch GmbH;

Project Manager: Maria Herburger; Graphics: Magdalena Türtscher, Nadine Jochum;

Texts: Magdalena Hopp, Dr. Manfred Menzel;

Photography: Magdalena Türtscher, Angela Lamprecht, Matthias Rhomberg,

Nikolaus Skorpic, Michael Gunz - Vorarlberg Tourismus;

Printing: Druckhaus Gössler; © April 2020

Nothing can be kept from Heinrich.

He has already ambled along every street, he has already dined in every restaurant, he can name the best cakes in all the cafés, he attends every exhibition and Heinrich has danced the night away in all the bars. Heinrich is a good friend. He has compiled the best tips for your stay in Feldkirch in the first part of this booklet. In the second part, he has put together a collection of histories and stories pertaining to Feldkirch's sights. He has left space for your very own histories and memories on the last pages of this booklet.

A map of the area on pages 50 and 51 indicates the locations of the tips and sights. In this booklet, the tips are identified by means of numbers and the sights are identified by means of letters.

Heinrich has further recommendations at: www.feldkirch.travel

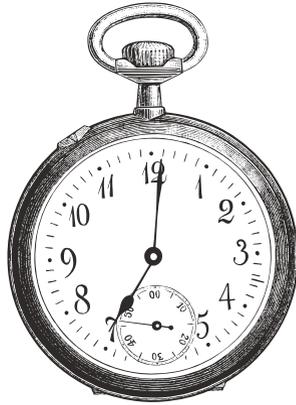
Heinrich can be anyone. If you discover something in Feldkirch you wish to share with others, you too can be Heinrich and send your tip to: tourismus@feldkirch.at.



HEINRICH

A day in Feldkirch





MORNING

IN FELDKIRCH

P 7

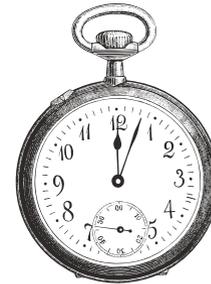
Going out for breakfast. It's really nice to break out of the rut sometimes and make a different start to the day. Slower, faster and sometimes in an even more urbane way. But always enjoyable. I like to have breakfast in the cosy Café April¹. No matter how much time I have, I always find the right breakfast for me. If I am in a hurry I take »Koa Zit«(no time) breakfast and if I am in the mood to try something new I enjoy the Ayurvedic breakfast. I also like the Dogana² for the typically Austrian breakfast it serves.

Cultural input for the day. There's nothing that can throw you off course when you've looked out across the city from the Schattenburg in the morning. It's where history and future come together. In 18 rooms, the Schattenburgmuseum³ shows visitors what life was like in the past. A colorful history also has the Johanniterchurch⁴. It was established in 1218 by the town founder Count Hugo of Montfort and today, the church is an exhibition venue for contemporary art. And the historic favourite for hot summer days? The late Gothic St. Nikolaus cathedral⁵. Peace and quiet and cooling down guaranteed.

The early bird ... Tuesday and Saturday mornings are spent at the farmer's market⁶. It's the place where I can find regional and seasonal products – and many locals. I wander through the world of books, maps and hiking guides guided by the team at the Buchhandlung Egglér⁷ – and I'm able to find inspiration for household and home decorations at Tischkultur Paolini⁸. I can discover regional gifts for gourmets and Italian specialties at Culinara⁹. And Yomabi¹⁰ is home to a unique selection of fashion for babies, children, mothers and yogis. With fairly traded products from sustainable sources and in certified organic quality.



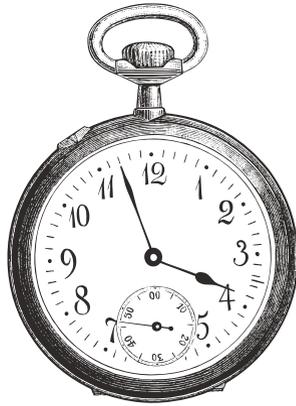
Pulverturm at river Ill



MIDDAY

IN FELDKIRCH

Taking a break. Refreshing, relaxing. I always go for a table at the window when I'm at Gasthof Lingg¹¹. That's because I like to watch the hustle and bustle on the busy Marktplatz while enjoying the regional and Mediterranean dishes that are served there. Just a few houses further I also feel comfortable: in the restaurant Illvy¹² I enjoy »glocal« – the very best from the region complemented by excellent products from all over the world. While at other times, at the Thai Asien Haus¹³, I like to pretend that I'm in Thailand because here everything tastes like it would do there. My favorite place to eat delicious tarte flambée is the long-established and incomparable Café Hecht¹⁴. I love diversion and if I feel like having some Afghan or Indian food the Taj Mahal¹⁵ restaurant is the right place to go.



AFTER NOON

IN FELDKIRCH

P II

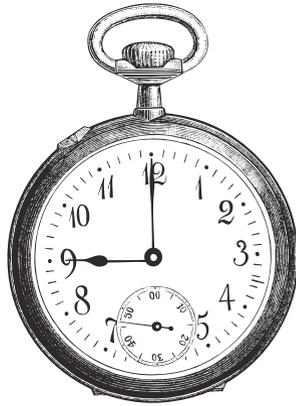
Coffee and cake? Or ice cream? I enjoy the Viennese coffee-house style with home-made cakes also to be found in the region – for example, at Café Zanona¹⁶. Schokomus¹⁷ is an entirely different attraction with, among other things, multi-award-winning chocolates. The Pinocchio¹⁸ ice-cream parlour exudes genuine Italian flair. While Schnell bakery¹⁹ is one of Feldkirch's old-established businesses. And I ask myself whether it was already serving its heavenly cream omelet in 1907?

