

MURTAL

Arrive.
Unwind.
Feel
your heart
beat.

A TRAVEL GUIDE THROUGH
THE MURTAL AT THE HEART
OF STYRIA

Katharina Maria
Zimmermann

A look behind the pages

Michael Königshofer works as a freelance photographer. Outdoor photography is his passion. On his beautiful, impressive reportages, he tells stories from New Zealand, Greenland, Norway or indeed, the Murtal. During this research he discovered the delicious Seckauer Zwieback.

www.koenigshofer.biz



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www.mariezieger.com



This is already the second book that Katharina Maria Zimmermann has written about the Murtal. The travel guide author, copywriter and photographer who founded the publisher Eat Write Live and Echoes Magazine, is curious, inquisitive and collects good stories. For this book she experienced more sunrises and sunsets than ever before.

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KATHARINA MARIA ZIMMERMANN

Arrive. Unwind. Feel your heart beat.

A travel guide through the Murtal
at the heart of Styria





A book like a journey.

You can feel this heart beat on every page!

Throughout the year. In the magnificent Murtal. In the mountains and in the valley, with culinary stops, visiting extraordinary characters and always with a lot of heart.

Start living life at its fullest⁽¹⁰⁾, then get nice and warm⁽³⁰⁾. You will love seeing when leaves fall⁽⁵²⁾ and last but not least, strap on your snowshoes because at the end of the year and book, winter is coming⁽⁷⁸⁾!



Life
at its
fullest



Nice
and
warm

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WINTER
IS
COMING

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There are sights that basically everybody knows. And then there are the special spots that often only the locals know. Whether by bike, car or on foot, one of our Magic Places is always within reach. Voilà - we present our little, fantastic favourites.

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Tower in the mountains / Turm im Gebirge



Find me on p.60!



Find me on p.54!



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Winterleitensee Lake at the foot of the Zirbitzkogel

Find me on p.60!



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Gröndahlhaus

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Pilgrimage Church Maria Schnee in the Seckau Alps



Find me on p.58!



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Murauen - Lässer Au



Find me on p.66!

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Ingeringsee Lake



Find me on the cover, p.3 & p.119!

MURTAL MAGIC PLACES



MURTAL MAGIC PLACES.



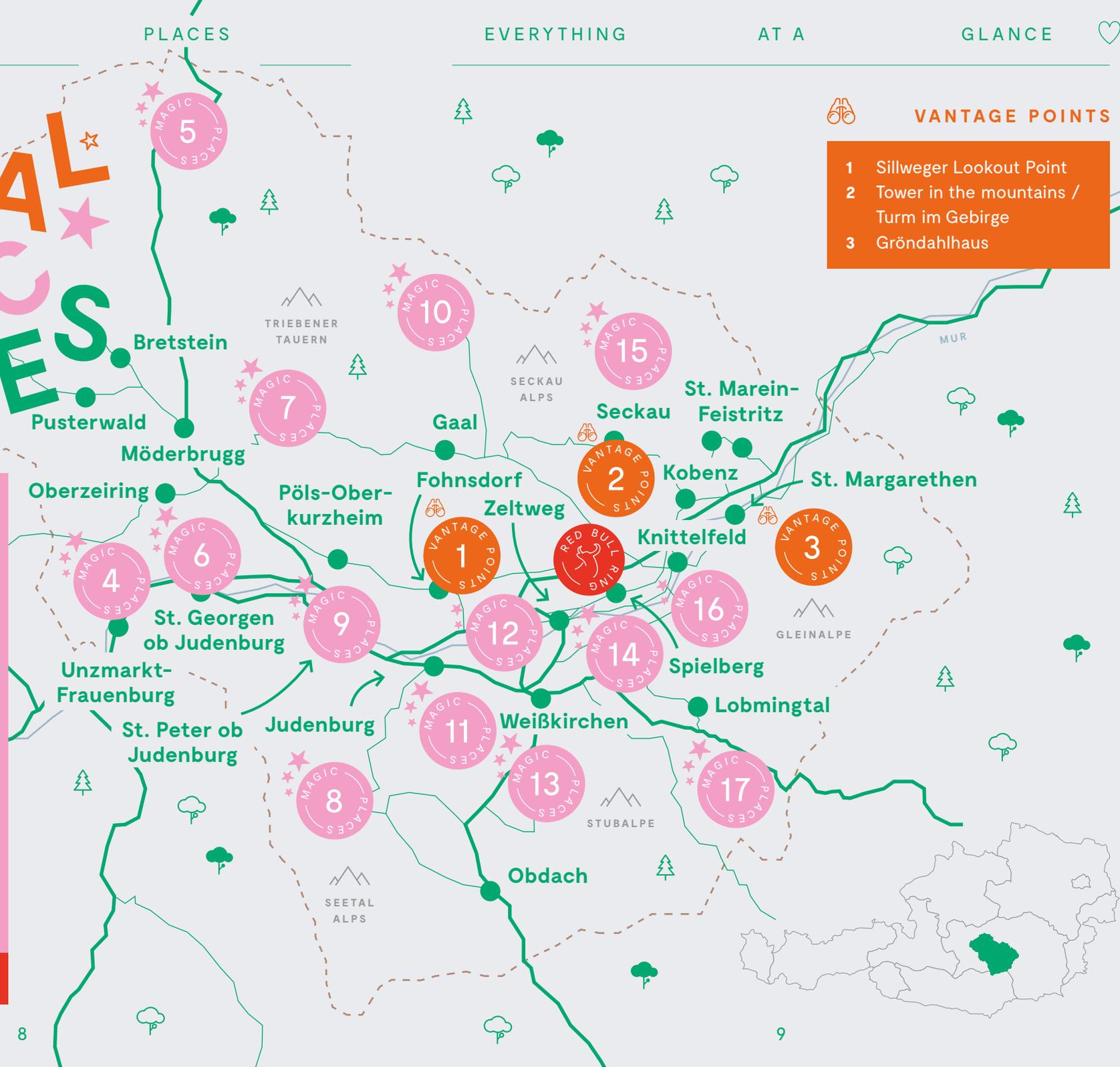
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RED BULL RING





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in bloom PAGE 12

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Regional Treasures:
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exhibitions in the
Murtal PAGE 20

When the Easter rose blooms and the forest floor is covered in rosy heather, when the crocuses stretch out towards the sun and the dog's-tooth-violet decorates the mountainside, then it's time to live life at its fullest. Outside you can work the winter weight off on the bike and inside the museums are opening up to cater for your cultural needs. There are treasures to be found in the Murtal, but they are not hidden or buried, in fact their gates are wide open. Gem-archaeology, rail-of mining and just a few of the delve into at the



stones, carnival, ways, the world monks are only subjects you can start of spring.

Life at its fullest



March showers bring April flowers

The days are getting longer, the sun's rays stronger, the region more colourful. The small, gorgeous early bloomers sprawl and stretch their vibrant heads to greet the sun. Their names are heather, Easter rose and crocus – each a tiny miracle. Reason enough to pack the photography equipment and go on a discovery tour of the most wanted spring flowers. Markus Beren takes us under his wing.

If you want to be somewhere at sunrise, you have to get out of bed very early in the morning. It almost always pays off. Armed with a camera, macro lens and tripod, we follow our guide Markus. He's not a professional, at least that's what he claims, although his photos tell a different story. "I started photography because I climbed Kilimanjaro and wanted to capture the vegetation there," we begin to recognise a pattern – it must be plants. And mountains. Slowly it becomes lighter and we hold the camera at the ready. After all, we don't want to miss the golden light, the holy grail of photographers.

A blaze of colour

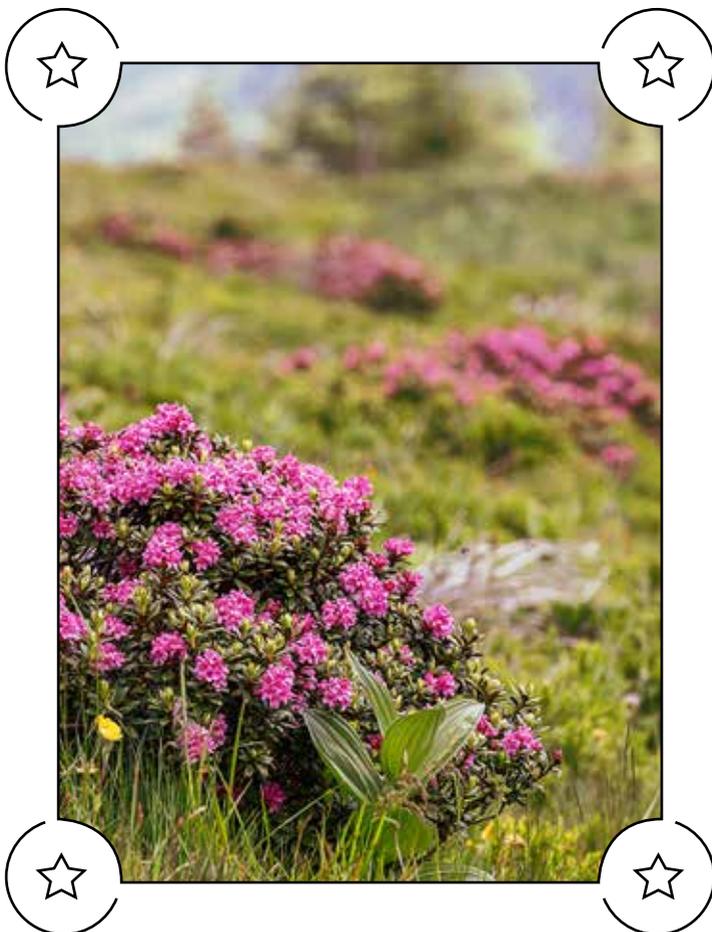
Each new week brings a different play of colours. We came to see the famous heather flowers, which turn the forest floor pink. A spectacle of nature that seems as unreal as a fairy tale. We can hardly believe the forest floor is glimmering pink. This is the perfect moment. And you have to be in the right place at the right time. "The harsher the winter, the later it blooms. Although recently I've been seeing flowers that I used to only see in April as early as March," says Beren. And we're glad we're following a professional. Even if he says he isn't one.



Like a magic forest – the Murtal during heather season.



Most wanted



flowers

The flower pilgrims are out – this special hiking season begins in February, when the days become longer and leads you straight through the Murtal. This season is one flowery highlight after the other.



Easter rose

Hohentauern is its home. It particularly likes to appear in groups, forming a carpet. Its main white blossoms arrive as early as February.

Heather flowers

To be found on the forest floor in March.



Gentian

If you see beautiful, blue eyes staring back at you from the mountain soil between March and June, you are very lucky and have discovered the gentian. This flower is a real star: It made it onto the Austrian one cent coin after all.



Pulsatilla styriaca

This pinky violet Styrian pasque flower can only be caught in the Murtal from March and April. (Very regional!)



Crocus

The higher it is, the later it comes out. It can be first sighted in the Aichfeld basin. It shows itself in white and violet in the wild between March and April.



Dog's-tooth-violet

This violet can be found in special spots at the end of March. For example on the Oberer-Paiger-Weg road in Thalheim.



Alpenrose

A late suspect who likes to cause trouble in June around Winterleitensee Lake and by the Edelrautehütte hut. Pretty in pink! Also called the hairy alpenrose.

HIKING TIP

Hunting for heather

→ The round trip around the Mazlerberg mountain starts at the Musikheim in Hinterlobming (near St. Stefan ob Leoben) and then leads to the Mazlerberg junction, from where the number 12 signposts indicate the way. From the highest point, an old chapel, the forest path goes back down to Pöttlergraben, past the alpaca farm and to the road in Vorlobming, then back to the starting point via Kapellgrabenweg and Kirchweg.

Take your bike

Take two wheels, a saddle and two willing legs. A recipe for success for exploring the Murtal. The Mur Cycling Path hasn't meandered along here for decades for nothing. And a real cycle path network called "Nimm's Radl" (Take your bike) as well as "Bike & Hike" await.



www.region-spielberg.at/styria/summer/take-a-bike

www.steiermark.com/en/mur-cycling-path

www.steiermark.com/en/styria/destinations-for-day-trips/tour-de-mur_p791509

Whether you are a casual or a sporty cyclist, or want to become the latter, there is something here for everyone. With or without the "E" on the front of your bike, the Murtal is best discovered astraddle a saddle and cycling from spot to spot. Which spots you finally choose are totally up to you. It could be one of the many traditional restaurants, that are nestled between the cycling network and paths or it could be the view from a mountain summit on a "bike & hike". You can cycle from eatery to eatery, from delicacy to delicacy and simply pedal off the calories while you're doing it. Luckily there are various difficulty levels on the cycle path network "Nimm's Radl". From very leisurely stretches to real challenges, depending on your mood.

Nimm's Radl: Our Murtal cycling path network



The cycle path network is far from complicated, but it is worth pointing out that the cycling paths are structured like a spider web. All intersections are numbered and are called node points. This system wasn't created in the Murtal, it has already proved itself in other countries and the Murtal inhab-

itants found it too ingenious to not use it here around the Red Bull Ring. That's why there is a node point board at each node point with a close-up map. Using the map, each cyclist can tailor their individual route how they wish by noting the numbers of the nodes and then following them. This system allows

much more spontaneity, because you can ride from point to point along the route and change it on the fly. If you want to know how many kilometres you have ahead of you, you can simply add the individual route lengths between the nodes together. And voilà: You have created your personal workout.



OUR TIP

Nimm's Radl – Murtal Circuit

→ The circuit starts from the Red Bull Ring and leads from Fohnsdorf to Pöls. The R2 Mur Cycling Path heads back along to Zeltweg and Spielberg. Here you can experience a stunning vista of the Murtal, cycle through the centre of Judenburg and enjoy the view of flowering meadows and fields.

Duration: Approx. 3.5 hours

Distance: 46.8 km

Difficulty: Medium

Cycling & walking? "Bike & Hike"!

Eleven "Bike & Hike" bicycle parking spaces are scattered across the Murtal. These are ideal starting points for hikes. For example, if you want to hike around the Salzstiegel on the Stubalpe or to the Klosterneuburgerhütte hut or to the Sommertörl mountain pass, you save yourself the comparatively "dull" forest path and can put it behind you with the bike. Then you stand on your own two feet and do the last stretch at walking pace.



Mur Cycle Path & Tour de Mur

The R2 Mur Cycling Path is the star of the Styrian cycle paths. It leads from Salzburg, along the entire Mur river, to Slovenia. Over mountains, through pastures, in the shade of the woods to the meadows and vineyards in the south, you pedal away. Of course, most of it is downhill. That's a defining characteristic of rivers. The whole path is 458 km long, but it is up to you to decide which routes you choose, parallel to the second longest river in Austria. The stations in the Murtal are Judenburg, Spielberg and Knittelfeld.

Once a year, the celebrated "Tour de Mur" takes place, where you can ride along the Mur Cycling Path together in a so-called cycle procession. The Mur Cycling Path is divided into three stages. The first stage's destination is in Fohnsdorf and is celebrated with a large bicycle festival.

A colourful collection of culture

All good museums come in twelves. And in the Murtal, they are called “Cultural Treasures”. The treasure in this case is a sticker for each visit as well as a whole lot of knowledge and a good time. Anyone who visits all of the museums gets a full Murtal sticker book and receives a surprise. For a little preview, we can reveal what visitors can expect in the individual museums. Some briefly. Some in more detail.



Knittelfeld Railway Museum

Be sober at work

Such signs can be found in the Knittelfeld Railway Museum. These include, for example, “No flower picking while driving” or “When sneezing, coughing or spitting, use a handkerchief”. The exhibits will give you a laugh or two.

What did the train station restaurant in Selzthal used to look like? What did the tickets for the Lilliputbahn in the Prater in Vienna look like and what was the Rudolf Railway anyway? The Knittelfeld Railway Museum, opened in 1999, will answer these questions and many more.

Nostalgia alarm

One thing is certain: Whoever comes here will not be taken back in time only once. As early as the first room, you are “greeted” by a ticket desk and an older signal box. In later rooms there are swords that were considered



“symbols of dignity and the power of office” among uniform wearers. The magic of outfits runs through the rooms in any case. Be it railway caps from all over the world, uniforms or small, detailed watches with train motifs.

Privy places

Pretty much everything in the Railway Museum is true to style. Including the toilets, above the entrance of which “Abort”, an old-fashioned German word for “privy”, is written in large letters. These privies were constructed elsewhere and now spend their new life as museum toilets! The saloon car is also very special, because it makes you feel as if you had stepped straight onto the Orient Express. You can spend hours, days or weeks in the museum, depending on how interested you are in trains and the world around them.

[Knittelfeld Railway Museum](https://www.eisenbahnmuseum-knittelfeld.at)

www.eisenbahnmuseum-knittelfeld.at



Dietmar Rauter

Constant locomotion

Knittelfeld has a long history with trains. Each express train that stopped here stayed eight minutes. Enough reason to build a museum for everyone who loves trains as much as Dietmar Rauter.



He trained at the ÖBB, the Austrian Federal Railways. Then he was employed as a train driver. His route was always the one from Graz to Linz, Vienna and Arnoldstein. Dietmar Rauter knows every exhibit inside and out: The clocks on the walls, the small tickets for dogs and the largest railway cap collection in the world. "Lots of people are interested in the latter, they come from very far away to see our caps," he says. With enthusiasm he describes the great ball dances of the railway workers, the Empress Elisabeth Railway, which once led to Trieste and of course the Adria express, which operated from Vienna through Knittelfeld to Ancona until 1995. The name of this train is still written on the museum building today, which sits directly on the train tracks. Exactly as if the train were about to stop by.

[Knittelfeld Railway Museum](http://www.eisenbahnmuseum-knittelfeld.at)
www.eisenbahnmuseum-knittelfeld.at



Knittelfeld Railway Museum

A large museum with 16 themed rooms makes train lovers' hearts beat quicker. Psst: this museum also boasts the world's largest locomotive cap collection.

Highlight: a still-functioning signal box from 1898 and the railway crossing barriers you can crank yourself let you glimpse the everyday life of the railroad worker.

[Eisenbahnmuseum Knittelfeld, Aimbachallee 14a, 8720 Knittelfeld](http://www.eisenbahnmuseum-knittelfeld.at)
www.eisenbahnmuseum-knittelfeld.at



Puch Museum Judenburg

A brand that still summons a lot of emotions. For many it is their youth that they fondly remember. For others, their first car. One thing is certain: This journey through time is not only worthwhile for motor enthusiasts. (More info on p. 36)

Highlight: The fast Puch with a Haflinger motor dating from 1962. Vroom, vroom!

[Puch Museum Judenburg, Murtaler Platz 1, 8750 Judenburg](http://www.puchmuseum.at)
www.puchmuseum.at



VW Beetle Museum Gaal

Tradition, development and the history of the VW Beetle converge in one house in Gaal. The cult vehicle in all its diversity. Amazing! (More info on p. 36)

Highlight: A Beetle from 1951, that had additional side ventilation flaps as well as the door window flaps. It doesn't get any more Beetle!

[VW Käfermuseum Gaal, Ingering II/4, 8731 Gaal | www.steiermark.com/en/styria/destinations-for-day-trips/vw-beetle-museum-gaal_p153870](http://www.steiermark.com/en/styria/destinations-for-day-trips/vw-beetle-museum-gaal_p153870)



Fohnsdorf Mining Museum

The treasures (under) the Earth

He takes us with him. On a foray through the museum. And into the dark. The lignite mine in Fohnsdorf was the deepest in the world when it was active.

Heinz Kopp wears miner's costume – pitch black with 29 gold buttons. “Miners have a lot to do with Saint Barbara, including the miner's smock. The number of buttons represent the age at which she was beheaded,” explains Heinz Kopp in the middle of “his museum”. According to him, even miners who were atheists believed in the saint. He is standing next to a gigantic machine. The 3,600 hp steam-powered tandem hoist machine that lifted coal out of the depths every second. But we have already seen something black in the corner. “Oh, that's the black lung,” says Kopp, in explanation. “Excuse me?” The explanation is an ugly one. The miners had to be tough in the depths, but they tried everything in the fresh air to live unhealthily. They drank beer all the time anyway. Chewing tobacco and smoking in general were a must when working underground. “Smoking was practically a male status symbol” says Kopp calmly. The fact that there used to be 43 inns in Fohnsdorf suddenly makes more sense. If you want to know more about mining customs from Heinz Kopp, turn to p. 114.



