



THE HISTORICAL TOWN OF **MURAU**



www.regionmurau.at



Weil es dir gut tut.®



A Warm Welcome to Murau

The Mur courses through the Murau region like a green band. It brings the people here together with diverse landscapes. Immerse yourself in impressive moun-

tain ranges as well as meadows and forests which stretch as far as the eye can see. A world-class beer brand is also located here. Tradition and culture in conjunction



with the new and the innovative are greatly appreciated in this beautiful part of Styria. Take a cultural walk on a tour through the regional capital of Murau. All of the im-

portant stations as part of this tour are explained in detail in this brochure, and you will also find a map of the city on which the important sights are marked.



700 Years of History



The History of Murau

The name Murau is first mentioned as "Castrum Murowe" in a deed dating back to 1250. The minnesinger Ulrich von Liechtenstein had Murowe Castle built at the intersection of two medieval European trade routes in the 13th Century.

Soon after, a knight's and merchant's settlement established itself around this defensive structure.

Ulrich's son, Otto II, had Murau elevated to a town in 1298. St. Leonhard Platz and Grünfels Castle were built at this time.

The town would flourish once more under the rule of Anna Neumann von Wasserleonburg. The Royal House of Schwarzenberg has had its seat in Murau ever since that time.

The Story of Anna Neumann

Anna Neumann was born on 25 November 1535 in Villach and was married for the second time to Christoph von Liechtenstein, the Lord of Murau, inherited his estate, was married for the sixth time to the Imperial Count Schwarzenberg in 1617 and died on 18 December 1623.

She is buried in a copper coffin in the Capuchin Church.

Schillerplatz or Main Square (1)

This square was created in around 1270 by Ulrich von Liechtenstein and was originally called the "Freitagsmarkt" or "Friday Market" (documented in 1438). It was later renamed after the great German poet Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805). In commemoration of 1717 as the year of the plague, you will also find here the "Plague Column" or St. Mary's column, which is surrounded by the six "plague saints". In the modern era, important families who owned the hammer mills lived here. You can reach the Capuchin Church from the main square via Grazerstraße.

The Capuchin Church, Capuchin Monastery and the Crafts Museum (2)

The church and the monastery were founded in 1648 as part of the counter-Reformation by Georg Ludwig Graf zu Schwarzenberg. The church houses the marble tomb of Anna Neumann, who was the Lady of Murau in the 16th Century. The Royal Schwarzenberg mausoleum is located in the courtyard. The former monastery and its small courtyard are now home to the Murau Crafts Museum, which boasts a remarkably diverse range of exhibits.

Anna Neumann Bronze Sculpture (3)

Anna Neumann managed to overcome great adversity in her time, settle conflicts and make decisions to win many benefits and advantages for the town of Murau and the surrounding region. She stands in front of the Murau Crafts Museum inviting visitors into the town. The bronze sculpture of a cat accompanying her refers to the famous cat paintings at Murau.



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Full steam ahead



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Narrow Gauge Railway Experience

There's nothing quite like a trip on a traditional steam train.

This nostalgic locomotive will carry you through the entire region in a wonderfully cosy atmosphere. Murau train station is also a special feature in itself.

Just like the narrow gauge railway, the buildings and facilities are over a hundred years old and are a genuine rarity.

The Murtalbahn is a very special attraction which gives you the chance to be a train driver once a year.

Under the instruction of an experienced locomotive driver, you can operate the controllers, valves and engine whistle yourself. You will receive an "Amateur Train Driver's Certificate" as a memento of your journey.

The Mursteg Bridge (4)

The Mursteg Bridge links the eastern part of the city with the railway station. It was built in 1995 on the occasion of the Styrian "Holzzeit" wood exhibition and is the result of an international competition. Designed and constructed by two Swiss named Meili and Conzett, this structure was awarded the Austrian Bauherrenpreis for construction in 1996. The Mursteg Bridge spans a total of 46.8 metres. A walk across the bridge opens up a magnificent view of the historic city centre.

