



Hall-Wattens.at

# FROM HALL TO WATTENS ...

A CULTURAL JOURNEY  
THROUGH THE REGION





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# WELCOME TO OUR REGION!

**T**ake the time to sit, look and listen. Fascinating moments await you behind the medieval walls of Hall and at the modern installations of Swarovski's Crystal Worlds.

The Old Town of Hall is one of the world's largest preserved ensembles of historical buildings – and yet it is a far cry from a museum. The town is full of life and offers fantastic shops and stylish eateries against a historical backdrop.

The region of Hall-Wattens

holds out sights, relaxation and sports in an unforgettable natural setting. The romantic 'Halltal' valley, 'Thaurer Alm' alpine hut and splendid views, the Gnadewald panoramic mountain road and a hiking haven in 'Wattental' valley – these are just a few of the places where you can unwind, see, discover – and wonder, for there will always be a mountain stream with deliciously fresh water nearby. We're glad to have you here and wish you a relaxing and adventurous stay!





# HALL IN TIROL

Wheels clatter on cobblestones, heavy doors creak on their hinges, bells ring in church towers and neighbours chat from window to window across narrow lanes.

**T**he same sounds were heard back in 1303 when Duke Otto granted the town charter to Hall ('hal' was the old German word for salt), demonstrating the importance of the town, for it was here that salt was turned into gold.

The lords and princes of this era resided in the castle in 'Taurane'. Today, the place is called Thaur and was first mentioned in documents in 827. Finds from the early Bronze Age prove that it was a settlement as early as 1000 BC. In the mid-13th century, the castle underwent extensive remodelling to become the largest castle complex in the Inn valley. All in all, 10 million tons of salt

were mined in the Hall valley – so it seemed only right and fitting that Hall's coat of arms featured a keg of salt. Later on, Emperor Maximilian I added the finishing touches with two golden lions wearing crowns against a red background.

The salt was transported along the river Inn, making Hall the hub of medieval trade in early Europe. Ships could go no farther than Hall, and the 'stacking law' forced merchants to unload their goods and offer them for sale in the town. This again produced good incomes, but burghers also had to deal with currencies from near and far, which must have caused many an argument!

# POWER AND MONEY

Archduke Sigismund, also known by the name of ‘Sigismund the Rich’, had the royal mint moved from Merano, South Tyrol to Hall in 1477.

**H**is decision to have the first thaler – the Hall gulden – minted in 1486 was a real stroke of genius. The precious silver coin not only gave the dollar its name but was also the precursor of the euro. By introducing the coin, Sigismund no longer depended on the expensive import of gold. The silver mined in Schwaz was used to make the coins which were in great demand well beyond the borders of the province.

This naturally led to an economic upswing in the town of Hall and throughout the province of Tyrol. What’s more, the coins bearing the princes’ names and portraits travelled the world, promoting the public image of the rulers – long before the advent of the tabloid

press. The coins had great propaganda potential.

To improve security, Archduke Ferdinand II had the mint moved from the Old Town in Hall to fortified Hasegg Castle on the southern edge of the town in 1567. The Mint Tower, the highest tower in the castle which could be seen from afar, became a symbol of power and riches – not only of the town of Hall but also of the province of Tyrol. Hall’s Old Town is the largest in western Austria, and every nook and cranny brings back memories of this glorious age. The ‘Münze Hall’ mint museum has been recently restructured to give visitors an interesting insight into the minting history of Hall.





# THE CHURCH AND THE ARTS

Hall had some 3,000 inhabitants in the year 1400.

**T**he people were deeply religious and the coffers were full so many churches were built. Master builders, craftsmen and artists created unique works in Hall and its environs, and numerous churches, chapels and monasteries can still be admired today.

Hall's parish church, which was consecrated to Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors, was enlarged and remodelled twice. A terrible earthquake struck in 1670



causing the tower to tumble – and with it the night watchman. The tower was replaced by a Baroque onion dome, and the interior of the church was later given a Baroque slant. You will find the Waldauf Chapel, consecrated in 1505, in the northern aisle. Sir Florian Waldauf was a Tyrolean knight who served Emperor Maximilian I. When his ship was saved from a storm he decided to give the enormous collection of relics he had gathered on his travels to the Parish Church. A small part has been preserved to date.