[Mining Museum Fohnsdorf](http://www.bergbaumuseum-fohnsdorf.at)
www.bergbaumuseum-fohnsdorf.at



Fohnsdorf Mining Museum

This former coal mine is a place of superlatives. The miners bored the deepest of all brown coal mines. And that's a world record!

Highlight: The steam-powered tandem hoist machine is a real trump card and brought coal to light at top speed.

[Bergbaumuseum Fohnsdorf, Schacht 10, 8753 Fohnsdorf](http://www.bergbaumuseum-fohnsdorf.at)
www.bergbaumuseum-fohnsdorf.at



Oberzeiring Viewing Mine

A mysterious mountain with a silver past. Formerly the largest silver mine in Styria. There are many stories surrounding the important work and its miners.

Highlight: The restored skeleton of a dog. When the tunnel was active, they were used for transport with leather bags tied to them.

[Schaubergwerk Museum Oberzeiring, Marktplatz 3, 8762 Oberzeiring](http://www.silbergruben.at)
www.silbergruben.at



Edelsteine Krampl – Gemstone Manufacture

A look behind the scenes of a company that handles gemstones. The focus is on precious stones from Styria. A special exhibition is called the Glitzerwelt der Kristalle, the Glittering World of Crystals, and includes gems from all over the world.

Highlight: When certain minerals are irradiated with ultraviolet light, these crystals glow in different colours.

[Edelsteine Krampl, Bahnhofstraße 7, 8741 Weißkirchen](http://www.edelsteine-krampl.com)
www.edelsteine-krampl.com

It must be a strange feeling to see the rooms of the Sternenturm, “star tower”, planetarium these days for Rudi Lorenz. In his mind’s eye, he sees where the kitchen used to be, where the dining table was, where he did his homework as a little boy and where the outhouse was. The sun is just setting and the view over the city is too beautiful not to be enjoyed from the balcony that snakes around the tower. Hardly anyone is more familiar with the history of the city of Judenburg than Rudi Lorenz. He reaches for the railing and takes a deep breath as he gazes into the evening sun. You can literally feel the memories he is collecting in his head. And then it all comes out.

Tower house

His great-grandfather used to be employed here as a tower and fire guard. In addition to illnesses and attacks, the towns mainly feared fire. There were five great fires in

Judenburg in total. The last fire was in 1840 and the tower roof, the bells and the clock were destroyed. The tower was then increased to its current height of 76 m.

A hefty history

Judenburg was also the most important trading town between Vienna and Venice. Whoever came through here, however, left something behind. That is why they had their own counting houses and also three monasteries. Judenburg had the staple right for pig iron and the pre-sale right with traders who were on their way to Italy. “The dukes and kings have come and gone in our town,” says Lorenz. He speaks of Friedrich the Fair and Ulrich von Liechtenstein, the minnesinger.

Of course, a rather noble root should not be forgotten – alpine valerian. A valerian plant that grows above the tree line and was traded as far as Africa because of its healing powers.



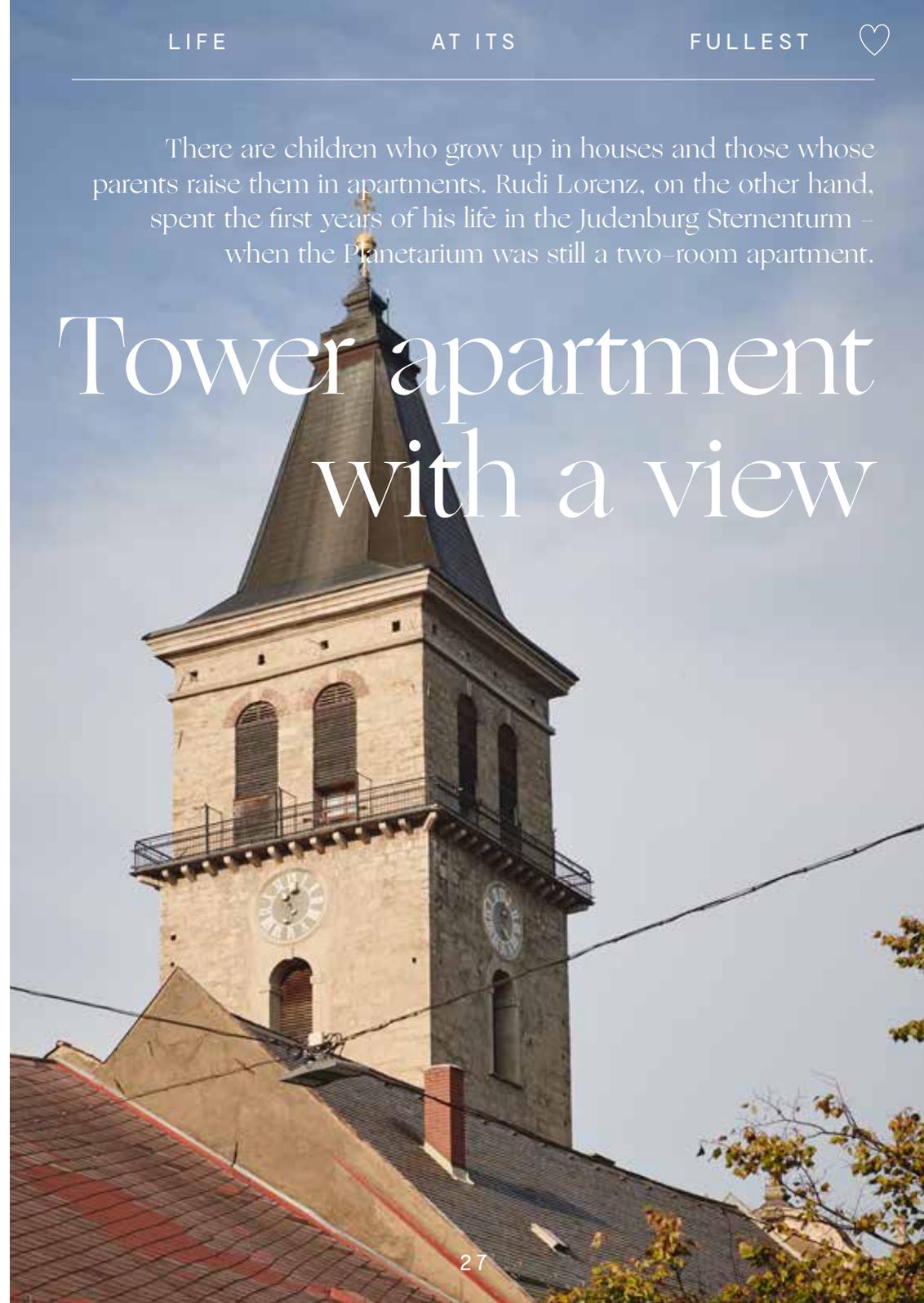
Need more history?

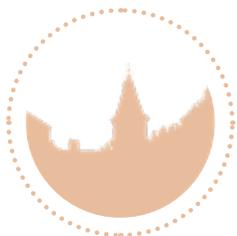
Then simply register for a town tour: Registration and booking at: +43 3572 44088 (Sternenturm Planetarium Judenburg, www.sternenturm.at) or +43 3572 85000 (Tourist office Judenburg)



There are children who grow up in houses and those whose parents raise them in apartments. Rudi Lorenz, on the other hand, spent the first years of his life in the Judenburg Sternenturm – when the Planetarium was still a two-room apartment.

Tower apartment with a view





Judenburg Town Museum

Anthropology and town history enthusiasts come here and rummage through 50,000 photographs, postcards and posters. After that, you might even become a Judenburg storyteller yourself.

Highlight: A true-to-scale depiction of historical Judenburg. All fit in to 8 m²!

Stadtmuseum Judenburg, Kaserngasse 27, 8750 Judenburg
www.judenburg.at/museum



Museum Murtal – Regional Archaeology

Hear, hear, the first archaeology museum in Upper Styria is at home in Strettweg. That must have something to do with the place where the famous “Cult Wagon of Strettweg” was found!

Highlight: A tin leaf ceramic vessel as a masterpiece of Hallstatt ceramics. People were already using it to toast 2,600 years ago.

Museum Murtal – Archäologie der Region, Herrengasse 12, 8750 Judenburg
www.museum-murtal.at



Seckau Benedictine Abbey

Find out more about the mystical world of monks while going on an hour-long tour of the abbey.

Highlight: The Seckau miraculous image of the Virgin Mary is no less than 800 years old. The stone relief commemorates the founding of the abbey.

Benediktinerabtei Seckau, Seckau 1, 8732 Seckau
www.abtei-seckau.at



Alois Penz Carnival Museum

Fastnacht, Fasching, Carnival. What does that mean exactly? Why do we celebrate it? Who can participate? Answers to all of these questions can be found here.

Highlight: A sheet of music with a melody for the Graz carnival guild. Its author, Prof. Robert Stolz, was subsequently knighted.

Alois Penz Faschingsmuseum des BÖF (Bund Österr. Faschingsgilden), Hauptplatz 12/1, 8720 Knittelfeld | www.boef.at/faschingsmuseum



OM Milk Adventure World

Milk production is important for the Murtal. Here you can find out everything about the development of the dairy industry, from pure handicraft to today's modern processing techniques. Varieties, quality control and – of course – lots of cheese.

Highlight: After the tour, you can enjoy the many types of cheese straight away, which were previously explained in detail at the OM Milcherlebniswelt.

OM Milcherlebniswelt, Hautzenbichlstraße 1, 8720 Knittelfeld
www.oml.at/milcherlebniswelt



Museum of Agriculture

Agriculture made the biggest leap in the 20th century. This is precisely portrayed and explained here at the Agricultural Museum in Kobenz. The museum houses valuable machines and equipment from the first half of the 20th century.

Highlight: A Titan 10 tractor – built in 1917.

Museum der Landtechnik, Josef-Krainer-Weg 1, 8723 Kobenz
www.fachschulen.steiermark.at/cms/beitrag/12362654/108785827



Spielberg goes
full throttle

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A summer
diary

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Hello, “herb
man”

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Cuisine in the
Murtal

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It is summer in the Murtal. A promising morning at the Ingeringsee Lake, the sun is on high. It climbs up the sky, millimetre by millimetre. Then the sun lends the lake its radiance and it joins in too. It’s warming up. A summer day begins. Later we will remember motorised adventures around the Red Bull Ring, ice-cream dripping on our fingers, baskets full of mushrooms, a magical visit and the hand-made cheese on fresh-while having a Hofschénke and



Murtal Steirerkas
ly baked bread
meal at Haigl’s
much more.

Nice and
warm



Welcome to Spielberg

Didi Mateschitz woke the Spielberg from its slumber. In any case, he was absolutely right to revive the former, infamous “Österreichring”.

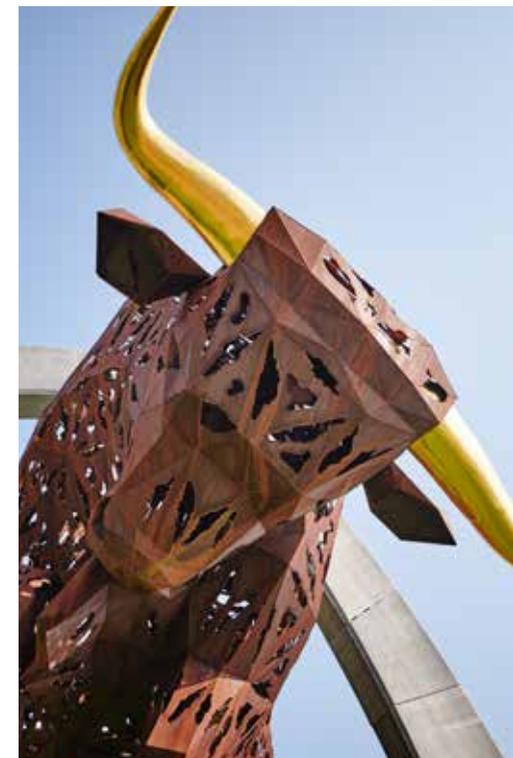
Bread and Circuses

The 15 m high and 68 tonnes heavy bull towers over the most beautiful playground in Austria. It is the symbol of the Red Bull Ring. You can experience everything around it and you don't have to be sitting in a car, nor be watching one. Events range from comedy to concerts and cross-country skiing in winter. Not to mention the culinary treats that can be discovered at the Schönberghof Hotel and “Bull's Lane”.

Welcome to Spielberg, German for “play mountain” – “nomen est omen” is the motto here, where motorsport greats like Jochen Rindt, Niki Lauda and Michael Schumacher used to do their laps. Big names still exist today – thousands of visitors come and enjoy events such as the “ADAC GT Masters”, “Ladies Race Day”, “Krone E-Mobility Play Days”, “Formula 1” and the “Moto GP”. Then all the rooms in the area up to Klagenfurt and Graz are fully-booked and there is almost no free space between the tents in the numerous camping sites.

Eldorado for motorsport enthusiasts

Legends live forever. For everyone who is on the site for the first time, be it at one of the numerous events or just because, it is immediately clear: This ring is something special. From one minute to the next, childhood dreams become reality. You will remember the Sunday afternoons that you spent on the couch with your dad, watching spectacular car chases. The highlight of Spielberg was always the extremely demanding route with one idiosyncrasy: The great differences in height through which the 4.3 km long track with its ten curves twists.



Red Bull Ring
www.projekt-spielberg.com

Driving is in the blood of Murtal locals. It is no coincidence that the Red Bull Ring at Spielberg, with its fast-paced driving experiences, is the hub of the motorsport world in the middle of the green Murtal. Behind almost every garage door there is a well cared for classic car and the museums described on

the next pages about the brands Puch and VW Beetle underline this affinity even more.

Is this the

wheel
lifer?



Off-road experiences at Spielberg

A sunny day on the “Offroad Car Track” in Gaal. Perfect to drive over the bumpy roads by car. No, not with just any car, we’re in an iconic Land Rover from the Red Bull Ring’s fleet that can speed up pretty much anywhere. There are potholes that shake us to the core and we keep doubting that we will get out in one piece. It goes straight up, only the forest is watching. Slowly we get the hang of how to steer the vehicle through nature. It’s loud and slightly uncomfortable, but we can’t remember the last time our lives felt so adventurous. Greetings from Indiana Jones!

Start young!

Ten small youngsters are starting their racing careers at the same time, equipped with big helmets. Today, go-karting is on the menu. Most important of all is hand-leg coordination in particular. Right means accelerating, left breaks and all of that on the course between blue and grey striped truck tyres. And who knows whether one of the little helmet kids will make it as a racing driver?



Out of control

The adults had to bring something themselves. At the “Driver Training” experience at the Red Bull Ring, you have to bring your own car. This is how you feel your way forward – through completely wet areas until you lose control and your car gets out of hand. It strains the nerves and you can see a lot of sweaty polo shirts. However, with every lap the would-be racing drivers get better, but also more daring. For everyone who doesn't like the “bring your own” approach as much, there is a huge fleet with Formula 4 Cars, KTM X-Bow, Porsche Cayman S, Mitsubishi Evo IX and other impressive motors just waiting for their next driver.



Big things in small packages



Puch Museum and VW Beetle Museum

www.puchmuseum.at
www.kaefermuseum.at

It's no coincidence that there are two renowned museums in this car-loving region. In the middle of Judenburg, the Puch Museum awaits car and motorcycle enthusiasts of all ages. "You can't narrow down our visitors to one age group. Many come for nostalgic reasons, but at the moment we also have a large number of interested young people between the ages of 20 and 30," says Heinz Mitteregger, who is a big Puch fan himself. In addition to its own army department with Pinzgauers and other fine specimens, visitors also admire the Puch G (which later developed into the Mercedes G) and heaps of motorcycles from the interwar period. The stars are, of course, the pastel-coloured "Pucherl" that venture on

to the streets once a year. This is all part of the Puch Parade (on August 15th every year), that has counted over 200 participants. The small cars cruise in a line along the roads of the Murtal, like bunting, in all their splendour and glory.

In the VW Beetle Museum in Gaal you can visit another star in all of its diversity: The Beetle. Known for its unique design, its reliability and its extravagance, it has long been a cultural icon. The highlights are the Pretzel Beetle, the VW Type 2 (T1) fire brigade bus and the Salzburg Beetle. But there are also driving simulators for a fast-paced time – with "Penker Racing" or "Jaguar Formula 1" you can put pedal to metal digitally.



OUR TIP

Scenic routes (you can drive yourself!):

→ Why not follow the Murtal Classic Route out from Knittelfeld via Schloss Gabelhofen, Lachtal, Krakaudorf, Sankt Lambrecht, Judenburg and via the G'Schlössl Murtal back to Knittelfeld?

→ Puch Parade Program: Judenburg – Wipfelwanderung Rachau Treetop Trail – St. Marrein – Seckau – Gaal – Zeltweg



Little Lea is on holiday with her parents in the Murtal and we are allowed a sneak peak into her thoughts.

Journal of a so-journ

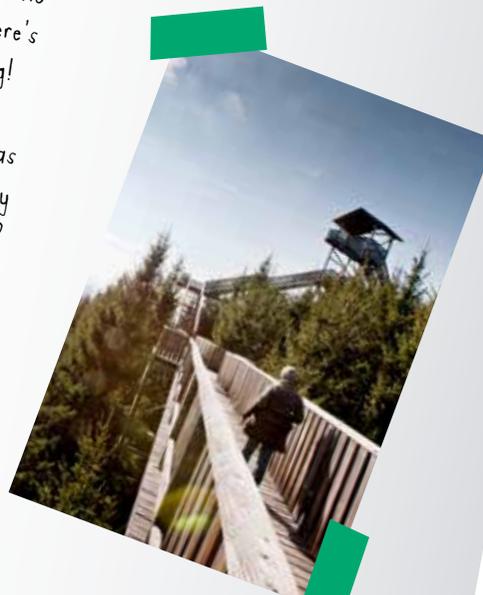
16th July



Dear diary,

yesterday we arrived in the Murtal. And I have to say, it's stunning. What I especially like is that the mountains aren't scary, they look really friendly. Down here in the valley, everything is in bloom and it's unbelievably green. From the motorway we spotted the Red Bull Ring. Mum and dad said they could remember when they used to have dangerous races there back in the day. They also said that they still race there today, with motorbikes and Formula 1 cars. For these events, there's always loads of people around. Exciting!

What I actually wanted to do, was describe our first day. It was really sunny and we went to the RACHAU TREETOP TRAIL, where you can take a walk in the forest like no place else. From treetop to treetop. It's like in an ancient forest. Really pretty!



Then mum and dad wanted to go to the church. I didn't think it'd be fun at first but I have to say, it's a really pretty building. It also has an interesting history, it's the oldest pilgrimage site in Styria and the funny thing is, it's called MARIA BUCH, just like you, dear diary, because "Buch" is German for "book"! Mum says 10,000 people come here every year, but not with the car like we did, but on foot. They are called pilgrims. The craziest thing is that apparently there's a big

pilgrim meet-up on the 15th of August in that really tiny place.

I'm so excited for tomorrow!





17th July

Dear diary,

I never slept so well in my life. Mum says it's because of the stone pine beds in the apartment. Dad says it's because of all of the fresh air we're getting. All I know is that I feel great!



Apparently, we're going to the fairy-tale forest today. I can't wait! Talk to you later.

My dear, dear diary!

I'm back and I gotta say, it was one of the most beautiful days of my life: I love fairy tales and mum and dad know about that, so they took me to the MARCHENWALD LEISURE PARK, where you can experience loads of fairy tales. Apart from my favourite fairy tale, "Little Red Riding Hood", there was also my other favourite, the "Frog Prince". But that was enough action for me. There were slides, canoes, a big trampoline and a house where you can go through lasers like in a film. I made friends with a few other

kids called Marie and Michi. I was allowed to play for as long as I wanted because there was also a cosy café for mum and dad. Then we quickly went to the GOLD PANNING PLACE IN PUSTERWALD, where I was allowed to look for real gold. And at the end I had the best pizza of my life. It was such a cool day.

