

ANTON PROCK



TYROL

THE TRAVEL GUIDE



TYROLIA

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TYROLIA-VERLAG · INNSBRUCK-WIEN

INTRODUCTION

TIROL

So much to see – so much to do

Tyrol – land in the mountains in the heart of Europe, farming region, center for tourism, with countless sport and leisure opportunities in summer and winter-time, a transit state that has been of major historic significance for centuries – a stunning and multi-faceted region. Visitors may explore not only breathtaking nature, but also medieval towns, idyllic mountain villages, castles, monasteries, churches and chapels. Those who want to get to know this extraordinary region better must also familiarize themselves with its past.

During the course of its history, Tyrol has witnessed times of wealth and prosperity, but also of hardship and adversity. The natural resources in Schwaz and other areas of the region, alongside the salt mining in Hall, have had a particularly positive influence on the development of Tyrol. Furthermore, the traffic over the mountain passes and through the major valleys was an important source of income and resulted not least in the emergence of many settlements. However, its history has also been marked by the plague, natural disasters and countless wars. Furthermore, when taking in the many stunning sights of Tyrol one must not forget the struggle be-

tween mankind and nature. The harsh climate and poor soil conditions combined with inhumane legal regulations, have often left its inhabitants struggling to survive. Nonetheless, nature has also inspired the people. Tyrol is and has been home to countless artists, a number of whom have left their traces in the region, while others were forced to leave the area to pursue their passions elsewhere. One only need think of Jakob Prandtauer from Stanz near Landeck, who built Stift Melk (Melk Abbey) in Lower Austria for example.

Anyone who lives in Tyrol often stops noticing the beauties of the land. However, there are often many sights worth seeing in one's very own hometown. A walk around the nearby area or slightly further afield, or a day trip to another part of the region can be a true experience. Take time out and go on a tranquil walk through the forest in autumn, visit a castle or take a pleasant stroll around one of the medieval towns. Make your trip a special experience!

This travel guide is written for both residents and visitors to Tyrol. It intends to give a concise yet thorough introduction to all the areas of Tyrol. Particularly worthy sights are highlighted and described



Looking at Innsbruck – in the background the Serles, one of the famous mountains near the city

in greater detail. Importance has been placed on embedding this in the history of the region: The aim is to present relationships and connections, to underline deeper background knowledge. The guide also contains tips for leisure activities, as well as important addresses, phone numbers and internet references to aid the reader.

I was born and raised in this region. Tyrol is my home. A place that I love and am proud of. I hope that this travel guide will prove a welcome companion for all those who wish to get to know Tyrol and share my passion for this land.

Anton Prock
Jenbach, in April 2019

CHAPTER 1

AN OUTLINE OF TYROL

*History, art,
culture and much more*



GEOGRAPHY

Population: 751,140 (2019)

Population density: 59 inhabitants per km²

Area: 12,648 km²
(Austria 83,871 km²)

Dimensions: North-South 107 km,
West-East 220 km

Highest point: 3798 m (Großglockner mountain)

Lowest point: 465 m (border at Ertl)

State borders: 1042 km (of which with Germany 343 km, Italy 303 km, Switzerland 59 km)

State coat of arms: Red eagle with golden crown and green garland behind the head

State capital: Innsbruck

Districts (9): Innsbruck, Innsbruck-Land, Imst, Kitzbühel, Kufstein, Landeck, Reutte, Schwaz, Lienz (East Tyrol)

Municipalities: 279 (North Tyrol 246, East Tyrol 33)

Highest mountains: Großglockner (3798 m), Wildspitze (3768 m)

Largest lake: Lake Achen ("Achensee") (6.8 km²)

Largest river: Inn (519 km, of which in Tyrol 212 km)

Largest towns and municipalities: Innsbruck (132,493), Kufstein (19,223), Telfs (15,747), Hall (13,897), Schwaz (13,728), Wörgl (13,811), Lienz in East Tyrol (11,844), Imst (10,504), Rum (9190), St. Johann (9428)

CLIMATE

Tyrol is situated in an area with a **moderate central European climate**. The Alps form a climatic divide between central Europe with its moderate climate, and

the sub-tropical Mediterranean region. The West-East range holds back the cooler air masses coming from the north and the warmer air originating from the south as a general rule.

