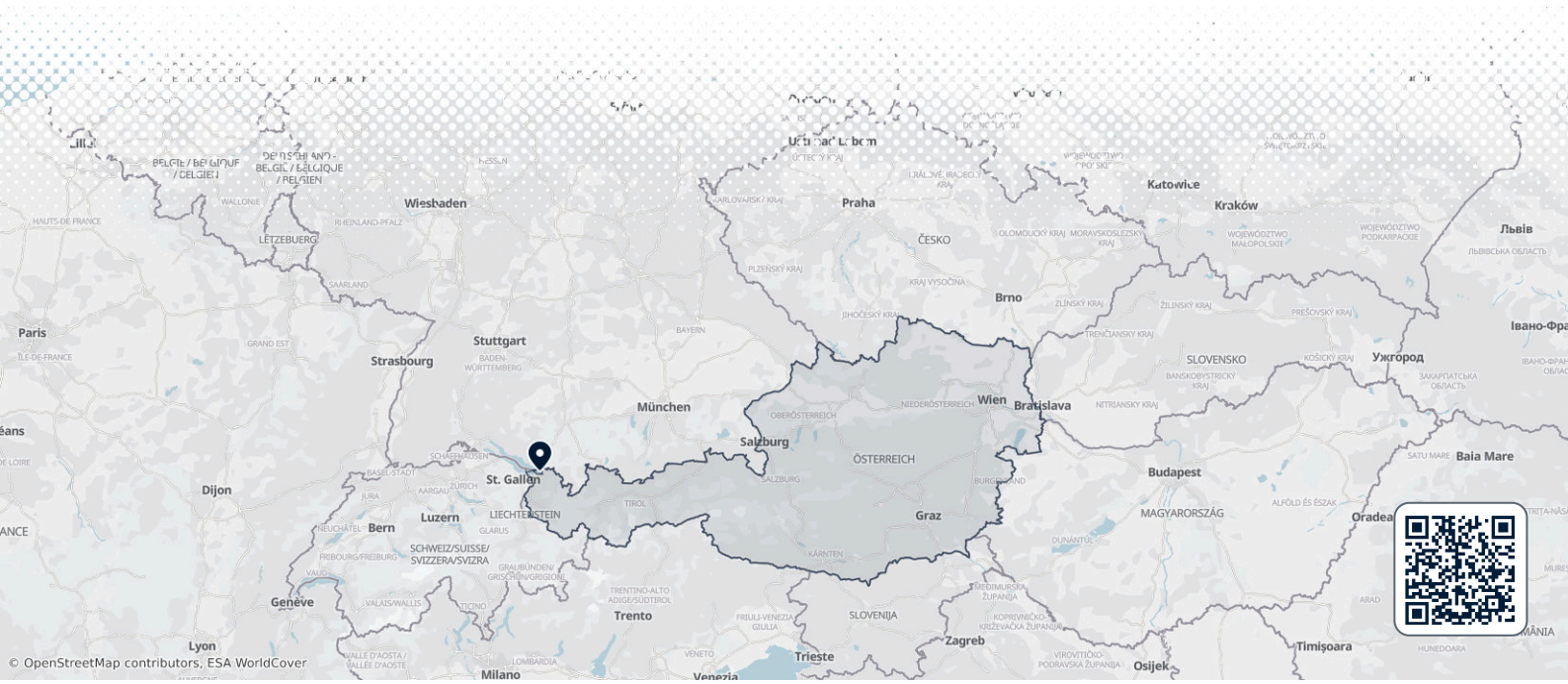


Bregenz

Vorarlberg · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bregenz is the capital of Vorarlberg and sits on the eastern shore of Lake Constance, where Austria, Germany and Switzerland meet. The Pfänder mountain rises right behind the town, and the lake spreads out in front.

Bregenz is best known for its summer opera festival on a floating stage. It also has a small medieval upper town, a famous art museum and a long lakeside promenade.