From Himmelstiege to Stadtschrofen. Everything is nearby in Feldkirch. The Wildpark²⁰ is up high but still within walking distance – it's the place where visitors will find native animal species, a playground in the woods, a kiosk with a menu and extensive walks around the Ardetzenberg. The crazy-golf course²¹, which is to be found in the Schattenburg's castle garden and is open from May to October, and the children's playgrounds at Elisabethplatz²² and Reichenfeld²³ are even closer to the centre. I like to stroll from Reichenfeld to the Letzehof Buddhist Monastery²⁴ and then walk up to the Stadtschrofen²⁵. The view across the city is as uplifting as the mountain itself!

Abundance. I have a snack in the Jahnhalle²⁶ – a mix of café and bar, vintage store and coworking space. Before I move on, I take a look around the vintage store. The Lauter Wein²⁷ wine bar is the place to taste the entire breadth of both Austrian and international wines. And I can borrow a longboard for a city tour – for free – from the sporty and stylish Sajas²⁸! I buy fair trade products, from groceries to fashion to handicraft, from the Weltladen²⁹. And I also like to visit the Schuhmacher³⁰ (shoemaker). He repairs, maintains and improves my favourite items and sells more than just handmade shoes. Natur & Kost³¹ also stands for top quality. It's the place where I get everything for my organic household, from vegetables to my favourite tea including a cup.



View of the city St.Gallen



EVENING

IN FELDKIRCH

P 15

Enjoying the evening. This is how good a pig in a poke tastes. At least when it's the surprise three- or four-course menu that the *Wirtschaft zum Schützenhaus*³³ serves. Local pub cuisine is also available at the *Braugaststätte Rösslepark*³³ brewery restaurant – my recommendation for beer lovers and ribs fans. I also like to while away warm summer evenings sitting on the roof terrace of *Restaurant E3*³⁴ at Montforthaus. With dishes put together individually, depending on taste and appetite. And I'm able to enjoy Italian cooking at *Ristorante Basilico*³⁵, directly opposite the *Theater am Saumarkt*³⁶. Where there once was actually a pig market, today everything revolves around concerts, cabaret, theatre, literature and children's programmes. And, when I prefer to go to the cinema, it's time to visit the small *Kino Rio*³⁷ cinema and choose between art-house and blockbuster, between purple sofas or classic cinema seats.

Experiencing the night. The paradise for party-goers and cocktail enthusiasts, for dreamers and those who aspire to be such is called *Bunt Bar*³⁸. The *Rauch Club*³⁹ with its characteristic cellar vault full of history is also not far away. It's not only me who's been dancing to electronic music here for many years. The *Bärenkeller*⁴⁰ – as the modern yet rustic wine and lounge bar at Hotel Bären calls itself – presents a more traditional ambience.

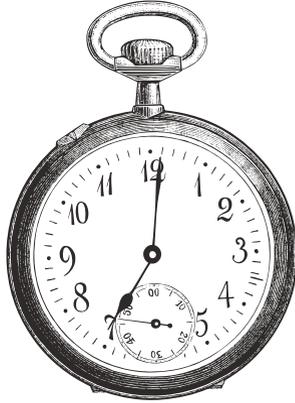
Feeling at home in an unfamiliar bed. I often sleep best at places that are still strange to me and – thanks to www.feldkirch.travel – it's usually very easy to find somewhere to stay. And, in those times when the decisions are perhaps a little more difficult, I turn to the team at the tourist office – either by phone or in person.

HEINRICH

A day around Feldkirch



Church St. Corneli



MORNING

AROUND FELDKIRCH

P 19

A baker's breakfast every day? That's what's available at the Schnell bakery⁴¹ in Altenstadt – with special extras for children. Schertler bakery⁴² is now being run by the third generation and its Nussgipfel (nuts pastries) are famous far beyond the boundaries of Feldkirch. I find their branches in Gisingen and Tosters the most cosy. Café Z⁴³ in Tosters is also tempting, especially because of its daily breakfast and large breakfast buffet every first Sunday of the month.

It's nicest outside. After an extensive and fortifying breakfast, I set off for Tostner Burg⁴⁴ (castle). And, although it's just a ruin these days, it's still one of the highlights on the walk to St. Corneli⁴⁵. After a stop at the historic Gasthaus zur Eibe⁴⁶, it's possible to extend the tour to take in Fresch⁴⁷, where the small, lovingly preserved Chapel of St. Martin⁴⁸ presents a wonderful view of the Swiss mountains. And for those who prefer the flat, I recommend a walk along the embankment that accompanies the river Ill to where it enters the Rhine.

Flowers, cheese, fruit. And fashion. Bluama & meh⁴⁹ in Gisingen is regarded as an insider tip where high-quality floristry is to be had: for beautifully decorating house and garden. The V-Milch Lädle⁵⁰ is not far from there and sells the entire range of dairy products made from Vorarlberg Milch. As well as, of course, one of the most popular souvenirs from Vorarlberg: mountain cheese. The Peherstorfer⁵¹ and Alton⁵² in Altenstadt are always worth a visit. The two traditional family businesses focus on providing good advice and offering a select range. One with fruit and vegetables, the other with shoes, fashion and sports attire.