1

Town Hall



2

St. Nicholas Parish Church



3

St. Magdalen's Chapel



4

Salt Mining Museum



5

Sacred Heart Convent



6

Jesuit Church



7

Hasegg Castle



8

Hall Mint – Mint Tower



9

St. Salvator Church





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## 1 TOWN HALL

The short-term King of Bohemia, Count Heinrich von Görz-Tirol (1295-1335), called his 'town castle' the 'Royal Palace'. Habsburg Duke Leopold IV gave the building to the town in 1406. Since then it has been used as the Town Hall. The great fire of 1447 caused great destruction and the town hall had to be rebuilt. The wonderful beams in the Council Chamber (1451) date back to this period. Today, the room is not only used for meetings of the municipal council but is also a popular setting for weddings.



## 2 ST. NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH

First consecrated in 1281, the church has grown with the town. It has been enlarged twice and was completed as a late-Gothic hall church in 1430. The original pointed Gothic tower (1345) collapsed when an earthquake struck in 1670. It was later replaced by a Baroque onion dome. The Waldauf Chapel is a special feature of the church. It accommodates the comprehensive collection of relics gathered by Sir Florian Waldauf. The Waldauf Madonna, which adorns the altar of the charming chapel, stems from Michael Pacher's school.



## 3 ST. MAGDALEN'S CHAPEL

The double chapel was first mentioned in documents in 1330. The lower late-Gothic floor now houses a shop; the upper floor which is decorated with frescoes is used as a War Memorial Chapel. You must not miss the late-Gothic





winged altar (second half of the 15th century) and frescoes from three centuries (1410-1610).

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## 4 SALT MINING MUSEUM

**Galleries, shafts, drilling machines, chutes** – a miniature salt mine in the middle of town. The museum shows you what life must have been like in the Hall valley mine which was shut down years ago. Open all year, Mon, Tue, Thu and Sat 11.30 am, at any time if requested.

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## 5 SACRED HEART CONVENT AT STIFTSPLATZ SQUARE – HOME FOR GENTLEWOMEN

**Archduke Ferdinand II's sister Archduchess Magdalena, her sisters and other noblewomen moved into the newly founded convent in 1569.**

The architectural ensemble built by Giovanni Lucchese was given a grand stucco finish in 1611 and 1691. The Emperor had the convent dissolved in 1783 and a major part of the splendid art collection was destroyed. The former home for gentlewomen was reopened in 1912 and has been used as a convent ever since.

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## 6 JESUIT CHURCH

**A Jesuit College was established in 1571 to give spiritual support to the gentlewomen in the convent.**

The Jesuit Order also ran a grammar school from 1573. The monastery underwent comprehensive renovation from 1671 to 1684. The two churches on Stiftsplatz square are the only ecclesiastical buildings of the late-Renaissance in the Tyrol. The church, consecrated in 1610 (stucco dates back to 1653), was given a Baroque facelift in the late 17th century. The monastery was dissolved in 1773. Today, the extensive architectural ensemble, which has one of the most beautiful Baroque courtyards in the Tyrol, houses the district court.

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## 7 HASEGG CASTLE

**The castle was first mentioned in documents in the 13th century**



**VOUCHER**  
50% discount on all  
regularly scheduled  
tours



and was built to protect the salt mines, ships and bridge over the river Inn and to guard the old salt route.

The castle was located at the 'Egg' (old German for corner) of the boiling pan houses ('Pfannhaus' or 'Has'), in which brine was evaporated – hence its name 'Hasegg'. The castle was turned into a royal residence in the 15th century. Archduke Ferdinand II had the mint moved here in 1567. The famous St. George's Chapel and ceremonial halls are not open to the public but can be rented for weddings or special events.

## 8 HALL MINT – MINT TOWER

**Hall Mint achieved world fame after it was moved to the castle, but it was shut down in 1809 during the Bavarian occupation.**

It was not until 1975 that coins were minted again and the Castle was opened to visitors. Over the last few years, intensive research has been conducted and the exhibition area has been modernised and enlarged to produce an exciting museum experience.

In 2003 the Mint Museum was transformed into a hands-on interactive exhibition, giving you





a fascinating insight into the history of coins and minting. Audio guides in seven languages tell the history of the Mint and reveal interesting secrets of the past. You will not only see impressive machinery, but will also hear exciting tales of forgery. Your climb up the Mint Tower will be rewarded by a fantastic view of the town and the mountains. But that's not all. The displays in the town archives tell you tales of crystals, kestrels and everyday life in the Middle Ages and also present the largest silver coin in the world – the 'Europataler'. The museum is open Tue-Sun

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from April to October; and Tue-Sat from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from November to March.