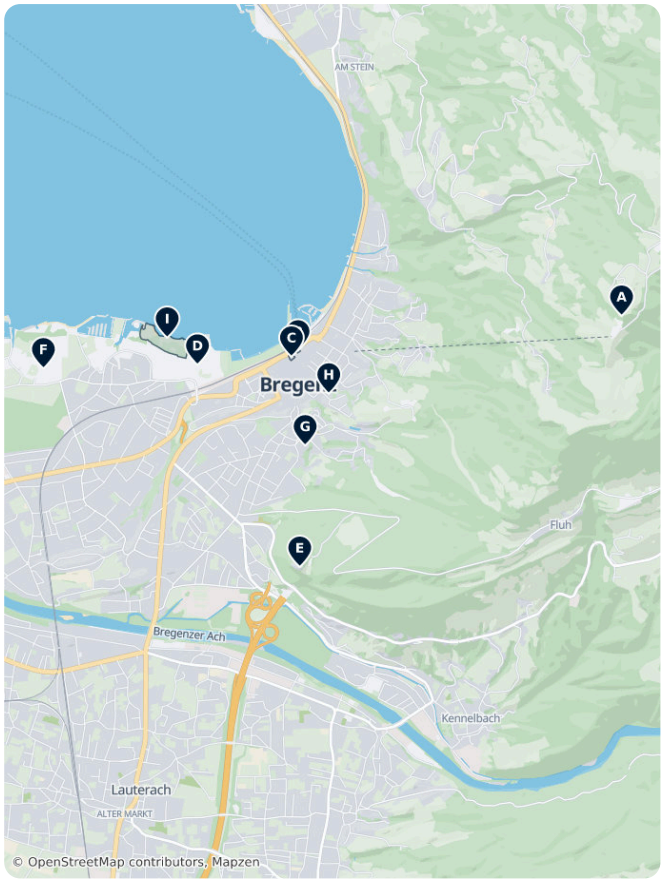
When to visit

June to September is the best time for swimming, boat trips and cycling. The Bregenz Festival runs in July and August, so book rooms early. Spring and autumn are milder and quieter. Winters are cool and often foggy by the lake, but the Pfänder offers views above the cloud on clear days.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 11° Feels like 1°	-2° / -10°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 13° Feels like 2°	-1° / -11°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18° Feels like 7°	2° / -6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23°	6° / -1°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	10° / 5°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	14° / 9°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	16° / 11°	20 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	16° / 11°	18 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	12° / 6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 24°	8° / 2°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18° Feels like 7°	3° / -5°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 12° Feels like 2°	-1° / -10°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Pfänder is the town mountain, reached by cable car in minutes. It has a panoramic view over the lake and the three countries, and an alpine animal park.
- B Kunsthaus Bregenz is an art museum in a glass cube designed by *Peter Zumthor*.
- C vorarlberg museum covers the history, nature and culture of Vorarlberg.
- D Seepromenade Bregenz is the lakeside walkway, which leads to the festival stage and harbour.
- E Burg Hohenbregenz is a ruined castle above the town.
- F Zisterzienserabtei Mehrerau is a Cistercian abbey on the edge of town.
- G Stadtpfarrkirche St. Gallus is the parish church of the old town.
- H Herz Jesu-Kirche is a neo-Romanesque church close to the lake.
- I Seebad Bregenz is the lido and a good swimming spot.
- The Martinsturm in the upper town has the largest onion dome in central Europe.

Bregenz – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

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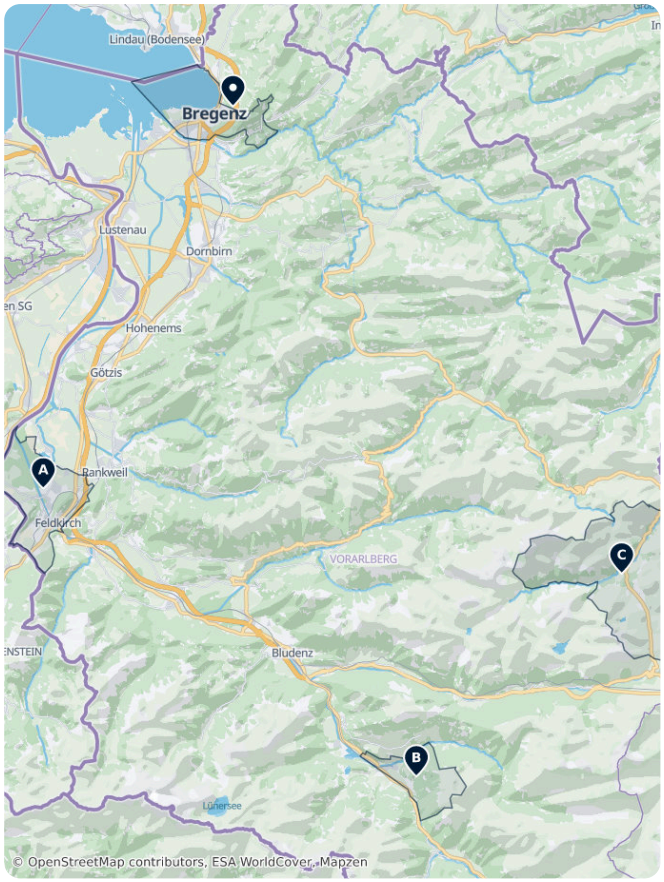
What to experience

- See an opera at the Bregenz Festival on the floating stage.
- Ride the Pfänder cable car at sunset.
- Cycle the lake path toward Lindau.
- Swim or sail in summer.
- Take a lake boat to Konstanz or Lindau.