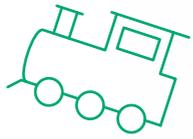


18th July

Dear diary,

can you imagine! Today I woke up before sunrise. Then I looked out the window. I saw the sun rising and it was so pretty. Then we went to an abbey, it was huge. I don't know if I've ever seen a building as big as that. It's called SECKAU BENEDICTINE ABBEY and there are real monks. Loads of kids in the area also go to school in the

abbey. I can't possibly imagine that. It must be like in the Harry Potter films. They showed us around the old walls and told us absolutely everything about living at the abbey. They also make schnapps in the cellar. I wasn't allowed to try any, but I was allowed to smell it. To be honest, it was kind of disgusting. In the afternoon we went to the RAILWAY MUSEUM and got a taste for it. They gave us a stamp passport at the museum and you can collect stickers for every museum you visit. One for Seckau Abbey, one for the railway museum and then we went to JUDENBURG TOWN MUSEUM. Now I have quite a lot of stickers.



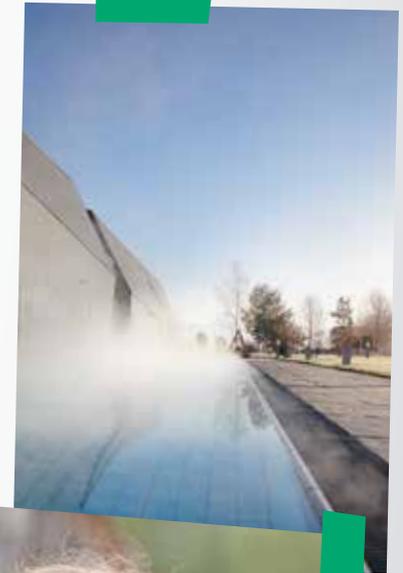
19th July

Dear diary,

And then we did something that I have never seen before: Visited a huge indoor playground. It's called PLAYWORLD SPIELBERG and it's just enormous. We jumped on big trampolines, learnt new figures and were totally out of breath at the end. I saw kids with laser pistols and also loads of slides and climbing frames. I think you could spend the whole day there if you wanted to.

it was supposed to rain today. But I didn't care. First off, we collected another two stickers. One at EDELSTEINE KRAMPL, a real gemstone paradise, where I was allowed to take a souvenir. And the other one at the CARNIVAL MUSEUM. I am really looking forward to the Krapfen (Austrian carnival doughnut), I have to admit. Next carnival I will dress up as Elsa. She's just the coolest!

Yeah. Then I read a lot, 'cause we were in the AQUALUX THERMAL SPA. The best bit was swimming outside in the rain. That was so special to me. The hot springs are so pretty and really different to the ones I've seen before. Yeah ... and in the evening we went to the STERNENTURM PLANETARIUM JUDENBURG. I can't decide if I liked the play area or the cinema most up there. We watched a film about planets. Almost everything they showed was new to me. Mum and dad also thought it was great. They've already said we have to go back to the Murtal next year. I hope that's true!





Let it grow

Eva Tragner created the "herb man". He has a head, an immune system, lungs, liver, kidney, bladder, feet, bones – in short: Everything he needs! He blossoms, grows and thrives. Even better: You can visit him in Großlobming. A visit best accompanied by his "mum" Eva.



Good morning, Großlobming. In the middle of the community centre there is a person lying on the floor. But it is by no means an emergency. It is the famous "herb man". Golden light touches the nasturtiums, rosemary and deadly nightshade. They are all in order. The order that Eva Tragner made for them. "There is almost no 'grass' in the meadow, everything has a name," says the herb expert, who has never lost touch with nature.

Ancient knowledge, reinterpreted

She was already managing herbs in her youth, before it was "en vogue". She read

various books to get to know "God's apothecary" and found out what kind of remedies work for which ailments. Even then she thought it was a shame that the knowledge had always existed in the past, but in many cases the herb witches among our ancestors took it with them to the grave. "There is a plant for every organ. However, many herbs have very different effects, depending on how you want to use them," says Tragner, who regularly gives courses on medicinal herbs. Geranium, for example, cleans the abdomen, can be used as a cold sore remedy and also against rashes. "Many people know that sage is effective against sore throats, but making sage tea is not really done anymore, which is why I developed a spray that you can



simply use on your throat," explains Tragner as she wanders through her potherbs.

The Kräutermensch concept

The concept behind the Kräutermensch, or herb man, is easy to explain: He is divided into sections and the plants that can help that part of the body are grown there. Some appear several times. Herbal knowledge divided from head to toe, so to speak. "I like to explain which herbs are used when. When my course participants are back at home, they can apply this knowledge in everyday life. I see this knowledge as a seed that continues to grow at home. What do you do if you get stung by a bee? Rub it immediately with



nasturtium or ribwort for example. How do I detox? With dandelion!"

Please try at home

In her courses, alcohol, vinegar, oil, beeswax and honey – everything purely local, of course – are transformed into effective tinctures, sprays and ointments. This is how you slowly but surely put together your own home pharmacy. On the short foray along the Großlobming herb man, many plants are examined more closely, nibbled and smelt. Somewhat to the side, in the shade, there is also a bed of poisonous plants that you have probably never seen before. Among them the deadly nightshade, whose reputation precedes it. You shouldn't help yourself to plants here – says Eva Tragner mischievously.

[Eva Tragner](#)

www.eva-sonnengarten.at

[Kräutermensch - the herb man](#)

www.kraftkraut.at



[FURTHER HERB TIPS IN THE MURTAL](#)

[Herbal tours in St. Marein / Feistritz](#)

[Christine Edlinger / Tel. +43 664 378 73 53](#)

[Herbal hikes around Obdach](#)

[Luise Kern / Tel. +43 664 73 95 45 01](#)

[Herbal hikes in Zirbenland \(stone pine country\)](#)

[Alpengasthof Hotel Sabathy / Tel. +43 3578 82 30](#)

[Heilkrautfee - Medicinal herb fairy](#)

[Marianne Steinberger / Tel. +43 664 36 13 734](#)

[FNL herbal training in the Murtal](#)

[Adelheid Pfandl / Tel. +43 676 758 45 88](#)



We are visiting Andrea and Hermann Schneidl at Haigl's Hofschänke.

How would you describe your vision?

Well, you could most likely compare us to a Buschenschank, a farm restaurant and shop, from southern Styria. But if we're being honest, we don't know anyone who has a similar idea to us. We have wonderful, high-quality foodstuffs with homemade Styrian cheese and the best meat. We also do roast pork and various events from Farmers' New Year's Eve (30th December) to "Aufhaigl'n".

Do you have a background in gastronomy?

We're actually newcomers. But we have been running the farm tavern for more than 15 years and the fact that we are still here shows that we are doing something right. We want to provide the best quality and have made big names our role models. Like Johanna Maier. She is world class and you can learn a lot from her. Again and again we observe our guests admiring the place. The attention to detail that we show is well received.

How did you divide up the work?

You could say that we are an ideal couple. I'm more cautious and Hermann likes to say "let's go for it". He's the risk taker of the two. Alone with our interior, which we designed with a carpenter, we went out on a limb. And it paid off.

What are the classics on your menu?

Well, our home-made Steirerkas cheese for one. We also have homemade pumpkin seed and cream cheese spreads and home-made dripping. And then of course the classics: spare ribs, roast pork and the like. People long for rustic cuisine. With us you enter and immediately feel at home.

Are your events legendary too?

In summer we have our own event, "Aufhaigl'n". We get around 2,000 guests. Otherwise there is a Sturm wine and chestnut festival and Christmas Advent Celebrations at Haigl.

So it's going well?

Oh yes! As if we had a blessing on everything we do. We were and are very lucky, grateful and happy.

Haigl's Hofschänke & Hofladen
www.haigl.at



Rustic Cuisine

This is what homemade Murtal Steirerkas cheese looks like. Absolutely delicious!

Hearts made of twigs hang cosily from the ceiling and you immediately feel at home. Like in a living room. Taste is key here. A farm to table restaurant in Upper Styria – Haigl's Hofschänke is one-of-a-kind.



I'll take one of everything!

Visiting Petra's farm shop in the centre of Fohnsdorf.



50 farmers from the region have come together to cooperate. The Murtal Bauernkraft, "Farm power", is a very attractive product, which offers a common vegetable box, amongst other things. You can also find Bauernkraft products in many farm shops and local suppliers.

Finally, the "latest thing" has started going in the right direction. Local, transparent and seasonal are the pivotal words here. What was sometimes lived in various nooks and crannies of the Murtal is now grouped under one name. The Murtal Bauernkraft supplies partners from the catering trade as well as residents and visitors with the best that agriculture has to offer.

A visit to the Kleinmoar

As is customary in the Murtal, every old farm has its local name. Christine, Albin, Tamara and Bernhard Edlinger's farm has been called the Kleinmoar for generations. They produce organic herbs, vegetables, fruit and fruit brandies and have their own farm shop on site. But you can also buy spices and tea from them. "We grow broccoli, pumpkins, leeks, courgettes and lots of medicinal herbs, for which we have a greenhouse," says Christine Edlinger, who also offers herb tours. The decision to complete an organic certification was a matter of course for them.

The meat of the matter

A meat package can also be added to the vegetable box on request. One of the highest quality of course. To ensure this, the Murtal cattle get their farm feed exclusively from the Rachau mountains. They are also slaughtered humanely.



[Murtaler Bauernkraft – Murtal "Farm Power"](http://www.bauernkraft.at)
www.bauernkraft.at



Up the
Zirbitzkogel PAGE 54
Happy Hiking PAGE 58
Panorama PAGE 60
Mystical
Murtal PAGE 62
Go with the
flow PAGE 66
Artisans in the
Murtal PAGE 70

It's the time of year where the early light in the Murtal has a special magic. The sun still has enough energy to bathe everything in a golden light as it slowly warms up. The trees wear their yellow, orange and red crowns with their heads held high. The Zirbitzkogel and its mountainous colleagues are just as happy about visitors as the paths that meander along the Mur. The blacksmith, Walter Dorfer, makes sparks fly in the Furth-
Schmiede smith-
maker Simon Ei-
handicrafts and
spins wool from
Wieserhof farm.



hy, while barrel
letz, creates his
Heidi Liebming
alpacos at the

When leaves fall

The Zirbitzkogel, the most-hiked mountain in the Eastern Alps, is much loved by the locals and a coveted place for visitors. We approach from the Sabathyhütte hut and come across stone pines, lakes and, last but not least, a nightcap at Zirbitz-Werner's hut.

We decide to climb in the afternoon. The time when summer thunderstorms could threaten is over. In autumn you can use any time of day to get fresh mountain air. The car is parked right at the Sabathyhütte and although it would be tempting to stop for a mushroom goulash, we decide to start hiking up. After all, we have reserved two beds at the Zirbitzkogel alpine hut. We quickly arrive at Lindersee Lake and finally we see them all around: The famous stone pines.

Barking up the right tree

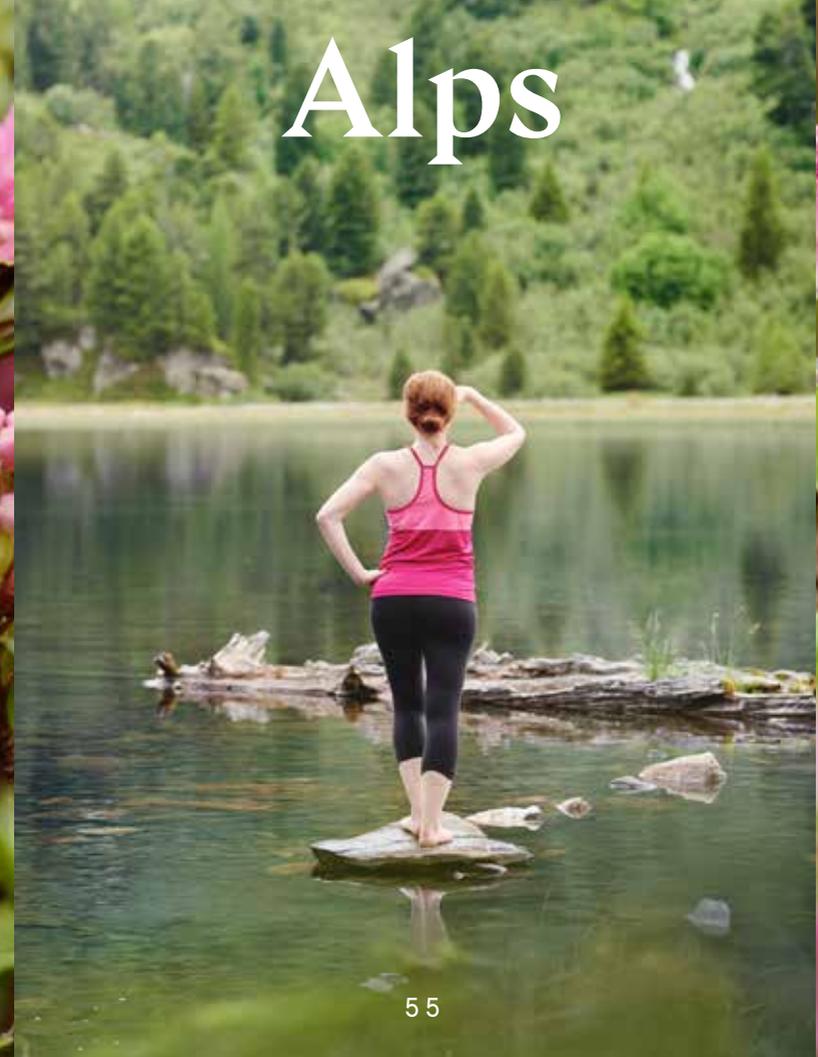
The stone pine is a fighter! It lives in a harsh climate and is known locally as "Zirbe".

It lives around the transition from mountain forest to the forest-free areas and grows around one centimetre per year. For all that, they live to between 200 and 400 years old. With its many distinctive features, it gives Zirbenland (stone pine country) its name and inspires people: Starting with the wood itself, which is popular with carpenters and carvers due to its dense and fine-fibre structure, to the cones from which Zirbenschnaps, pine liquor, and syrup are made, down to the needles and twig tips from which essential oils are extracted, it is an absolute all-rounder. The smell of the stone pine, the pine needles and of course the pine cones are also unique and unmistakable.

The stone pine has played first fiddle in people's lives here for a long time: The effect of pine on people has been known for centuries, but it has only recently been confirmed by a study that staying in a pine room or sleeping in a pine bed makes you more able to concentrate, more emotionally balanced and more relaxed. In addition, your heart rate drops and the pine causes the autonomic nervous system to recover. In a bed made of stone pine you can save around 3,500 heartbeats, which is an hour of heart work per day. Stone pine beds can be found at many lodgings in the Murtal.



Audience with the king of the Eastern Alps





Moving up mountains

After the pine forest comes a plateau. What an experience. Ochre-coloured and beautiful, we watch the clouds slowly move towards the mountain shelter and pick ourselves up, although we would like to stay and watch the lakes mirroring the sky for longer. Our hikers' hearts are full of anticipation for the night in the highest shelter in Styria - just a few steps below the summit. Getting back to nature. In the last few metres, it starts to storm, our hairstyles don't last, but the equipment does. Suddenly the sun reemerges from the clouds and everything is bathed in a single golden veil – magical moments at over 2,000 m before we look for shelter because of the cold that is creeping into our limbs. We have to see it – the infamous sun-

rise, where you can view a panorama of the Karawanks over the Julian Alps, Seckau Alps and Northern Limestone Alps including the Dachstein, Gesäuse and Hochschwab. That's why we go to bed early after our meal and feel like we are in a nutshell in the middle of the stormy ocean. In the morning an alpine snow bunny greets us next to a pastel sky. We start the day at the summit's cross and the "Zirbengeist" pine spirit carving. The climb was more than worth it!



The three most popular hiking routes around the Zirbitz mountain peak:

ROUTE 1 – FROM THE SABATHYHÜTTE

The Sabathyhütte path (316) leads to the Zirbitzkogel over ancient pine forests. First you come to the Linderhütte mountain cabin, then to the picturesque Lindersee Lake, from there the path goes up in steep bends to the mountain hut (2,376 m) & the summit (2,396 m).

Ascent: About 2 hours

Difficulty: Medium

ROUTE 2 – FROM THE WINTERLEITENHÜTTE

From the parking lot in front of the Winterleitenhütte hut, the marked long-distance hiking trail No. 08/315 leads via the Winterleitensee Lake into the mountainous landscape. After the last ascent, the "Schreiber Steig" runs along steep mountain slopes and leads directly up to the summit.

Ascent: About 2 hours

Difficulty: Difficult

ROUTE 3 – FROM THE WALDHEIMHÜTTE

From the Waldheimhütte hut take path 320 to the Zirbitzkogel. The descent over the Fuchskogel mountain (2,214 m, path 308) and the Wildsee Lake (path 321) is nice here. Then it goes past the Türkenkreuz cross and the Maria in der Zirbe resting point back to the Waldheimhütte.

Ascent: About 2 hours

Difficulty: Medium

Further hiking routes and more hiking details are available at www.murtal-herzklopfen.at/wandern

“Bergsteigersuppe”, or mountain climber’s soup, cheese and bread, sausage, with a large dollop of mustard and horseradish and then a pine schnapps (recipe on page 109). The standard menu of the mountain shelter replenishes your much-needed calories. On a quiet Tuesday evening in September, we get to spend exclusive time with hut host Werner Grillitsch and ask him a few questions over a nightcap.



How is life up here?

A normal hut landlord's life. I grew into it as a child, I am the fifth generation to run the hut and don't know anything else. Emperor Franz Ferdinand was the main sponsor of the shelter that my great-great-grandparents were already running.

What do you miss? What do you not miss?

To be honest, I've never had mountain fever and I've been doing this for 40 years. There is no loneliness up here. I couldn't be lonely; someone always comes by. The world would have to end for no one to come up. There is nothing missing here.

Why is the Zirbitzkogel so popular?

Tourism and hiking are picking up. From young children to those in their 80's, everyone hikes up here. Young people in particular are enjoying mountain climbing more and more. Instead of going clubbing, they come for the sunrise, eat breakfast here and then go back down. We used to prefer dancing. But times are changing.

Zirbitzkogel – Schutzhaus,

Mountain hut / Helmut-Erd-Schutzhaus

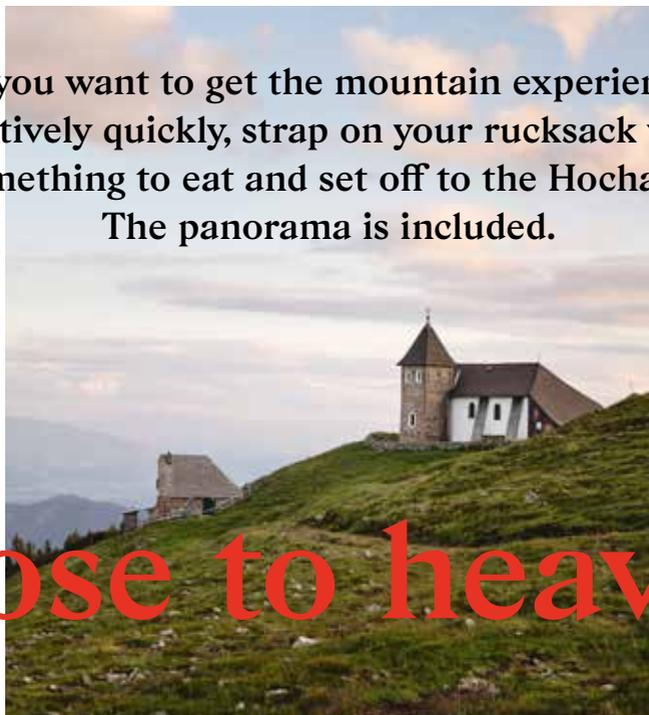
www.zirbitzkogel.at

In high spirits



If you want to get the mountain experience relatively quickly, strap on your rucksack with something to eat and set off to the Hochalm. The panorama is included.

Close to heaven



We leave the car at the Kühbergerhof parking lot in Seckau, we start on a forest path and are quickly immersed in the forest. There is smoke from wooden holiday homes that peer out of the treetops. On the mountain, heating is mandatory all year round – because the evenings can get very cold. We want to go to the highest pilgrimage site in the Eastern Alps and on the way there we mainly meet trees that enjoy the sunrise on the alpine pasture and they whisper in the background as the wind breezes through. On the soft, alpine floor we decide to do something for our feet and take off our shoes – it tickles and massages at the same time. Most of all, we feel crazily connected to the ground. In the last few metres, an ever-larger

panorama opens up – we recognise the Seetal Alps and catch the first glimpse of the little church. A unique place. We understand why this is a significant spot for the locals and pilgrims. Once a year, a special statue of the Virgin Mary is carried up here in a procession, but more about that on page 112. We continue to the summit cross, from where we can see the Hochschwab area and the Eisenzer Alps. The descent is like the ascent. At the Grafenalm hut we fortify ourselves with an Almkaffee, or “alpine coffee” (recipe on page 110), and delicious strudel.

