

**ÖTZ  
TAL**

# MAGAZINE

Summer 2013

## COUNTRY LIFE

Shepherds and innkeepers, villages, hamlets and pastures

## FEELS LIKE HOME

Culture fans and nature lovers, waters, meadows, forests and rocks

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## DEAR GUESTS,

**HOME COUNTRY** is the slogan of this summer magazine. And it still has a very special meaning in the Ötztal Valley. Here researchers have found the oldest traces of human beings within the entire Alpine region: shepherds with their grazing herds and hunters spent their summer in the high Alpine side valleys of Obergurgl and Vent already some 9000 years ago. The mountain hamlet of Farst is the oldest permanently settled village since the early Middle Ages. In the 19th century Vent was Tirol's first address for alpinists and mountain pioneers of all kinds. Today the scenic village is also renowned for its ARTEVENT culture festival and the new "Friedl" open-air theater production. Fortunately there are still things that don't change in the course of time.

**SPIRITS ARE HIGH** when it comes to adventurous sports, fun-filled activities and surprising highlights for all those in search of relaxation or adrenaline kicks, splendid gourmet holidays or ultimate well-being. Be it top sportsmen or sun worshippers, adults or children of all ages - everyone will find a personal hot spot either down in the valley or high up in the mountains. The Ötztal boasts countless facets for all generations: lovely mountain villages, culture events, nature treasures and unlimited sports await you!

**INFINITE PLEASURE** is synonymous with the Ötztal Valley. There is always something to discover, boredom is literally unknown. Deeply rooted traditions, century-old buildings, plus loads of new ideas accompany you all day long. The incredible ÖTZTAL PREMIUM CARD ranks among the undisputed summer highlights as it has more than hundred partner hotels. This is the easiest way to explore nature's beauties and treasures spread all over the valley at really unbeatable rates. As always we give you a heartfelt welcome

to the

PEAK OF TIROL!

Oliver Schwarz,  
Managing Director of Ötztal Tourismus

Talleitspitze peak high above Vent





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# ÖTZTAL-FLASH

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## ÖTZTAL IN THE SOCIAL NETWORK



Facebook, Youtube and Twitter are virtual guides leading right to the Ötztal. Come in, take a look and stay tuned: social media channels are just perfect to keep in touch – and we are still improving them!



## QUALITY SEAL

The Ötztal Magazine 2013 is printed on 100% recycled paper. What does it mean? Not a single tree was cut! Ötztal Tourismus is proud to publish this booklet on environmental-friendly material sealed with the Austrian Eco Label designed by Friedensreich Hundertwasser.



## ÖTZTAL WATER STRIDER TRAILS

Passionate hikers can follow conveniently the course of the Alpine waters on one of the six Ötztal Water Strider Trails. Two of them received the German "Premium Trail" award! Starting point of the easy to intermediate tours are Oetz, Umhausen and Längenfeld in the lower valley and Sölden, Vent and Obergurgl in the upper part. Natural gems accompany you all day long: Alpine ponds, lake Piburger See, ancient irrigation ditches, white waters like Stuibenfall and Öztaler Ache or healing waters like the sulfur spring in Längenfeld. [www.oetztal.com](http://www.oetztal.com). [www.oetztal.com](http://www.oetztal.com)



## ÖTZTAL PREMIUM CARD

Mountain lifts, public bus lines, Timmelsjoch Alpine road, guided hikes, free admission to swimming pools, Aqua Dome Spa Center or Area 47 - all this and a lot more highlights spread all over the Ötztal are already included in the Ötztal Premium Card from the moment you check-in. You receive this ultimate card at more than 100 partner hotels. A free booklet with the entire list of discounts is available at all Ötztal Tourismus information offices. Of course, guests who stay in other hotels can purchase the well-tried Ötztal Card for 3, 7 or 10 days - your key to unlimited fun and generous discounts. [www.premiumcard.oetztal.com](http://www.premiumcard.oetztal.com)