Vorarlberger Kässpätzle

Ingredients for 4

5 eggs
500 g coarse-grained wheat
flour / spaetzle flour
125 ml lukewarm water
1 pinch of salt
100 g grated Vorarlberg
mountain cheese
100 g grated Emmental cheese
100g grated Räfskäse
(local hard cheese)
1 onion, peeled and sliced
150 g butter
Freshly ground pepper

To make your own Kässpätzle:

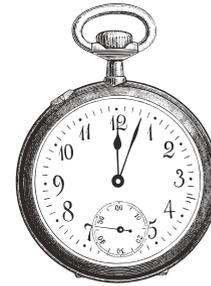
Spaetzle flour (e.g. from
Vorarlberg Mehl) can be found
in many grocery stores.
All three types of cheese are sold
by V-Milch Lädlele⁴⁷.
A spaetzle strainer can be
bought at Tischkultur Paolini⁸.



Preparation

Mix the flour, eggs and salt with the water to create a smooth dough. The dough should have a viscous consistency. »Spätzla« (press) the dough through a spaetzle strainer into boiling salt water. Strain the spaetzle as soon as they have risen to the surface.

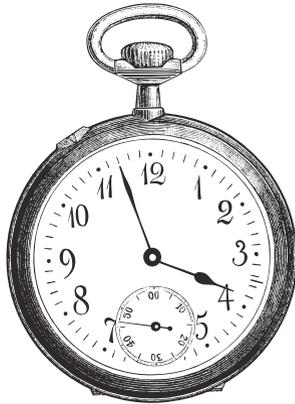
Mix the cheese and layer the spaetzle and cheese in a buttered dish. Heat the butter in a small pan. Fry the onion rings in it until they're golden brown. Drain on a paper towel. Garnish the Kässpätzle with fried onions and season with pepper to taste.



MIDDAY

AROUND FELDKIRCH

To the west of the west. Bangs is the westernmost place in Austria. The historical remains of a customs point is to be found there right in the middle of nowhere – as is *Gasthaus Stern*⁵³ that serves Kässpätzle that are simply unsurpassed. The best Austrian beer specialities and traditional dishes are available at the *Braugaststätte Löwen*⁵⁴ (brewery restaurant) in Tisis, which was founded in 1883. And *Gasthaus Krone*⁵⁵ in Gisingen is also a village inn that serves home-style cuisine. *Nofler Stuba*⁵⁶, on the other hand, caters to several different tastes: I like to alternate between traditional and Italian dishes here.



AFTER NOON

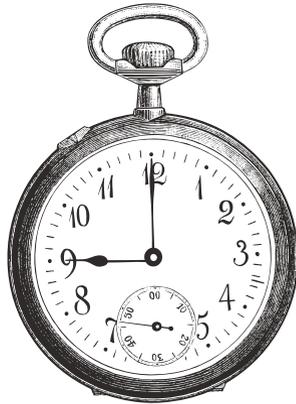
AROUND FELDKIRCH

P 23

I rarely travel as far as Lake Constance. I prefer to cycle to smaller bodies of water. *Alte Rüttenen*⁵⁷ is one of my favourite places for a swim. There are numerous small places here along the shore in the middle of the forest and meadows where you can take a dip – away from the usual hustle and bustle of open-air swimming pools. But I still like those, too, especially the *Felsenau*⁵⁸ and *Waldbad*⁵⁹ pools. One is small and fine, the other is large and you can find a lot of action.

Ice age. Both in winter and summer. Only rarely do the waters around Vorarlberg freeze over in winter – so guaranteed ice-skating fun and the opportunity to hire any accessories that are needed are available at the *Vorarlberghalle*⁶⁰ in Tosters. And if letting ice melt in your mouth is more your thing, I'd recommend a trip to *Eismanufaktur Kolibri*⁶¹ that makes its own ice cream in Nofels. Creative and tasty ice-cream varieties are conjured up here – by hand and from regional products and exclusively natural ingredients.

Running's always nice. The *Finnenbahn*⁶² in Gisingen is worth a visit all year round. At least, if you're as active as I am. The track with its joint-saving top that has been specially designed for jogging is 400 metres long – it's also well-lit in the evening and boasts an additional fitness trail. So it's also great for all-round training.



EVENING

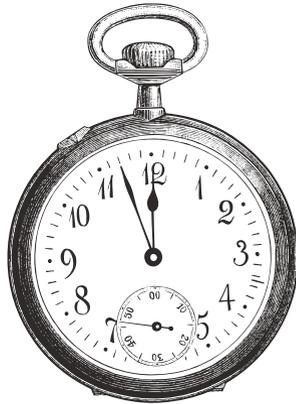
AROUND FELDKIRCH

P 25

Relaxing after a long day. Wine made locally at the Ardetzenberg is served at the Landgasthof Schäfle⁶³ in Altenstadt – as is fresh stone-baked bread along with seasonal specialities from traditional, regional and international dishes. I recommend the Samandar⁶⁴ in Tisis for visitors who enjoy Indian and Oriental food. And who likes Mexican street food? Probably everyone after a trip to Helldone's Burrteria⁶⁵. That's because, here, right in the middle of Nofels, it's possible to put your own perfect burrito together – to take away or eat in.