Day trips

- Lindau in Germany is a small island town, about 15 minutes by train.
- A Feldkirch is a medieval town, about 30 minutes by train.
- Dornbirn is a city with a museum quarter and a cable car, about 15 minutes by train.
- B Schruns is a Montafon resort, about 1 hour 15 minutes by car.
- C Lech is the Arlberg ski village, about 1 hour 30 minutes by car.
- St. Gallen in Switzerland is about 45 minutes by train.



Where to explore

- Feldkirch and Schruns are the closest preferred places in Vorarlberg.

Getting there

- By air: Zurich Airport is about 1 hour 30 minutes away by train. Friedrichshafen is closer, with limited flights. Innsbruck and Munich are alternatives.
- By train: Bregenz is the end of the Vorarlberg line. Zurich takes about 2 hours, Munich about 2 hours 30 minutes, Innsbruck about 2 hours 15 minutes. Check times on ÖBB.
- By boat: Boats run between Bregenz and other towns on Lake Constance.
- By car: The A14 motorway runs through the town.

Getting around

The old town and lakefront are small and walkable. Buses cover the rest of the town. The station is next to the lake. Cycling is easy. The Pfänder cable car starts close to the centre.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The lakefront and the old town are flat and close together. The Pfänder is reached by cable car.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Lake Constance cycle paths run along the shore, and the area is largely flat.

Driving

A car is not needed in town. Traffic can be heavy on the lakeside road in summer. Parking garages are close to the centre. Motorways in Austria need a vignette.

Food & drink

Vorarlberg food mixes Alpine and Swiss influences. Try *Käsknöpfle*, small cheese dumplings, and lake fish such as whitefish (*Felchen*). Local wines grow around the lake. Bregenzerwald cheese is sold in markets.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Wiener Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and pan-fried veal cutlet, traditionally served with potato salad or parsley potatoes and a wedge of lemon.

Tafelspitz
Boiled beef in broth, served with roast potatoes and a sauce of apples and horseradish — a favourite of Emperor Franz Joseph.

Viennese Goulash · Wiener Saftgulasch
A rich beef stew slow-cooked with onions and paprika, typically served with a bread dumpling or bread roll.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Käsekrainer
A grilled pork sausage studded with melty cheese, a classic order at Vienna's ubiquitous Würstelstand (sausage stands).

Sausage Stand Snack · Würstel vom Würstelstand
Grilled or boiled sausages (Bratwurst, Frankfurter, Bosna) served with mustard, bread and a pickle from street kiosks.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Apfelstrudel
Thin pastry rolled around spiced apples, raisins and breadcrumbs, usually served warm with vanilla sauce or cream.

Sachertorte
A dense chocolate cake with a thin layer of apricot jam under a dark chocolate glaze, famously served with unsweetened whipped cream.

Kaiserschmarrn
A fluffy shredded pancake caramelised with sugar and dusted with icing sugar, served with plum or apple compote.

Marillenknödel
Apricot dumplings wrapped in potato or quark dough, rolled in buttery breadcrumbs — a Wachau and Viennese summer specialty.

DRINKS

Viennese Melange · Wiener Melange
The signature Viennese coffee: espresso topped with steamed milk and milk foam, the centrepiece of coffeehouse culture.

Grüner Veltliner
Austria's flagship crisp, peppery white wine, widely poured in Vienna's Heuriger (wine taverns).

Sturm
A cloudy, lightly alcoholic partially-fermented grape must, available only for a few weeks in autumn.

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Safety & health

Bregenz is very safe. Be careful when swimming or on boats in changing weather. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112.