The western and northern areas of the state are frequently subject to Atlantic influences, while the east has a more continental climate and the southern region (South and East Tyrol) has Mediterranean characteristics. A phenomenon that is particular to the alpine area is the **foehn**, a warm, dry down-slope wind that frequently occurs on the leeward side of the mountains. Wind speeds of up to 200 km/h can arise. This accelerates the snow thawing in winter and spring.

The snow line in the north sits at 2400–2600 m, in the central Alps at 2800–3200 m. Summers are relatively damp with maximum temperatures around 30° C, while autumn tends to be drier with good weather, and winter is snowy at higher altitudes. However, significant local differences occur.

Climate change has resulted in rapid glacial melting in recent decades. The average monthly temperatures in Tyrol are -2° C in January, 0° C in February, 5° C in March, 8° C in April, 13° C in May, 16° C in June, 18° C in July and August, 14° C in September, 9° C in October, 3° C in November and -1° C in December.

ART

Thanks to its central location in the Alps, Tyrol has always served as a transit region and has therefore always been open to exchanges with the southern (Italian) and northern (German, Dutch and Bohemian) cultural areas. In the late Gothic and Baroque periods, the German influence on Tyrolean art was par-



Wilten monastery

ticularly strong; in the Renaissance, the Italian influence prevailed. Tyrolean artists studied abroad and combined foreign influence with their local style.

Three epochs left behind intensive traces in North Tyrol: the **Gothic**, **Baroque** and **Historicism** periods. Today, countless village churches and chapels still attest to the relative prosperity of the region in those times. However, the small number of large **monasteries** (Wilten, Stams and Fiecht) did not have a particularly significant influence on the artistic landscape.

From 1420, important influences came from the Innsbruck Imperial Court – and in particular from the art-loving rulers Emperor Maximilian I, Archduke Ferdinand II, Archduke Maximilian III, and Archduke Leopold V and his two sons.

Settlements in Tyrol in pre-Roman times are readily traceable thanks to the numerous archeological finds in the region. In contrast, the Romans themselves left very little trace. Works of art from the **Romanesque period** (around

1000–1300) are also rare in North and East Tyrol. As a consequence of increased travel through the region and the growing mining industry in the 15th and 16th centuries, the **Gothic period** (circa 1300–1520) is heavily represented in Tyrol. Italian influences in Tyrol originate in particular from the **Renaissance period** (from roughly 1520), largely as a transitional style. Much like the Gothic period, the **Baroque era** (around 1610–1770) with the late part of the **Rococo period** spawned countless artworks. During the 19th century numerous churches were constructed in, or converted to the **Historicism** style in the Tyrolean Oberland in particular. Their interior design is referred to as the **Nazarene style**. The turn of the 20th century witnessed the arrival of the **Art Nouveau** and **Heimat style** movements. The period between the two world wars saw construction in the sober **New Objectivity** style. The relocation of the government seat from Merano to Innsbruck in 1420 and the start of mining for silver



Freundsberg Castle in Schwaz

and copper in Schwaz and other Tyrolean regions around that time brought about a cultural heyday. This was the **Gothic period**. The mediaeval towns of Kufstein, Kitzbühel, Rattenberg, Hall in Tyrol and Innsbruck are examples of the **Inn-Salzach Style**. The towns were home to prosperous citizens, the Innsbruck Imperial Court was a hub for artists. Various Bauhütten (associations of tradesmen) constructed large and richly furnished churches, which were the pride of local citizens alongside the town halls and town houses. Significant Gothic buildings in Tyrol include the parish churches in Hall, Schwaz, Kitzbühel, Imst, Seefeld and St. Leonhard near Kundl. **Castles** had been built to protect the land back in the Romanesque period, and these were subsequently converted during the Gothic era. Noteworthy examples include **Friedberg Castle** near Volders, **Petersberg Castle** and **Laudegg Castle** in the Oberinntal Valley, as well as **Hasegg Castle** in Hall and **Matzen Castle** near Brixlegg. Many of these only remain as ruins today, for example the once-mighty castles in Thaur

