

Cycling stage Walenstadt – Vaduz – Feldkirch approx. 55 km

Description of the Tour

Through the Seetal Valley and the Walensee Lake behind you, you cycle along the cycle route No°9 to Sargans. The town is known as double gate to the Alps and has always been controlled by traffic as it has access to the Rhine Valley and the Seetal Valley.

The strategically important location was overseen by the Castle Sargans. The castle complex together with the town formed mighty fortifications.

Up until 1966 iron ore was mined here for 2000 years.

The tunnels have a total length of more than 90 kilometres. One can participate in a guided tour of the mines upon prior reservation.

Only a short distance further you will reach the Rhine, there change to the right riverbank and you reach Liechtenstein.

Now you follow Route No°35 up until you reach the capital of the principality. In Balzers the Castle Gutenberg, the community's landmark, thrones on a cliff. This is reminiscent of Castel Vaduz, throning over Vaduz, the residence of the royal house of Liechtenstein.

From Liechtensteins capital Route No°35 takes you further until you reach your destination Feldkirch.

Sargans

The town at the foot of the 1830 metre high Gonzen Mountain has a population of over 5000 and is located at the meeting point of the Rhine and Seetal Valleys. This location as a double gateway to the Alps has made Sargans strategically significant and also important in relation to transport connections. The surrounding area has been inhabited since the Early Stone Age and the most significant Roman Estate in the Canton of St. Gallen was found in the area. The castle is thought to have been built in the 12th century, but Sargans remained a small town as Feldkirch in the Rhine Valley and Chur were more important market towns. Until well into the 19th century the majority of the population lived from agriculture or profited from the strategic position of Sargans as a transport hub with guesthouses. The construction of the railway line from Zurich and Lake Konstanz to Chur in 1858/59 made way for a gradual industrialisation of the area which became more noticeable after the construction of the A3 and A13 motorways.

During the Second World War, a fortification was built around Sargans as part of the Swiss defence system for the Alps which was designed to protect from possible attack by the Axis Powers. Parts of the fortification have been preserved and can be visited.



Attractions in Sargans

Sargans Castle
 Museum Sarganserland
www.schlosssargans.com

Opening Hours:
 April - October
 daily 10.00 - 12.00 & 13.30 - 17.30 h

Situated on the flanks of the Gonzen, affording a view of both the Rhine and Seez Valleys, is Sargans Castle. The Castle is thought to have been built in the 12th century on the site of another older structure and was first documented in 1282. Today the Castle houses a restaurant and museum. In the Museum Sarganserland the history and culture of the region is displayed and in 1983 the museum was awarded the title of Best European Museum of the Year.

Gonzen Mines
 Museum

Pro Gonzenbergwerk
 St. Gallerstrasse 72
 7320 Sargans
 Tel: +41 (0)81 - 723 12 17
www.bergwerk-gonzen.ch

Opening Hours:
 Tuesday - Saturday 11.00 - 23.00 h
 Sunday 11.00 - 17.30 h

Tours through the mountain mine are possible upon prior appointment from March to the middle of December.

Gonzen is home to the most significant mining works in Switzerland. Iron ore was mined here as early as 200 BC, and mining has been documented here from 1396. The iron from Gonzen was well known for its strength and was an important raw material in Swiss weapon production. As the world market price for iron fell in the middle of the 20th century the mines were closed down as they were no longer economically viable. Up until 1966, the mountain tunnels into the mountain were dug and now over 90 km of them exist. Since 1983, the Association for the Gonzen Mines (Verein Pro Gonzenbergwerk) have made a fraction of the tunnels open to the public. The Association leads guided tours through the mines and runs a restaurant and a museum.