The Regional Magistracy (5)

This seven-storey office building was built according to the principle of modern administration in modern buildings. The striking architecture of glass, steel, concrete and wood is part of a series of outstanding buildings in the town of Murau.



The Train Station (6)

Murau's historically significant train station is the starting point for journeys on the Murtalbahn, a narrow gauge railway that opened in 1894. The steam train rides are one of the special attractions of the region.



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Samson



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A Region with Tradition

The history of this biblical symbol of strength goes as follows: Samson was an Israeli judge who killed 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey, as is written in the Old Testament.

Samson and the Murau Civil Guard are among the most important ambassadorial figures for the region.

A look at the course of history reveals that the guards were already being used as a protective force at the time of the city's founding at the end of the 13th Century.

When the rule of the Schwarzenbergs began in the 17th Century, Murau kept 90 citizens capable of military service in a constant state of readiness. These days the Civil Guard, together with its accompanying figurehead, the gigantic Samson, serves as an international ambassador. The unit's appearances at Red Square in Moscow, in Rome, Barcelona and in London are legendary. This tradition is nurtured each year in the Guard's home town.

The highlight is the annual procession at the Samson Festival on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary (15 August), where Samson is carried through the streets of our town while accompanied by the Murau Civil Guard and Town Band.

Das Friesachertor City Gate (7)

From the train station you can take Parkgasse to St. Leonhardplatz, the third and oldest district of the city which was built by Otto III of Liechtenstein in the 14th Century. On the way there you will see one of Murau's seven former city gates, the so-called Friesachertor. It now houses the Civil Guard, which is first mentioned in documents dating back to 1773. The Civil Guard wears the uniform from the Napoleonic period. To the east of the city park with music pavilion.

The Stations of The Cross (8)

In around 1680, the House of Schwarzenberg built 14 Stations of the Cross at Leonhardiberg as well as a chapel with a crucifixion group and a Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre. Subsequently, a 15th Station of the Cross was built from the staircase to the Leonhardi Church. The crucifixion group consists of an oversized crucifix and two life-sized wooden figures of the thieves made by the Balthasar Brandstätter woodcarving shop.

St. Leonhard's Church (9)

St. Leonhard's Filial Church can be found at the end of the Stations of the Cross.

The small Gothic church above St. Leonhardplatz is first mentioned in 1439. It was founded by Niklas von Liechtenstein. Inside the church, visitors will find a hall with a reticulated vault, an early Baroque high altar with Gothic statues and a pulpit from the Baroque period. A spiral staircase leads to a Gothic organ gallery with a wooden double choir, on which Anna Neumann's coat of arms as well as those of her husbands can be seen.



A City Stroll



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Small is beautiful

Murau is a pleasant shopping town with plenty of flair in its beautifully renovated old town.

Here you will find memorabilia for your special holiday, fashion and traditional Austrian dress, handmade products and much more besides.

Take a break in one of the public gardens and enjoy the ambience of the historic town of Murau.

The beautiful façades in different architectural styles give the main square and the lanes which lead to and from it a distinctly southern flair.

Murau is also the perfect adventure city for children because children love to experience history actively. Its attractions mean this is fully possible in the town of Murau. An exciting sightseeing tour of the castle is a special experience for every child.

A trip with the Murtal Railway or the historic steam train is just as exciting. The children's programme also includes the children's fire brigade, the health workshop, crafts in the wood museum, a visit to the migratory fish steps, a letter-based treasure hunt through Murau and much more besides.

Grünfels Castle (10)

This castle was probably built at the same time as Murau under Ulrich I von Liechtenstein and was originally called "Lubathein". Destroyed in 1269 by King Ottokar of Bohemia, Otto II von Liechtenstein had it rebuilt in the 14th Century. The keep, the residential building, the remains of the fortifications with the 'Hunger Tower' and the moat have all been preserved to this day. On the south side of the Leonhardiberg hill is the Leonharditeich pond.