Last admission at 4 p.m. From the 3rd week of January till the 2nd week of March it is only opened for groups. Group visits must be reserved in advance.

## 9 ST. SALVATOR CHURCH

**A priest was giving the last Sacrament to a dying man when the wooden floor collapsed beneath him.**

This prompted Hans Kripp to have a church built on the spot he was standing. The church was erected from 1400 to 1406.

The square nave has two special features: the builder's coat of arms and a representation of 'Christ standing in judgement over the world on judgement day' (1406). The steeple was re-Gothicised and the church interior remodelled after a fire in 1871.





# STREET NAMES

Street names often tell you a great deal about the history of a place. When strolling through the old lanes of Hall you will come across some very strange names. The list below might solve a mystery or two.

- **AGRAMGASSE:** Farmer's products were sold in this lane (agrumen is Latin for vegetables).
- **ARBESGASSE:** 'Arbes' was the old word for 'Erbsen' (German for peas) which shows that vegetables were offered for sale here.
- **EUGENSTRASSE:** Named after Archduke Eugen who visited Hall in 1900 in his capacity as commander of the Tyrol. It was previously called 'Badgasse' because of the baths in the street.
- **FASSERGASSE:** Many 'Fassbinder' (barrel makers) lived here because the salt was packed in barrels for sale.
- **FÜRSTENGASSE:** 'Fürst' is German for prince so the name refers to the location of the royal residence. The

street was previously called 'Schmalzwägersgasse'. 'Schmalzwaage' is German for lard scales and this is where the salt store workers were issued their ration of lard.

→ **FUXMAGENGASSE:** Mr. Fuxmagen was a citizen of Hall who gained royal recognition for his great deeds.

→ **GUARINONIGASSE:** Pays tribute to a famous local doctor by the name of Hippolyt Guarinoni.

→ **KRIPPGASSE:** The name refers to the Kripp family who were town councillors.

→ **MUSTERGASSE:** Soldiers had to 'pass muster' in this lane.

→ **MÜNZERGASSE:** 'Münzer' means mint, and the name of this lane goes back to 1567 when the mint was moved from Sparberg Residence to Hasegg Castle.

→ **PFANNHAUSSTRASSE:** 'Pfannhaus' is German for boiling pan house and this is where brine was evaporated to make salt.

→ **SALVATORGASSE:** This lane was originally called 'Marktgasse' because a market was located here from the mid-13th century. Its name was changed to 'Salvatorgasse' in 1890 when a fire broke out in St. Salvator Church.

→ **SCHERGENTORGASSE:** Henchman's Gate was the name of the gate through which prisoners were led on their way to execution.

→ **SCHLOSSERGASSE** and **Schmiedgasse:** These two lanes are named after old guilds. 'Schlosser' are locksmiths and 'Schmid' are blacksmiths.

→ **SCHOPPERWEG:** 'Schopper' was the German name for shipwrights who repaired boats and ships and made them watertight.

→ **WALDAUFSTRASSE:** This name goes back to Sir Florian Waldauf von Waldenstein, confidant and advisor to Emperor Maximilian I. Waldauf established the Waldauf Foundation which is still known today. The Foundation paid for the post of preacher which was the second-best paid position in the Empire.

→ **WALLPACHGASSE:** It was originally called Salt or Brine Lane because this is where the brine pipe from the Hall valley went through the Old Town. It was changed to 'Wallpachgasse' at the end of the 16th century to celebrate one of the families who had their town house in the lane.







# ABSAM

Absam, a picturesque Tyrolean village at the foot of the Karwendel mountains, is characterised by folk culture, violin making and religious tradition.

**T**he House of the Apparition – where in 1797, 18-year-old Rosina Bucher saw a vision of the Virgin Mary in a window pane which could not

be washed away – and the Pilgrimage Church, which was elevated to a Basilica in 2000, are the spiritual heart of the well-known place of pilgrimage.



Pilgrimage Church - Basilika



House of the Apparition

Anyone who treads St. James' Path on their way through the Tyrol will also pass through this idyllic municipality. But Absam does not only attract pilgrims from near and far.

The famous violin maker **Jakob Stainer** (1617-1683) lived and worked in this village. The Municipal Museum presents his life and craftsmanship in careful detail – so Absam will also appeal to violin lovers.