Ascent: 2.5 hours

Height at the Hochalm summit cross: 1,845 m

Maria Schnee: 1,822 m / **Difficulty:** Medium

Heavenly places in Hohentauern

To not keep the best spots to the locals, the most beautiful places in Hohentauern were marked with benches in the shape of clouds to honour them as “heavenly places”. Here is our best of.



1
Water route to
Rock and Cave World

Water route to Rock and Cave World: Starts in the village of Hohentauern. On the way to Keltenberg Nature Adventure Park, you walk past the Nordic-looking pile-dwelling village. The bench couldn't be more perfectly placed next to the lake. And you can experience it with all of your senses on the way, for example in your toes on the Barfußweg, or “barefoot path”.

Duration: 3 hours

Difficulty: Easy



3
Bösenstein mountain
& Scheibelsee Lake

If you want to do three peaks in one day, you can do this tour. Especially on a clear day, when the larches have already changed colour in autumn, this hike is a special treat, for which you have to be physically fit. For all those who do not feel up to the Bösenstein, the highest mountain in the Murtal, the hike around the Scheibelsee Lake, which is only 1.8 km long, is ideal. You will see the heavenly place one way or another.

Duration: 5.5 hours

Difficulty: Difficult

2
Hasensattel saddle tour

The nice thing about Hohentauern: You are already at 1,274 m above sea level. That means you always have a beautiful view, even without going uphill. This circuit is particularly suitable for families and beginners because it is well signposted. Nobody will get lost here.

Duration: 4.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Observe the Murtal

Some people like to look into things. So they read. For instance, this book. Others prefer a view. So they go to a place high up to observe. The map on one hand and the green world that surrounds us on the other. The Gröndahlhaus is a good place to start because you can observe the entire region like nowhere else. This helps a lot with initial orientation.



Gröndahlhaus

View: Once in a lifetime

For the connoisseurs and the dreamers. For those who like to hang around and dance. For all friends of open sandwiches and meadow flowers: The Gröndahlhaus is anything but an insider tip for the locals and is not withheld from the guests either. The attention to detail is everywhere. The bar tables outside are no coincidence: Especially in autumn – when the air is clearest – you can see for miles with a glass of local cider. You can see deep into the Murtal to the Seckau Abbey, the Maria Schnee church and the Seckau Alps.

Gröndahlhaus

www.groendahlhaus.at

Tremmelberg

Tower in the mountains – Turm im Gebirge

The 42m high wooden twin towers with 202 steps on the Tremmelberg are more than just a vantage point. For early risers, we recommend “climbing” it in the dark (it’s a very easy hike) and then watching the whole Murtal slowly wake from its slumber. You can either drive to Spielberg-Sachendorf to the Alpensteig parking lot or take the path from the Seckau Benedictine Abbey upwards. At 1,194 m above sea level you have a wonderful view from the Seckau Alps of the rest of the idyllic Murtal.

Duration: 2.5-3 hours / **Difficulty:** Easy

Attention: For every hiker, no matter how small, please have 1 euro with you for the turnstile!



Epic Origins of Knittelfeld

Autumn in the Murtal is legendary – a perfect time to rummage through the old stories of the region. One of the most beautiful we found is the legend about the origin of the town of Knittelfeld.



When they were still free mountain peoples, who we know by the name of Taurisci, living in these high mountains, the graceful valley of Ingering, Gaal, Puchschachen and Graden near the upper Seckau was still an enormous lake; only a few hills rose above the water level and formed small islands. Insulated by high mountains, the lake had its only runoff at what is now Hammergraben, a narrow gorge, over a very high forest. There was a lindworm that was very dangerous not only to the cattle that went to drink, but also to the residents. It made catching fish impossible, and the alpine residents lost part of their food. Despite its unwieldiness, the voracious animal occasionally crawled out of the lake and outwitted its prey. The residents discussed how the dangerous worm could be killed or at least driven away.

This took a long time. Usually the lindworm stayed near the embankment, where the lake was narrow but immeasurably deep. He was fed every day so he would stay in the same place. While he lay in lazy slumber, the male inhabitants of the mountains gathered for this brave task. Forest trees were felled, wedged into the lake at the narrow spot and this artificial dam and the surrounding bank were barricaded with pieces of rock. The enemy, who had become harmless, was soon cordoned off from most of the water. One day, when all the devices were in place, the terrible giant worm was given a bull to eat. Soon the monster appeared and devoured him greedily. Then the alpine people set fire to the stocks of wood and bundles of brushwood around the lake, and raised a terrible battle cry and violently hit their iron shields with their weapons so loudly that the echo frightened all the poultry in the valley. The enemy hesitated, but soon recovered and tried to swim back into the greater part of the

lake. It was in vain. The embers and smoke prevented him. Then the mountain dwellers rolled large rocks from the steep heights onto the worm's body, so that it roared and became angry. The fire pushed it mightily against the dam – the worm broke through it. The floods that were unleashed streamed through the narrow valley with their liberator, uprooted trees and tore pieces of rock with them. But when the valley widened, the lindworm stayed in the field, half killed by the rush of waves and the clinging debris. Meanwhile the valley dwellers had come armed with cudgels, in German, "Knittel". They attacked the still-powerful enemy until it succumbed to their blows and reddened the field with his blood. The place where this happened is called Lind. The descendants of these Knittelfelder built a small town for themselves on that blessed plain of Mur ground and called it Knittelfeld. The memory of the battle with the lindworm is still preserved in its coat of arms today. It carries three knotty cudgels on the blood-red field. The greatest gain from driving the worm away, however, came from the mountain dwellers, who received good arable and pasture land through the drainage of the water.

If you've got a taste for it, it's best to take a look here: "Sagenhafte Erlebnisse in der Urlaubsregion Murtal: 48 mystische Geschichten vom Gipfel bis ins Tal", "Fabulous experiences in the Murtal holiday region: 48 mystical stories from the summit to the valley" – available free of charge from the tourist and information offices and selected businesses in the Murtal.



An

Ode

Like the German romantics once did, you wander into nature, behold the small wonders while your hair is tousled. It's the first cold days of the year, a change of season. Pensively and with a furrowed brow, you observe the world around you. Inner unrest smoulders in your eyes. You find yourself in a derelict place, where history unfolds in layers. Eppenstein is its name. A ruin is its form. Built in 1160, into a completely different reality. Back when the north-south road still wound through the valley, through the Obdach Saddle mountain pass, fuelling trade. The house of Traungau walked through these halls. However, as it so often happens, this castle too became obsolete, then run-down and ultimately abandoned. Eppenstein was continuously modified, you can see that it was built first as a hill castle. Then they changed it to a concentric castle and you can also see that a keep once stood at the centre of the crag's highest point. A perfect journey to the past.

Explore Eppenstein

From Weißkirchen, turn off at Ebersdorf, then you come to Eppenstein, where you gradually climb the ruin via trail 324. A bewitching view of the Murtal appears in no time. Return to Weißkirchen via Vordersieding and Mühlendorf.

to

Eppenstein



The north is called Aichfeld, the south Murboden and in the middle, the Mur river meanders, sometimes bluer, sometimes greener. The namesake for the whole area flows mostly quietly, in places it sees fly fishers, paddlers and also the so-called “kings of fish”, the huchen, or Danube salmon.

Go with the flow

Shipping on the Mur has a long history and one that dates back as far as 1380, when it was mentioned for the first time. At that time, nails, pig iron and finished iron goods and salt were transported to Graz. In compensation there was sometimes wine. The trade met its end when the railroad replaced the river as the most important transport route.

Cool, calm and connected

Since then, the area surrounding the Mur has been a popular local recreation area for locals and guests. The Murwald Forest and Murauen (Floodplain Forest) riverbanks do not simply sound lovely, they are too. On the paths and streets that wind directly along the Mur, there is always something new to discover. Some prefer to take a short walk, others prefer to hike and others take the bike to see the best side of the Mur river.

Murauen

The recently revitalized Mur riverbanks are a particularly good spot to sit on benches with a view of the Mur,



enjoying the chirping of the crickets and the birdsong. On display boards you can read about the tributaries, gravel banks, fish banks, alluvial forests and ponds with all their flora and fauna.

Hark, a huchen!

The king of the Mur is, of course, the huchen. It grows up to 1.5 m long. Its much smaller fellow swimmers are graylings, rainbow and river trout, the European bullhead and lampreys. But there is also something going on in the treetops and bushes: The fieldfares, great tits and magpies raise their offspring here. You can also spot ducks and swans all year round. If you are lucky, you will come across deer, hares, rabbits or the odd non-poisonous adder.



OUR TIP

Roam the river

—> [Wetlands Discovery Trail \(Au-Erlebnisweg\) St. Peter ob Judenburg](#)
The wet landscape in St. Peter is a valuable habitat for plants and animal species. You can discover remains of alluvial forest, arable land, meadows, hillside forests, poplar cultures and a lot of river. Seven habitats as well as the wetlands' bird life are displayed on boards to view at your leisure.

Start: St. Peter sewage treatment plant (Kläranlage St. Peter), on-site parking spaces.

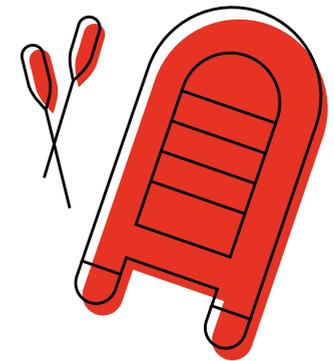
Length: 4 km

—> [Lässer Au \(Floodplain Forest\)](#)
The path leads through the area marked by typical river structures such as tributaries, gravel bars, fish riverbanks, alluvial forests and pools – an oasis for nature lovers and anyone looking to relax. There are benches and display boards along the way.

Start: Flossländ Knittelfeld

Length: 3.4 km

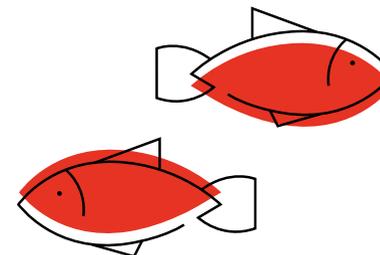
Mur fun for paddlers and fishers



A haven for fly-anglers

Fly-fishing paradise? Oh yes! The Mur is one of the few spots where huchen are still to be found in the wild. If you want to try your luck, you can do so between 1st May and 15th September with a season ticket for the 24 km route between Thalheim and Knittelfeld. In this section, fishers will find pools, long stretches and, above all, brown trout, graylings and colossal huchen in the cool, clear water.

Information & day tickets for fishing on the Mur:
Tobacco shop (Trafik) Kaura at Burggasse 6 in Judenburg. Wilhelm Kaura: +43 664 3264221



Dazzling blue dinghy

Is the Mur the Styrian Amazon? So much is unclear. What is certain, however, is that it is definitely one of the most spectacular bodies of water far and wide. The most beautiful view of the Mur is clearly from a boat. To achieve this, get a guide and a boat in Zeltweg and let the water work its magic for an hour and a half. Whether you have sore muscles after this adventure remains to be seen.

Alpine Freizeitgestaltung / Alpine Leisure Activities & Event Management

www.j-m-p.at

Start: Authalerweg Zeltweg



Visiting the Eiletz cooperage.



You've been around for a long time – 200 years?

Quite so! And what has proven itself for so long can only be good! The first Simon Eiletz founded the cooperage in 1819. And since 1901 you can find us at our current location, which we recently expanded with one building. In 1970 we opened our shop and, in addition to making barrels, we also sold various types of wood and wicker wares.

And is there already a successor?

Yes, actually! We can all count our lucky stars that my son is very interested in this old craft. At the moment he is still doing an apprenticeship as a carpenter. Then he will start his volunteer work and as soon as he has finished, he will come to work with us at the company.

Is a cooper a kind of carpenter, or how does that work exactly?

No, not really. My son just wanted to get a broader education before joining the family business. Cooper is a separate apprenticeship.

What are the specifics of the craft?

Just the many machines that only we use. And also the techniques or names that go with them. We have started using more machines, but it's still handiwork, just like before. Take larger barrels and custom-made products for example. For that kind of thing you need expertise. Terms that are typical include the barrel stave – the curved wood that can then be bound into a barrel, or toasting. Here we can fully respond to the wishes of our customers and heat the wood for as long as they wish. That varies, of course, depending on whether the end product is whiskey, wine, or whatever else.

That means the barrels are set on fire?

Exactly, in the middle of the barrel we light a controlled fire and let it burn until we think it is suitable for the respective customer. That is the real art. It's basically the stage before sommelier. (laughs)

And where do you get the wood from?

The wood that we use has to be planned out for the next three years. We mainly rely on oak, of course, although we use local wood here, but we also get wood shipped in from France or America. Other products, such as our vats, we make from local larch wood. And I also have maple, linden, beech, ash and spruce in stock.

In one fell coop

The Eiletz family has existed as a cooperage in Knittelfeld for a long time – namely 200 years. This look behind the scenes has a woody scent and brings a lot of new words with it: Staves, bevelled and toasting are used here about every day. A cooperage might look backwoods-y or old-fashioned – on closer inspection, however, it is very international and modern, as Simon Eiletz explains.



**Eiletz cooperage /
Fassbinderei Eiletz
www.fassbinderei-eiletz.at**



Tight-knit alpaca



A quaint farm with lots of woolly friends. More than 1,000 people come every year to get to know the alpacas high above St. Peter ob Judenburg. You accompany them into the forest, stroke them, spin their wool and take a piece of warmth home with you. In the shape of socks, shoe insoles and hoods. Heidi Liebminger is the woman behind these South American beauties.

How did you get the idea to bring alpacas to your stable?

I have three girls at home and I always wanted to be a mother first and foremost. So I had to create a job that can be easily combined with bringing up children. My husband grew up on this farm, and they used to have cows here. I didn't want to take that on alone. Then somewhere I read an article about alpacas and thought I could try it out too.

What can you do at the Wieserhof?

Well, first of all you get to know our alpacas by visiting them in the stable. If you want to go for a walk, you have to put a halter on them. This is the first time you get to touch them and admittedly an adventure in itself. Then we go outside together.

What is it that visitors like best?

Of course, the proximity to the alpacas. But also that they get to spend so much time in nature. For many, this is no longer a given. What we offer here also follows the trend of nature therapy. After walking with alpacas in the forest, my visitors are deeply relaxed. And that's nice to see.

As well as the alpacas, there is also the farm shop, how did that come about?

It just seemed to happen. The trips, the breeding and then also our own shop. This has resulted in many smaller projects. For example, we always meet up with a group of women to spin alpaca wool together. Once a year our New Zealand shearer comes and then the cycle starts all over again. He does

it really quickly! He only needs three hours for 30 animals. He does it in a jiffy.

What happens to the wool?

You get three to five kilos of different quality from one animal. It is then cleaned and separated. And spun later. Fortunately, I had a friend here who has been spinning for twenty years and has a lot of experience. (laughs) But we also do felting together! And it's all part of our burnout prevention, which we practice here with the help of the alpacas and their wool. Isn't that beautiful?



Wieserhof farm alpacas – Heidi Liebminger
www.wieserhof.at

FURTHER ALPACA ADDRESSES IN THE MURTAL
Der kleine Rosengarten / The little rosery
www.derkleinerosengarten.at
Laikamhof-Alpakas, www.laikam.at



The smith's status has always been special. Today most people only know him as a surname. A memory of a bygone time. It used to be different. It was rumoured that blacksmiths were in league with the devil. Walter Dorfer, who knows the Furth-Schmiede smithy like no one else, knows why and wherefore. The history of the place and the art of blacksmithing are commonplace for him, although he actually works with computers. A conversation with a well-forged original.

Lord of the sparks

Walter Dorfer
a.k.rumbs Eisen / a bent iron
www.a-krumbs-eisn.com

The Furth forge is something very special, it lets the past come to life again. What did people think about blacksmiths?

Blacksmiths were legendary! They had tools and were very strong. That made

them very popular with the ladies. And there was a mystical air, because they worked with fire. Many of them were unable to read and write, so they didn't know how to count. In order to get the correct number of beats, they recited certain rhymes and Gstanzl, Austrian humorous





songs. To outsiders it sounded like they were conjuring the devil. It was also always dark in the forge and then it glowed every now and then.

How long did you actively smith here?

The smithy itself was first mentioned in the 13th century. Furth was a place name and usually referred to a place where the carts could drive across the river because it was shallower. The forge is located on the Rome-Vienna axis and since many wagons had to pass through here, many also used the services of the forge to harness up the

horses and oxen. Iron was so valuable at the time that it could almost be weighed against gold. Until the 1970s, this house was used as a blacksmith, tool and wagon smithy.



How did you get into it?

By chance! The last owners were a family from Czechia who were first called Krič, then Kritz. Four of them learned the blacksmith trade. At the time you spent three years in an apprenticeship and then three years on the road. At some point it was unfortunately no longer profitable. I came here completely by chance because I was actually in IT. At the time just before burning out. I've always been gifted with my hands, but I didn't know what to do with them. My breaking point was when my father died and I forged a cross for him. Because he gave me these hands, I wanted to use them to give him something back. And that's how I got into the hobby.

Describe where we are here!

We are right on the water – sawmills, mills and forges always had to be built on rivers because they used them as energy sources. If you look around here, you can see the tools from many generations. In addition, of course, some horseshoes. They were, next to



scythes, blacksmiths' main income. In the corner you can see a contraption that shows how horses and also mainly oxen were harnessed so they could be fitted with shoes. The showpiece is the large fireplace and of course the bellows. Apart from that, I see a few anvils and of course hammers. It's all very nostalgic. But there are also modern things here like my protective goggles and gloves, without which I would never work.

What do your tours look like?

Actually, they are very different, since I always change them to fit my audience, if you will. I talk about historical things, give insight into the art of blacksmithing, and I also let some of them create a souvenir at the Furth Schmiede. The workpiece is transformed from a clumpy piece of iron to an artistic memory.

Many blacksmiths were not able to read and write, so they could not count. In order to get the correct number of beats, they recited certain rhymes called Gstanzl. To outsiders it sounded like they were conjuring the devil.



ANOTHER SMITHING TIP

[Forge tour Metall4You](#)

Wechselberger Family in St. Marein-Feistritz

www.metall4you.at



PEAK SEASON PAGE 80
 SLOW IN THE SNOW PAGE 84
 ACTIVE IN THE
 COLD PAGE 88
 COME AND RELAX PAGE 90
 IT'S BEGINNING
 TO LOOK A LOT LIKE
 CHRISTMAS PAGE 92
 MEETING MONKS PAGE 96
 COOK LIKE IN THE
 GOOD OLD DAYS PAGE 100

Snowflakes float down softly around Scheibelsee Lake. The Rottenmann Tauern and the large Bösenstein mountain are also blanketed in white. Closer to the valley, it falls on the ski slopes and cross-country trails. It sugars the toboggan runs and alpine pastures. It also crunches wonderfully under your feet while snowshoeing and makes everything seem a little calmer. Time to head to the hot springs. Time to discover all the kets and their de-in all their terri-with a sparkle in for some Lebku-from Seckau or Rauchkuchl at restaurant, co-Time for winter



Christmas marvilish Perchten fying splendour, their eyes. Time chen gingerbread the sooty & cosy the Stüblergut vered in snow. in the Murtal.

WINTER IS COMING



HERE TO SLIDE

[Sportzentrum / Sports centre Ski Hohentauern](#)

www.moscher.at

OGGY, OGGY, OGGY: ICE CRYSTALS!
WHEN NATURE CELEBRATES ITS
ANNUAL FÊTE BLANCHE,
COLOURFUL SKIERS ARE NOT
FAR AWAY. THEY STICK
THEIR NOSES INTO THE
FRESH AIR, LOOK BRA-
VELY AT THE WIN-
TERSCAPE AND GO
FULL SPEED DOWN-
HILL. EVERYTHING
A SKIER'S HEART
COULD DESIRE.