Elizabeth Church (11)

The early baroque Elizabeth Church was built from the Gothic chapel of the former Murau Civil Hospital, which Otto III von Liechtenstein had had built. It became a meeting place for Protestants from the 16th Century onwards. Anna Neumann's coffin was kept in the sacristy here from 1623 to 1873. Since 1979, the Elizabeth Church has served as the Protestant church for Murau.

Raffaltplatz (12)

The Biedermeier painter Ignaz Raffalt (1800-1889) gave his name to this square. He owned the "Golden Crown" inn for some time, which can still be found at Raffaltplatz today. The square was originally called "Oberer Platz" ("Upper Square") or, as already mentioned in documents dating back to 1414, "Erchtagmarkt" (The Tuesday Market). Must sees at Raffaltplatz include the former courthouse with its magnificent arcaded courtyard, the city office and the "Brewery of the Senses".



Wood and Beer



The Town of Wood and Beer

The "Holzzeit" regional exhibition has made Murau into Austria's timber capital and the centre of Murau's "Holzwelt" or "World of Wood" association. You can take a fascinating tour of this town of wood and beer together with representatives from the Holzwelt and learn plenty of interesting facts about these topics.

In addition, you will find outstanding wooden buildings and architectural masterpieces of international renown.

BEER TOWN

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the "First Obermurtal Brewery Cooperative" saw Murau distinguished as a "Beer Town in July 2010.



The municipality and the brewery have worked together closely since the establishment of the cooperative in 1910. The "Bierstadt" title is a special award for the city which shows that the brewery enjoys a high reputation internationally and has, as a result, popularised Murau's name far beyond the country's borders.

The City Office (13)

The former Royal Liechtenstein House "Am Hof" served as Murau's Town Hall until 1578 before it was partly destroyed by fire. It was used as a bakery from 1775 to 1993. It then came back into the possession of the town of Murau and was opened on 18 May 2001 as "Austria's most beautiful town hall".