Needless to say, the people of Absam like to have fun, too – especially at carnival time. The **Absam 'Matschgerer'**, colourful figures wearing traditional masks, take to the streets at Shrovetide. Everyone's invited to join in the grand procession which takes places every four years. But you can also see them perform in the village square or in guesthouses in the years in between.

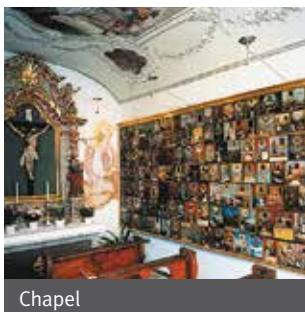
If you would like to find out more about the history of Absam's Shrovetide customs and the wonderful figures such as 'Spiegeltuxer' and 'Zottler', you'll feel at home at the **Matschgerer Museum**.

Last but not least, Absam is also the place for **sports enthusiasts** and **nature lovers**. Both the romantic **Hall valley** and the **Karwendel nature reserve** hold out a multitude of tours of discovery. **The Karwendel Alpine Park** nature reserve is unique in that it offers 920 sq. km (355 sq. miles) of untouched nature.

Hikers and ramblers will be pleased to know that the nature reserve is part of the **Eagle Trail** ('Adlerweg') – a footpath that takes you right through the Tyrol.



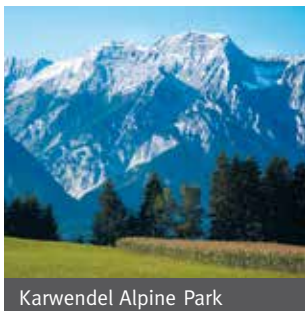
Building a violine



Chapel



Figures of Absam's Shrovetide



Karwendel Alpine Park



# BAUMKIRCHEN

People felt attracted to the sunny location of Baumkirchen, a small village on a little hill above the Inn valley, as early as the Bronze Age.

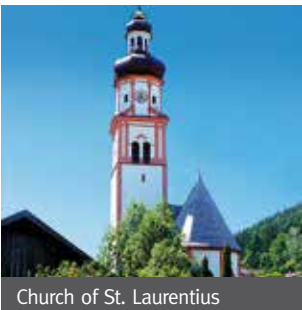
People felt attracted to the sunny location of Baumkirchen, a small village on a little hill above the Inn valley, as early as the **Bronze Age**.

The location is something else even today. **Numerous rambling and hiking tours** start on your very doorstep, not to forget the marvellous views of the entire Inn

valley that you get from a multitude of vantage points.

Baumkirchen was a popular spa in the 16th century. Unfortunately, its 12 springs were destroyed by an earthquake.

But the lush meadows and fairytale forests around the village are just perfect for relaxing on long walks or for simply taking in the beauty of nature.



Church of St. Laurentius



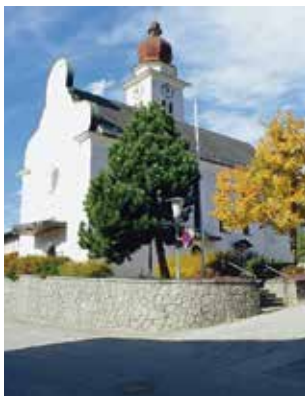
# FRITZENS



Gourmets from near and far are well familiar with the small and charming village of Fritzens.

The top-quality **schnapps** and **brandies** of hand-selected fruit made by Rochelt, a company based in Fritzens, are a must for every award-winning restaurant. Fritzens is also the seat of other distilleries such as that of Zalesky or Zimmermann that offer guided tours for schnapps fans. The village is renowned for its beautiful flower displays, but it is not just a pretty face! Fritzens has a history which goes back to **La Tène times**. Fragments of pottery found in Fritzens ('Fritzner Keramik') played an important part in unravelling the mysteries of Tyrol's early history.

Whatever you do, you must not miss the **Parish Church**, where priceless carvings and portrayals of John the Baptist, the patron saint of the church, provide the right ambience for worship and thought. The rolling hills around Fritzens will appeal particularly to families, for they are the ideal starting-point for **wonderful trips** and **hikes** in the mountains.