Moments in white. The setting: The Moscher slope in Hohentauern. What's so different here? The slopes are buttery soft, the surroundings are right out of a winter fairy tale and the sky stands out wonderfully blue against the snowy backdrop. It soon becomes clear to you: You're on a classic skiing adventure. Without annoying jostling at the lift, but with a lot of freedom on the slopes. Perfect for families – oh yes!

GLITTER GLITTER

A classic winter begins when you look out of the hotel window and see that it has snowed overnight. So the slope conditions should be perfect. Long icicles hang from the roof and it is just under zero on the thermometer. For breakfast there are fresh, crispy rolls with butter and jam, the children get hot chocolate as a treat. The strong lift pulls you into the air, a mountain panorama opens up. The Wichtel-hütte is noted as a lunch stop. The moment you have been looking forward to for weeks, even months, finally begins: Making long, wide tracks in the soft snow. There's something about being the first on the slopes.

SKIING WITH A BIG GRIN

A world away from stress and the hectic rush are 30 hectares of slopes with four lifts, magic carpet and all the trimmings. A large grin on your helmeted face is not far off. You can consider the skiing routes Moscher, Tauern and Wirtsalm for a start. For the professionals there is also special training in deep snow and for everyone who likes a more relaxed holiday, a stop at 1,750 metres above sea level and a spot on the cloud-shaped bench in front of the hut is enough.



KLEINLOBMING



1 T-bar lift & 2 children's lifts | 700m piste
 Family offers, baby lift in sunny location.
Refreshments: Skipavillion Kleinlobming, Gasthof Hubmann, Liftstüberl, Lobmingerhof Inn
Special: Night skiing Thu-Sat

WWW.SKILIFTE-KLEINLOBMING.AT

PÖLSTAL & PUSTERWALD



1 T-bar lift (Pusterwald) | 1 km piste, 1 button lift (Pölstal) | 500 m piste – ideal for children.
Refreshments: "s'Hütterl" at the valley station.
Special: Snow is guaranteed in the Pölstal, as the slope faces north.

WWW.POELSTAL.INFO | WWW.PUSTERWALD.AT

RIESERALM



4 T-bar lifts | Kinderland + button lift | 12 km piste – family slope, steep slope, fun park.
Refreshments: Gasthof Rieseralm (also suitable for overnight stays) & Alpengasthof Sabathy
Special: Skiing in the middle of pine forests

WWW.RIESERALM.AT

GAALER LIFTE



3 lifts (T-bar and chairlift) | 6 km piste
 2 hectare children's area "Schi GaalaXie".
Refreshments: Gaalerhof, Oberschindlbacher and Kolland Hütte | Special: 2.3 km ski run, Night skiing Thu & Fri, ski courses, ski hire

WWW.GAALERLIFTE.AT

HOHENTAUERN



4 T-bar lifts & 1 children's lift | 13 km piste
 in various degrees of difficulty.
Refreshments: buffet at the ski lift station
Special: Numerous deep powder snow variations with a fantastic mountain panorama

WWW.MOSCHER.AT

OBDACH



1 T-bar lift & 1 magic carpet | 2.5 km piste
 Perfect for the little ones, free magic carpet.
Refreshments: Fill's Hüttln, Zirbenland Gasthof
Special: On request, club, school and company races on the FIS course.

WWW.SCHILIFT-OBDACH.AT



SNOWSHOEING IS CONTAGIOUS. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO SILVIA SARCLETTI AND ELISABETH ZIENITZER, WHO CREATED THE SNOWSHOE SCENE IN THE MURTAL. BEFORE HER 33RD YEAR, THE CARINTHIAN ELISABETH WAS EVERYTHING BUT SPORTY, BECAUSE SHE USED TO "ONLY DIP HER FEET IN THE WÖRTHER-SEE LAKE" BUT SILVIA TOOK HER UP TO THE MOUNTAIN AND FROM THEN ON THE TWO HAVE BEEN INSEPERABLE AND INFATI-GABLE WHILE (SNOWSHOE) HIKING. NO WONDER THAT SHE IS AT HOME IN THE MURTAL SNOWSHOE REGION.

MISS SILVIA'S FEELING FOR SNOW

They hiked across Styria and know the snow-covered region better than anyone else, because they researched and wrote the Rother Snowshoe Hiking Guide. Silvia Sarcletti and Elisabeth Zienitzer got to know each other because their children were in the same school, neither of them would have thought at the time that just a few years later they would both be authors of multiple books and managing directors of a successful company, that offers hiking journeys. Fittingly they know the hiking mountains in the Murtal like the backs of their gloved hands. The Seckau Alps, Gleinalpe and Stubalpe, the

Seetal Alps, Rottenmann and Wölzer Tauern – all their territory.

THE SLOW FOOD OF WINTER SPORTS

"You go up the mountains and also into yourself", the bundles of energy Silvia and Elisabeth assure me as they trudge through the deep snow. "It's the slow food of winter sports" they tell me. We try to keep up. So it's not that slow after all, we secretly think to ourselves. The first ascent shows: You also need strength in your calves. The author duo definitely has it. We decided to do this route

in particular because it takes us into the evening sun. And that's exactly how it is, as soon as we've crunched around the corner, it catches us and immerses us in golden light. What an experience!

[Elisabeth Zienitzer & Silvia Sarcletti \(WEGES OG\)](#)

www.weg-es.at

1

HAUSECK

On the way to the Hauseck mountain, snowshoe hikers also pass the wintry Scheibelsee Lake and the Edelrautehütte hut. In Hohentauern you are always close to heaven, but you get even closer to it on this hike, as you come to almost 2,000 m high in the middle of the Rottenmann Tauern.

Distance: 12 km, 800 m ascent

Duration: 5 ½ hours

Start: Hohentauern cross-country ski-run car park

Difficulty: Comfortable up to the hut, the ascent and descent to the summit are steeper, so you need to be able to use your snowshoes safely.

Orientation: Easy to the hut, then there are mostly tracks to the summit.

Risk of avalanche: Rarely as far as the hut, then sometimes at risk of avalanches.

2

SCHWABERGERALM
IN THE WÖLZER TAUERN

This wooded area with beautiful open spaces is mostly used for hiking. In between there is a wonderful view of the valley. Later you are on the inviting and idyllic alpine pastures, where you can move around freely. A particularly wonderful experience!

Distance: 11 km, 470 m ascent

Duration: 3 ¼ hours

Start: Bretsteingraben car park / Bichlerhütte, about 6.5 km after the village of Bretstein straight ahead

Difficulty: Easy tour that leads over wide alpine pastures

Orientation: Easy to Schwabergeralmhütte then open alpine pastures

Risk of avalanche: With very large amounts of fresh snow in Bretsteingraben and in the pasture areas, sometimes at risk of avalanches.



3

ROSENKOGEL GAAL

An extremely popular tour mountain is the Rosenkogel. But not without reason because it is perfect for beginners and connoisseurs alike. There is a highlight on the hike too, the little wooden Maria Loretto church.

Distance: 14 km, 760 m ascent

Duration: 5 ½ hours

Starting: Winter car park Lanzalm / Roßbach, 1,263 m from the Gaal about 7 km in the direction of Sommertörl

Difficulty: Easy snowshoe tour, which can also be extended or shortened

Orientation: Easy

Risk of avalanche: Rare

SNOWSHOE
FESTIVAL
FACTS

Snowshoe festival and Murtal – a perfect couple. It is organised by Elisabeth, Silvia and the tourism associations. This is an overview of the 2020 aufSCHNEESCHUHwandern Festival with around 1,000 participants:

- › Motto: Fun! Healthy! And clever!
- › 3 lecture evenings
- › 5 workshops
- › 17 guided tours
- › 7,200 vertical metres of snowshoeing
- › 120 kilometres of snowshoeing
- › Opening event
- › Fun Charity Festival finale
- › Snowshoeing taster session
- › Starlight stories + storytellers

Snowshoeing in the Murtal

www.aufschneeschuwandern.at

BOOK TIP

Rother Snowshoe Guide Styria

Also available in the Murtal tourist offices

This guidebook is only available in German.



Sledging

SMOOTH SLIDING

Sled, bobsleigh, toboggan or saucer – one thing is certain: It will be a blast. True to the motto “work hard, play hard,” you not only drag yourself but also the device of your choice up the mountain. Only to then take a seat on the sledge, panting and with anticipation sparkling in your eyes. There are good toboggan runs on Winterleitensee Lake, where you can stop off at the hut at 1,800 m above sea level beforehand. The Edelrautehütte and Salzstiegelhaus offer alternatives. Dashing through the snow on a husky sleigh ride with Husky Haberl in Oberzeiring is also a unique experience.

SLEDDING TOWARDS THE VALLEY. SWEATING UP TO THE SUMMIT. SLIDING OVER THE FROZEN LAKE. PEACEFULLY SKIING THROUGH THE FOREST. OFF THE PISTES, THERE IS SOMETHING TO EXPERIENCE ALL WINTER LONG. THE ONLY REQUIREMENTS ARE SNOW, COLD AND STAMINA.

Cross-country skiing

WHAT'S YOUR STYLE?

There are two parties – the classic cross-country skiers and the skaters. Most of the time they coexist alongside each other quite peacefully, allowing the other their freedoms on the ski track and rarely getting in one another's way. To keep it this way, there are different cross-country skiing areas for different techniques, so that there is enough snow for everybody, no matter your style.

The largest arena is Hohentauern, where you can spend days on end, there are also snowy cross-country tracks in Zeltweg, Kobenz and at the Red Bull Ring. The abundance of these little natural cross-country tracks transform the Murtal into an ideal destination for skiers.

When the mountain calls, you have no choice but to pack your tour equipment in the car and to answer it. An incomparable feeling to glide step by step through the still-untouched winter landscape. As you pass abandoned huts, you listen to the silence, discover fresh animal tracks and hear the first birds chirping in spring.

Ski tour lovers especially enjoy Triebental, the Seetal Alps, the Steinplan, the Rosenkogel and, for more demanding tours, the Wölzer Tauern. It is always important to check for avalanche risks before the tour and to commit to official ski tour routes.

Ski tour

STEP BY STEP





[Aqualux Thermal Spa Fohnsdorf](http://www.therme-aqualux.at)
www.therme-aqualux.at

LET OFF STEAM IN THE THERMAL SPA

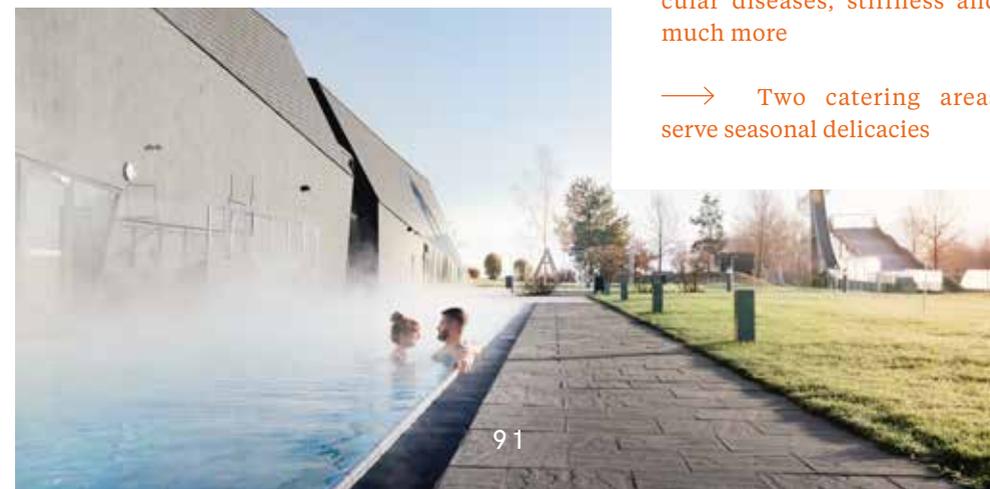
WHEN THE FROST KNOCKS ON THE WINDOW, THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN A VISIT TO THE SPA. LUCKILY THERE ARE THERMAL SPRINGS IN FOHNSDORF WHERE YOU CAN RELAX TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT. THE CLEAR, ARCHITECTURAL LINES OF THE SPA ARE A REMINDER OF THE MINING CULTURE IN THE REGION. WHEN UNWINDING, YOU CAN GAZE AT BOTH THE ALPINE PANORAMA AND GABELHOFEN CASTLE.



The outside is impressive, but wait until you see the inside. Once you have submerged yourself in one of the Aqualux Thermal Spa, you can let yourself drift away. The view is clouded by the white steam of the warm water. You move slowly, as if in slow motion. The world becomes less important, all that matters right now is letting go, just existing. Your only thoughts are whether you should also get coffee and cake at lunch. Spa life can be so simple and beautiful.

A STEAMY STROKE OF LUCK

The healing water, in which those seeking warmth bathe, was found by accident. The architectural allusions to mining become even more apparent if you know that Fohnsdorf miners discovered the hot springs in the 1940s. When warm water suddenly bubbled up towards them, suspicions arose that this was thermal water. Everything is of course meant to be a memento of the history of Fohnsdorf, which was characterised by coal mining. The interior with the wooden ceiling looks like a mining tunnel used to and the exterior is defined by the colour of washed-out, eroded carbon plates.



Hot spring facts

- > The thermal bath was opened in 2007
- > The day pass gives you access to the sports, children's, outdoor and indoor pools as well as the water slide
- > For a surcharge, you can get access to the VitaDome, a two-storey sauna and adventure world that comes with an additional indoor and outdoor pool and a spacious rest and relaxation area
- > The water is a sodium chloride, hydrogen carbonate thermal mineral acidulous spring water with a temperature of 42.2 degrees
- > It heals chronic inflammatory, degenerative diseases of the musculoskeletal system, functional cardiovascular diseases, stiffness and much more
- > Two catering areas serve seasonal delicacies

THE MULLED CIDER NEVER TASTED SWEETER



THE ONLY THING WE LAY ON THICK IN WINTER IS THE SNOW. WHEN WE SAY THAT THE MURTAL HAS BLOSSOMED INTO ONE OF THE BEST CHRISTMAS HOT SPOTS IN AUSTRIA OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE ARE SIMPLY SPEAKING THE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH. WE SWEAR ON THE CHRISTKIND/CHRIST CHILD !



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE AT G'SCHLÖSSL MURTAL

THE ONE WITH THE POND

The snow rests gently on the frozen bathing pool. A bridge illuminated with atmospheric fairy lights connects the market and people. Many say this is the most magical place to spend Christmas time in the whole of Austria. Hearty music plays in G'schlössl Murtal's park while you walk from one handcraft to the next. There are so many beautiful things around and it is slowly getting dark. At the weekend it is slightly less calm when the Krampuses are there. There are also delicacies for the hungry and fried almonds for those with a sweet tooth and of course a lot of mulled wine and punch stands to warm up.

[Weekends in December](#)
[G'Schlössl Murtal](#)
www.gschloessl-murtal.at



CHRISTMAS MARKET IN FARRACH CASTLE

THE TRADITIONAL ONE

Fans of arts and crafts count the days to when Farrach Castle near Zeltweg throws on its Christmas garb, always in red. In December the “gingerbread house” will be filled with around 70 stalls. The courtyard smells of roasted chestnuts and punch, people are serving rounds of mulled wine. Or they stay, deep in talk, until dinner. Inside, the sounds of young musicians from all over the region and enchant everyone. This is how the Christmas spirit works. You will find the presents you still need to buy in Farrach without a problem. By the way: This market has been around for decades and many drive from far and wide to spend a day here every year.

[On 4 days
in December
Farrach Castle
www.
schlossfarrach.
at/kultur](#)



CHRISTMAS MARKET ON
THE MAIN SQUARE IN JUDENBURG

THE HIS- TORIC ONE

The planetarium watches over the hustle and bustle in the small wooden huts and the stage. Live music takes place here every Friday and Saturday. For many Judenburgers, the market is part of their everyday life around Christmas time. Quickly meet friends for a mulled wine and then back to a cosy, warm home. Those who still feel like exercising afterwards or in between should do their laps at the ice rink in the middle of the city.

[Daily in the run-up to Christmas
Judenburg Main Square
www.judenburg.com](#)



KNITTELFELD CHRISTMAS MARKET

THE EERILY- BEAUTIFUL ONE

Every year in December, the traditional Perchtenlauf, Krampus run, takes place in Knittelfeld (on the first or second Sunday in December). For all those who have never “enjoyed” such a spectacle, let us say: You have to have nerves of steel. The Perchten are people dressed up in scary and beautiful animal masks who drive away evil spirits with their (cow) bells. There is also an ice rink in Knittelfeld, a horse-drawn carriage ride on the main square and numerous other events in December.

[www.knittelfeld-tourismus.at](#)

EVEN MORE CHRISTMAS!

More Christmas tips: Check out ARTvent in the Hofwirt and in the Seckau farm shop ([www.hotel-hofwirt.at](#)), as well as numerous other Christmas markets in the entire Murtal ([www.murtal-herzklopfen.at](#)).

SECKAU



SKETCHES



AN ANCIENT ABBEY, THE FOCUS OF SPIRITUAL LIFE IN STYRIA FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, OFFERS AN INSIGHT INTO MONASTERY LIFE WITH THE EXHIBITION “WORLD OF MONKS”. A LITTLE TASTE OF WHAT’S TO COME FOR EVERYONE OF WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON HERE SINCE 1143 AND STILL IS TODAY.

How do you live in the monastery?

CONVENT

At the moment there are twelve monks and two novices who call Seckau home. Nobody needs a watch here, because the bell rings every quarter of an hour. What’s more, we pray together five times a day. These make up the basis of monastic life and the ones in the morning are called “lauds”, the ones before dinner “vespers” and you end the day together saying “compline”. If you want to enter religious life, first you live as a postulant in the community and when you have made a clear decision then you take a monastic name and assume a new identity. The name is chosen from the preceding monks or from saints. After three years as a novice, you can take eternal vows.

Seckau Benedictine Abbey
www.abtei-seckau.at

OUR TIPS

Directly accessible and very nice: Seckau farm shop
www.hofladen-seckau.at

Styrian nativity in the Student chapel in the Christmas period.



What kind of work do you do
in the monastery?

LABORA

Every monk has his own task and makes a (financial) contribution to the community. This is why the school was founded. Many monks work as teachers and teach the students mathematics, computer science or philosophy. The income from this flows into the joint fund. One of the monks is a writer, for example. All royalties also go to the community.



How can you take a piece of the monastery home with you?

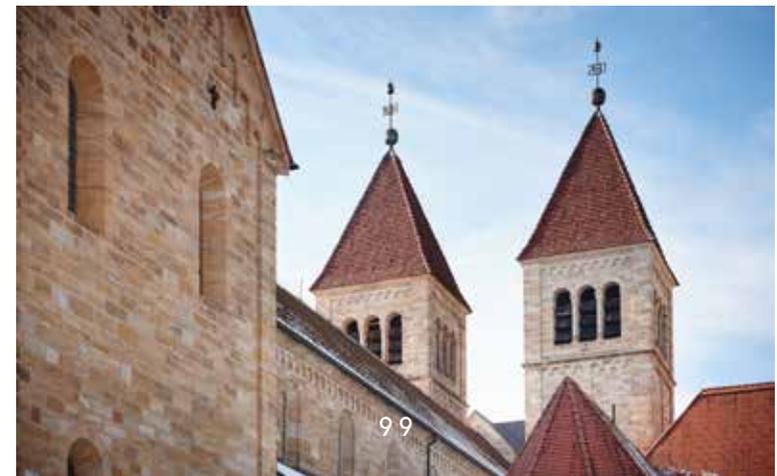
CELLARIUM

The monastery shop offers products from its own production. For example, forest honey, and also the famous and delicious Seckauer Zwieback. Although it tastes similar to gingerbread, you should not confuse them. By the way, why are pilgrimage sites often known for their famous Lebkuchen or gingerbread (see Mariazell)? – The sugar and honey in the dough were good fortification and reward for those who had made the pilgrimage. You can also get homemade schnapps in the monastery shop. Or you can make it yourself, namely in the context of the seminars, which are offered from May to October by booking.

Where did Seckau get its name from?