Verkehrs- & Verschönerungsverein
 7320 Sargans

www.sargans-tourismus.ch



Attractions along the route

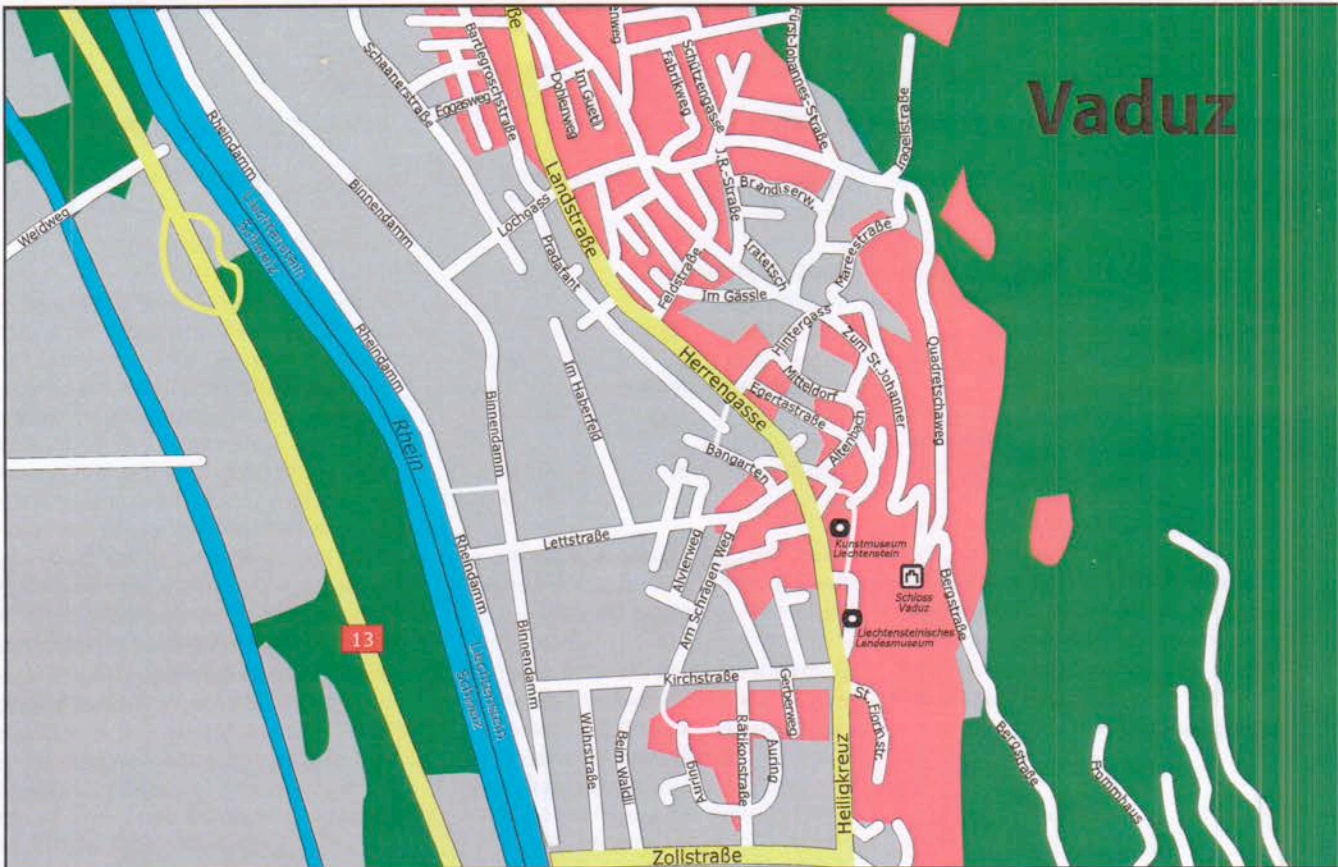
Gutenberg Castle

Can only be viewed externally

In this southern town of Liechtenstein, Gutenberg Castle is situated on a 70m high rock-face and is the symbol of Balzer. Excavations of the Castle have shown that part of the northern side of its walls stem from Roman times and the foundations are partially from the Iron Age. In the Middle Ages the Habsburgs used the Castle as an outer post against the Helvetians. The significance of the Castle was apparent in 1499 as Emperor Maximilian I overnighted there. After a village fire at the end of the 18th century the castle was used as a quarry before Egon Rheinberger bought the ruins in 1905 and renovated it in an historical style. The rock-face is also of great archaeological importance. During excavations in 1932/33, 7 human figures in bronze and two animal figures were found, which date from around the birth of Christ. Even more unusual is a pottery vessel of the so-called Rössen culture. The find is from the Early Stone Age, from around 4500 BC and is also the oldest object to be found in Liechtenstein.