Or what about a sports tour around the towns and villages? The House of Billiard⁶⁶ also calls itself Break and has something for everyone who fancies a game of something. Pool or snooker, a poker tournament or even simply pinball? Not athletic enough? Well, then it's off to the Block Monkey⁶⁷ boulder hall in Gisingen. This is where routes for both beginners and professionals await you, where equipment is available for hire and where there's also a bistro for sports enthusiasts to enjoy a refreshment. Hotel Gasthaus Löwen⁶⁸ in Nofels is a little more rustic. It's the place where two skittle alleys promise lots of fun. But it's best to book in advance. The same goes for the indoor kart track in Gisingen. The 330-metre-long high-speed race track at the Kartbahn Treff⁶⁹ even has a double steeply banking curve!





GOOD TO KNOW

ROUND THE CLOCK

News. All exhibitions and events are featured in the calendar of events (available at the tourist office) and on www.feldkirch.travel.

Free Wi-Fi. Easy, free access to the Internet is granted at busy places in Feldkirch as well as on the Feldkirch public bus. Access to the Internet doesn't require registration, making it fast.

Postcards and stamps. Available at the tourist office, Buchhandlung Eggler⁷ and Papierwaren Moosmann⁷⁰. Stamps are sold at Postpartner⁷¹.

Feldkirch, Vorarlberg and Lake Constance. If you intend on discovering the entire region, you are well advised to arm yourself with any one of our leisure tickets such as the V-Card, Bodensee Vorarlberg leisure ticket or the Bodensee Card ^{PLUS}, enabling you to experience the multiple offerings of the region at an affordable price. The tickets are available at the tourist office.

Online en route. Suggestions and favourite spots in the region, selected by weather and daytime can be found at todayguide.at.

Feldkirch water. The water in Feldkirch is of first-class quality – and you can taste it! You can top up your water bottle at any one of the public water taps in Feldkirch, avoiding the need to buy plastic bottles from the supermarket.

Getting out and about. The service buses operated by the town of Feldkirch get you from A to B quickly and easily. It is only 10 minutes' walk from leaving the train or the station as far as the town centre. The town enjoys first-class connections to the direct vicinity as well as to Innsbruck, Salzburg, Vienna and Zurich. www.vmobil.at, www.oebb.at



HEINRICH

Feldkirch makes history



Ca. 1200. It is in a convenient location that Count Hugo I of Montfort establishes the town with 50 farms.

1218. Count Hugo I establishes St John's monastery with the Church of St John and the first hospital.

1265. The first part of the Schattensburg – the mighty keep – is completed.

1375. Childless Count Rudolf V of Montfort sells the town and castle to the Habsburgs for 30,000 guilders. He remains in office as governor until his death in 1390.

1510. Emperor Maximilian visits Feldkirch, indulging in the local wine – and the Countess of Helfenstein. Ever since this time, »Bläsi« has been striking the hour on the Church of St John.

1515. »More scholars than Rome«: this quotation is from Kaspar Bruschi, a scholar and poet from

the 16th century, and refers to the Feldkirch inhabitants. It was at this time that the heyday of humanism commenced with scientists such as Georg Joachim Rheticus, Achilles Pirmin Gasser, Ulrich Ellenbog, Hieronymus Münzer and the Hummelberger brothers.

1605. The Capuchin monastery and church are consecrated.

1647. Feldkirch is occupied by the Swedes, and has to pay high taxes to prevent the town and the castle from being demolished. The population feels extremely bitter towards the Swedes.

1649. Martha Lochbühlerin is tortured and sentenced in the last witch trial. She dies in prison before the date of the public execution.

1697. 150 houses fall victim to the biggest fire in the history of the town.

1768. Under Empress Maria Theresia, Feldkirch loses the privileges it had been granted by Count Rudolf V with the Charter of Freedom.

1799. Baron Franz von Jellachich beats the French troops under General Massena during their attack on Feldkirch.

1856. The Jesuits establish the now internationally known elite grammar school of Stella Matutina. Its most famous pupil is Arthur Conan Doyle, who studied German here in 1875.

1864. Josef Gasser is the last criminal to be hanged in Göfis forest.

1919. Following his abdication, Emperor Charles I leaves Austria via Feldkirch. Stefan Zweig describes the impressive scene in his autobiography.

1938. Feldkirch train station is carefully guarded by the Nazis: it seals the fate of many people as an escape route to neutral Switzerland.

1943. 220 people are killed in a bomb attack. Antoniushaus, which is being used as a military hospital, the teacher training institute and several residential homes are destroyed.

1977. The Vorarlberg State Conservatory is established.

2008. James Bond pursues a villain through Marktgasse in »A Quantum of Solace«.

2015. The Montforthaus, the new culture and congress centre of Feldkirch, opens its doors.

2018. Feldkirch celebrates 800 years of its town charter.

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

p 36

An »Ecclesia St Petri ad campos« – a church close to the fields – is first mentioned in a document of title. It was around the free-standing »Feldkirch«, today's Petronilla chapel, that the village of Altenstadt grew: its inhabitants therefore, and quite rightly, boast about living in the heart of the settlement. Over time, however, the centre shifted and, in 1925, Altenstadt was incorporated into the town. Only the spirit of history doesn't forget, and still tells anyone who pricks up their ears of the faded glory.