SCRIPTORIUM

This comes from a legend that also has to do with a statue of the Virgin Mary. Adalram von Waldeck actually wanted to found the monastery near his church in St. Marein near Knittelfeld. But then he had the project relocated locally. Legend has it that he followed a deer too far into the forest while hunting and fell asleep out of exhaustion. Suddenly he heard a voice and when he opened his eyes, Maria, bathed in bright light, stood in front of him and called to him: “Hic seca – cut here!” He began to obey this request and cut into the nearest tree, from which a picture of the Virgin Mary fell out towards him. That’s when he knew that this would be the right place for the monastery.





RUSTIC COOKING



THICK WALLS, GROWN OVER CENTURIES. THE STÜBLERGUT ON GABERLSTRASSE ROAD HAS ROOMS WITH A VIEW. INSIDE YOU FEEL SAFE, ENJOY GAME AND MUCH MORE FROM THE RUSTIC RAUCHKUCHL ROOM. PERFECTLY COZY.

[Gasthof Stüblergut](http://www.stueblergut.at)
www.stueblergut.at

THIS HOUSE BRINGS ITS VERY OWN PERSONALITY. THE DOORS CREAK, THE FIRE MAKES THE WOOD CRACKLE AND THE LIGHT DANCES IN THROUGH THE WINDOW. YOU FEEL AT HOME IMMEDIATELY, AS IF YOU HAD ALWAYS BEEN HERE.



Italy, Spain, USA, South Africa, Rauchkuchl. A logical sequence for head chef and host Christian Schuster. The former starred chef has now settled in the Stüblergut together with Sabine Höbarth and isn't in a rush to leave either. "It's a paradise for us. The house's style and the proximity to nature are simply fantastic," says Schuster.

CRACKLING & SPITTING

The best thing about the 800-year-old Rauchkuchl: You can look over the cook's shoulder from a safe distance, because it gets really hot and there are flying sparks too. "In case anyone is wondering: The walls were not painted black, they are sooty," says the cook. You feel very snug in a dark room. It's warm and the fire crackles and sizzles. Every now and then someone comes and adds wood. The Rauchkuchl, the smoke kitchen, forms the heart of the house.



The Rauchkuchl in the Stüblergut is a matter for the boss – after all, things get hot in here.



The thickness of the walls shows that generations have cooked and feasted here. The first records of the location exist from the Romans who changed horses here. On a little discovery tour through the Stüblergut, you quickly notice: This house has its very own personality. The doors creak, the fire makes the wood crackle and the light dances in through the window. You feel at home immediately, as if you had always been here.

GAME SPECIALTIES

"You can get anything from me. I like cooking a ten-course gourmet menu just as much as I like an honest piece of meat from the Rauchkuchl," says the boss, and truly:

Slowly but surely, the tables fill up at noon. Many come especially to watch the meat being prepared in the Rauchkuchl smoke kitchen. The salad and side dish buffet does the rest to please the guests. To set it off, there are soup and fish starters, then afterwards deer, game, sirloin, lamb and Muscovy duck are the protagonists at the Stüblergut. "We're quite unique," you hear Schuster say, "the kitchen is preserved as a site of historic interest, in Styria there is only one other like that and it is in Schladming." The former estate from Roman times has long since become more than a short stopover: You can stay overnight in nine rooms and even get married in the chapel. And all that in the middle of an alpine meadow!

Murtal Morsels

Versatile and inventive – that’s the people from the Murtal. This is a list of products that you can remember to collect as souvenirs. A full range of products awaits you, from pine chocolates to the long-lasting loden cloth.



Pine produce is everywhere

Who would have thought that stone pine cones and trees would be so versatile? A whole world opens up in the stone pine shop: World-famous Zirbenschnapps, pine schnapps, is ready to be tasted and the pine syrup is not to be sniffed at. You have come to the right place for souvenirs, fine goods, new home decor as well as pine oil, jams, baskets, wreaths and hearts. Pine has inspired many more, stone pine beds are made in the Rosenkranz carpentry workshop, Josef Kern concentrates on well-filled pine chocolates and at Stoffe Wimmer, fabrics are printed with elegant cones and then turned into tablecloths, boxer shorts and much more.

Stone pine shop / Zirbenschop Frewein

www.zirbenschop.at

Wimmer Fabrics

Hauptplatz 7, 8750 Judenburg

Kern Confectionary

www.konfiserie.blogspot.com

Rosenkranz Carpentry

www.tischlerei-rosenkranz.at

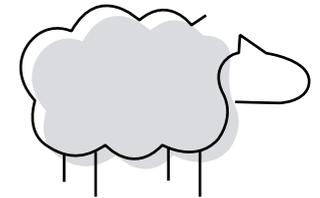
Baumgartner Carpentry

www.baumgartner-obdach.at



High spirits

In the Murtal you will find both hops and malt in their most beautiful form – the beer, you can also try the regional “Most” cider and a nice schnapps digestif. The Murtal-ers are masters of imbibing, regardless of whether it is beer, apple wine or distillates. In Sauerbrunn Castle, legendary water full of minerals is turned into beer. In the Gaal, the Kühbrein family has specialised in pouring orchards into bottles that will delight even die-hard wine lovers. Schnapps can be found in many places in the Murtal, for example at Mandl farmer’s shop or in the Sabathy Alpengasthof Alpine inn, which also sells zin (stone pine gin, from Zirben meaning pine plus gin) and pine beer.



Loden

Quality is at home here. When you step into the historic factory building, you know that you are dealing with a unique company, of which there are only very few in Europe. The term “loden” comes from Old High German and means “coarse woolen cloth”, but looking at the fine fabric, it doesn’t seem coarse. Josef Leichtfried has an answer to this: “We only use extra-fine wool from merino sheep for our loden.”

Thalheimer Heilwasser Drinks & Beer

www.thalheimerheilwasser.at

Kühbrein Most cider

www.kuehbreinmost.at

Sabathy Alpengasthof alpine inn

www.alpengasthof-sabathy.at

Bauerngenussladen Mandl Farm Shop

(a range of fine fruit brandies)

www.bauern-genussladen.at

Seckau Monastery Schnapps

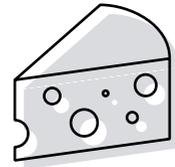
www.abtei-seckau.at

Staff’s Beer & Gin

www.staffs.at

Leichtfried Loden

www.leichtfried-loden.com



Murtal Steirerkas cheese and more...

Anyone who thinks of cottage cheese when they hear Steirerkas has taken the wrong turn – at least in the Murtal. Here the “Steirerkas” is a firm cooked cheese that is an integral part of “Jause”, the Austrian term for taking a light meal. It has its origins with the numerous dairy farmers who made it for their own use. Caraway, salt and pepper lend it its unmistakable flavour. The basic ingredient is lean curd. If you prefer more classic cheeses and don’t want to go home without a souvenir, you should stop by the Obersteirische Molkerei (OM), Upper Styrian Dairy, in Knittelfeld.

Farm Shop Herk (Steirerkas & much more)

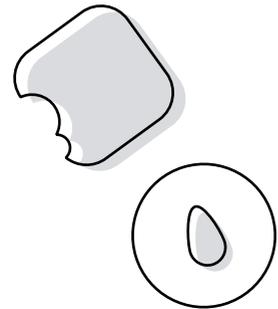
www.herk-eier.at

Upper Styrian Dairy OM (Obersteirische Molkerei)

www.oml.at

Steinwenderhütte Cheese Dairy

Gaalgraben 23, 8731 Gaal



Lebkuchen

The Regner family has been baking their Lebkuchen gingerbread in Seckau since 1660 and it’s no coincidence, because the tired pilgrims also needed provisions for their hikes. With a lot of honey and sugar, the gingerbread provides a lot of strength for the way back. From this tradition, the Regner family has created a world of almonds, nuts, cinnamon, honey and chocolate, of which you can easily take one, two or three pieces home with you.

Café and Confectionary Regner

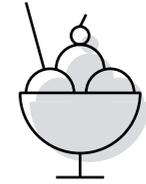
www.regner.at



Murtal Pumpkin Seed Oil

Kürbiskernöl, or pumpkinseed oil, has been very successful in the Murtal for a while. Opinions are divided about whether it is the green or black gold. However, everyone is sure that it tastes incredibly delicious and unique both over a salad as a dressing, over ice cream and in soups.

Available in farm shops
in the region.



Murtal Ice Cream

It is well known that where there are cows, there is also milk. And what can be made from milk tastes wonderful chilled – ice-cream, that is. Several producers have outdone themselves here and fill up many a cone and cup. Murtal ice-cream is made from various types of regional hay and organic milk products mixed with pure mountain spring water. It is sweetened with honey from the region, the flavour comes from the seasonal, ripe fruits. Other potential ice cream favourites are produced by the Perko ice cream parlour in Knittelfeld and “Die Drogerie” – ice-cream manufacturer in Obdach.

Murtal Ice Cream

www.murtaleis.at

Die Drogerie Ice-cream Makers

Hauptstraße 29, 8742 Obdach

Ice-Cream Parlor Perko

Seckauerstraße 2, 8720 Knittelfeld

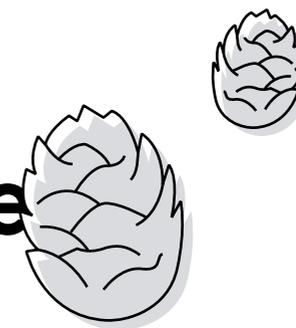


Taste the Murtal at home

If you can only vaguely recall your holidays, it often helps to stand at the stove and cook up a favourite recipe. Here are some small suggestions in our mini recipe section.

From stone pine professional Gerhard Frewein

The world- famous stone pine Schnapps



INGREDIENTS

1 kg stone pine cones (approx. 18 pieces)
quartered and sliced
Sugar or honey
5-6 litres of neutral schnapps (grain, vodka)
Bottles for filling
Coffee filter

INSTRUCTIONS

Cover the prepared pine cones with sugar overnight and let them steep. Pour neutral schnapps over them and leave to stand in a cool and dark place for four to five weeks. Shake now and again. One thing to keep in mind is that the longer the schnapps rests, the more resinous and bitter it becomes.

Let it run through the coffee filter and sweeten to taste. Fill into bottles and then store in the dark so that it does not lose its beautiful red colour.



TIP

If the schnapps is stored for a long time, the colour can change and the resin can settle on the bottom. However, this does not affect the quality.

Stone pine cones can be ordered seasonally at www.zirbeshop.at and can be bought in the huts and alpine pastures of the region.

Recipes from
Pölstal by Sonja
Hubmann-Winter



Rumpel nudeln

INGREDIENTS

500 g plain wheat flour
125 g butter
125 ml sour cream
125 ml double cream
Cinnamon, anise, a pinch of salt
Fat (to fry)
Icing sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

Knead all ingredients into a dough, form finger-thick rolls and cut into pieces one centimetre long. Then fry in hot fat. To finish, roll in cinnamon and sugar.

Pölstal Almkaffee (alpine coffee)

INGREDIENTS

1l milk (3.5% fat)
50 ml rum
25 ml of schnapps
125 ml double cream
3 tbsp custard powder or cornflour
1 vanilla pod
2 cinnamon sticks
2 egg yolks
4 tbsp cane sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

Bring the milk and cream with the spices and sugar to the boil, let the spices steep and then remove them. Mix the custard powder in cold milk and add to the mix. Bring to the boil briefly, leave to cool slightly, stir in the egg yolk. Warning: If it is too hot, the egg will go clumpy. Then season with rum and schnapps. At this point, the coffee must no longer be boiling. Pour into a mug and sprinkle with cinnamon.

PROFESSIONAL TIP FROM SONJA HUBMANN-WINTER

Drink it quickly & stir so skin doesn't form.



From the Hotel Hubertushof | makes approx. 8 servings

Mushroom soup with Heidensterz (buckwheat mush)

Mushroom soup

INGREDIENTS

150 g onion
4 tbsp olive oil
200 g sliced field mushrooms
300 g coarsely chopped chanterelles
250 g sliced porcini mushrooms
1l of chicken or vegetable stock
200 ml white wine
100 ml double cream
100 g sour cream with 2 tbsp potato starch
Salt, pepper, thyme, fresh chervil

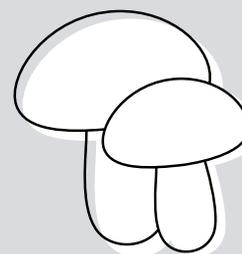
INSTRUCTIONS

Dice the onion and sauté in the olive oil. Add the mushrooms. Pour in the vegetable stock and add white wine as desired. Let it simmer gently for 15 minutes. Then stir in the cream, sour cream and potato starch and bring to the boil. Season to taste with the herbs.

Heidensterz

INGREDIENTS

300 g buckwheat flour
500-700 ml of water
1 tbsp salt
5 tbsp lard
Fresh parsley



INSTRUCTIONS

Bring the water to the boil with the lard and salt. Heat the buckwheat flour in a dry pan until it has a pleasant nutty scent. Slowly pour in the boiling water, stirring constantly until lumps form evenly. Take off the heat, cover and leave to reduce for about 20 minutes. Before serving, toast with lard until small, crispy lumps form and finish with fresh parsley.



Old traditions

They have always been there, in one form or another. They are carried on from generation to generation. They're colourful, light and heavy at the same time – customs. To get to know them better, let's talk to two men who are actively involved.

Past the Wetterlärche, weather larch, the Virgin Mary statue is carried up around Peter and Paul's day (29th June). If you want, you can accompany the tradition up to the Maria Schnee church at 1,822 m above sea level.



Gottfried Fössl - what do customs and church traditions look like in the Murtal? You are chairman of the "Stamm 1907 Heimatverein", what does that entail?

We maintain our customs. That means we dance together every week, we pass on these dances and we wear traditional costume, Tracht. We are also at the important festivals so that they do not die out and continue to be carried out.

What kind of dances are these?

Oh, they can be traditional dances or figure dances, and the Schuhplattler is done daily. But do not get it wrong: There will be no more "Plafondtuscher", ceiling crashers. The men used to do a handstand on the table and stamp on the ceiling to show their strength. What we definitely do is to wear traditional costume at all performances and gatherings. With us in the Murtal this is no longer as suitable for everyday use as it is in Ausseerland.

What are the important dates in the year for you?

There are lots! For example, setting up the maypole at the end of April. Here we have

our own "Bandltanz", band dance, where you dance at the same time as braiding ribbons. Or the Johannes celebration, then thanksgiving at the Aufsteirern in Graz and the Gones race, which actually comes from Lungau. We carve pumpkins in autumn and "Maipfeiferl", May pipes in spring as well. We also do Easter bonfires, Christmas celebrations and the plague candle parade. There is also the "Hahn-Abschlagen", or "decapitating the rooster".

What do "Hahn-Abschlagen" and the plague candle parade entail?

There is a braided straw rooster, the whipper is blindfolded and tries to knock it down with the whip. The plague candle parade takes place in the church of St. Benedikten near Knittelfeld. This is quite spectacular, because they carry a 15m high plague or Turkish candle decorated with colourful ribbons. The procession always takes place on Saint John's Eve, ten days after Corpus Christi.

Has anything changed over the years?

Yes – there was a lot more singing in the past. After every dance rehearsal we sat down in the pub and started a song together. They say singing brings people together. There were songs like "Unser Steirerbua", our Styrian boy, "Der Weg zu mei'm Dirndl", the way to my girl, and "Der alte Jäger vom Silbertanlental", the old hunter from Silbertanlental. I believe that comes from wealth. When people are worse off, they will sing more again. But I will say – the enthusiasm of the young people has not changed! My grandchildren dance and do the Schuhplattler too!



Heinz Kopp – What about miners' customs?

I would say that they are very much alive. We had mining in both Hohentauern and Fohnsdorf (see also page 24). Here in Fohnsdorf it was coal mining, in Hohentauern it is magnesite. This mine is even still active. Otherwise there was also mining in Veitsch, in Breitenau and in Trieben.

What is celebrated the most?

For miners, the most important day of the year is December 4th. There is a Barbara commemoration held by the Fohnsdorfer Knappschaft miners' guild. The mountain smock and shaft cap are also special. They are also worn for the famous Reiftanz dance. The work of the miners is shown as a dance.

Are women allowed to take part in these festivities?

Of course! There are more and more female students at the Montanuni University in Leoben. We also have girls who play in the mountain band.

What exactly happens during the "Ledersprung"?

You jump into the miner's stance. From a small beer barrel after you have answered the four questions: "What is your name", "What is your status", "Where is your home" and "What is your motto". Then you drink a small beer in one go and jump. Nowadays you can only become an honorary miner in Fohnsdorf.



A front row seat

Fasching Carnival

Carnival Sessions

Shrove Tuesday

the largest carnival parade, alternating between Judenburg & Knittelfeld

Ash Wednesday

Fasching burning in Fohnsdorf / Herring feast

Easter

Palm Sunday

Parade of Palms

Holy Saturday

Food blessing and Easter fire / Log blessing in Seckau

Easter Sunday

Gones race in St. Margarethen

April

End of April

Georgifest / horse blessing in St. Georgen & Fohnsdorf

May

May celebrations and Putting up the maypole

Juni

Corpus Christi Processions

10 days after Corpus Christi Plague candle parade in St. Margarethen

21. 6. / Solstice fire on the Zirbitzkogel

July

1st Sunday / Maria Schnee Hochalmtag Festival

2nd Sunday

Almkirtag alpine parish fair at the Winterleitenhütte

Hohentauern fishing festival

26. 7. / St. Anne's Day in St. Anna am Lavantegg

August

15. 8.

Großer Frauentag in Maria Buch / Steirerkas hiking day on the Tremmelberg / Puch Parade in Judenburg

4th Sunday / Gaaler Weisenbläsertreffen: Mountain Mass Maria Almfest Festival on the Sommertörl mountain

"Waffenrad" Meet-up in Kobenz

September

1st Sunday / "Weisenblasen am Höhn" brass band music

Cattle drive & Milk Festival

October

Thanksgiving Festival Largest harvest crown in Seckau Abbey

November & December

From the end of Nov. Traditional Christmas markets

Early December

Barbara celebration with leather jumping in Fohnsdorf / Apfelberger Christmas Choir / Krampus run in Knittelfeld

5. 12. / Krampus game at the Judenburg Christmas Market

26. 12. / Blessing of horses on St. Stephen's Day in Obdach

30. 12. / Farmer's NYE



Every- thing you need to know about the Murtal

Important telephone numbers

European emergency number	112
Fire brigade	122
Police	133
Ambulance	144
Mountain rescue	140
Health hotline	1450
Pharmacies emergency number	1455
ÖAMTC vehicle breakdown service	120
ARBÖ roadside breakdown service	123

Information about the Murtal tourist region

Murtal – Herzklopfen spüren
info@murtal-herzklopfen.at
 +43 664 889 296 66
www.murtal-herzklopfen.at

Info on site

Fohnsdorf tourist office
 Hauptplatz 9, 8753 Fohnsdorf
 +43 3573 5231

Hohentauern tourist office
 Tauernstraße 15, 8785 Hohentauern
 +43 3618 335

Judenburg tourist office
 Hauptplatz 20, 8750 Judenburg
 +43 3572 85000

Knittelfeld tourist office
 Hauptplatz 15a, 8720 Knittelfeld
 +43 3512 86464 0

Obdach/Zirbenland tourist office
 Hauptstraße 31, 8742 Obdach
 +43 3578 3406

Pölstal tourist office
 Marktplatz 3, 8762 Oberzeiring
 +43 3571 21700

Spielberg tourist office
 Red Bull Ring Straße 1, 8724 Spielberg
 +43 3577 202271 66

Weißkirchen tourist information point
 Gemeindeplatz 1, 8741 Weißkirchen
 +43 3577 809030

Getting there

Arriving by car

FROM THE EAST
 From Vienna via the S6 and later the S36 Murtalschnellstraße

FROM THE SOUTH

From Graz via the A9 and S36 from the St. Michael junction

FROM THE WEST

From Klagenfurt via the B317 or via the A2 and B78 via Bad St. Leonhard & Obdach

FROM THE NORTH

Arrival via the A9 and B114 via the Triebener Tauern or via the A9 and S36 from the St. Michael junction.