History

Bregenz began as the Roman town of Brigantium. In the Middle Ages the counts of Bregenz built a castle above the town. The Bregenz Festival began in 1946 with performances on boats on the lake, and the large floating stage has been built since the 1980s.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Bregenz Unmissables

Bregenz sits at the edge of Lake Constance, defined by its blend of Alpine landscapes and modern architecture. The city features the world's largest floating stage at the Bregenzer Festspiele and the Peter Zumthor-designed Kunsthaus Bregenz. Visitors can ascend the Pfänder mountain via cable car for views spanning three countries or explore medieval history at the ruins of Burg Hohenbregenz and the baroque interiors of St. Gallus church. The lakeside promenade connects the cultural district to the historic Cistercian Territorial Abbey of Wettingen-Mehrerau.

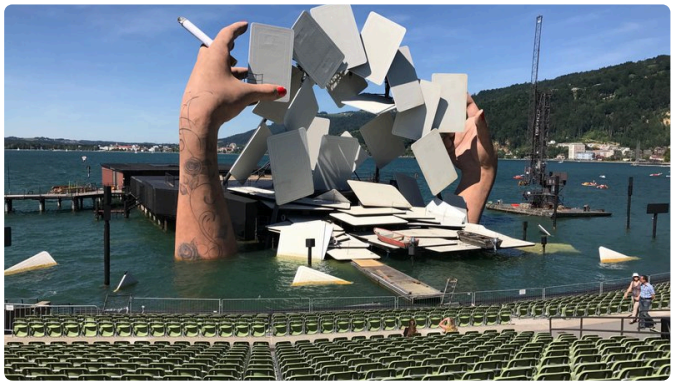




A Lake Promenade Bregenz

Stroll past the lake shore and enjoy the scenic landscape. Lined with trees, restaurants, cafés and sculptures.

Platz der Wiener Symphoniker, Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.50401, 9.73707)



B Bregenzer Festspiele

Bregenzer Festspiele is a performing arts festival which is held every July and August in Bregenz in Vorarlberg.

6900, Austria (47.50563, 9.73810)



C Pfänder

The Pfänder is a mountain in western Austria close to Lake Constance. The city of Bregenz lies at the foot of the mountain on the shores of...

5 Pfänder, 6911, Austria (47.50737, 9.78020)

pfaender.at, +43 5574 4959

D Pfänderbahn Bergstation

Located 1,064 meters above sea level, this mountain station provides access to panoramic viewpoints, an alpine wildlife park, and several hiking trails overlooking Lake Constance and the Swiss Alps.

(47.50596, 9.77914)



E Art Museum Bregenz

The Kunsthaus Bregenz presents temporary exhibitions of international contemporary art in Bregenz, Vorarlberg.

Karl-Tizian-Platz 3, 6900 Bregenz, AT (47.50499, 9.74730)

Jul-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–18:00, 10:00–18:00, 10:00–20:00
Jan-Jun Tu–Su	10:00–18:00, 10:00–18:00, 10:00–20:00
Sep-Dec Tu–Su	10:00–18:00, 10:00–18:00, 10:00–20:00

kunsthaus-bregenz.at, +43 5574 485940



F Burg Hohenbregenz

These 11th-century castle ruins sit atop the Gebhardsberg. The site includes the remains of the medieval fortification and the 18th-century Pilgrimage Church of St. Gebhard, offering views of the Rhine Valley.

1 Gebhardsberg, 6900, Austria (47.49011, 9.74748)



G Territorial Abbey of Wettingen-Mehrerau

Wettingen-Mehrerau Abbey is a Cistercian territorial abbey and cathedral located at Mehrerau on the outskirts of Bregenz in Vorarlberg,...

66 Mehrerauer Straße, Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.50376, 9.72141)

mehrerau.at



H Bregenz railway station

Bregenz railway station is a railway station in the municipality of Bregenz, located in the Bregenz district in Vorarlberg, Austria.

4 Fritz-Mayer-Platz, Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.50302, 9.73976)



I Künstlerhaus - Palais Thurn-und-Taxis

Housed in a neoclassical villa from 1848, this international center for contemporary art hosts rotating exhibitions. The building is surrounded by a public park featuring historic arboretum specimens.

Gallusstraße 10, 6900 Bregenz, AT (47.49945, 9.74455)



J Herz Jesu-Kirche

Completed in 1908, this Neo-Gothic brick church features twin towers reaching 62 meters. The interior contains significant stained glass and a high altar designed by Joseph Schmalzl.

12 Am Brand, Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.50202, 9.75043)

herzjesubregenz.at



K Parish church of St. Gallus, Bregenz

The parish church of St. Gallus is a Roman Catholic church in the city of Bregenz in Vorarlberg, Austria.