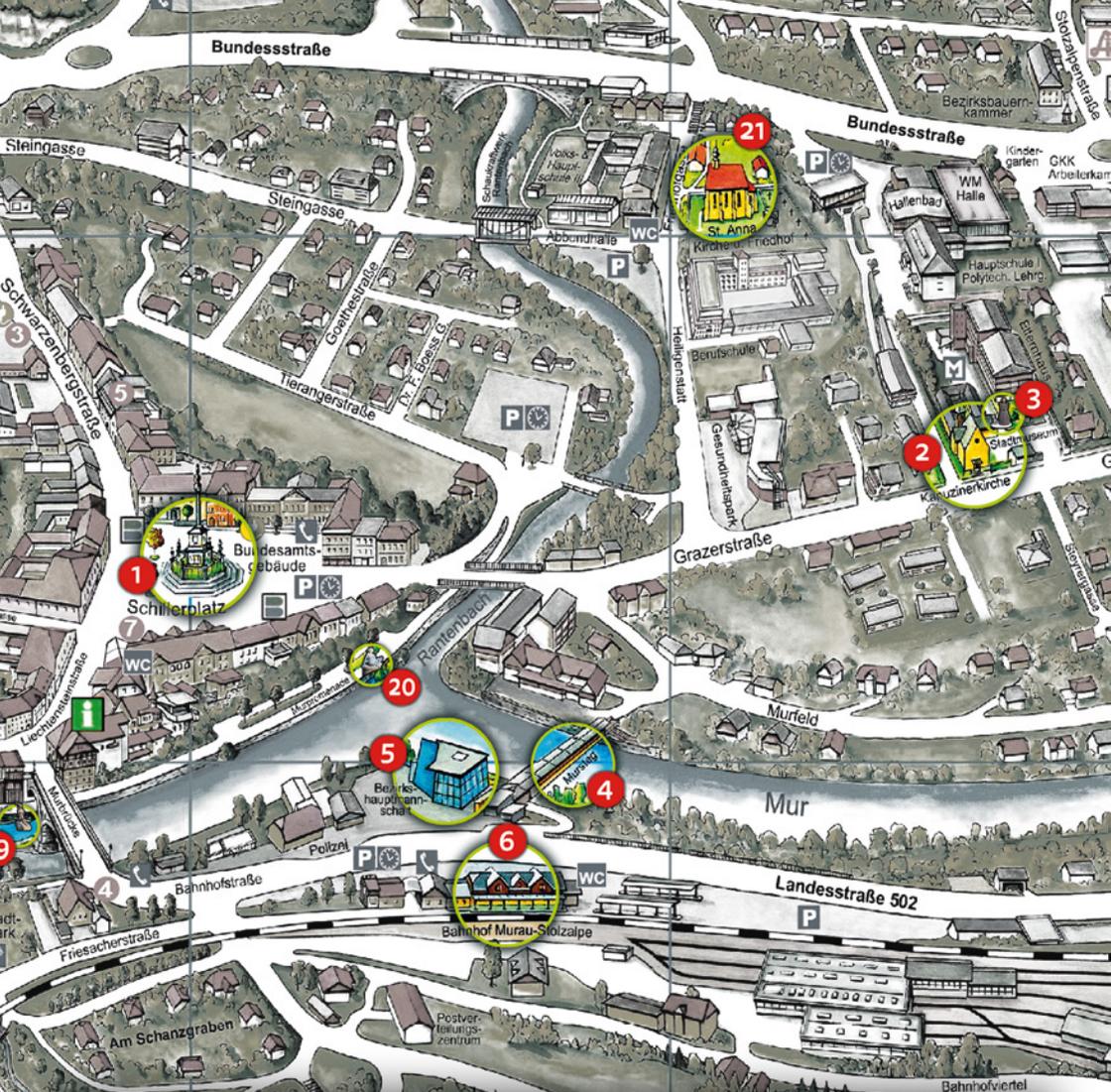


During reconstruction, a large vault was uncovered in which events are now being held. The upper floors house offices with a historical ambience.

The Brewery of Senses (14)

Beer has been brewed in Murau since 1495. Visitors can experience brewing with all of their senses in the unique "Brewery of the senses". From feeling the raw materials with your own hands and learning about different ways of preparing beer to tasting different kinds of the drink, you can experience the fascinating beer production process in its entirety.

The tour gives an insight into the brewery's 500 years of history while framed by the graceful brewery building and brewing equipment which is over 100 years old.



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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Schillerplatz/Main Square | 12 Raffaltplatz |
| 2 Capuchin Monastery/City Museum | 13 City Office |
| 3 Anna Neumann Sculpture | 14 Brewery of the Senses |
| 4 Mursteg Bridge | 15 Murau Castle |
| 5 Regional Magistracy | 16 Town Parish Church |
| 6 Railway Station | 17 Anna Neumann Straße |
| 7 Friesachertor City Gate | 18 Defensive Tower |
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| 9 St. Leonhard Church | 20 Cat Queen Marble Sculpture |
| 10 Grünfels Castle | 21 St. Anna's Cemetery Church |
| 11 Elizabeth Church | |



Festival Celebrations



Events with Tradition

People know how to celebrate a festival in Murau. When they do so, the aim is to maintain and nurture long-standing customs and traditions.

The Samson Festival, which is well known beyond the city's borders, takes place every year on 15 August. The "Gasseln" festival in the old town of Murau has a long tradition. Here the city presents its handicrafts, culinary delicacies from the region and musical performances which reflect one of the most beautiful sides of its character.

You need good nerves as a spectator for the "Murcapuculco" event, which takes place every two years in the summer. It sees daring boys and girls plunge from the Murau station bridge into the green river Mur below. The best and most unusual jump wins.

Countless events which celebrate the unique customs of the region are still being celebrated in the Murau area to this day – a wonderful opportunity to honour the past.

Dates can be found on the homepage:
www.regionmurau.at

Murau Castle (15)

Murau Castle was first documented in 1250. The old Murau Castle of the House of Liechtenstein was probably built in 1356 and demolished in 1628.

