The small guide through Feldkirch
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Nothing can be kept from Heinrich.
He has already ambled along every street, he has already dined in every restaurant, he can name the best cakes in all the cafés, he attends every exhibition and Heinrich has danced the night away in all the bars. Heinrich is a good friend. He has compiled the best tips for your stay in Feldkirch in the first part of this booklet. In the second part, he has put together a collection of histories and stories pertaining to Feldkirch's sights. He has left space for your very own histories and memories on the last page of this booklet.

A map of the area on pages 46 and 47 indicates the location of the tips and sights. In this booklet, the tips are identified by means of numbers and the sights are identified by means of letters.

Heinrich has further recommendations at: www.feldkirch.travel

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

A day in Feldkirch
Enjoy your breakfast. Café April ¹ is a great way to start the day. The café has a selection of vegan cakes, amongst other delicacies, and takes ecological aspects into account when choosing its ingredients. The Montforthaus² is the town's centre for culture, in addition, its restaurant offers a wonderful breakfast with tasty, regional organic bread on the top floor, and on the airy terrace during the summer.

Taking in the fresh air. Lovers of animals and fresh forest air are advised to visit the Wildpark³. Numerous indigenous and formerly indigenous species of animals are at home here, on the edge of the Ardetzenberg local recreational forest. A further rewarding outing takes you to the Margarethenkapf⁴, a knoll above Feldkirch. To get there, pass through the historic old town quarter, known as the Heiligkreuz⁵, which enjoys a picturesque location on the river Ill.

Shopping trip. The Cervantes & Co Buch u. Wein⁶ bookshop is home not only to good books but also to Spanish red wines – an excellent combination. Selected specialities from South Tyrol, which are single-handedly packed by the producing mountain and organic farmers and winegrowers, can be found in the Zehnerland⁷. Schmuck und Steine Loacker⁸, on the other hand, is known for the design, production and repair of jewellery made of stone. Mooi Market⁹ offers individual, urban and special fashion, which does not have everyone.
Lunch break. Crêpe creations from around the world – from oriental spicy to alluring creamy – offers the restaurant mund.art. Friends of Thai cooking can really indulge themselves in the Thai Asien Haus. The Pizzeria Ristorante Rossano is well-known for its excellent pizzas, and the magma Köstliches impresses with its culinary diversity as well as its creative and delicious cuisine. The Johanniterhof has good, home-style cooking and a beer garden in Marktgasse.
Coffee break. Café Zanona has been designed entirely in the Viennese coffee-house style. The atmospheric café has its own cake shop and offers lunches. The chocolaterie and patisserie SchokoMus is an insider tip for home-made chocolates, gateaux and bars of chocolate. Gelateria Pinocchio, on the other hand, treats its guests to delicious Italian ice-cream specialities.

In the centre of town, surrounded by nature. The Capuchin monastery holds an island of tranquillity in the middle of the town: the Friedensgarten (the garden of peace). A short hike takes you to the Stadtshrofen, the observation point across Feldkirch.

Craftsmanship, spices, design and music. Musikladen Feldkirch is a must for music experts that appreciate excellent advice and an extensive selection of CDs, DVDs and vinyl. Special souvenirs made by artists from Vorarlberg are available in extrigs Kunst.Hand.Werk. 7Spices offers over 100 homemade spice creations. Spielewelt Feldkirch is a veritable paradise for kids, where they can find high-quality toys. Pretty children’s fashion can be found in Propella. Vintage clothes and spare materials are put together to exclusive unica at Urban Foxxes. In the same premise, Wolff offers self-made fashion that is convenient and comfortable. Beautiful things from the 50ies, 60ies and 70ies are found in the small but nice shop Burkhart.

Experience culture. Schattenburg museum offers visitors an impressive tour of the medieval residence of the Counts of Montfort that have left their mark on the townscape of Feldkirch. Thanks to its former religious function, the Johanniterkirche is a special exhibition venue for national and international contemporary art.
Evenings in Feldkirch. The RIO Kino is an enchanting combination of two cinema auditoria and a pizzeria whose menu contains surprises such as »The Wolf of Wall Street« (with salami, figs, mozzarella, tomato and scamorza) and »Fatal Attraction« (with broccoli, sardines, spicy salametti and gorgonzola). Dogana also enjoys the historic ambience of the old town. The family-run business combines café, bar and restaurant. Hotel Gutwinski’s restaurant turns traditional dishes refined with ingredients from the region into a modern treat. For that, they were awarded a toque by Gault & Millau.