4 Kirchplatz, Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.49846, 9.74802)



L Vorarlberg museum

The vorarlberg museum in Bregenz is the state art and cultural museum of the Austrian federal state of Vorarlberg.

Kornmarktplatz 1, 6900 Bregenz, AT (47.50456, 9.74663)

Tu–We	10:00–18:00
Th	10:00–21:00
Fr–Su	10:00–18:00

vorarlbergmuseum.at, +43 5574 46050

Outdoor Adventures

Explore the alpine terrain surrounding Bregenz, anchored by the 1,064-meter Pfänder mountain. This selection features varied outdoor challenges, from the technical Känzele Klettersteig via ferrata routes ranging from moderate to extremely difficult, to the historic Gebhardsberg, home to fortress ruins and views of the Rhine Valley. Hikers can traverse the Leiterleweg approach or reach the Pfänder-Südgipfel for panoramic perspectives of Lake Constance and the Swiss Alps.





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5 Pfänder, 6911, Austria (47.50737, 9.78020)

pfaender.at, +43 5574 4959



B Gebhardsberg

A 598-meter-high hill featuring the ruins of Hohenbregenz fortress and a pilgrimage church, overlooking the Rhine Valley and Lake Constance.

1 Gebhardsberg, 6900, Austria (47.49018, 9.74657)

C Känzele Klettersteig

Extremely difficult category E route featuring steep vertical sections and exposed traverses on the sandstone rock face.

(47.48716, 9.75759)

D Känzele Klettersteig

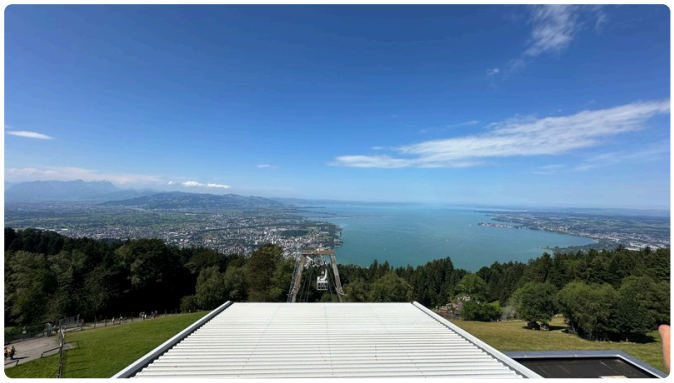
Moderate category B route providing a technical ascent with secured cables and steel footholds.

(47.48709, 9.75722)

E Leiterleweg

Easy alpine approach utilizing ladders and cables to navigate the rocky slopes below the Pfänder.

(47.51232, 9.76215)



F Panorama-Terasse

Cobblestone platform located at the Pfänder mountain station, providing 360-degree views of Lake Constance and the Alps.

(47.50597, 9.77926)

Mo–Su 08:00–19:00

G Känzele

Prominent sandstone rock formation offering vistas over the Rhine Delta and the Swiss mountains.

(47.48760, 9.76215)