PLACES SHROUDED IN LEGEND

The romantic town centre almost feels as if Count Hugo of Montfort had intended the settlement built at the foot of the Schattensburg to be placed under a preservation order one day. The spirit of history pervades within the former fortification walls between the new town and the suburbs.

Marktgasse^A and Schmiedgasse^B. They are the theme of whole books which bring to life each and every house with its owners and its stories. The bright laughter from Schlossergasse – is it possible that it came from Maria Anna Viktoria Mozart-Pümpel, the illegal daughter of the great musician's little cousin? And wasn't that Dr Faust who just disappeared

p 37

in an archway? Settle down in one of the street cafés, look up at the panorama of time which has turned to stone, and wait until you hear the whispering. Or saunter along underneath the arbours and find the only stucco ceiling amongst the elegant cross vaults.

In the historical centre, windows open on all imaginable worlds. It therefore comes as no surprise that the major events such as the Wine Festival, the Street Artist Festival and the Christmas market attract tens of thousands of visitors every year. Allow yourself to be enchanted by the richly decorated façades of the buildings. The encounter between historicism and Art Nouveau at the start of the 20th century contributed towards the cheerful – and sometimes confusing – diversity. And so there arose works of art which span the epochs, such as Clessin pharmacy, Lingg Inn and the medieval Unterberger building with its half-timbered oriel dating back to 1904. You cannot miss it when you are in Marktgasse.

Pornography as a means of protest. Kreuzgasse 10 is the address of Lingg Inn that faces Marktgasse. As a protest against the restrictive spirit of the times, in 1888, the publican of the traditional inn had a colourful illustration bearing naked Bacchus figures applied to the façade. This caused an outcry in the town, and Lingg had to have clothes painted on the chubby-cheeked boys straight away. It was only during restoration works in 1969 that they were once again allowed to bare all. However, several of the figures were kept chastely clothed as a reminder of the 19th century scandal.

Town hall^C. When the old town hall opened its doors in 1493, it functioned as a trading centre. The grain store was located on the ground floor, and the fabrics hall was located upstairs. Good advice and quality fabrics fell victim to the major fire which engulfed the town in 1697. The building was rebuilt during the baroque period, and was given its breath-taking panelled council chamber. In the entrance area between the town hall and the former hospital, which was incorporated in 1936, a whole-wall painting by Florus Scheel displays old Feldkirch.

The town hall is only a short walk from the »Löwen«, for which the first inn sign was ordered in 1726. If you open the original gates in the new town, on the right you will see a passageway which used to lead to the »Löwenschwemme«, an extremely popular inn. There, the late-Expressionist author Max Riccabona from Feldkirch admired the famous James Joyce from afar. A tight network of literati exists: right round the corner, in Herrengasse 12, lived the romantic poet Dr Lebrecht Dreves. His colleague Hermann von Gilm was born in Marktgasse 1.

Literary border crossing. When, in 1915, author James Joyce wanted to travel to neutral Switzerland via Feldkirch, he was afraid that the Swiss could prevent his crossing the border. In 1932, the Joyces stayed in Hotel Löwen for three weeks in order to be close to their mentally-ill daughter Lucia, who was being treated in Feldkirch. Every evening, so the story goes, Joyce went to the station and waved at the trains, remembering his successful escape. »Over there, on the tracks – that is where the fate of Ulysses was decided«, he said with gratitude. Joyce observed the people in the Löwenschwemme, and took

p 38

p 39

notes. Maybe these observations provided inspiration for the malapropism in »Finnegans Wake«: »Oh backed von dem zug!«

Vorarlberg State Conservatory^D. The well-known Jesuit college of Stella Matutina once stood on Leonhardsplatz. Although Tomas Mann never saw the boarding school from the inside, he described it with uncanny precision in his »Zauberberg« (»The Magic Mountain«). His information obviously came from an advertising brochure. On the other side of the river Ill, you can see the new buildings of the Stella. Built in 1900, they harmoniously continue the history in the form of the Vorarlberg State Conservatory these days.

The cradle of the detective novel. One of the most famous pupils at the time-honoured Stella Matutina was Arthur Conan Doyle. Long before the master detective Sherlock Holmes was conceived, Doyle came here in 1875 as a 16-year-old to improve his German. He wrote many articles for »The Feldkirchian Gazette« school magazine, which he was responsible for publishing. Doyle also had an active social life in Feldkirch: he chased the round leather ball long before the sport was popularised as »football«, and played the helicon – which he renamed »bomb horn« – in the brass band.

Heiligkreuz^E. A must-do in Feldkirch is to cross the Heiligkreuz bridge. The listed buildings »Im Kehr« closely hug the rock face, breathing in, fearfully eyeing the torrential river Ill at their feet. On Easter Sunday 1965, of all days, the aged – thankfully uninhabited – Gierer Hüsle building plunged into the river. All that was left was bare cliff. Incidentally, it is said that the Jewish quarter was once located here, in front of the town gates: however, historical evidence of this has never been found.



