


# Feldkirch

by foot through 8 centuries


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#### Would you like more information?

»Heinrich – The small guide through Feldkirch« presents really useful tips to make your stay in Feldkirch perfect. Take it with you to explore the city from early to late while also discovering interesting facts about the city's history and sights. The booklet is available from the Tourism and Ticket Office in the Palais Liechtenstein.



**WLAN Hotspots:** Feldkirch Municipal Utilities (Stadtwerke Feldkirch) provides free Internet access via Wireless LAN (Wi-Fi) in many public places. Look for the signs! 



#### INFORMATION

Tourism and Ticket Office

Stadtmarketing und Tourismus Feldkirch GmbH  
Palais Liechtenstein, Schlossergasse 8, 6800 Feldkirch  
T 0043 5522 9009, tourismus@feldkirch.at  
feldkirch.travel

  visit.feldkirch

The **MONTFORTHHAUS**<sup>1</sup> was opened as a cultural and congress centre in 2015 and was designed by the Hascher Jehle (Berlin) and Mitiska Wäger (Bludenz) teams of architects. Fine food and drinks are available with a great view at the Restaurant E3 with terrace on the top floor of the Montforthaus.

**CITY FORTIFICATIONS**<sup>2</sup> The city wall protected Feldkirch's residents from intruders until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The most impressive tower is the **CATS TOWER**<sup>3</sup> (Katzenturm), which was rebuilt around 1500 under Emperor Maximilian. It's where the »cats« (»Katzen«) – which was what the cannons used to be called – were stored. It's bell, the largest and heaviest in Vorarlberg, which weighs more than 8.5 tonnes, is rung at 3 p.m. on Fridays. The **CHURER OR SALT GATE**<sup>4</sup> (Churer or Saltzor) was the gateway to Switzerland – to which the city had built lively trade links. Feldkirch's favourable location made the town a transshipment centre for many goods – with salt being one of the main commodities that was traded in particular with the town of Chur. The Gothic **CHURCH OF OUR LADY**<sup>5</sup> (Frauenkirche), which dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, is located next to the Churer Gate. The Thieve's Tower (Diebsturm) served as a prison while the **WATER TOWER**<sup>6</sup> (Wasserturm) provided the inhabitants with direct access to the River Ill. Gunpowder used to be stored in the **POWDER TOWER**<sup>7</sup> (Pulverturm). The **MILL OR SWINE GATE**<sup>8</sup> (Mühle or Sautor) was located directly next to the Mill (Herrenmühle) and the Pig Market (also known colloquially as the »Swine Market«, which were the Schweinemarkt or »Saumarkt« respectively).

The **NEW TOWN**<sup>9</sup> (Neustadt) was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century at the foot of the Schattensburg and has been pedestrianised in 2019. It flows into the **GAISZIPFEL**<sup>10</sup>, which is named after the Gaisbock (Billy Goat) clock on the former Bludenz Gate (Bludnzer Tor).

The **SCHATTENBURG CASTLE**<sup>11</sup>, Feldkirch's landmark for many centuries, used to be a protective castle, office and residence for the Counts of Montfort and later became the offices of the Habsburg reeves, a poorhouse and a prison. It's possible to visit the Schattensburg Museum today.

The façade of the **TOWN HALL**<sup>12</sup> (Rathaus) bears witness to the city's eventful history. The large painting by Florus Scheel that may be admired on the ground floor of the town hall reveals what Feldkirch's old town looked like in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**ST. NICHOLAS' CATHEDRAL**<sup>13</sup> was built as a place of worship in the Gothic style by master builder Hans Sturm in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It's known for the altar by Wolf Huber and the church windows by Martin Häusle. The cathedral square is home to »der betstuhl« (»kneeler«), a sculpture by Hanno Metzler, which is also a sundial and commemoration of Georg Joachim Rhetikus, a mathematician, physician and astronomer from Feldkirch.

The **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**<sup>14</sup> (Johanniterkirche) was the first church to be built in Feldkirch's old town and was gifted by Count Hugo of Montfort, the city's founder, to the Order of St. John for its help in establishing the town. Today, the church is home to contemporary art installations and various exhibitions.

The **MARKET SQUARE**<sup>15</sup> (Marktplatz) has been the heart and trading place of the city since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. This is where life happens, be it in the shops, at the traditional weekly market (every Tuesday and Saturday morning), in the many cafés, bars and restaurants or at various events.

The **PALAIS LIECHTENSTEIN**<sup>16</sup> was the official residence of the Liechtenstein reeves in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and today houses the city library, various exhibitions as well as the Tourism and Ticket Office.

The **STATE CONSERVATORY**<sup>17</sup> (Vorarlberger Landeskonservatorium) was part of the former Jesuit College Stella Matutina which students attended from all over the world. It was founded around 1900 and today offers music students and their teachers space for lessons and concerts.

The **REICHENFELD**<sup>18</sup> forms the local recreation area and cultural quarter which the music school, the State Conservatory (Landeskonservatorium), the Gatehouse (Pfortnerhaus) and the Old Indoor Swimming Pool (Altes Hallenbad) as well as green areas and a large playground are part of.

The head of Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, to whom people suffering from head ailments appeal for help, has found its final resting place at the **CAPUCHIN MONASTERY**<sup>19</sup> (Kapuzinerkloster), which was built in 1605. Fidelis was briefly the head of the monastery and was beaten to death in Graubünden.

It was already possible to cross the River Ill from the **HOLY-CROSS-QUARTER**<sup>20</sup> (Heilig-Kreuz-Viertel) before the city was established. A small chapel with frescoes is the centre of this picturesque part of the city.

Weapons and later the fire brigade's fire-extinguishing equipment were kept at the **ARMOURY**<sup>21</sup> (Zeughaus) in previous centuries.

The **DISTRICT COURT**<sup>22</sup> (Landesgericht) was built by architect Ernst Dittrich in the Art Nouveau style at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; it is responsible for dealing with cases in the Federal State of Vorarlberg.

The **WILDLIFE PARK**<sup>23</sup> (Wildpark) is located on the Ardetzenberg. This is the place to see around 160 native species of animals all year round, a kiosk welcomes visitors from spring to autumn. Admission is free, but a voluntary donation is very welcome.