Emergency Number: +49-(0)7531 - 81 99 3-53

▷ Cycling stage Walenstadt – Vaduz – Feldkirch approx. 55 km



Vaduz

Vaduz is the residence and capital town of the Principality of Liechtenstein and has 5,100 inhabitants. It is an international financial centre and the seat of the Royal Family, Government and Parliament. In the centre of Vaduz are the Liechtenstein Kunstmuseum (Art Museum), the Landesmuseum (National Museum) and the Postmuseum.

Inviting street cafés or the numerous cultural attractions attract visitors. Vaduz also has a wide range of activities on offer: an open-air swimming pool, Tennis and squash courts and a wide network of walking and cycling trails. Vaduz was first documented in 1150. In 1723 it got seats and voting rights in the Reichstag. The name "Vaduz" developed either from the Romanic "Valdutsch" or from the Latin "vallis" (=valley). Important economic sectors include fruit and wine-growing and tourism. Vaduz is also an important telecommunication and banking sector.



Attractions in Vaduz

National Museum
 Städtle 43, 9490 Vaduz
 Tel: +423-(0)239-68 20

Opening Hours:
 Tuesday - Sunday 10.00 - 17.00 h
 Wednesday 10.00 - 20.00 h

The national museum of Liechtenstein is a foundation supported by the Prince of Liechtenstein. It covers the themes of history as well as national and natural history of the country. The museum in its main location spreads over 2 historical buildings and one new building in Vaduz, a new building which houses the Postal Museum since 2006, as well as a further outer museum in the suburb of Schellenberg with a farming living museum. An atelier and workshops are located in Triesen.

Postmuseum

Städtle 37, 9490 Vaduz
 Tel: +423-(0)236-61 05

Opening Hours:
 Daily 10.00 - 12.00 & 13.00 - 17.00 h
Entrance free!

The Postmuseum of the principality of Liechtenstein has been in existence since 1930. The museum was founded with the view of collecting all stamps from 1912 on, and all available plates, designs and test prints of these stamps, along with international stamps and numerous documents and historical postal implements and displaying them in one unique collection. The Postmuseum collects and preserves important philatelic Liechtenstein documents and postal history and puts them on show for the wider public.



Attractions along the route

Art Museum Liechtenstein

Städtle 32, 9490 Vaduz
Tel: +423-(0)235-03 00

Opening Hours:
Tuesday - Sunday: 10.00 - 17.00 h
Thursday 10.00 - 20.00 h

The Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein is a place where visitors are confronted with contemporary modern art and its roots in modern art. Presentations of work from private collections of the Princes of Liechtenstein stretch the museum's span beyond to the world of the old masters. The museum develops its programmes from its double role as a national gallery and as an educational institute.

Art Museum Engländerbau

Städtle 37, 9490 Vaduz
Tel: +423-(0)233-31 11

Opening Hours:
daily 13.00 - 17.00 h
Tuesday 13.00 - 20.00 h

The gallery in the second floor of the Engländerbaus in the Vaduz quarter of Städtle is an exhibition space for modern art in Liechtenstein and the region. In an area of 400 square metres young artists get a forum for exhibitions, installations, performances and other artistic projects. The Kunstraum was conceived to make contemporary art more accessible to a wider public in a representative space.



Liechtenstein Tourismus

Städtle 37
9490 Vaduz

Tel: +423 (0)239 - 63 15
www.vaduz.li

Vaduz Castle (Schloss Vaduz)

Vaduz Castle is located above Vaduz, the capital city of Liechtenstein and is the permanent residence of the Royal Family. The earliest documented mention of the castle is a charter where Duke Rudolf von Werdenberg-Sargans pledged the castle to Ulrich von Matsch. The owners of the castle at the time and most likely also the builders of the castle were the Dukes of Werdenberg-Sargans. The castle keep (12th century) and the east side of the castle are the oldest parts of the structure. The tower stands on a foundation of approx. 12 x 13 metres and the ground floor walls are up to 4 metres thick. In the Swabian War of 1499, the Swiss burnt down the castle. The castle has been in the possession of the Princes of Liechtenstein since 1712. At one time the castle also served as a bailiwick (1712-1732). Throughout the years, many parts of the castle fell into disrepair. Prince Johann II. finally completely renovated the castle from 1905 to 1912 and Prince Franz Josef II. renovated the living quarters. The castle has been the permanent residence of the Royal Family since 1938 and is not open to the public.