# GNADENWALD



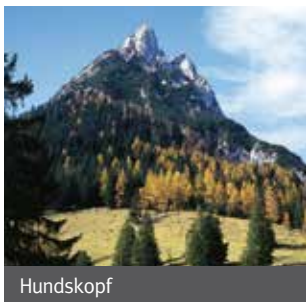
The small hamlet of Gnadental, at the foot of the Karwendel nature reserve, is famed for its beautiful landscape and multitude of sports opportunities.

The Karwendel Alpine Park not only attracts ramblers and hikers, but also mountain bikers who are keen to explore the largest nature reserve in the Tyrol. Hikers can look forward to well-known natural monuments such as **‘Grosser and Kleiner Ahornboden’** (closed forests of sycamore maples) and **‘Laliderer Wände’** (series of virtually vertical rock faces), to mention but a few. Gnadental is simply an ideal starting-point

for tours of this unique natural landscape.

By the way, the eagles of the Karwendel mountains got some competition in 2000 when the village hosted the European Hang Gliding Championships! And if you’re interested in flying yourself, you can take to the skies with paragliding and hang gliding courses in Gnadental. Talking about eagles, Tyrol’s new **Eagle Trail** (‘Adlerweg’) leads through Gnadental – as does **St. James’ Path**.

Winter sports enthusiasts will also get their money’s worth in this cosy Tyrolean village. Cross-country fans can ski to their hearts’ delight on 27 km (16.7 miles) of track, and young ski stars will feel very much at home on the practice slopes (with ski lift), at the ski school or ski kindergarten. The winter fun is rounded off by a really family-friendly toboggan run. But it’s



Hundskopf



Walderalm



not just the great outdoors that makes holidaying in Gnadewald something special. Clubs and societies make sure that the whole year is full of exciting events. A special tip is the Barrel Stave Race held by the Ski Club to celebrate the end of winter. Competitors have to ski down the slope on the staves of old barrels – sounds like great fun!



Saint Martin Convent

# MILS

Life is more peaceful in Mils, not far from the lively town of Hall.



This very pleasant municipality looks back on quite an eventful history though. Impressive finds show that people lived in Mils as early as the **Roman times**. The village was an important hub in the early Middle Ages because only one road led to the lower Inn valley and that went through Mils. In the 16th century, the village experienced an enormous economic upswing thanks to mining. Many miners settled in the village and they even had a

chapel built in honour of Saint Anna their patron saint. The chapel boasts a beautiful, life-size portrayal of 'Christ on the Mount of Olives' dating back to the Gothic period.

Today, Mils is just the **right place for relaxation**. A great number of hiking, rambling and biking paths await sports buffs. Music lovers will be pleased to know that one of the best known Tyrolean vocal ensembles, the **Oswald Milser choir**, is based here.



Mils Parish Church



Saint Anna Chapel



# THAUR

Thaur is a traditional Tyrolean village at the foot of the Nordkette mountains, where farming still plays an important economic role.

**C**rib carvers, upholders of authentic Tyrolean Shrovetide culture, vegetable farmers and dedicated amateur actors make this village a lively centre of culture and trade throughout the year. Some say the soil is so fertile and the harvests so good because of the Shrovetide ‘**Mullers**’ who hold magnificent carnival processions every four years. Whatever you may think, everyone in the Tyrol looks forward to the fresh, crisp and crunchy vegetables grown by local farmers every summer. It’s not surprising that the region is called **Tyrol’s largest vegetable garden**, and the people of Thaur take pride in the award they received for their ‘top-quality North Tyrolean vegetables’.

It is not only the wooden masks of the Shrovetide figures that bear testimony to the village’s great carving tradition. **Thaur’s crib carvers** are famed beyond the borders of the Tyrol. Thaur also upholds a very special Easter



„Thaurer Schlossspiele“

tradition. The village’s **Palm Procession** on Palm Sunday is one of the most beautiful processions in the entire province.

If you’re a culture vulture, you’ll be pleased to know that Thaur has plenty in store for you, too. There are the **Thaur castle ruins**, the symbol of the municipality, **St. Ulrich Church**, the oldest preserved church in the Tyrol, and **St. Romedius Chapel**, which is located in a beautiful setting. In summer, the castle serves as an impressive backdrop to open-air drama performances.





# TULFES

This pretty village is simply enchanting. It has preserved its rural character to this day and basks in the sun on an inviting plateau above the Inn valley.