The following speed limits apply

ON THE MOTORWAY

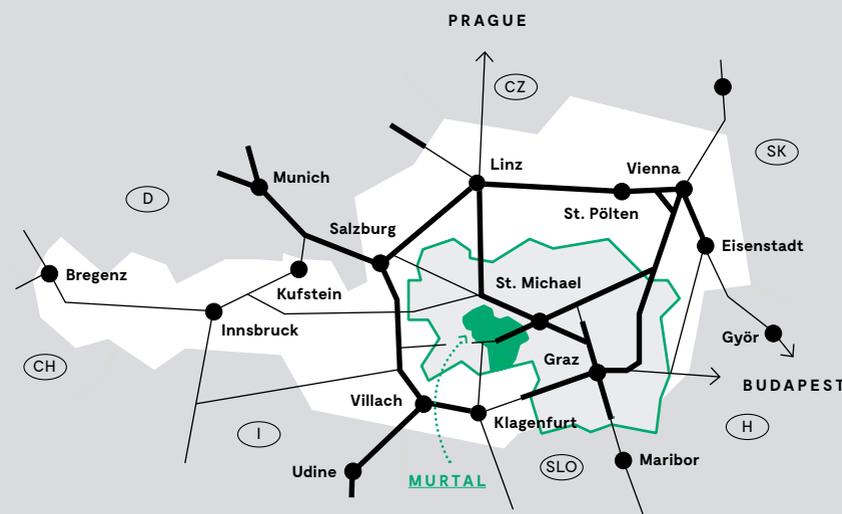
130 km/h

ON DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS AND A-ROADS

100 km/h

WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA

50 km/h (often only 30 km/h)





Every- thing you need to know about the Murtal

Arriving by plane

AROUND 1 HOUR DISTANCE

Graz-Thalerhof and Klagenfurt airports

AROUND 2 HOURS DISTANCE

Vienna, Salzburg and Linz airports

Public transport

MAIN-LINE TRAIN STATIONS IN THE MURTAL

Knittelfeld station and Judenburg station

ADDITIONAL REGIONAL RAILWAY STATIONS (S-BAHN 8)

Fentsch-St. Lorenzen, Zeltweg, Thalheim, St. Georgen ob Judenburg, Unzmarkt-Frauenburg

INFORMATION ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

www.verbundlinie.at

Customer centre: +43 50 678910

Taxi companies in the Murtal

Murtal Taxi: +43 660 101 81 01

Thermen Taxi/Murtal Reisen,

Fohnsdorf: +43 664 995 222 75

Taxi Judenburg: +43 3572 85185

Taxi Jäger, Knittelfeld: +43 3512 44833

Taxi Steiner, Knittelfeld: +43 3512 71718

Triebener Tauern Taxi: +43 664 312 23 33

More to know about the Murtal

Shopping in the Murtal

Generally, the shops in the Murtal are open all day from Monday to Friday (sometimes with lunch breaks) and on Saturdays mostly only in the morning. It is advisable to always have cash with you when you go shopping, as cashless payment is not yet possible in all businesses. Special shopping tip: The fresh-

est, culinary delicacies are available at the numerous farm shops and farmers' markets in the region. Local farm products are sold here directly.

Gastronomy in the Murtal

The restaurants in the Murtal offer incomparable, regional delicacies. One to two rest days per week are common, these being mostly on the period from Monday to Wednesday. In many places there are warm meals served all day. It is illegal to smoke in restaurants, inns, bars, cafés and pubs. Especially designated smoking areas in are offered as an alternative outside. It is also advisable to bring cash with you in restaurants.

TIPPING IN AUSTRIA

It is customary in Austria to tip an additional 10% of the bill.

Holidays

1st January: New Year

6th January: Epiphany

March/April: Easter Monday

1st May: National holiday

6th Thursday after Easter: Ascension Day

50 days after Easter: Whit Monday

9th Thursday after Easter: Corpus Christi

15th August: Assumption of Mary

26th October: National Day

1st November: All Saints' Day

8th December: Immaculate Conception

25th December: Christmas Day

26th December: St. Stephen's Day

Shops are closed on these public holidays, with the exception of December 8th.

Top offers for your holiday

GuestCard

One card, countless possibilities! With the GuestCard, holidaymakers can enjoy all the advantages of the region: From just one overnight stay, there are exciting offers. Numerous perks and discounts at many destinations such as thermal baths, museums and swimming baths make the holiday unforgettable! Available from selected accommodation providers in the Murtal.



Spa fun 365 days a year

AQUALUX Thermal Spa

In the middle of the Murtal district, the Aqualux spa Fohnsdorf invites you on a journey of relaxation and discovery. We offer fun for the whole family as well as peace and quiet. The thermal indoor pool has wild water fountains, wave pools and massage pools – the kid's area is perfect for children and provides both young and old with enough space for an exciting day at the thermal spa. The best place to relax is in the quiet area of the VitaDome and in the large sauna complex.



AQUALUX THERME FOHNSDORF
Errichtungs- und Betriebs GmbH
Thermenallee 10, 8753 Fohnsdorf
+43 3573 20 780-0
office@therme-aqualux.at
www.therme-aqualux.at



Krampl Gemstones, Weißkirchen

The world of precious stones

We turn predominantly Styrian stone into unique workpieces and jewellery. With the "Gläserne Fabrik", an open-view manufacture, a goldsmith, stone sculptor and a glittering world of crystals, we are a popular excursion destination for families and tour groups. There is plenty to see and find out about, as well as products with real character. There is also a wide-ranging programme of workshops. Cut gems, design jewellery or forge your own personal piece of jewellery.



EDELSTEINE KRAMPL
Bahnhofstraße 7, 8741 Weißkirchen
+43 3577 81111
info@edelsteine-krampl.com
www.edelsteine-krampl.com
Mon-Fri: 9 am-6 pm; Sat: 9 am-12 midday



A planetarium in the town tower

Sternenturm Judenburg

Step into the world of planets, stars and galaxies at the most modern planetarium in Europe. The ingenious 3D space action will amaze, entertain and educate. After the show you will be introduced to the current night sky over Styria in a live presentation. You can explore the history of the town tower and the historic town of Judenburg in more detail in the Turmshow. Why not stop and relax at the café and viewing gallery (42 metres high)?



STERNENTURM PLANETARIUM JUDENBURG
Kirchplatz 1, 8750 Judenburg
+43 3572 44088
reservierung@sternenturm.at
www.sternenturm.at
For schedule & opening hours see website

Above the treetops...

Rachau Treetop Trail



WIPFELWANDERWEG
Almfrische Rachau GmbH
Mitterbach 25, 8720 St. Margarethen bei Knittelfeld
+43 3512 44599
office@wipfelwanderweg.at
www.wipfelwanderweg.at

An adventure for the whole family

Märchenwald Leisure Park



**SCHNITZELWIRT GASTHOF SONNENHOF UND
FREIZEITPARK MÄRCHENWALD STEIERMARK**
Pichlhofen 60, 8756 St. Georgen ob Judenburg
+43 3583 2116
info@maerchenwald.at
www.maerchenwald.at

Museum – Mine – Shop

Oberzeiring Viewing Mine



SCHAUBERGWERK MUSEUM OBERZEIRING

Marktplatz 3, 8762 Oberzeiring

+43 664 751 251 31

kontakt@silbergruben.at

www.silbergruben.at / Open all year round

For schedule & opening hours see website

Explore the “fifth season”

Alois Penz Carnival Museum



FASCHINGSMUSEUM KNITTELFELD

Hauptplatz 12/1

8720 Knittelfeld

+43 664 344 34 65 / +43 664 1417 865

www.boef.at/faschingsmuseum

Open all year round by advance booking

Looking for “black gold”

Fohnsdorf Mining Museum

Fohnsdorf Mining Museum is a superlative experience! It's off to seek the “black gold” with 3,600 PS and a load of explosives. 1,000 m² of exhibition space and 5,000 m² outdoors allow you to immerse yourself in the interesting world of miners in what was once the deepest brown coal mine in the world. Unique exhibits including a 47 m shaft tower, the tandem hoist machine, the oldest fireless locomotive in the world, the brown coal exhibition mine and the mineral exhibition mines offer an unforgettable experience.



BERGBAUMUSEUM FOHNSDORF

Schacht 10, 8753 Fohnsdorf

+43 3573 4647 / +43 699 172 628 10

bergbaumuseum-fohnsdorf@aon.at

www.bergbaumuseum-fohnsdorf.at

Open 1 May–31 Oct: 9 am–5 pm

1,200 m² of railway history

Railway Museum

This unique museum tells the history of the railway and the social life of railwaymen. After selecting the train track using a functioning signal box, you can drive along it in a simulator. There are collections of pocket watches, mementos of railway balls and a collection of railway caps that has made the Guinness Book of World Records. More than 1,200 m² of exhibition space offer interesting facts and inspiration for both young and old.



EISENBAHMUSEUM KNITTELFELD

Ainbachtal 14a, 8720 Knittelfeld

+43 676 544 07 95

office@eisenbahnmuseum-knittelfeld.at

www.eisenbahnmuseum-knittelfeld.at

Open 1 April–31 Oct, Tue–Sun: 9 am–5 pm

Museum Murtal

In the Museum Murtal you will discover the almost 3,000 year-old Hallstatt period and see fascinating treasures from Strettweg, the site of the famous Cult Wagon of Strettweg. The exhibits feature artistic ceramics, weapons and jewellery. Highlights include the rediscovered Cult Wagon of Strettweg Grave and the large Helmet Grave, which features magnificent iron and bronze weapons. You can expect a mysterious journey through time and exciting experiences from the Murau-Murtal archaeological region, including numerous sites from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages.



MUSEUM MURTAL – REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Herrengasse 12, 8750 Judenburg

+43 3572 20388

info@museum-murtal.at

www.museum-murtal.at

Open all year round, Wed–Sun: 10 am–5 pm



Dieses Projekt wird mit Mitteln aus dem Steiermärkischen Landes- und Regionalentwicklungsgesetz finanziert

High-octane driving experiences at the Red Bull Ring

Driving Experience



Watching is thrilling, but driving is even better. The driving experiences on the Red Bull Ring are an extraordinary adventure! There are a wide range of driving experiences to make the pulse and heart beat faster. Decide for yourself whether you want the four-wheel drive power of the Mitsubishi L200 or whether you prefer to go off-road in a buggy. You can also get a huge adrenaline kick in a KTM X-Bow or a Mitsubishi EVO IX. Everything is possible on a driving experience at Spielberg: You can go full throttle on the start-finish straight with a Formula 4 racing car, test the limits of the Porsche Cayman S in the Driving Center or experience the special buzz of drifting on the kart track.

RED BULL RING

Red Bull Ring Straße 1

8724 Spielberg

+43 3577 202 27031

fahrerlebnisse@projekt-spielberg.com

www.projekt-spielberg.com



A behind-the-scenes look at the world of motorsport

Red Bull Ring Tour



The 90-minute tour takes you to areas that are normally closed to visitors, such as the VIP lounges, Race Control and the Media Center. One of the highlights of the tour is the Red Bull Wing, which is modelled on the rear of a race car. In the vehicle exhibition in the Welcome Center, you can also experience motorsports legends who have written history close up and personal. You'll take home not only a lot of impressions, but also vouchers and all the information on events at Spielberg and must-have souvenirs from the fan shop. Tickets must be booked in advance and can be collected at the Red Bull Ring Welcome Center. The guided tours are offered in English, German and Italian.

RED BULL RING

Red Bull Ring Straße 1

8724 Spielberg

+43 3577 202 27030

information@projekt-spielberg.com

www.projekt-spielberg.com



Experience the Austrian cult brand Puch

Puch Museum Judenburg

Visitors to the Puch Museum in Judenburg can experience milestones in the history of Austrian vehicle development. A wide range of cult vehicles illustrate the worldwide successes of the Puch brand: From the Puch 500 to the Haflinger, the Pinzgauer, the Puch G and pre-war motorcycles, all the way to the popular Puch bicycles, including the classic "Waffenrad" (a licensed version of the English "Swift"). Even more variety is provided by special exhibitions and events such as the legendary Puch Parade.

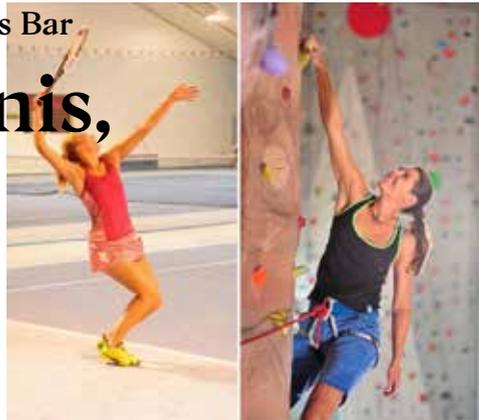


PUCH MUSEUM JUDENBURG
 Murtaler Platz 1, 8750 Judenburg
 +43 3572 47127 / www.puchmuseum.at
 Open April–October: Wed–Sun: 9 am–5 pm,
 July & August: 9 am–5 pm, daily
 Puch Parade takes place annually on 15 August

Indoor Tennis – Climbing – Sports Bar

Climbing, tennis, bouldering

The Sport Aktiv Freizeitanlage Judenburg offers a chance to get active in a relaxed atmosphere. We offer climbing and bouldering on walls from 3 to 17 m height and place great importance on a feel-good factor for guests of all ages, whether they are beginners or have high ambitions. Courses can be booked for any time by appointment and are not just available to beginners. Tennis fans will love the 3 indoor courts (carpet-granulate) and 3 outdoor courts (sand). Overnight guests also benefit from 10% off all admission prices.



SPORT AKTIV MT BETRIEBSGMBH
 Waltersdorferstraße 25, 8750 Judenburg
 +43 3572 86950
 More information and tennis court reservations:
www.sportaktiv.at
 Open: 10 am–10 pm daily



Herb & rose garden, farm shop

Buschenschank & Alpaca Farm



BUSCHENSCHANK "DER KLEINE ROSENGARTEN"
 Pub, farm shop, alpaca hikes, holiday apartment
 Warbach 25, 8742 Obdach
 +43 664 434 93 93
beatemoitzi@gmail.com
www.derkleinerosengarten.at

A little closer to heaven

Nature Adventure Park



SPORTZENTRUM MOSCHER
 Naturerlebnispark Hohentauern
 Tauernstraße 39, 8785 Hohentauern
 +43 3618 2040
info@moscher.at
www.keltenberg.at



Zellstoff Pöls AG is one of the world's largest manufacturers of pulp and paper. On our geocache trail in Pöls you will find eight stations with exciting facts about pulp and paper production! With a navigation device or smartphone and the geocache app, you will reach your destination if you follow the given coordinates. Have fun on the paper trail!



Welcome to our geocache adventure "the path to paper" – scan the QR code for more information!

01 Erste Station: Laugenkessel
 Koordinaten: N47° 13.093 E14° 34.977

www.zellstoff-poels.at

heinzelpulp
 ZELLSTOFF PÖLS AG

Oil mill & vinegar factory

Ur-Natur Farm Shop

Our farm shop offers high-quality, cold-pressed vegetable oils and home-made vinegars, stone pine products and much more. Because our range of produce is so wide and unique, we believe in offering friendly advice to our customers and will be happy to help you. If you can't visit us during our opening hours, you can find our products and farm produce from regional quality farms in our self-service farm shop, which is open 24 hours a day.



UR-NATUR, STEINBERGER FAMILY

Farm shop, 24h self-service shop & online shop

Griesmoarweg 2, 8741 Weißkirchen

+43 660 712 06 00

office@urnatur.at

www.urnatur.at

Regional delicacies & much more

Unimarkt Weißkirchen



UNIMARKT RAFFLER & TEAM

Stubalpenstraße 10

8741 Weißkirchen

+43 3577 82558

christa.raffler@unimarkt-partner.at

www.unimarkt.at

The world of stone pine

Frewein stone pine shop



ZIRBENSHP – PFLANZENHOF FREWEIN

Frewein Family

Eligiusweg 3, 8741 Weißkirchen

+43 3577 81285 / +43 650 412 66 12

info@zirbenshop.at

www.zirbenshop.at



Delicatessen in Eppenstein

Our delicatessen is a great place to browse and discover the unique variety of our regional produce. Sustainability is the number one consideration in the production of what we offer. In our newly built farm shop, you will find the finest fish, game and mushrooms. We are always striving to improve our produce and repeatedly succeed in creating culinary delights.



ALLES WILD GMBH

Eppenstein 5, 8741 Eppenstein

+43 800 232319 / info@alleswild.at / www.alleswild.at

Mit Unterstützung von Bund, Land und Europäischer Union

 Bundesministerium
Landwirtschaft, Regionen
und Tourismus

 LE 14-20
Entwicklung für das Ländliche Raum

 Das Land
Steiermark
Alle Land und Forstwirtschaft

 Europäische
Landwirtschaftsfonds für
die Entwicklung des
ländlichen Raums.
Hier investieren Europa in
die ländlichen Gebiete.

Organic specialities from the farm

Biohof Moar Farm Shop

Everything you find in our farm shop is from regional suppliers. We offer home-made juices, chutneys, bacon, stone pine schnapps and much more. We have an exciting range of healthy, regional produce that is produced as naturally as possible. We also offer children's birthday parties and "school on the farm". We strongly believe in providing information on the production of food products. Our farm and its animals offer a great place to relax and recharge your batteries.



HOFLADEN BIOHOF MOAR – KÖNIG FAMILY

Eberdorf 10, 8741 Weißkirchen

+43 664 751 200 43

info@biohofmoar.at

www.biohofmoar.at

Open Thu-Sat: 9 am-12 midday

Shopping in the Murtal region

Mandl Farm Shop & Delicatessen

We have been running our grocery store for three generations. We have a close connection with Styrian Zirbenland (Pine Country) and the local farmers, and this inspired us to found a high-quality farm shop and delicatessen. Our aim is to make foodies aware of the values of this rural region and its culinary delights. We offer products from more than 100 rural suppliers. We look forward to your visit!



BAUERN-GENUSSLADEN MANDL

Mandl Family

Hauptstraße 37, 8742 Obdach

+43 3578 4081

mandl@bauern-genussladen.at

www.bauern-genussladen.at

Quality and tradition since 1899

Baumgartner Carpentry

The Baumgartner carpentry workshop, founded in 1899, is now in its fourth generation. Our 8 experienced employees use modern machinery to design and produce top-quality furniture for private and business use. The majority of the wood used is local and includes stone pine. Stone pine wood has long since ceased to be synonymous with traditional and rustic Austrian design. Combined with other wood species, stone pine is also ideal for modern design.



BAUMGARTNER TISCHLERWERKSTATT GMBH

St. Anna-Weg 7

8742 Obdach

+43 3578 2393

tischlerei.baumgartner@obdach.at

www.baumgartner-obdach.at



Alpaca hikes & shop

Laikamhof Alpacas

An unforgettable experience awaits you in the wonderful mountain world of the Zirbenland (Pine Country) – a leisurely hike with alpacas. Our fluffy four-legged friends radiate peace and will enchant young and old. If a hike is not enough for you, you can spend your entire holiday with us, surrounded by nature. You have the choice between our cosy Laikamhütte traditional hut and our rustic Baumgartnerhaus. We look forward to your visit!



LAIKAMHOF - STRASSER FAMILY

Alpaca hike, shop & holidays on the farm

Schwarzenbach 10, 8741 Weißkirchen

+43 664 120 52 96

maria@laikam.at

www.laikam.at

A hut close to the summit

Steinplan Schutzhaus

The Steinplan Schutzhaus is a great place for both hikers and mountainbikers to take a break and enjoy the unique view. Signposted hiking trails lead through the extensive mountain pastures and forests of the Gleinalpe and Stubalpe to the summit of the Steinplan (see website for tours). At 1,670 m above sea level, the Steinplan offers a top-quality panorama.

Open: May–late October. Regional delicacies and home-made pastries. Overnight accommodation in the hut also available.



STEINPLAN SCHUTZHAUS, NATURFREUNDE KNITTELFELD

Proprietors: Frieda & Fritz Piechl

Sonnberg II/Nr. 64, 8734 Lobmingtal

GPS: 47.16316000, 14.90437000

+43 3512 72210

www.steinplan-schutzhaus.naturfreunde.at

A holiday all to yourselves

ALPS Residence



A meeting point for the whole family. A place where friends spend the best days of the year together. A home away from home. Our accommodation options provide all of this. ALPS Residence is Austria's leading operator of holiday accommodation and we have 8 resorts in the Murtal region. The comfortable apartments and chalets offer the perfect retreat for a holiday just the way you want it. When you open your door, you're not met by a hotel corridor, but a private oasis of peace with plenty of room to relax. ALPS Residence accommodation is the perfect place to relax, whether you are on the Kreischberg, the Turrach or in Hohentauern. Some accommodation has a private spa, sauna and (outdoor) jacuzzi – perfect for relaxing and wellness!