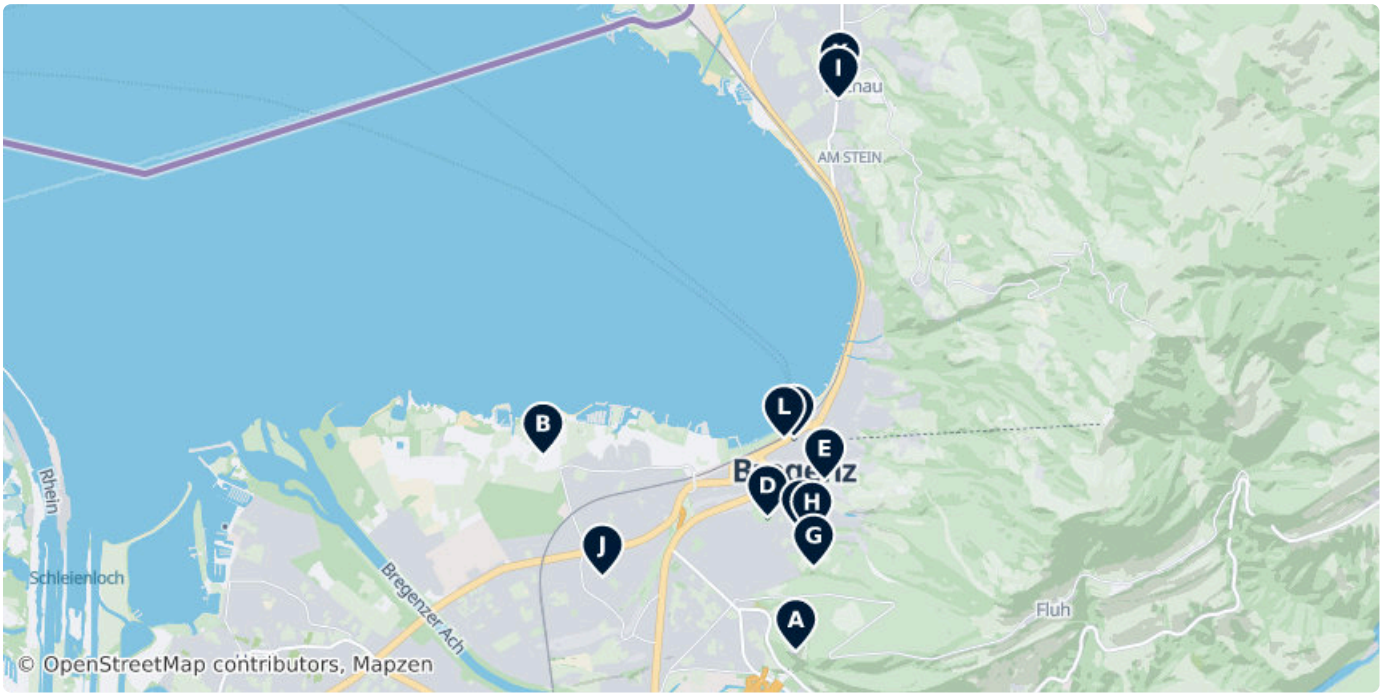
H Pfänder-Südgipfel

The secondary southern summit of the massif, accessible via forest hiking trails from the city or cable car.

6911, Austria (47.50155, 9.77877)

Heritage Sites

Bregenz's heritage spans centuries, from the high medieval ruins of Burg Hohenbregenz to the mid-century Milchpilz kiosk. The collection features significant religious architecture, including the Cistercian Territorial Abbey of Wettingen-Mehrerau and the Parish Church of St. Gallus. Cultural landmarks like the Kunsthaus Bregenz and the Palais Thurn-und-Taxis integrate contemporary art into historic structures, while various monasteries and parish churches across the city and neighboring Lochau illustrate the region's deep-rooted ecclesiastical and architectural history.





A Burg Hohenbregenz

Ruins of a high medieval hill castle overlooking Bregenz. The site preserves the remains of a significant defensive fortification in Vorarlberg.

1 Gebhardsberg, 6900, Austria (47.49011, 9.74748)



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mehrerau.at



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kunsthaus-bregenz.at, +43 5574 485940



D Künstlerhaus - Palais Thurn-und-Taxis

An international center for contemporary art housed in a historic building originally known as Villa Gülich, later the Palais Thurn und Taxis.

Gallusstraße 10, 6900 Bregenz, AT (47.49945, 9.74455)



E Herz Jesu-Kirche

A Roman Catholic parish church built on a plateau above the city center at Kolpingplatz.

12 Am Brand, Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.50202, 9.75043)

herzjesubregenz.at



F Parish church of St. Gallus, Bregenz

The parish church of St. Gallus is a Roman Catholic church in the city of Bregenz in Vorarlberg, Austria.

4 Kirchplatz, Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.49846, 9.74802)



G Villa Raczyński

A Dominican monastery, known as Kloster Marienberg, housed within a historic 19th-century villa.

Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.49597, 9.74931)



H Kloster Thalbach

A former Dominican monastery, also known as Kloster Bregenz, representing the city's ecclesiastical history.

(47.49829, 9.74915)



I Altes Schulhüsle

A heritage-listed former school building in Lochau, constructed between the two World Wars.

Landstraße 25, 6911 Lochau, AT (47.52853, 9.75186)

tourismus.lochau.at/sehenswertes.html



J Maria Hilf Kirche

A Roman Catholic parish church located in the Rieden-Vorkloster district of Bregenz.

52 Mariahilfstraße, Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.49530, 9.72752)



K Pfarrkirche Franz Xaver

A Roman Catholic parish church situated in the southern part of the Lochau municipality.

(47.52962, 9.75201)



L Milchpilz

A heritage-listed, mushroom-shaped kiosk dating back to the 1950s, serving as a historic fast-food stand.

1 Seestraße, Bregenz 6900, Austria (47.50494, 9.74625)

Mo–Su 08:30–19:30

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