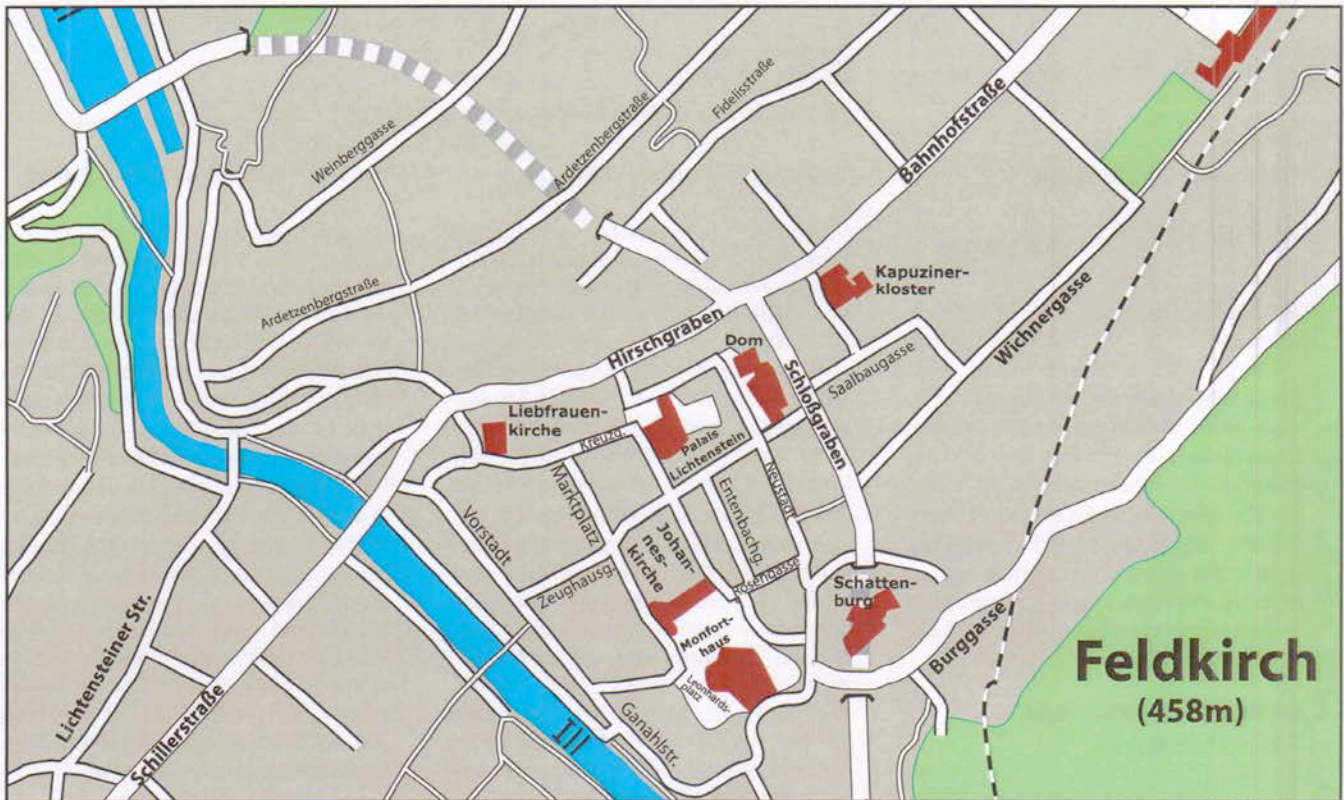
The castle and village of Werdenberg

This castle town with relatively rare market rights was first documented in 1289. Due to artefacts found in the course of excavations, archaeologists believe that the village dates back to a Middle Stone Age settlement and experts believe that cellars of the houses in the village show signs of the style of Vitruv, who was the favourite architect of Emperor Augustus. The history of this village is closely linked to that of the castle of the same name. Thanks to the association "Pro Werdenberg" it is probably the only wholly preserved medieval wooden settlement in Suisse. Good luck saved the town over the centuries from war and fire, so that the village has been untouched for generations. Within the small area of the village, you will find a wide variety of wood and mixed media construction types.