Summer hikes of varying difficulties and a multitude of ski touring routes in winter make Tulfes an outdoor recreation paradise – which is much appreciated throughout the province. If you ask a Tyrolean what makes Tulfes so special, he will most certainly say the ‘**Glungezer**’. The Glungezer is not only dear to the locals who have the mountain in their backyards, but to everyone living in the Tyrol. Which is not surprising, because it boasts the greatest panoramic vistas of the

province, including breathtaking views of the Karwendel mountains opposite and far-reaching views of the Inn valley.

One special highlight: ‘The **Kugelwald am Glungezer**’ mountain adventure park. As well as boasting the world's longest wooden ball run, there are plenty of other sports and games stations here.

The ‘**Zirbenweg**’ stone pine trail is a particularly rewarding attraction for nature lovers. This easy-to-walk circular path leads through one of the largest and oldest stone pine forests in Europe and gives both young and old an ideal opportunity to discover the beauty of nature. Mount Glungezer is not only a haven for sports fans in summer. Skiers, tobogganners and ski tourers are enthusiastic about the mountain which has something for everyone. While in Tulfes, you simply must ride a ‘**Klumper**’ – a toboggan with a single runner. This fun sport can only be found in Tulfes.



The ‘Zirbenweg’ stone pine trail

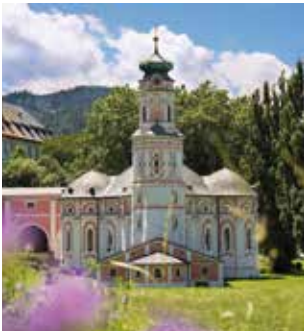


# VOLDERS

Volders is a ‘microcosm’ of culture and nature.

**Y**ou will be impressed by Volders’ first landmark, **St. Charles Church**, which can be seen directly from the motorway. **Friedberg** and **Aschach Castles** also bear witness to the eventful history of the village which dates back to prehistoric times. In addition, the ‘**Himmelreich**’ settlement, where some of the most important finds of Tyrolean history have been made,

gives an insight into village life more than 2,000 years ago. You can explore these and other historical treasures on a 10-km (6-mile) circular footpath. Volders is also an ideal starting-point for mountain climbers, ski tou- rers and toboggan fans in winter. Volderberg attracts families with its well-groomed toboggan runs; and Voldertal valley is a haven for mountain climbers and bikers.



St. Charles Church



Friedberg Castle

# WATTENBERG



The picturesque farmsteads and houses of the idyllic village of Wattenberg are located more than 1,000 m (3,280 ft.) above sea level and have a fantastic view of the Inn valley.

**W**attenberg was originally an Alpine pasture which was turned into a permanent settlement through mining. Up until the 17th century, miners dug for iron and copper in the Wattenberg Mölstal valley. When deposits were exhausted, importance was again attached to farming. Today, this beautiful landscape is still shaped by farmers. And the numerous traditional farmsteads which have been lovingly restored to their original beauty over the past few years make Wattenberg a very special holiday resort. A **great many chapels** invite you to rest and contemplate. There is no church in Wattenberg because the municipality is not an autonomous parish.

It goes without saying that the beautiful landscape is a real at-



Mölssee

traction for hikers and ramblers. Popular long distance footpaths such as the '**Traumpfad**' from Munich to Venice and parts of the **Tyrolean Eagle Trail** ('Adlerweg') lead to the 'Lizumer Hütte' alpine hut. The mountains around the Lizum alpine hut are also a good tip in winter. There are so many routes to choose from – a ski tourist could not want for more!



Lizumer Hütte – alpine hut





# WATTENS

Hardly any other town in Austria has been shaped by a family of entrepreneurs as that of Wattens. If you think of Wattens, you think of Swarovski.

Every year, visitors from all over the world admire the wonders of the **Swarovski Crystal Worlds** created by André Heller which magic you into a unique universe of cut crystal. Cultural events such as ‘Music in the Giant’ and Crystal Workshops for Kids make the Crystal Worlds a vibrant centre of arts and activities.

But that’s not all. Wattens has other attractions, too. The **Museum of Industry and Prehistory** gives you a unique insight into the development of industry in Wattens, shows you Wattens in prehistoric times and explains the urnfield settlement in Volders. The ‘**Himmelreich**’ open-air museum takes visitors back in time to the 5th century BC. And then there’s the **Typewriter**



The Museum of Industry and Prehistory



Typewriter Museum



**Museum**, the only one of its kind in Austria. See the marvellous collection of more than 450 models that stem from a time before the advent of emails and the internet.