CASTLES, TOWERS AND GATEWAYS

When the wind wafts around the castle battlement, it wistfully tells the history of time. On three hills around Feldkirch, amazingly well preserved historical walls rise above the town. Relics of the medieval fortification in the town, in particular the four mighty towers and the two town gates also enable an insight into the transitory and the eternal. In our mind's eye, the damsel cleans her delicate nose between walls which are always cold, the salt traders' wagons cross Chur Gate to enter Switzerland, a town dweller empties his chamber pot out of the window and into the Entenbach. The old stories have not been erased, and neither will they be.

Schattenburg^F. The town's symbol, the Schattenburg, dominates Feldkirch. It is here that the Counts of Montfort had their ancestral seat during the High Middle Ages. The keep was built in ca. 1265, followed a short time later by the hall – the stately living room, so to speak. The dynasty died out in 1390 along with Rudolf V, yet Schattenburg long remained the governor's seat – more to the detriment than to the good of the people. Count Friedrich VII of Toggenburg had three wings built at the start of the 15th century, giving the castle the form it still enjoys today. The demolition of the decaying walls was prevented at the last moment at the start of the 19th century – a stroke of luck for locals and visitors alike.

Institute of St Josef^G. Maybe your keen eye has discovered another castle above the Institute of St Joseph – a castle that never gets a mention in any other guide. The building is particularly conspicuous at night, when the pale floodlights light up its walls in the dark. The answer to the mystery is

P 42

P 43

rather dull – as it is a water supply construction built in 1905 in order to safeguard the town's water supply. Despite this, the historicising tower is impressive; furthermore, it offers you a fantastic view.

Katzenturm^H and **Pulverturm**^I. Regrettably, there are only fragments of the medieval town walls left. However, it is easy to envisage the town wall when you follow the fragments along the four well-restored town towers. Whereas the big gun in Katzenturm, known as the »Katzen«, wasn't exactly used for target practice at sparrows, the Wasserturm opened up a passageway to traffic into town. Today, the former bulwarks offer places of refuge to various clubs. They are appreciated for their function as keepers of tradition, where walls metres thick protect against animosity. The Alpine Club literally takes things to the limit: it has established a real climbing wall in Pulverturm.

»**The sweetest sound**« »Pummerin«, weighing in at a hefty 8.5 tons and housed in Katzenturm, is the beating heart of the town. Dark and awe-inspiring, Vorarlberg's greatest bell rings in the legend surrounding its predecessor. In March 1799, Napoleon's troops arrived in front of the town walls, yet withdrew on Easter Saturday, of all days, in order to deceive the citizens of Feldkirch. All the bells in the town rang out in thanks on this Easter Saturday so loudly that the sound reverberated from the mountains and the rock faces. To the French, however, it sounded like a mighty call for mustering additional forces. As if struck by the thunder of the bells, the enemy fled from the supposed superior power.



Chur Gate

Chur Gate^J. A cup of coffee tastes twice as nice in the shadow of Chur Gate. You look directly up at the only preserved tower-like town gate in the whole of Vorarlberg. Its current form dates back to the town's new fortification in 1491. In lucid colours, the coat of arms on the tower and the ornamentations on the undersides of the roof tell of earlier prosperity. Next to Chur Gate stood the salt warehouse, demolished in 1905, from where the valuable raw material was transported to Switzerland. The caretaker of the salt warehouse had his living quarters in the gate itself, whereas the gatekeeper lived in a small house located close by. A separate watchman was appointed to each of the other town gates – there was no getting away from this civic duty!

Mill Gate^K. Underneath the high archway of Mill Gate, you can hear the voice of the night watchman reverberating – he is regularly out on his watch, and bearer of strange tales. The awe-inspiring building on the bank of the river Ill looks out of place and, if you observe it long enough, you will glimpse a view of Sleeping Beauty behind the milky windows, as she undauntedly works her spindle. In the 15th century, on the other hand, it was very lively, since the pig market was held very close by, which is why it is known in the vernacular as »Pigs Gate«. It is easy to imagine the Mill Gate, the gloomy neighbour of Pulverturm, sometimes being used as a prison. An adulteress was incarcerated here in 1591 and, according to records, she was »fed with water and porridge«. Today's tenants are undoubtedly much better off, even though its windows are still small both in quantity and size.

CHURCHES, MONASTERIES AND CHAPELS

When you consider the multitude of buildings that have been created in and around Feldkirch in praise of a supreme being, it is hardly surprising that you sometimes cannot see the sky for the towers, as it were. No need to panic, though: here is a selection of some of the most important religious buildings and their histories. Following their lead, we are setting off from the town centre, moving outwards in concentric circles.

St Nikolaus cathedral ^L. The Romanesque building, first documented in 1287, suffered considerable damage in several fires which struck the town. Master builder Hans Sturn set about rebuilding it, and completed the late-Gothic building in 1478. Worth a visit is the wrought-iron pulpit dating back to 1520 that, weighing in at 9 tons, can endure any preacher.

Rheticus, the sun king. Renaissance mathematician Georg Joachim Rheticus was one of the town's prodigal sons. He made a major contribution towards ensuring that Copernicus' writings were published, and he was the first one to sketch a sundial which even allowed the date to be determined. In 2009, the »Betstuhl« was installed in Domplatz in his honour: this sundial is based on the meridian. If you find this explanation too abstract, please feel free to go to the cathedral and see for yourself that the clock doesn't chime for you – instead, it shines for you!