It was long owned by the Liechtenstein family before becoming the property of Anna Neumann von Wasserleonburg, who married Imperial Count Georg Ludwig zu Schwarzenberg for her sixth marriage.



The Imperial Count Georg Ludwig zu Schwarzenberg rebuilt the castle in its present form in 1628. The Schwarzenberg family have held control of Murau since that time. The square renaissance castle without towers was built in the 17th Century. The chapel, the old kitchen, the "Iron Hall", the "Cats' Hall" and the "Knights' Hall" are all well worth seeing. Today, Murau Castle is home to the Royal Schwarzenberg Forest Administration, the Castle Museum and the Schwarzenberg Archives. A 45 metre deep well can still be found in the courtyard. Murau Castle is not open to the public.

Please note the dates for a guided tour of the castle!



Get active



Recreation & Pleasure

Everyone knows that the healthiest wind in Austria blows through the Murau region. Guests benefit from the diligence with which the residents of Murau care for their environment.

The town of Murau and the peaceful places around it are known as tranquil and healthy refuges for relaxing holidays with every comfort.

The region has plenty of carefree holiday fun to offer you: Mountain biking, tennis, beach volleyball, cycling, golf on several 18-hole courses, rafting, hiking, horseback riding, swimming and much more besides.

During the colder months, visitors can enjoy a vast range of winter sports and activities in the mountains around Murau.

The ski resorts of Kreischberg, Lachtal, Grebenzen and Turracher Höhe are popular with families, skiers, snowboarders and freestyle skiers.

Ski tourers and snowshoe enthusiasts can also enjoy the Murau region and indulge in gentle winter sports in natural snow conditions.

Cross-country skiers and bi-athletes are attracted by the cross-country trails, which have been awarded a quality seal of approval.

The Town Parish Church (16)

The Gothic parish church is dedicated to Saint Matthew, patron Saint of toll and customs officers.



There are five bells in the massive tower. The oldest is the Matthew Bell (1649), the largest bell in Murau which is also known as "Mattl". The church was founded by Otto II von Liechtenstein and built from 1284 to 1296.

The high altar, the baroque pulpit, the frescoes from the 14th Century and the murals from the Renaissance period are particular highlights. These also include an epitaphic image for the deceased of the then ruling House of Liechtenstein.



A City with Culture



International Sounds

The city of Murau boasts a variety of cultural attractions throughout the year. Numerous museums, exhibitions, music and theatre performances, cultural events in the town hall as well as the annual operetta games make Murau a cultural centre in the Upper Mur Valley.

In particular, the concerts of the Murau City Chapel, the classical concerts of the cultural associations and various music festivals attract many visitors.

Every two years during the summer months, the Murau Biennale also hosts numerous themed events in the course of its exhibition.

More information about current events can be found on our homepage: www.regionmurau.at

Anna Neumann Street (17)

Starting at the town parish church, take Anton-Steyrer-Gasse to reach Anna-Neumann-Straße, which ends at Raffaltplatz. This street was called "Lange Gasse" or "Long Street" in the Middle Ages and was renamed in 1913 after the former Lady of Murau, Anna Neumann (1535-1623). This famous woman survived two witch trials and five husbands.

The Defensive Tower (18)