Nightlife. The Alte Hallenbad – an old swimming pool that has been given a new lease of life as a venue – attracts a young crowd from the whole of Vorarlberg and the surrounding area as part of the annual Poolbar Festival. The Bunt Bar is a further popular meeting point in Feldkirch town, and a paradise for all party animals and aficionado, for dreamers and those who would like to be.

Accommodation. Please visit www.feldkirch.travel for an overview of all accommodations in Feldkirch. If you are still undecided, the team of the tourist office will gladly advise you by telephone or personally in Montforthaus. Sweet dreams until tomorrow!
HEINRICH

A day around Feldkirch
**Breakfast**. Ruetz, Schnell, Schertler and Mangold are the names of the bakeries you can visit for a great start of the day. Then pay a visit to the weekly market, which attracts natives of and visitors to Feldkirch to the centre of town every Tuesday and Saturday. It is awash with regional and seasonal products, including vegetables, meat, fish, cheese, deli produce and flowers. A busy, popular meeting point with a long tradition!

**Experience nature**. The Buddhist monastery, a place of tranquillity, is located on a picturesque knoll. Seminars are also on offer here, such as those on meditation. Equally relaxing is a walk along the river Ill, such as from Reichenfeld park to the historic buildings in the Heiligkreuzviertel.

**Bathing in the summer**. Alte Rüttenen, an artificial lake, and the surrounding small stretches of water are home to many secluded bathing spots. The oldest existing swimming pool in Vorarlberg, the Felsenau, offers a magnificent view of the Walgau and the surrounding mountains. With its different pools and a 70-metre slide, the Waldbad in Gisingen is the perfect place for all water lovers who like a bit of variety.

**A fit way to start the day**. With its three exercise stations, the 600-metre long Gisingen fitness trail goes through the forest. The 400-metre long circuit »Finnenbahn«, on the other hand, has a soft surface which is gentle on the joints and is also illuminated in the evening.

**Ice-skating in the winter**. The Vorarlberghalle is the perfect place for ice-skating during the cold season. You can easily hire the right equipment on site.
**Picnicing.** Pack your picnic blanket and set off for the countryside, which is only a few minutes' walk from the town centre. Choose from Reichenfeld park 46, the banks of the river Ill or, if you have more time, the fields and meadows around the Buddhist monastery 39 on the Letze. For a perfect finish of a delicious picnic we recommend fresh fruits from Flugobst 46.

**Enjoyment.** The castle ruin of Tostner Burg 47 – in the Tosters part of town – entails romantic, dilapidated ruins in the middle of the countryside. Beneath the castle ruin is St. Corneli. There stands one of the oldest trees in Austria, a thousand-year old yew tree. Right next to it, the brothers Alexander and Mario Längle run the restaurant Gasthof Eibe 48. Each Wednesday, they offer a dish from their grandmother Dora from “anno dazumal” (from olden days) in addition to the regular menu.
Three-country cycle path. This cycle path, 30 km in length, takes the cyclist through the beautiful countryside of three countries – Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. It is well marked, and reliably ensures your return to the lovely Feldkirch.

Climbing. Close to the town centre you can find the climbing garden next to the river Ill. It is a paradise for beginners and advanced climbers alike and, thanks to the favourable direction of its wall, it can also be visited on sunny winter days. Bouldering is also on offer.

Nature reserve. Bangs-Matschels nature reserve is a biotope for rare plants and animals, home to expansive bedding meadows and the largest forest area on the valley floor of the Rhine Valley.

Ice age. Eismanufaktur Kolibri, located in the village centre of Novale in Nofels, still makes its delicacies by hand. It produces creative ice-cream flavours, using natural ingredients and regional products. The shop is stylish and offers all types of frozen delicacies. In the town centre at Busplatz is another store of this ice cream shop.
In the evening. Return to the town centre in the evening. Vinothek Bengodi serves delicious wine, antipasti and good coffee. The beer lover goes to the Wirtschaft zum Schützenhaus and enjoys traditional, trendy and regional dishes there. Café Hecht is an institution amongst the inhabitants.

Culture. The Theater am Saumarkt has a wide repertoire covering many genres, from music to drama through to jazz, cabaret and cinema.