near Innsbruck and Kropfsberg castle on the route out of the Zillertal valley. **Michael Pacher** (around 1435–1498) and **Marx Reichlich** (1460–1520), both from South Tyrol, and **Jörg Kölderer** (around 1470–1540) are just a few examples of the countless painters from that era. Between the **Gothic** and the **Renaissance** periods (from roughly 1500), Tyrol experienced a period of prosperity under Emperor Maximilian I, who gave his name to the **Maximilian transitional style**. This can be seen for example in Tratzberg Castle, the Golden Roof, countless town houses and the Court Church (“Hofkirche”) in Innsbruck (1553–1563), the cloister of the Franciscan monastery in Schwaz, as well as various small artworks and handicrafts (for example the St. George’s altar in Ambras Castle). The most significant **Renaissance building** in Tyrol is Ambras Castle (1564–1583). The new zeitgeist of the **Baroque era** in the 17th and 18th centuries brought with it the modernization of countless churches and houses in the new Baroque style, alongside the construction of new buildings. Members of the



Relief on the Golden Roof in Innsbruck

Gump family were renowned builders at the time. In Innsbruck, Christoph Gump (1600–1672) was responsible for structures including the Mariahilf church, the Comödienhaus which stood where the Congress stands today, and the new construction of the Wilten monastery and collegiate church. His son, Johann Martin Gump the Elder (1643–1729) erected the hospital church and the former Ursuline Church, alongside numerous residences in Innsbruck, including the Ferraripalais and Taxispalais. His son, Georg Anton Gump (1682–1754) left behind him the Altes Landhaus and St. John's ("Johanneskirche") church in Innsbruck, and converted the Sams Abbey. Georg's brother Johann Martin Gump the Younger (1686–1765) began with the conversion of Innsbruck's Imperial Palace. In addition to this, Tyrol produced many other master builders, including the priest and amateur master builder **Franz de Paula Penz** (1707–1772, church in Neustift in the Stubaital valley, Wilten Abbey Basilica, etc.), Franz Singer (1724–1789, Götzens, Ranggen, Unterperfuss parish churches, etc.) and

Abraham Millauer (1680–1758, Ebbs parish church) to name but a few. **Jakob Prandtauer** (1660–1726), born in Grins near Landeck, is considered one of Austria's most important Baroque architects. He was responsible for Melk Abbey in Lower Austria, as well as parts of Kremsmünster Abbey and St. Florian Monastery in Upper Austria.

The Tyrolean Oberland in particular produced many skilled painters and sculptors, who were unable to find work in their homeland and therefore left their marks in other Austrian states, as well as neighboring southern Germany and Switzerland. Tyrol's most famous painters have included **Anton Zoller** (1695–1768) from Telfs, and members of the **Zeiller family** from the Reutte District. Steinach-born painter **Martin Knoller** (1725–1804) left behind him numerous altarpieces and frescoes in Anras parish church, the monastery church of St. Charles Borromeo ("Klosterkirche zum Heiligen Karl Borromäus") near Volders and in the Paris hall of the Taxispalais in Innsbruck. Sculptor **Matthias Bernhard Braun** (1684–1738) from Sautens in the Ötztal