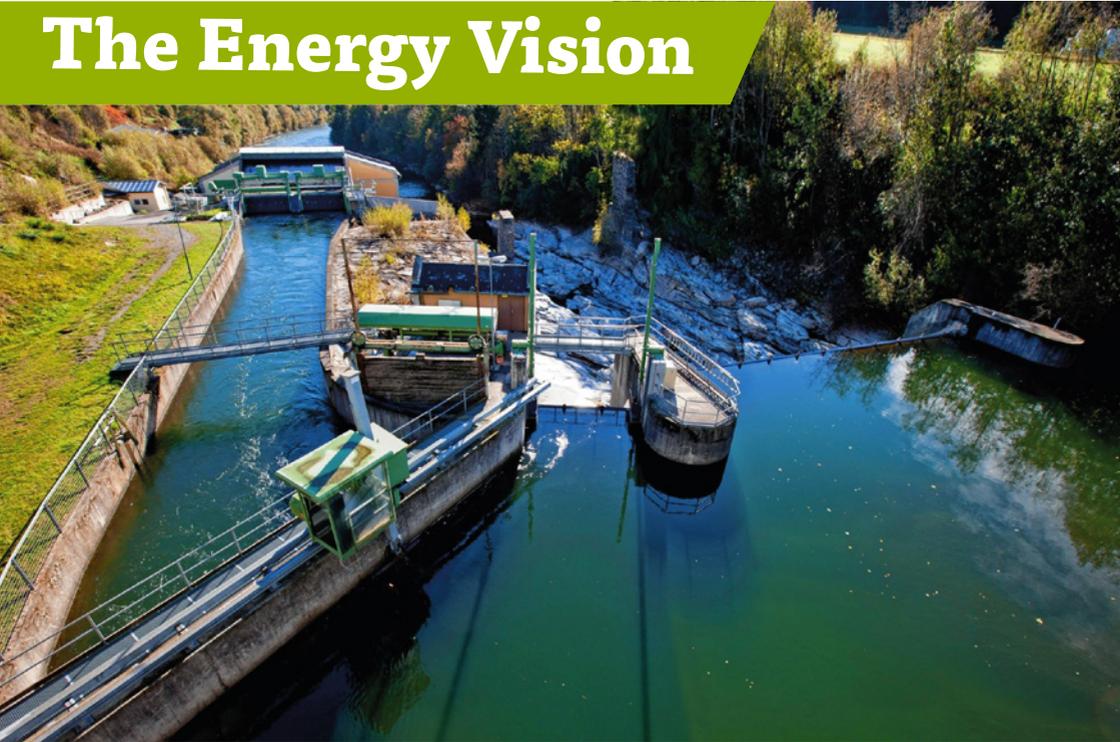
The former town hall is located on Anna-Neumann-Straße and was a defensive tower and weapon depot for the citizens of Murau for many years.



The former toll house and former civil hospital were also located at the end of this road.



The Energy Vision



Water, the Elixir of Life

The Mur courses through the Murau region like a green band.

A revitalization of urban life and the re-purposing of the city centre by artists, craftsmen and other users.

Energy Self-Sufficient Murau

The city is able to supply itself with electricity and heat, which is to say, it is self-sufficient with respect to energy.

With a total of three hydropower plants around the city, sufficient electricity is generated to supply the city and the surrounding area with electricity from hydropower.

Murau has its own electricity grid, which is used to distribute its own renewable energy.

In the town of Murau, wood and water are transformed into heat, electricity and beer.

Murna - Bronze Sculpture (19)

The "Lifeline Mur" project really begins to flow thanks to this sculpture. Since time immemorial, the self-cleaning power of water has been perceived as a blessing, venerated and depicted in art. Here in front of the station bridge, the young goddess of the river is perched on the rock in the Mur - where the stream becomes a river. She carries the sign of energy as a gift (lightning in the hand) and wild hops (as that which is to be preserved) entwined around her body. Energies and life-giving forces gather in her figure so that they can be brought to the city of Murau.



Cat Queen (20)

Near the "Murna", a nameless cat queen in the form of a marble sculpture has been placed on the shore of the Mur promenade. She wears a cat mask with two heads as a sign of her dignity and her nature. Her long braid of hair and body posture illustrate her earthiness and attentiveness. This is a continuation of the fairy tale that cats from the paintings at Murau Castle come to life before wandering down into the city to appear in different forms, as is the nature of cats.



Wellness



Pure pleasure

The palate also wants to be spoiled from time to time. In this respect, tradition and enjoyment come together in Murau in a truly unique fashion.

Fine regional delicacies intrigue guests and are best enjoyed with a full-bodied Murau beer or fruity Styrian wines.