ALPS RESIDENCE HOLIDAYSERVICE GMBH

Ferienpark 100
8861 St. Georgen am Kreischberg
+43 3537 200 50
office@alps-residence.com
www.alps-residence.com



Magic chalet atmosphere

Milena Hut & Weber Hut



MILENA HUT (NO. 12): 2-8 PERSONS

WEBER HUT (NO. 3): 2-4 PERSONS & DOG

Feriensiedlung 12 & 3, 8785 Hohentauern
+49 171 948 95 52

taurer-huettenzauber@t-online.de

www.hohentauern-huettenzauber.de

Relaxing in the Murtal region

Pension Suzana



PENSION SUZANA

Milorad Rastovic

Fohnsdorferstraße 16, 8753 Fohnsdorf / Aichdorf

+43 664 535 94 89 / +43 664 313 36 02

pension.suzana@gmail.com

www.pension-suzana.at



Relaxation in the heart of Murtal

Landhaus Wilhelmer

This traditional family-run business has a quiet, central location and has always been appreciated by guests. It is renowned for its good food, as well as for its sports and wellness facilities. The spacious comfort rooms are equipped with cosy tiled stoves and corner bathtubs. The quiet garden is a great place to relax and has direct access to the pond and wellness complex. The food on offer ranges from home-style cooking to vegetarian and seasonal dishes.



LANDHAUS WILHELMER GMBH & CO KG

Bundesstraße 19

8753 Fohnsdorf / Aichdorf

+43 3577 22631

landhaus@wilhelmer.net

www.wilhelmer.net



Welcome to Fohnsdorf

Hotel Fohnsdorf



A thermal spa holiday in Murtal is just what you need. We offer the perfect recipe for well-being: Wellness and spa experiences, relaxation and action, a holiday atmosphere and excellent food. Our 39 rooms offer the ultimate in comfort. Start the day with a huge range of breakfast options at our large buffet. Our café "Glück Auf!" provides a reminder of Fohnsdorf's mining tradition. Enjoy a fine Styrian wine in a unique modern ambience. Dive into a top-quality spa holiday! The Aqualux spa is located opposite our hotel. Whether you're taking a short holiday, a longer stay, whether it's business or pleasure, our region offers a wide range of excursion destinations. You'll love it! We look forward to seeing you.

HOTEL FOHNSDORF
Halbrainer Family
Siemensstraße 9, 8753 Fohnsdorf
+43 3573 414950
office@hotelfohnsdorf.at
www.hotelfohnsdorf.at



Fresh fried chicken every day

Gasthof Moser

Enjoy our cosy lounge and crackling open fire or take advantage of our pick-up and delivery service. In order to avoid waiting, please order in advance by telephone and we'll prepare everything fresh for you!

We have spacious apartments for up to 6 persons as well as comfort rooms! We look forward to looking after you, whether you're a motorcyclist, spa lover, cyclist or hiker.



GASTHOF MOSER
Grazerstraße 3
8753 Fohnsdorf
+43 3573 2147
office@gasthaus-moser.eu
www.gasthaus-moser.eu



A heavenly experience

JUFA Judenburg



JUFA JUDENBURG – THE HOTEL BY THE STERNENTURM
Kaserngasse 22
8750 Judenburg
judenburg@jufa.eu
+43 5708 3290
www.jufahotels.com/judenburg

More than just a coffee break

Cafellisch Weißkirchen



CAFELLISCH – FELLISCH FAMILY
Café with culinary delights
Stubalpenstraße 4, 8741 Weißkirchen
+43 664 313 27 28
fellisch@aon.at
www.cafellisch.at

Accommodation in the centre

Gasthof Bräuer

The Gasthof Bräuer, a former estate with an ancient brewing tradition, has been run by the Eibensteiner family for nine generations. In this historic house you can experience centuries of history without having to forego modern comforts. Each of the 16 rooms is individually and tastefully furnished with old furniture. The wood-panelled Wirtsstub'n, which features a lovely tiled stove, the Kuchl and the Braustub'n set the standard for rustic Austrian cosiness.



GASTHOF BRÄUER

Eibensteiner Family

Stubalpenstraße 3, 8741 Weißkirchen

+43 3577 82116 / +43 676 551 74 23

info@gasthof-braeuer.at

www.gasthof-braeuer.at

Murtal mountain hut experience

Hadn Hube



SELF-CATERED HOLIDAYS AT THE HADN-HUBE

Magnes Family

Fisching 19

8741 Weißkirchen

magnes.hadn@ainet.at

www.urlaubambauernhof.at/hadn

A different kind of holiday

Biohof Brandner & Brandnerhütte



HOLIDAYS ON THE FARM, FARM SHOP AND

MOUNTAIN HUT ON 1,200 M

Schoberegg 35, 8741 Weißkirchen

+43 650 760 93 70

urlaub@biohof-brandner.at

www.biohof-brandner.at



For a peaceful, relaxing holiday

In bed with the stone pine

Our beautifully furnished apartments range between 70 and 110 m² in size. Featuring such unique highlights as a stone pine bed for a restful sleep, an XXL shower and a bathtub you can really relax in, they're the ideal place to enjoy an unforgettable holiday for two! We'll treat you to regional produce for breakfast or dinner and can bring these directly to your room. Enjoy the organic swimming pool and wildlife garden, the view of the mountain panorama and the peace and quiet. We have two basic principles: No kids. No dogs.



KOMFORT APARTEMENTS ZIRBENLAND****

Pfandl Family

Fisching 9, 8741 Weißkirchen

+43 3577 82284

office@zirbenland.st

www.zirbenland.st

No kids. No dogs.

50plus campsite

Welcome to Austria's only campsite exclusively for the over-50s. Situated in the wide valley of the Murtal, our campsite is surrounded by mountains and specialises in relaxing camping holidays for adults without dogs. It's the perfect place to take it easy, lie in and enjoy our large, well-equipped comfort pitches. Relax by the organic swimming pool, take a stroll through the park or sample the daily regional produce in our restaurant. You can also hike or bike your way through our beautiful Zirbenland (Pine Country).



50PLUS CAMPINGPARK FISCHING****

Pfandl Family

Fisching 9, 8741 Weißkirchen

+43 3577 82284

info@camping50plus.at

www.camping50plus.at

Great food & accommodation

Gasthof Grillitsch-Rösslwirt

The Gasthof Grillitsch-Rösslwirt inn is located right in the centre of Obdach and is the place to meet. Our inviting garden on the main square and our rustic lounges are the perfect place to enjoy something to eat and drink. As well as seasonal specialities, we offer a wide range of regional delicacies, including the Zirbenland Schnitzel. Our bowling alley is a great place to relax and have a laugh. If you want to stay longer, we offer comfortable accommodation in our country inn rooms.



GASTHOF GRILLITSCH-RÖSSLWIRT

Grillitsch Family

Hauptstraße 39

8742 Obdach

+43 3578 2225

info@roesselwirt.at

Holidays on an Alpine farm

Rami Apartments



FERIENWOHNUNGEN RAMI – KALTENEGER FAMILY

St. Georgen 9

8742 Obdach

+43 3578 2402

fam.rami@aon.at

www.urlaubambauernhof.at/rami

A place to relax

Gasthof Landhotel Hubmann



GASTHOF LANDHOTEL HUBMANN

Meranstrasse 9

8734 Lobmingtal (Kleinlobming)

+43 3516 2238

info@gasthof-hubmann.at

www.gasthof-hubmann.at



An isle of peace and relaxation

Camping Murinsel

Camping Murinsel is a large campsite and is the right choice for those who want to spend a relaxing holiday in an exclusive, peaceful atmosphere. The site features a wealth of old plants and trees, as well as a 1.5 hectare natural pond with drinking water quality, making it a great place to relax.

There is a lovingly designed self-catering house with lounge, an inn on the square and a little children's playground. Dogs are also welcome (dog bathing area, lawn for dog-walking and dog shower).



CAMPING MURINSEL

5 hectares with just 100 pitches

Teichweg 1, 8734 Großlobming

+43 664 304 50 45

office@camping-murinsel.at

www.camping-murinsel.at

Camping in the Murtal region

Camping BLAU

Personal support and contact person on site. Electricity, showers and barrier-free WC. Sanitary facilities are cleaned continuously. Camping toilet emptying and water-refilling available on site. Help in every situation – fantastic service! Peaceful location, just 5 minutes' walk from the Red Bull Ring. Cycle paths in the immediate vicinity. Barbecue area available. Motorcyclists welcome. Dogs permitted. Good restaurants nearby. Guests welcome from early April to late October!



CAMPING BLAU, RED BULL RING

Peter Freitag and co-owners

Flatschach 49, 8724 Spielberg

+43 3577 23290 / +43 680 200 31 90

peter.petek.freitag@gmail.com

campingplatz-freitag.business.site

Feel-good holidays guaranteed

Hotel Hubertushof



Being at the Hotel Hubertushof means feeling at home. Our traditional hotel is just as diverse as the Murtal region.

Close to the Red Bull Ring at Spielberg. Located right in the centre of the town of Zeltweg, our hotel has 28 rooms, 5 of which are new stone pine rooms. Our double rooms are equipped with grand lits beds, in some rooms the beds can be separated. All our rooms are cosy and tastefully furnished and offer every comfort. Love, care and attention to detail have gone into the harmonious style. Sissi and Michael Ranzmaier & Team welcome you and hope that you feel at home! Visit the Hubertushof for a perfect stay in the Murtal region!

HOTEL RESTAURANT CAFÉ CATERING HUBERTUSHOF

Hotel with 28 comfortable rooms

Bahnhofstraße 81, 8740 Zeltweg

+43 3577 22315

empfang@hotelhubertushof.at

www.hotelhubertushof.at



Experience a warm welcome at the

Restaurant Hubertushof



As a member of the “Genusswirt”, “Kulinarium Steiermark” and “Gute steirische Küche” associations, we place great emphasis on serving regional food. Our dishes have an Austrian haute cuisine character combined with international influences. Enjoy delicious drinks, fine wines and special treats in the relaxed atmosphere and wonderful ambience of our traditional hotel. Social life is also very important – our team will invite you to a wealth of events and musical performances. Our garden is a green oasis in the centre of the town. In addition to catering for every occasion, we offer meals on wheels as well as a pick-up and delivery service for food and drinks.

HOTEL RESTAURANT CAFÉ CATERING HUBERTUSHOF

Pick-up and delivery service for food and beverages

Bahnhofstraße 81, 8740 Zeltweg

+43 3577 22315

empfang@hotelhubertushof.at

www.hotelhubertushof.at



A four-star hotel in the Murtal region

****MT Hotel

Welcome to the 4-star MT Hotel in the beautiful town of Zeltweg. Enjoy the friendly, modern ambience of a design hotel with 43 top equipped double rooms, 2 suites and a view of the Zirbitzkogel mountain. Relax in our sauna or with a drink at our Panorama Bar. Enjoy 4-star service at our hotel and take advantage of our partner company M-Rast's 24-hour Spar supermarket and fantastic restaurant right next door. We look forward to your next visit to the heart of the beautiful Murtal region.



MT HOTEL GMBH

43 double rooms and 2 suites
Hauptstraße 235, 8740 Zeltweg
+43 3577 22222
office@mt-hotel.at
www.mt-hotel.at

Relax & enjoy top-quality food

Gasthof Wachter/Lasser



"GENUSSWIRT" & "GUTE STEIRISCHE GASTSTÄTTE"

13 double rooms and Wellness complex
Gaalgraben 27, 8731 Gaal
+43 3513 222
auszeit@gasthofwachter.at
www.gasthofwachter.at

Skiing & hiking

JUFA Hotel*** Seckau/Spielberg



JUFA-HOTEL AND WIRTSCHAUS RESTAURANT

Stay for one night and ski for free
Seckau 2, 8732 Seckau
+43 57083 270 / +43 664 807 832 70
seckau@jufa.eu
www.jufahotels.com/seckau



Tiny house & panoramic terrace Relaxing in the heart of Murtal

Haus Alma



HAUS ALMA - WITH IN-HOUSE SAUNA

Kniepassweg 5
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Family holidays from € 33 per person per night
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office@abdallareisen.at
www.abdallareisen.at

Feel-good apartments

Das Alte Zinshaus



DAS ALTE ZINSHAUS

Brigitte Ebner
Seckauer Straße 16, 8720 Knittelfeld
+43 664 780 54 96
info@das-alte-zinshaus.at
www.das-alte-zinshaus.at

Hiking in the Murtal region

Hotel am Kapuzinerplatz



HOTEL AM KAPUZINERPLATZ

Herrengasse 23
8720 Knittelfeld
+43 3512 44266
hotel@kapuzinerplatz.at
www.kapuzinerplatz.at

For all-round excellence

Sandhof Bed & Breakfast



FRÜHSTÜCKSPENSION SANDHOF

Sandgasse 42
8720 Knittelfeld
+43 664 555 81 19
office@pension-sandhof.at
www.pension-sandhof.at

Action meets relaxation

G'Schlössl Murtal

Relax in one of our 25 stylishly furnished rooms, suites and maisonettes or the large wellness complex. Let our chef treat you to regional delicacies in the restaurant. You can even watch the chefs preparing the food up close in our special Chef's Table experience (max. 8 people). You'll find the perfect place for you to relax, whether you prefer the sun terrace or in one of the cosy parlours.



HOTEL G'SCHLÖSSL MURTAL

25 rooms / suites, restaurant, wellness complex
Murhof 1, 8734 Groblobming
+43 3512 46904
gschloessl.murtal@projekt-spielberg.com
www.gschloessl-murtal.at



An extraordinary castle hotel

Schloss Gabelhofen



This castle is an architectural masterpiece: Mysterious nooks and crannies, yet bright and spacious. Like each of its 43 rooms and suites, the hotel is unique; antiques and fine fabrics make each room a place of aristocratic comfort. The furnishings of the castle convey the feeling to be a guest of a royal family. The castle restaurant serves excellent cuisine and is highly recommended by all those who enjoy fine food.

HOTEL SCHLOSS GABELHOFEN

Hotel with 43 rooms & suites, restaurant
Schloßgasse 54, 8753 Fohnsdorf
+43 3573 5555 0
gabelhofen@projekt-spielberg.com
www.gabelhofen.at

A hotel with Art Nouveau charm

Steirerschlössl

You can feel the timeless elegance of this hotel the moment you step through the door. And it continues in every room. The 11 exquisite suites are between 25 and 110 m² and are furnished with marble bathrooms, the latest technology and attention to detail. The restaurant is one of the best in the country and has received several awards. The kitchen serves delicious regional dishes with international influences. Of course, only fresh, regionally sourced ingredients are used.



HOTEL STEIRERSCHLÖSSL

Hotel with 11 suites and restaurant
Hauptstraße 100, 8740 Zeltweg
+43 3577 22601
steirerschloessl@projekt-spielberg.com
www.hotel-steirerschloessl.at



Great hospitality, fantastic views

Landhotel Schönberghof

The Landhotel Schönberghof is situated on a hill in Spielberg directly above the Red Bull Ring. Each room offers a wonderful view over the valley and the race track, where the cars keep going, even if there's no big international racing event on. The 17 double rooms are modern, functional and furnished for a friendly atmosphere. It's also the perfect place for foodies: The restaurant offers Styrian delicacies in a unique atmosphere as well as a fantastic view.



LANDHOTEL SCHÖNBERGHOF

Hotel with 17 double rooms and restaurant

Höhenstraße 1, 8724 Spielberg

+43 3577 22630

schoenberghof@projekt-spielberg.com

www.landhotel-schoenberghof.at

Styrian hospitality since 1603

Hofwirt Seckau

Hospitality has a long tradition at the Hotel Hofwirt: This listed baroque building is located next to Seckau Abbey and has been run as a restaurant since 1603. The 7 elegant suites impress with a blend of tasteful interiors, state-of-the-art technology and traditional baroque charm with historic stucco ceilings. Treat yourself to excellent, home-style cooking: Our chefs cover a range from delicious local Styrian classics to innovative delicacies.



HOTEL HOFWIRT

Hotel with 7 suites and restaurant

Seckau 3, 8732 Seckau

+43 3514 54290

hofwirt@projekt-spielberg.com

www.hotel-hofwirt.at

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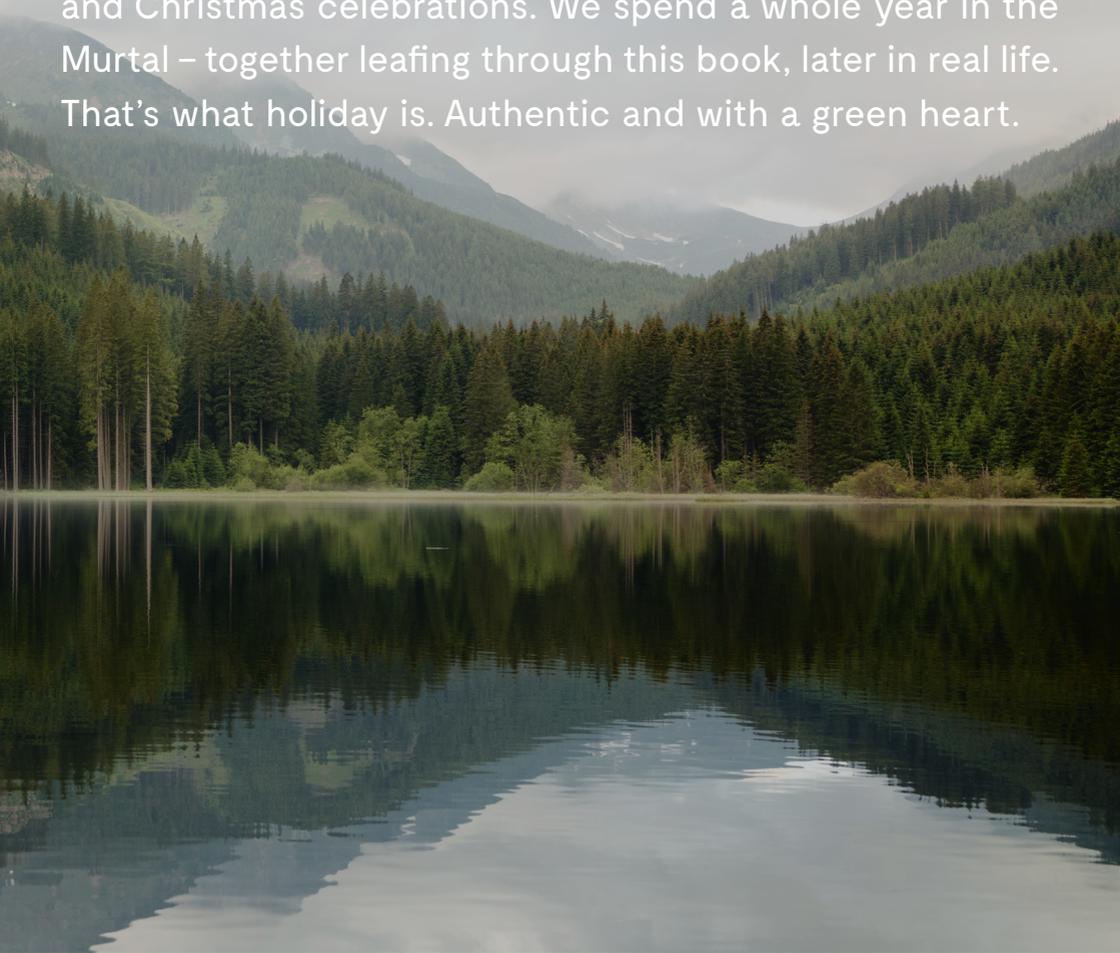
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Step by step. Season by season. Spot for spot, we discover the Murtal. With beating hearts in warm chests. We ask the locals about their “Magic Places”, hunt for heather, go cycling, visit the Knittelfeld Railway Museum, go full speed at the Red Bull Ring, shake the “herb man’s” hand, hike up the Zirbitzkogel mountain and visit the seven “heavenly places”. We knock on the doors of a smith, a barrel-maker and an alpaca owner. We investigate snowshoeing, skiing and Christmas celebrations. We spend a whole year in the Murtal – together leafing through this book, later in real life. That’s what holiday is. Authentic and with a green heart.



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