Sightseeing the castle is not possible.

Emergency Number: +49-(0)7531 - 81 99 3-53

▷ Cycling stage Walenstadt – Vaduz – Feldkirch approx. 55 km



Feldkirch

Feldkirch, the second largest town in Vorarlberg has approx. 30,000 inhabitants and is located at the end of the Ill Valley and the start of the Rhine plains, on the borders of Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Feldkirch is the seat of numerous institutions. Feldkirch was first mentioned in 1218 when "Schattensburg" Castle, the symbol of the town was built by Duke Hugo von Montfort. The town gained wealth through trading with Italy and Germany. Feldkirch is one of the best preserved medieval towns in the province of Vorarlberg.

The city walls, numerous churches, monasteries, chapels and buildings characterise the cityscape of Feldkirch.

Attractions in Feldkirch

Schattensburg Castle

Burggasse 1
6800 Feldkirch
Tel: +43-(0)5522-71 9 82

www.schattensburg.at

Opening Hours:

April - October: Monday - Friday
09.00 - 12.00 and 13.30 - 17.00 h
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays
10.00 - 17.00 h

In Feldkirch the local history museum is located in the imposing Schattensburg Castle. Schattensburg was built about 800 years ago and was the permanent residence of the Dukes of Montfort-Feldkirch until 1390, from 1390 to 1773 it belonged to the Habsburgs. The first phase of building which began in 1190 under Hugo I.

von Montfort, the founder of the town, included a 16x12 m and 21 m high tower as well as the living quarters and the walls, dikes and the drawbridge. The castle's walls were never breached in the 13th and 14th centuries despite sieges in 1269 and 1345. In the Apenzeller War the castle was destroyed in 1406 but was rebuilt soon after by King Ruprecht. After the bailiwicks left the castle it was auctioned often and in 1813 it was even supposed to be torn down. In 1825 the town of Feldkirch bought the ramshackle walls for 833 Gulden. The Schattensburg then served as a barracks and then as a poorhouse. The local history museum association is to be thanked for saving and bring the castle back to life when the museum was founded in 1912. In the ground floors of the castle there is a castle restaurant which is as well-known today as the local history museum which is housed in the upper stories.