Murau's cuisine is one of the most refined in Styria.

The region is a genuine gourmet paradise for discerning guests.

Whatever you might be in the mood for, no culinary wish ever goes unfulfilled in Murau and the surrounding area.

The unique ambience of Murau's traditional inns and restaurants doubles the enjoyment. And if you are looking for a cosy bed, you're certain to find one!

Let yourself be pampered and enjoy the warmth and hospitality of our hosts!

St. Anna's Cemetery Church (21)

St. Anna's Church, a small Gothic church dating from 1404, is first recorded as "St. Anna, the Holy See" in documents dating back to 1425.

Legend has it that the silver Monstrance from Murau's parish church was stolen in 1378. Three thieves smashed the monstrance and divided the booty among themselves. However, they hid the capsule with the host under a willow bush in a meadow. By chance, it was found there unharmed after more than one and a half years before being transferred back to the parish church in a solemn procession. St. Anna's Church was built at the place where the host was found. It has a Gothic wing altar with a depiction of the legend of the church's founding. The Baroque high altar, with a Gothic figure of Saint Anna, is entirely the work of the Jewish sculptor Balthasar Brandstätter.



To the west you can see the "Abbundhalle" an award-winning timber-frame hall constructed by the architect Ernst Giselbrecht. It stands immediately adjacent to the equally impressive Steingasen Bridge.



The Murau Region

Holiday with added value

From the Alpine Sölkpass, the majestic summit of the Preber, the numerous blue mountain lakes and the gentle hills to the medieval towns and the plains of the Mur, an unspoiled landscape unfolds before you with three incomparable areas of adventure and experience. The region of Murau is rich in culture, customs, nature, cuisine and entertainment.

There is plenty on offer with respect to culture, including guided tours of the medieval towns of Oberwölz and Murau as well as visits to the castle in Murau, the Wood Museum in St. Ruprecht and the Benedictine Abbey of St. Lambrecht. The region's brewing culture is intrinsically linked to its history. This can be experienced in the so-called "Brewery of the Senses" and in the "Beer Pharmacy" in Murau.

There is also no shortage of sporting activities: Cyclists can immerse themselves in the unspoiled countryside along the Mur Bicycle Path, golfers can improve their handicap in a spectacular natural setting, and hikers can climb eight mountains or learn to "read" nature on the long-distance "Via Natura" trail.

If you want to discover unspoiled countryside, take a ride on the "Murtalbahn" steam train.

Nature lovers can choose from 40 crystal-clear lakes, imposing waterfalls, incomparable gardens and a plethora of natural energy spots to recharge their batteries.



THE HISTORICAL TOWN OF **OBERWÖLZ**

Visit the medieval town of Oberwölz, a small town with a fantastic history behind it. This historic town has retained its medieval charm to the present day. Its special features include the city centre with its colourful house façades and two churches that “guard” the historic city gates. These, together with the almost completely preserved city wall, give a fascinating impression of the fortifications typical of a medieval city. Tradition and crafts are not only regarded as important, but also actively cultivated. A tour of the local history museum gives visitors an idea of the life and work of previous generations.

The love of music is omnipresent in the Wölzer Valley: the Austrian Brass Music Museum documents the history of brass band music in Oberwölz and pays tribute to old musical traditions. The Fire Brigade Museum depicts 150 years of the history of the city's fire service. You can immerse yourself in the mystical world of the region along the “mythical Wolzer Valley” circular path that leads around Rothenfels Castle. Rothenfels Castle is first mentioned in 1007 and has preserved its original appearance to this day. A visit to the “Wildes Lachtal” theme trail and the “Eselsberger Almerlebiswege” is also well worth it.



**MAGYAR NYELVEN
KÉRJÜK, SZKENNELJE
BE A KÓDOT**

Erlebnisregion Murau
8850 Murau | Liechtensteinstr. 3-5
Tel. +43 (0) 3532 2720
info@regionmurau.at | www.regionmurau.at



Weil es dir gut tut.®