



on foot

THROUGH EIGHT
CENTURIES

@feldkirch-leben

FELD
KIRCH CITY TOUR
leben



Discover
Feldkirch
interactively with
the audio guide.

.....
approx. 1 hour
walk



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN EIGHT CENTURIES OF HISTORY!

Experience the urban charm of Feldkirch and immerse yourself in its 800-year-old history. In 1218, the Counts of Montfort laid the foundations for Austria's westernmost city, which today has around 40,000 inhabitants and is the seat of the administrative district, state court and episcopal city.

Until the early 19th century, the city centre was surrounded by a city wall. Five towers and four city gates along this fortification provided protection for the city centre. Many of these remnants from the past can still be discovered today on a stroll through the old town. It is also worth taking a moment to look up: the magnificent house facades from different stylistic periods tell the story of the towns development.

Enjoy the tour through the historic centre of Feldkirch past monuments, houses, arcades and facades that tell of its history.



Audio-Guide

A self-guided audio experience with informative audio commentary takes you through the city.

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- 3 Marktgasse (district)
- 4 Churer Tor (gate)
- 5 Church of Our Lady
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Palais Liechtenstein¹ was the official residence of the Liechtenstein bailiffs in the 18th century. Today it houses the city library, various exhibition rooms and the tourist and ticket officeⁱ.

The **Wildlife Park**² has been home to a variety of animals for over 50 years. Over 170 animals belonging to 25 different species can be visited all year round.

Since the 13th century **Marktgasse**³ (district) has been the heart of the city and its main



trading hub. This is where life happens, whether in shops, at the traditional weekly market (every Tuesday and Saturday), in many cafés and restaurants, or during various events.

The **Churer Tor**⁴ (gate) was the passageway toward Switzerland, where lively trade took place. Feldkirch's favourable location made the town a transshipment point for many goods, and a lot of salt was traded with the town of Chur in particular. The Gothic Church, **Church of Our Lady**⁵, located in

the immediate vicinity, dates back to the 15th century and today provides a place of worship for the Orthodox community.

In the **Heiligkreuz**⁶ (district), the Ill River could be crossed even before the city was founded. A small chapel adorned with frescoes serves as the heart of this charming district.

The **Wasserturm**⁷ (tower) provided the population with direct access to the Ill, while the **Diebsturm**⁸ (tower) functioned as a prison.

The **Finance Directorate**⁹ and the **Regional Court**¹⁰ were built in the early 20th century in the Art Nouveau style by architect Ernst Dittich.

In earlier centuries, the **Zeughaus**¹¹ (armoury) was used to store weapons and later also fire-fighting equipment for the fire brigade. Today, the Armoury serves as a clubhouse.

Reichenfeld¹² (park), with the **Altes Hallenbad**¹³ (event location), the **Pförtnerhaus**¹⁴ (event location) and the

Music School¹⁵ as well as the green spaces and a large playground, is a local recreation area and cultural quarter. The **Stella Vorarlberg**¹⁶, the private college for music, was part of the former Jesuit college Stella Matutina, which was attended by students from all over the world. It was built around 1900 and today offers space for teaching and concerts.

The **Hochwuhr Power Station**¹⁷ is clearly visible from the Ganahlsteg. In addition to harnessing hydropower, flood protection is a key concern in the river's structural engineering.



The new culture and congress centre, **Montforthaus**¹⁸ (event location), was opened in 2015. With its organically curved exterior and vertically structured natural stone facade, the modern building blends harmoniously into the historic city centre.



The **City Fortifications**¹⁹ protected Feldkirch's inhabitants from intruders until the 19th century. Remains of the wall can still be seen in several places, including near the Montforthaus and the Katzenturm.



The **Mühletor**²⁰ (gate) – also known as the Sautor – was located directly next to the Herrenmühle and the Schweinemarkt (colloquially referred to as the »Saumarkt« (or pig market)).

The **Pulverturm**²¹ (tower) is the oldest of the four walled towers and was built in 1460. Once used to store gunpowder, the tower now serves as an art space for creative work.



Johanniterchurch²² was the first church in Feldkirch's old town. The founder of the town, Graf Hugo von Montfort, gifted it to the Order of St John

in recognition of their assistance in building the town. Today, contemporary art installations can be marvelled here.

Neustadt²³ (district) was built in the 13th century at the foot of Schattenburg Castle. It leads into **Goaßzipfl**²⁴ (district), whose name comes from the Gaisbock clock on the former Bludenz Tor. As a green pedestrian zone, today the Neustadt invites you to take a stroll.

The **Schattenburg**²⁵ (castle), Feldkirch's landmark for centuries, was once a protective castle, the official residence of the Counts of Montfort and later the Habsburg bailiffs, a poorhouse and prison. Today you can visit the Schattenburg Museum and the castle restaurant as well as play minigolf.

The facade of the **Town Hall**²⁶ tells the story of the town's eventful history. A large painting by Feldkirch painter Florus Scheel on the ground floor of the town hall shows what Feldkirch's old town looked like in the 17th century.

Find
out more at
feldkirch-leben.at/
discover

As a Gothic church, **St Nikolaus Cathedral**²⁷ was built in the 15th century by master builder Hans Sturn. The cathedral is famous for the Annenaltar by Wolf Huber and the stained glass windows by Martin Häusle. The Rheticus monument »der betstuhl« has stood on the cathedral square since 2009. The monument is not only a sundial based on the principle of the noon line, but also a prayer or meditation chair.

The most imposing tower is the **Katzenturm**²⁸ (tower), which was rebuilt under Emperor Maximilian around 1500. The so-called Katzen (cannons) were kept here. Every Friday at 3 pm, the largest and heaviest bell in Vorarlberg, weighing over 8.5 tonnes, rings out.



Fancy discovering even
„more” of Feldkirch?
You can find further
information and tips at
feldkirch-leben.at or at the
tourism and ticket office.

Group tours

Our group tours can be arranged individually – from classic city tours to themed and adventure tours with fun and action.



**Themes and dates throughout
the year can be found at
feldkirch-leben.at/discover**

„Feldkirch from above“

Change your perspective! The surrounding hills offer vantage points that provide a marvellous view of the town: from Ardetzenberg, Stadtschrofen, Känzele, Blasenbergl and Schellenberg. Details of hiking routes and cycle tours can be found in the „aktiv“ leisure map.

Stadtmarketing und Tourismus Feldkirch GmbH

Tourist Office: T +43 5522 9008 | tourismus@feldkirch.at | feldkirch-leben.at

Opening hours: MO-FR 9am - 5pm | SA 9am - 12pm | closed on Sundays + public holidays