Johanniterchurch ^M. Hugo I presented the Order of St John with this church in 1218. During the search for the Montforts' graves, the Federal Office for Monuments had archaeological excavations carried out between 1983 and 1995 which, however, turned out to be literally built on sandy ground. Since this

p 46

p 47

time, the church has been a unique art gallery presenting changing exhibitions.

Church of Our Lady ^N. If you have survived the ravages of the plague, you might well erect a church out of a sense of gratitude. At least, this is the raison d'être behind the Church of our Lady, whose late-Gothic nave was completed in 1473. Along with Chur Gate, it forms a picturesque ensemble which unites the secular fortification complex with the yearning for transcendence.

Heiligkreuz chapel ^E. A particular magic emanates from this small chapel in this romantic spot. On the way from the polyphonic nature of the town to the roaring Ill gorge, you pause, stop a minute, and observe, spellbound, the sunbeams seeping through the bright windows, and the late-Gothic wall frescoes, uncovered in 1992, bathing in celestial light.

Capuchin church ^O. The foundation of the monastery dates back to 1602. Fidelis von Sigmaringen, bearer of a PhD in law and later sainted, was briefly the head of the monastery. The Fathers only consecrated the church three years later. In 1729, in an antechamber of Fideliskapelle, they replicated the cell of the saint, furnishing and decorating it with original fixtures and fittings.

Letzeshof Buddhist Monastery ^P. In 1982, Tibetan monk Geshe Rabten Rinpoche founded a Buddhist monastery and centre of learning on a hill called Letze. A year later, Feldkirch was visited by no less than the Dalai Lama himself. From the white stupa, your view wanders across the mountains, and you can reflect upon your inner being.

MOUNTAINS, PARKS, NATURAL MONUMENTS

After spending so much time in pursuit of pleasures in the town, how about getting out a bit, grabbing a bit of nature while you can? Then you couldn't have picked a better place than Feldkirch, since the town is surrounded by mountains, each with its very own charm. Steep cliff rifts alternate with gently rolling, wooded hills, English-style horticulture and herds of red deer. Nature preserves and natural monuments invite you to enjoy the work of an architect the likes of which have not been seen before or since.

Ardetzenberg^Q. It was the Counts of Montfort who laid the foundations for Feldkirch's dominance of Vorarlberg viticulture for centuries to come. A sea of vines spreads across Ardetzenberg, Blasenbergr and Amberg as far as the town gates. Wine connoisseurs even wanted to have the popular red table wine put in the same category as Meersburger. In the exceptional year of 1895, the wine from Ardetzenberg produced a whole 93 degrees Oechsle on the vinometer. There are still small vineyards to be found beneath Schattenburg, on Ardetzenberg and Amberg whose yield is well worth a try.

Wildpark^R. Ibis Felix, the first official inhabitant of Feldkirch animal park, moved in in 1963, and is still its symbol. 130 animals from 23 different species have now made the animal park their home, much to the delight of the many visitors. You can howl with wolves, watch racoons as they perform their tiresome housework, or be entranced by grazing red deer. A gentle walk around the park will take you about an hour. A snack bar and the free admission are the perfect ingredients for ensuring family fun. It will soon become

p 48

p 49

obvious why the recreation forest on Ardetzenberg has justly earned its name: on 70 plaques, a nature trail provides a great deal of amazing information about the biotope. Just 15 minutes from the animal park, you come across the Sautränke, which got its name from the mild climate which prevailed during the Montfort epoch. Sweet chestnuts were particularly abundant on Ardetzenberg. They were so numerous, however, that the farmers weren't able to harvest them all – hence, they let their pigs enjoy this exceptional delight, too. Once the animals had had their fill, they were led to the nearby pond so that they could quench their thirst after the feast.

Margarethenkapf^S. The park complex situated on Margarethenkapf, which rises steeply from the river Ill, can look back on a long history. The castle known under the unpronounceable name of Tschitscher Schlössle, named after the provost of Feldkirch at the time, has been standing proudly there since 1620. This was joined later by a hermitage and a viewing pavilion where gasping hikers are robbed of their very last breath when they get an eyeful of the panorama. However, the place of relaxation needed the help of a real live knight to achieve its splendour. Josef Andreas Ritter zu Tschavoll, twice mayor of Feldkirch, bought the land in 1868 and, in the style of English landscape gardens, created a work of art comprising viewing points, a palm house, pens for small animals, fountains and clusters of rare trees. The estate then spent years in a state of hibernation before it was bought by the town, and reactivation was launched in 2006. The soul comes alive walking along the recently planted boulevard of lime trees and going up the tree-topped »Rädle« pavilion. Thomas Mann wrote about Margarethenkapf in his »Magic Mountain«.