## ALPINE TRAVELING THEATER

This is all about the escape of Tirol's Duke Friedrich IV, nicknamed "Friedl Empty Pockets", through the upper Ötztal – which never happened but has already become a legend. In September 2013 you have the unique chance to watch a truly outstanding open-air stage play or theater "road movie" taking place between Rofenhöfe Farms and Niedertal Valley. Spectators can hear live sounds and quotes via earplugs and radio transmission. The actors in historical dresses are both near and far at the same time. A highly innovative theater performance for hikers interested in culture and culture fans fond of hiking. [www.vent.at](http://www.vent.at)



## FESTIVE CELEBRATION

The deeply rooted event starts with a mountain mass at Rotes Wandl, offering picture-book panoramic views of the lower Ötztal and Inntal Valley. Afterwards, visitors can indulge in typical delights at Panorama Restaurant Hochoetz and the nearby mountain huts. The yearly Pasture Festival is held in the Oetz hiking region on Sunday, 18 August 2013. Special mountain lift discounts. [www.oetz.com](http://www.oetz.com)



## ADVENTURE GROUNDS

In June the new "Kinderland Oetz" opens its doors, Ötztal's biggest play and adventure area which is free of charge. The playground for kids between two and five years is located next to the Oetz outdoor pool. Parents can supervise the little ones while sitting on the restaurant's terrace. A bridge leads to the play area for older kids: the themed areas refer to the Hochoetz Miners' Trail, presenting varied Mining Adventures – such as gold washing, shaft tower or tunnels. [www.oetz.com](http://www.oetz.com)



## SOURCE OF RELAXATION

Even more water fun and well-being await you at the Aqua Dome Spa Center - Tirol Therme Längenfeld. The hotel has been extended, 60 newly designed guest rooms and 5 seminar halls were added, plus a huge Hotel Spa including herb bath and herb sauna, gentian bowl, crystal bath, private spa for two, Längenfeld wooden bath tubs, refreshing water spray and fantastic relaxation parlors covering a total size of 1800 square meters. The peak of all pleasures: indoor and outdoor loungers on the rooftop provide awe-inspiring panoramic views of the Alpine scenery. [www.aqua-dome.at](http://www.aqua-dome.at)



## MYTHIC TRAIL OF LEGENDS

Ötztal's new Trail of Legends is three kilometers long. It takes about one hour to walk from the Huben sports field – near Längenfeld – to the scenic "Alpengasthof am Feuerstein" inn. A mountain bike trail travels parallel to the walking route. Along the trail you find countless mythical figures from the Ötztal: fire horsemen, mountain enchantresses, waterfall guardians – 14 metal figures were designed by the local artists Annemarie and Günther Fahrner. Information boards display the detailed story of each figure. The Trail of Legends is illuminated in a mythic way every Tuesday and Thursday. [www.laengenfeld.com](http://www.laengenfeld.com)



## SUPERB PASS ROAD

From now on the Timmelsjoch High Alpine Road features even more panoramic highlights: the "Footpath" at the road toll station in Hochgurgl, the "Smuggler" near the bridge over Timmelsbach brook, the "Telescope" located below Scheibkopf, the "Pass Museum" and the "Garnet" add to an even more memorable crossing of the border between Ötztal and South Tyrol's Passeiertal. All attractions are free of charge! The pass road is open from May through October, weather permitting. [www.timmelsjoch.com](http://www.timmelsjoch.com)



## LOVELINESS

Wonderful lightheartedness mirrored in the waters of lake Piburger See





## SERENITY

Listen to the silence of your heart, surrounded by giant rocks and eternal ice





Local heritage museum Ötztal

Turmmuseum Oetz

Ötzi Village

Ötztal Nature Park

Nature and culture in Ötztal...  
...pull in the same direction.

## Ötztal Homeland

Ötztal is not only home to four impressive cultural facilities, with the 'Ötztal Nature Culture' project, it also represents a very special cooperation for all those who are interested in matters pertaining to nature and culture. What it is that characterises the Ötztal and what has been created in our homeland is made accessible and available to visitors, in an impressive manner.