Night time. The nightlife in Feldkirch is varied and lively, and has a couple of unexpected treasures up its sleeve. Such as the Stone Club, which is only 28 square metres in size and enjoys a high cult factor amongst the inhabitants of Feldkirch. And the Rauch Club, a classic club featuring electronic music, refuses mainstream and is well-known for its really great parties.
News. All exhibitions and events are featured in the calendar of events (available at the tourist office Montforthaus) and on www.feldkirch.travel.

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

Postcards and stamps. Available at the tourist office in Montforthaus, Eggler 58 bookshop and Papierwaren Moosmann 59.

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

Online en route. Suggestions and favourite spots in the region, selected by weather and daytime can be found at jetzt.bodensee-vorarlberg.com.

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

Getting out and about. The service buses operated by the town of Feldkirch get you from A to B quickly and easily. It is only 10 minutes' walk from leaving the train or the station as far as the town centre. The town enjoys first-class connections to the direct vicinity as well as to Innsbruck, Salzburg, Vienna and Zurich. www.vmobil.at, www.oebb.at
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Feldkirch makes history
Ca. 1200. It is in a convenient location that Count Hugo I of Montfort establishes the town with 50 farms.

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

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

1275. Childless Count Rudolf V of Montfort sells the town and castle to the Habsburgs for 30,000 guilders. He remains in office as governor until his death in 1390.

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

1515. »More scholars than Rome«: this quotation is from Kaspar Brusch, a scholar and poet from the 16th century, and refers to the Feldkirch inhabitants. It was at this time that the heyday of humanism commenced with scientists such as Georg Joachim Rheticus, Achilles Pirmin Gasser, Ulrich Ellenbog, Hieronymus Münzer and the Hummelberger brothers.

1565. The Capuchin monastery and church are consecrated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1977. The Vorarlberg State Conservatory is established.

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

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

2018. Feldkirch celebrates 800 years of its town charter.
An »Ecclesia St Petri ad campos« – a church close to the fields – is first mentioned in a document of title. It was around the free-standing »Feldkirch«, today’s Petronilla chapel, that the village of Altenstadt grew: its inhabitants therefore, and quite rightly, boast about living in the heart of the settlement. Over time, however, the centre shifted and, in 1925, Altenstadt was incorporated into the town. Only the spirit of history doesn’t forget, and still tells anyone who pricks up their ears of the faded glory.

PLACES SHROUDED IN LEGEND

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

Marktgasse A and Schmiedgasse B. They are the theme of whole books which bring to life each and every house with its owners and its stories. The bright laughter from Schlossergasse – is it possible that it came from Maria Anna Viktoria Mozart-Pümpel, the illegal daughter of the great musician’s little cousin? And wasn’t that Dr Faust who just disappeared in an archway? Settle down in one of the street cafés, look up at the panorama of time which has turned to stone, and wait until you hear the whispering. Or saunter along underneath the arbours and find the only stucco ceiling amongst the elegant cross vaults.

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

Pornography as a means of protest. Kreuzgasse 10 is the address of Lingg Inn that faces Marktgasse. As a protest against the restrictive spirit of the times, in 1888, the publican of the traditional inn had a colourful illustration bearing naked Bacchus figures applied to the façade. This caused an outcry in the town, and Lingg had to have clothes painted on the chubby-cheeked boys straight away. It was only during restoration works in 1969 that they were once again allowed to bare all. However, several of the figures were kept chastely clothed as a reminder of the 19th century scandal.
Town hall. When the old town hall opened its doors in 1493, it functioned as a trading centre. The grain store was located on the ground floor, and the fabrics hall was located upstairs. Good advice and quality fabrics fell victim to the major fire which engulfed the town in 1697. The building was rebuilt during the baroque period, and was given its breath-taking panelled council chamber. In the entrance area between the town hall and the former hospital, which was incorporated in 1936, a whole-wall painting by Florus Scheel displays old Feldkirch.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Institute of St Josef. Maybe your keen eye has discovered another castle above the Institute of St Joseph – a castle that never gets a mention in any other guide. The building is particularly conspicuous at night, when the pale floodlights light up its walls in the dark. The answer to the mystery is rather dull – as it is a water supply construction built in 1905 in order to safeguard the town’s water supply. Despite this, the historicising tower is impressive; furthermore, it offers you a fantastic view.