CHRONOLOGY

An outline of Tyrol's history

- 30,000 BC** The first traces of human settlement (Tischofer Cave near Kufstein)
- ca. 5000 years ago** The lifetime of Ötzi, the Iceman
- 15/14 BC** The alpine countries were conquered by the Roman generals Drusus and Tiberius
- 6th/7th centuries** Migration (Völkerwanderung) – invasion of the Bavarians, Slavs and Alemanni
- 11th century** Bishops from Brixen and Trento become territorial lords (“Landesherren”)
- 12th century** Rise of the Counts from Tyrol and Andechs
- 1180** Establishment of Innsbruck by the Counts of Andechs
- 1248** Core of today's Tyrol is in the hands of the Counts of Tyrol for the first time
- 1238–1295** Count Meinhard II – expansion of Tyrol, promotion of trade and commerce
- 1363** Under Countess Margarete Maultasch, Tyrol passes to the Habsburg Duke Rudolf IV
- ca. 1410** successful mining for silver and copper begins in Schwaz
- 1420** Duke Frederick IV of the Empty Pockets chooses Innsbruck as the seat of government
- 1490–1519** Emperor Maximilian I – Tyrolean heyday (around 1500 Golden Roof)
- 1525** The Great Peasants' War – influence of the teachings of Martin Luther
- 2nd h. 16th century** Renaissance – reign of Archduke Ferdinand II – construction of Ambras Castle (Schloss Ambras)
- 17th century** Archduke Maximilian III the Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights – Archduke Leopold V – Claudia de' Medici – influence of Italian art and culture – Jesuit Church (“Jesuitenkirche”) – Leopold Fountain (“Leopoldbrunnen”)
- 1665** End of the Tyrolean line of the House of Habsburg
- 1669** Foundation of the University of Innsbruck
- 1703** The Bavarian Rummel – invasion of the Bavarians – St. Anne's Column (“Annasäule”)
- 1765** Maria Theresa in Innsbruck – wedding of her son Leopold to the Spanish princess Maria Ludovica – Triumphal Arch (“Triumphpforte”) and Imperial Palace (“Hofburg”)
- 1805–1814** Tyrol under Bavarian rule – Napoleonic campaign of conquest – 1809 four battles at Bergisel hill with Andreas Hofer as commander

- 19th century** Start of tourism – construction of the railways – industrialization
- 1914–1918** First World War
- 1919** After the end of the First World War, division of Tyrol (South Tyrol to Italy, North and East Tyrol to Austria)
- 1939–1945** Second World War – Tyrol/ Austria as part of the German Reich
- 1945–1955** After the end of the Second World War, France as occupying power in Tyrol
- 1955** Treaty – freedom of Austria – reconstruction
- 1964** Winter Olympics in Innsbruck – the Diocese of Innsbruck is established
- 1976** Winter Olympics in Innsbruck
- 1998** The Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino Euroregion is formed
- 2008** Innsbruck is one of the venues of the European Football Championship
- 2012** The first Winter Youth Olympic Games are held in Innsbruck and Seefeld.
- 2013** After the state elections in April, Tyrol elects a coalition of the ÖVP (Austrian People's Party) and Green Party for the first time since the Second World War.
- 2018** The UCI Road World Championships are held in Tyrol for the first time.

valley produced statues including those on the Charles Bridge in Prague. As a form of folk art, Baroque found its way to the most remote valleys in the state. Local artists created altars, statues, paintings and countless other handicrafts and small pieces of art. The painter **Joseph Anton Koch** (1768–1839) from the district of Reutte, who settled in Rome and subscribed to the Classicism and Romanticism styles, was famed far beyond the borders of Tyrol. During the **19th century**, **Historicism** was widely popular. Churches were converted to this style, while others were newly built according to it. At the same time, past styles were taken up again and interpreted anew. The result was churches in the neo-Gothic and neo-Romanesque style, while numerous town houses in Innsbruck exhibit the Baroque Revival style.

One subscriber to **Romanticism** was East Tyrolean painter **Franz von Defregger** (1835–1921) with his historical, landscape and decorative pieces, who had a strong influence on **Albin Egger-Lienz** (1868–1926). However, Egger-Lienz heavily embodied the spirit of **symbolism** and **expressionism** already. The **20th century** also produced important artists. As a painter, **Alfons Walde** (1891–1958) selected similar subjects to Albin Egger-Lienz, and as an architect he designed the stations of Kitzbühel's Hahnenkammbahn cable car. The architect **Clemens Holzmeister** (1886–1926) from Fulpmes in the Stubaital valley gained an international reputation for his work including the festival halls in Salzburg, the parish churches of Pertisau, Erpfendorf, Allerheiligen in Innsbruck and Bruckhäusl near Wörgl, and also left his mark in Ankara. Also famed beyond the state's borders are the painter **Max Weiler** (1910–2001) and illustrator **Paul Flora** (1922–2009).