If you're biking through the Tyrol, you can't miss Wattens because the popular bicycle path along the river Inn leads directly through the town.

Last but not least, fairytale fans will be pleased to know that a Myths and Legends Festival is held every summer in the mythical fairytale forest of Wattens. Young and old are fascinated by the tales that bring to life much-loved characters

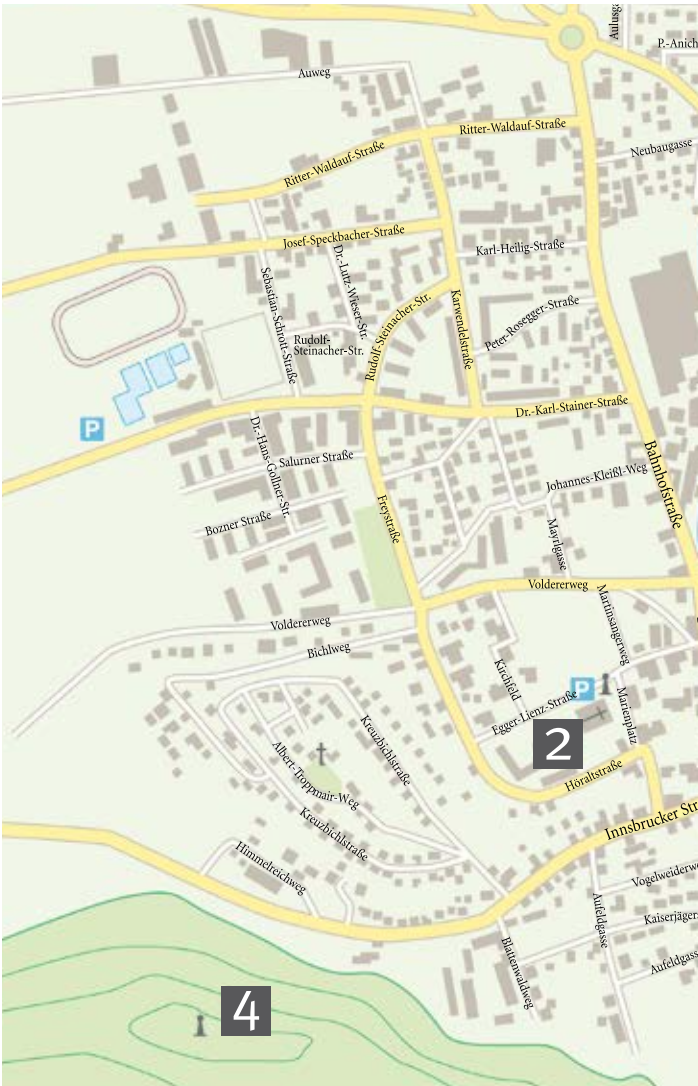


Marienkirche

such as 'Kasermädl', the 'Saligen Fräulein' and many other legendary figures of German-language fairytales.



Swarovski Crystal Worlds





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3



Typewriter Museum

4



‘Himmelreich’ open-air museum – Volders



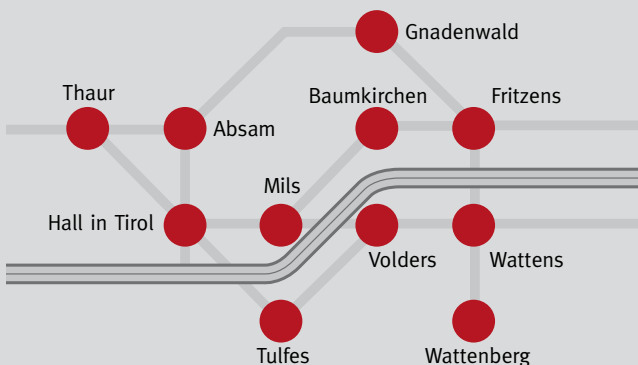
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# ON THE TRAIL OF CULTURE & NATURE

All the towns and villages of the region have had close historical and cultural links for centuries.

**T**oday, they jointly offer you a wide range of sports and recreational activities, interesting arts and cultural events, top-quality restaurants and accommodation.

Contact our information offices in the individual towns and villages if you have any questions or requests. We look forward to your visit and hope you will take the time ... to sit, look and listen.



## TOURISMUSVERBAND REGION HALL-WATTENS

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