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

»The sweetest sound« Pummerin, weighing in at a hefty 8.5 tons and housed in Katzenturm, is the beating heart of the town. Dark and awe-inspiring, Vorarlberg’s greatest bell rings in the legend surrounding its predecessor. In March 1799, Napoleon’s troops arrived in front of the town walls, yet withdrew on Easter Saturday, of all days, in order to deceive the citizens of Feldkirch. All the bells in the town rang out in thanks on this Easter Saturday so loudly that the sound reverberated from the mountains and the rock faces. To the French, however, it sounded like a mighty call for mustering additional forces. As if struck by the thunder of the bells, the enemy fled from the supposed superior power.
Chur Gate. A cup of coffee tastes twice as nice in the shadow of Chur Gate. You look directly up at the only preserved tower-like town gate in the whole of Vorarlberg. Its current form dates back to the town’s new fortification in 1491. In lucid colours, the coat of arms on the tower and the ornamentations on the undersides of the roof tell of earlier prosperity. Next to Chur Gate stood the salt warehouse, demolished in 1905, from where the valuable raw material was transported to Switzerland. The caretaker of the salt warehouse had his living quarters in the gate itself, whereas the gatekeeper lived in a small house located close by. A separate watchman was appointed to each of the other town gates – there was no getting away from this civic duty!

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

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

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

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

**Johanniterchurch**. Hugo I presented the Order of St John with this church in 1218. During the search for the Montforts' graves, the Federal Office for Monuments had archaeological excavations carried out between 1983 and 1995 which, however, turned out to be literally built on sandy ground. Since this time, the church has been a unique art gallery presenting changing exhibitions.

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

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

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

**Letzehof Buddhist monastery**. In 1982, Tibetan monk Geshe Rabten Rinpoche founded a Buddhist monastery and centre of learning on a hill called Letze. A year later, Feldkirch was visited by no less than the Dalai Lama himself. From the white stupa, your view wanders across the mountains, and you can reflect upon your inner being.
MOUNTAINS, PARKS, NATURAL MONUMENTS
After spending so much time in pursuit of pleasures in the town, how about getting out a bit, grabbing a bit of nature while you can? Then you couldn’t have picked a better place than Feldkirch, since the town is surrounded by mountains, each with its very own charm. Steep cliff rifts alternate with gently rolling, wooded hills, English-style horticulture and herds of red deer. Nature preserves and natural monuments invite you to enjoy the work of an architect the likes of which have not been seen before or since.

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

Wildpark. Ibex Felix, the first official inhabitant of Feldkirch animal park, moved in in 1963, and is still its symbol. 140 animals from 22 different species have now made the animal park their home, much to the delight of the many visitors. You can howl with wolves, watch raccoons as they perform their tiresome housework, or be entranced by grazing red deer. A gentle walk around the park will take you about an hour. A snack bar and the free admission are the perfect ingredients for ensuring family fun. It will soon become obvious why the recreation forest on Ardetzenberg has justly earned its name: on 70 plaques, a nature trail provides a great deal of amazing information about the biotope. Just 15 minutes from the animal park, you come across the Sautränke, which got its name from the mild climate which prevailed during the Montfort epoch. Sweet chestnuts were particularly abundant on Ardetzenberg. They were so numerous, however, that the farmers weren’t able to harvest them all – hence, they let their pigs enjoy this exceptional delight, too. Once the animals had had their fill, they were led to the nearby pond so that they could quench their thirst after the feast.