FORTRESSES, RUINS AND CASTLES IN TYROL

Tyrol is richly studded with fortresses, castles, ruins and manors, which are tightly connected with the history of the region. These structures are landmarks of our cultural landscape. Castles are typical medieval buildings that are designed with security and defense in mind. Essentially, these are habitable fortifications. They are always built on rock formations and hills, and are surrounded on at least three sides by steep terrain. The structure is usually accessed on one side by a reinforced entrance. Such buildings are referred to as elevated castles. Examples of these include the **Rottenburg Castle** above Rotholz near Jenbach, and **Petersberg Castle** near Silz.

Tyrol has very few castles directly in the valley. **Lichtwerth Castle** near Brixlegg sits on a low hill on the valley floor, and the Inn river surrounded it at one time and it was therefore a moated castle. The most important parts of a castle that are seen most often are the outer bailey and main castle with crenelated walls, tower gates and drawbridges, various courtyards, the keep ("Bergfried") as the highest and most heavily fortified tower, the great hall as living quarters, the bower as family's personal living quarters, kitchen, chapel, spiral staircases, courtroom, prison, armories, stables, farm buildings, workshops, and more besides. The Tyrolean sovereigns ("Landesfürsten") had these fortifications built to protect the land. However, numerous fortresses

can also be traced back to the ministers (inferior nobles who served the sovereigns). They were granted ownership of the land by the sovereign, which they then cultivated and defended with the help of the farmers.

As a result of this, many castles resulted from disputes between the ministers or with their sovereigns. Over the course of history castles fulfilled a wide range of tasks, such as monitoring important traffic routes, for example the Inntal Valley. From them, it was easy to monitor narrow points, valley incisions, rivers, etc. Many of these former routes have now disappeared. Today, **Klamm Castle** on the Mieming Plateau stands abandoned, although it once protected the salt road from the Inntal Valley in the direction of the Fern Pass. Castles were often the seat of the jurisdiction, represented by the authority of a judge and jurist. The supreme judge was safe here, and it was also home to the jail. Important documents, archives and money were stored here, and the ruler could also find accommodation here.

Castles also served as bases for hunting trips (for example under Emperor Maximilian I). It was for precisely this reason that Archduke Sigismund the Rich in Coin had many castles constructed, such as **Sigmundslust** near Vomp, **Sigmundsburg** on Lake Fernstein and **Sigmundried** in the Oberinntal valley. Castles stood for prosperity, wealth and power, although they were also often



Schrofenstein Castle near Landeck

centers for music, literature, and fine arts, for example the 'Minne' singers and the decoration of many fortresses with paintings.

The transition from fortress to castle took place around 1500, during the time of Emperor Maximilian I. A great example of this is **Tratzberg Castle**, which was destroyed by a fire around 1500 and was subsequently rebuilt as a castle. When weaponry became increasingly advanced, the significance of castles waned. Castles increasingly became prestigious residences of the nobility. A clearly discernible difference between a castle in the sense of a "Burg" and a castle in the sense of a "Schloss" or "château" is the heightened demand in the latter for more comfortable living and a greater desire to display wealth and status, as well as the regularity of the layout (in contrast to the former with its rather disjointed and incoherently linked structures) and the organization of the facade.

In the 16th century, fortresses were built with broad earth walls that could withstand the new weaponry. Examples can

be found in northern Italy. Only one such structure can still be found in North Tyrol, the **Kufstein Fortress**. The others were abandoned under Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II. These included the once mighty **Ehrenberg Fortress** on the southern edge of the Reutte basin. Fortresses were usually broad and low, with round towers (turrets) and polygonal defense installations.

Of major importance were precise calculations of the canon trajectories and a small offensive area for attacking foes. It was intended that as few soldiers as possible could defend a fortress from a large superior force over an extended period of time. A number of barriers at the end of valleys ("Klausen") in the 16th and 17th century also exhibited a fortification-like character, for example the **Lienzer Klause**. Smaller manors were also constructed in Tyrol from the Renaissance period, often serving as comfortable residences for various courtiers. Examples of these include **Aschach** near Volders, as well as **Büchsenhausen** and the **Weierburg**.

CHAPTER 2

INNSBRUCK

At the heart of Tyrol