»Shortly after the death of his mother, Leo made the acquaintance of Father Unterpertinger. The 16-year-old was sitting on a bench in the parks of the so-called Margarethenkapf, a hill to the west of the town, on the bank of the River Ill, from where you could enjoy an expansive, serene view across the Rhine Valley: he sat there, lost in dismal and bitter thoughts about his fate, his future, when a member of the teaching staff of the boarding school of Jesus, known Margarethenkapf around 1900 Palmhouse - today residence as »Morgenstern«, out taking a walk, sat down beside him, placed his hat next to him, crossed his legs over his secular clergy clothing and, after reading for a while, he struck up a conversation which proved to be very lively and which had a decisive influence on Leo's fate.«

In Feldkirch

Shopping

- 6 Farmer's Market, Marktplatz
- 7 Buchhandlung Egger, Marktplatz 23
- 8 Tischkultur Paolini, Marktplatz 7
- 9 Culinara, Neustadt 11
- 10 Yomabi, Neustadt 40
- 27 Lauter Wein, Gymnasiumgasse 6
- 28 Sajas, Mühletorplatz 3
- 29 Weltladen, Schlossergasse 7
- 30 Der Schuhmacher, Neustadt 45
- 31 Natur&Kost, Johannitergasse 6
- 70 Papierwaren Moosmann, Schmiedgasse 25
- 71 Postpartner, Schlossergasse 3

Culinary Art

- 1 Café April, Neustadt 39
- 2 Dogana, Neustadt 20
- 11 Gasthof Lingg, Kreuzgasse 10
- 12 Restaurant Illvy, Marktgasse 12-14
- 13 Thai Asien-Haus, Schubertplatz 2
- 14 Café Hecht, Neustadt 10a
- 15 Restaurant Taj Mahal, Vorstadt 12-14
- 16 Café Zanona, Montfortgasse 3
- 17 Schokomus, Schießstätte 8
- 18 Pinocchio, Kreuzgasse 1
- 19 Schnell bakery, Schmiedgasse 16
- 26 Jahnhalle, Jahnplatz 8
- 32 Wirtshaft zum Schützenhaus, Göfiser Straße 2
- 33 Braugaststätte Rösslepark, Rösslepark 1
- 34 Restaurant E3 at Montforthaus, Montfortplatz 1

- 35 Ristorante Basilico, Mühletorplatz 2
- 38 Bunt Bar, Marktplatz 1
- 39 Rauch Club, Marktplatz 9
- 40 Bärenkeller, Bahnhofstraße 1

Culture & Sights

- 3 Schattensburg museum, Burggasse 1
- 4 Johanniterchurch, Marktplatz 1
- 5 St. Nikolaus cathedral, Domplatz 6
- 36 Theater am Saumarkt, Mühletorplatz 1
- 37 Cinema Rio, Marktplatz 18

Nature & Activities

- 20 Wildpark, Ardetzenweg 20
- 21 Crazy-golf course Schattensburg, Burggasse 1
- 22 Children's playground at Elisabethplatz
- 23 Children's playground at Reichenfeld
- 24 Letzehof Buddhist Monastery, Im Buchholz 26, 6820 Frastanz
- 25 Stadtschrofen

 tourist-office

Around Feldkirch

Shopping

- 49 Bluama & meh, Ketschelenstraße 1
- 50 V-Milch Lädlele, Nofler Straße 62
- 51 Peherstorfer, Reichsstraße 22
- 52 Alton, Reichsstraße 45



 A day in Feldkirch
 Feldkirch makes history

Personal histories and memories

Culinary Art

- 41 Schnell bakery,
Kaiserstrasse 10a
- 42 Schertler bakery,
Noflerstraße 20, Gisingen,
Illstraße 3, Tosters
- 43 Café Z, Alberweg 12
- 46 Gasthaus zur Eibe,
Tostner Burgweg 45
- 53 Gasthaus Stern, Sternenweg 1
- 54 Braugaststätte Löwen Tisis,
Dorfstraße 28
- 55 Gasthaus Krone, Hauptstraße 38
- 56 Nofler Stuba, Rheinstraße 19
- 61 Eismanufaktur Kolibri,
Rheinstraße 13
- 63 Landgasthof Schäfle,
Naflastraße 3
- 64 Samandar,
Rappenwaldstraße 23a
- 65 Helldone's Burrriteria,
Feldkircher Straße 18

Culture & Sights

- 44 Tostner Burg
- 45 St. Corneli,
Tostner Burgweg 54

Nature & Activites

- 47 Fresch, Neue Freschnerstraße
- 48 Chapel of St. Martin,
between Oberfresch 1 and 2
- 57 Alte Rüttenen, Rüttenenstraße
- 58 Pool Felsenau,
Fellengattener Straße 7,
6820 Frastanz

- 59 Pool Waldbad, Stadionstraße 7
- 60 Vorarlberghalle,
Am Breiten Wasen 4
- 62 Gisingen fitness trail,
Nofler Straße 62
- 66 Break – House of Billard,
Königshofstraße 57
- 67 Block Monkey, Im Letten 6
- 68 Hotel Gasthaus Löwen,
Kohlgasse 1
- 69 Kartbahn-Treff, Münkafeld 2

Feldkirch makes History

- A Marktgasse
- B Schmiedgasse
- C Town Hall
- D Vorarlberger State Conservatory
- E Heiligkreuzviertel
- F Schattenburg
- G Institute of St Josef
- H Katzenturm
- I Pulvertrum
- J Chur Gate
- K Mill Gate
- L St Nikolaus cathedral
- M Johanniterchurch
- N Church of Our Lady
- O Capuchin monastery
- P Letzehof Buddhist Monastery
- Q Ardetzenberg
- R Wildpark
- S Margarethenkapf

Montforthaus Feldkirch GmbH
Montfortplatz 1
6800 Feldkirch, Austria
P 0043 5522 9009, tourismus@feldkirch.at

www.feldkirch.travel