Margarethenkapf. The park complex situated on Margarethenkapf, which rises steeply from the river Ill, can look back on a long history. The castle known under the unpronounceable name of Tschitscher Schlössle, named after the provost of Feldkirch at the time, has been standing proudly there since 1620. This was joined later by a hermitage and a viewing pavilion where gasping hikers are robbed of their very last breath when they get an eyeful of the panorama. However, the place of relaxation needed the help of a real live knight to achieve its splendour. Josef Andreas Ritter zu Tschavoll, twice mayor of Feldkirch, bought the land in 1868 and, in the style of English landscape gardens, created a work of art comprising viewing points, a palm house, pens for small animals, fountains and clusters of rare trees. The estate then spent years in a state of hibernation before it was bought by the town, and reactivation was launched in 2006. The soul comes alive walking along the recently planted boulevard of lime trees and going up the tree-topped »Rädle« pavilion. Thomas Mann wrote about Margarethenkapf in his »Magic Mountain«. »Shortly after the
death of his mother, Leo made the acquaintance of Father Unterpertinger. The 16-year-old was sitting on a bench in the parks of the so-called Margarethenkapf, a hill to the west of the town, on the bank of the River Ill, from where you could enjoy an expansive, serene view across the Rhine Valley: he sat there, lost in dismal and bitter thoughts about his fate, his future, when a member of the teaching staff of the boarding school of Jesus, known Margarethenkapf around 1900 Palmhouse - today residence as »Morgenstern«, out taking a walk, sat down beside him, placed his hat next to him, crossed his legs over his secular clergy clothing and, after reading for a while, he struck up a conversation which proved to be very lively and which had a decisive influence on Leo's fate."
A day in Feldkirch

A day around Feldkirch

Feldkirch makes history

Wildanimal park Ardetzenberg

15 Minutes

5 minutes to go

railway station

Montforthaus

tourist-office

railway station
Shopping

6  Cervantes & Co Buch u. Wein, Kreuzgasse
7  Zehnerland, Kreuzgasse
8  Schmuck und Steine Loacker, Schmiedgasse
9  Mooi Market, Mühletorplatz
20  Musikladen Feldkirch, Johannitergasse
21  extrigs Kunst.Hand.Werk, Neustadt
22  7Spices, Mühletorplatz
23  Spielewelt Feldkirch, Montfortgasse
24  Propella, Churertor
25  Urban foxes & Wolff, Mühletorplatz
26  Burkhart, Mühletorplatz
58  Buchhandlung Eggler, Marktplatz
59  Papierwaren Moosmann, Schmiedgasse

Culinary Art

1  Café April, Neustadt
2  Montforthaus Restaurant, Montforthplatz
10  mund.art, Leonhardsplatz
11  Thai Asien Haus, Schubertplatz
12  Pizzeria Ristorante Rossano, Churer Straße
13  magma Köstliches, Schmiedgasse
14  Johannerhof, Marktplatz
15  Café Zanona, Montfortgasse
16  Chocolaterie und Pâtisserie SchokoMus, Schießstätte
17  Gelateria Pinocchio, Kreuzgasse
18  Kino RIO, Marktplatz
20  Gutwinski Hotel & Restaurant, Rosengasse
33  Bunt Bar, Marktplatz
34  Bakery Ruetz, Hirschgraben
35  Bakery Schnell, Neustadt
36  Bakery Schertler, Marktplatz
37  Bakery Mangold, Marktplatz
38  Market, Marktplatz
46  Flugobst, Churer Straße
48  Gasthof Eibe, Tostner Burgweg
51  Eismanufaktur Kolibri, Rheinstraße & Hirschgraben
52  Vinothek Bengodi, Schmiedgasse
53  Wirtschaft zum Schützenhaus, Göfiserstraße
54  Café Hecht, Neustadt
56  Stone Club, Schlossergasse
57  Rauch Club, Zeughausgasse

Culture & Sights

5  Heiligkreuz
18  Capuchin monastery
27  Schattenburg museum
28  Johanniterchurch
32  Altes Hallenbad
39  Buddhist monastery
55  Theater am Saumarkt

Nature & Activities

3  Wildpark
4  Margarethenkapf
19  Stadtschrofen
40  Reichenfeld
41  Alte Rüttenen
42  Swimming pool Felsenau
43  Waldbad
44  Gisingen fitness trail
45  Vorarlberghalle
47  Tostner Burg
49  climbing garden
50  Bangs-Matschels nature reserve

Feldkirch makes history

A  Marktgasse
B  Schmiedgasse
C  Town hall
D  Vorarlberger State Conservatory
E  Heiligkreuzviertel
F  Schattenburg
G  Institute of St Josef
H  Katzenturm
I  Pulverturm
J  Chur Gate
K  Mill Gate
L  St. Nikolaus Cathedral
M  Johanniterchurch (Marktgasse)
N  Church of Our Lady (Churer Tor)
O  Capuchin church
P  Letzehof Buddhist monastery
Q  Ardetzenberg
R  Wildpark
S  Margarethenkapf
Personal histories and memories
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Opening times
MON to FRI 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., SAT 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

www.feldkirch.travel