Feldkirch Tourismus

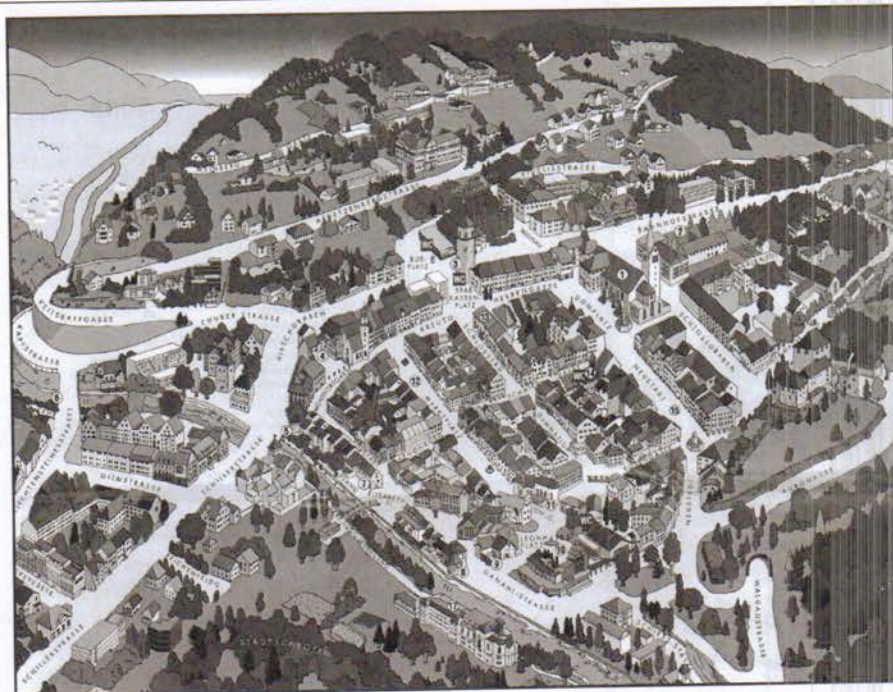
Palais Liechtenstein
Schlossergasse 8

6800 Feldkirch
Tel: +43 (0) 05522 - 734 67

Walking tour through Feldkirch

The most beautiful old town of the region is best experienced by foot. The start of our walking tour through the laneways of the medieval seat of the Dukes of Montfort is St. Nikolaus' Cathedral (1). The cathedral was first mentioned in 1287 and was formerly a Romanic building which was rebuilt in 1478 due to numerous town fires by the master Hans Sturn in the Late Gothic style. Beyond the fortifications the Capuchin monastery was built in 1605 (2). Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen was the guardian of the monastery. He was a missionary in Graubünden in Switzerland, where he was killed. His head can be seen in the capuchin church. The Katzenturm Tower (3) is the most impressive symbol of the former town fortifications. Between 1491 and 1507 Emperor Maximilian I. rebuilt the tower. The name derives from the canons (Katzen) which were kept in the tower. After approx. 100 m you will reach the Churer- or Salztor (4). The six-storey gateway tower was rebuilt towards the end of the 14th century. The transport of salt took place through the "Churer Tor" Gateway into Switzerland. The Ill-River was the town borders for centuries. The town walls which were first documented in 1482 were re-enforced with the building of the water tower (5).

If you look to your right here you will see the Heilig-Kreuz-Bridge also known as the "Hohe Brücke" (6). Although it was first documented in 1389 there was more than likely a predecessor which stood during Roman times between Margarethenkapf and Veitskapf. The bridge was until the 19th century the only crossing point over the Ill River and therefore an important trade route to Switzerland. We will now follow along the riverbank promenade in the opposite direction, past the arsenal



(7), which was plundered by the Swedish in 1647, and the Pulverturm Tower (8) and we will then come to the Mühletor Gateway which is also known as the "Sautor" (Sow Gateway), because the pig market was held here earlier (9). To the left of the Ill is the "State Music Conservatory" (17). The imposing building was built in 1900 and was part of the former, famous Jesuit college of Stella Matutina. Students from all over the world attended the college. The creator of Sherlock-Holmes Arthur Conan Doyle also went to school here. Crossing over St. Leonhardplatz (10), which is a particularly popular meeting place in Summer, you will continue on between the former Knights of St. John of Jerusalem monastery and the Johannes Church (11), and come to Marktgasse. Hugo 1st of Montfort made a gift of the church and monastery to the order of St. John of Jerusalem in 1218.

In the documentation regarding the gift, Feldkirch was first mentioned as a town. Marktgasse (12) with its many balconies and Patrician houses with some gothic gazebos still has a medieval feel. In Schlossergasse in 1697 the most elegant building of the town was built, the former princely Liechtenstein offices (13). From

here the Liechtenstein lords ruled over the poor principality for circa 100 years. Today the Palais Liechtenstein is now owned by the town Feldkirch and houses the town library and the town archives. The exterior of the town hall (14) which was completed in 1493 in Schmiedgasse has frescoes about the town history and the family crests of well-known families. The large town map in the entrance area gives a good overview of old Feldkirch within its old town walls.

The view of Neustadt (15) which is one of the oldest parts of Feldkirch, is towered over by Schattensburg Castle (16). The largest and most well kept castle in the country from the beginning of the 13th century was the seat of the Dukes of Montfort until 1390. Today Schattensburg Castle is an attractive local history museum and restaurant. The castle can be reached by walking along the "Bettlerstiege" or the "Burgweg".

Copyright:

WERBUNG & TOURISMUS FELDKIRCH

www.feldkirch.at