- Local heritage museum Ötztal
- Tower Museum Oetz
- Ötztal Nature Park
- Ötzi Village



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in LÄNGENFELD+LEHN  
GEDÄCHTNISSEPRECHER ÖTZTAL  
ÖTZTALER HEIMATVEREIN



Mountain biking in scenic Sölden





Baroque-style parish church in Haiming



## ORCHARDS IN FULL BLOOM AND JUICY FRUIT

In Haiming it's all about apples. In addition to a few gnarled, old apple trees there are some 60,000 carefully shaped plants growing merrily side by side.

Text: Inge Ahrens

**T**owards the end of April there is the pleasant smell of apples all over the place. Clouds of white and pale pink apple blossoms mark the confluence of the Ötztaler Ache and Inn rivers. Those passing by on foot or by bicycle are overjoyed at the sight of 60,000 apple trees growing amidst a sea of dandelion and forget-me-not.

"The apples collected in the course of the third (and last) picking session of the year are used for making apple juice", says Hubert Wammes. "The apples of the first and second pickings are suitable for storage at temperatures between 1 and 3 °C and in high humidity, which keeps them fresh and juicy."

Hubert Wammes, fruit grower and managing director of the Oberinntalobst GmbH association, is responsible for the apple storehouse shared by 25 local orchardists. The storehouse has a capacity of 1.5 million kilos of apples. However, the hall is almost empty when the trees in the orchards are in full bloom.

Today, more than ten apple varieties are grown here on a trellis system, among them Elstar, Boskoop, Arlet, Jonagold and Topaz. Apples from Haiming are crisp and juicy, particularly suitable for storage, and available at local supermarkets throughout the year. As a matter of fact, 90 %

of the apples produced in the Tirolean Oberland area are consumed in Tirol.

**The Baroque tower of the local church virtually emerges from a sea of myriads of blossoms.**

Gone are the days when farmers had their own orchards, and when people from the Ötztal and Inntal Valleys traded their fruit for cheese, meat or cowberries. Traditional orchards were home to cherries and pears, as well as to legendary apple varieties such as Brünnerling, Schafsnase and Bohnapfel, which have become pretty rare, as have Klarapfel, Goldparmäne and Bernerrose.

Born the son of a farmer in Tschermes (South Tyrol), Simon Wegscheider was instantly aware of the pleasant, inner alpine climate when he first arrived in Haiming. When he created the first orchard in 1890, in an area that was considered unsuitable for growing much more than potatoes, his efforts were met with disapproval. Four generations later Simon Wegscheider's descendants are still running their family's fruit growing business with remarkable success.

According to Hubert Wammes pomiculture has become a major issue in Haiming. Apple







orchards were set up some fifty years ago. In 1964 it was as few as seven farmers who picked Berlepsch or Goldparmäne from their 4,000 trellised apple trees. Pesticides were used excessively. Nevertheless, these old varieties became increasingly unpopular, since their cultivation proved to be too time-consuming.

In the past local fruit growers joined forces to establish a marketing cooperative. 80 % of the apples grow in conventional orchards, while 20 % are from organic production. The blooming period of apples is from early April to early May. The harvest starts in early September and is usually finished by mid October. In the Tirolean Oberland apples are picked by hand, carefully packed, and stored in a refrigerated hall. Haiming alone produces 700 tons of apples a year.

**The revival of apple cultivation in Haiming started 50 years ago with a number of new varieties trained to trellises.**

A considerable amount of apples is consumed in the course of the annual autumn festival in Haiming, preferably in the form of freshly pressed, cloudy apple juice. In addition, all fruit growers process apples in their private distilleries. Some businesses produce apple slices for confectioneries, jelly, apple sauce, must and cider. A couple of farmers still grow old and rare (and nowadays increasingly popular) varieties of apple trees inherited from their great-grandfathers. You may well be fortunate enough to get Gravensteins – a variety discovered in the 17th century. Its skin is a delicately waxy yellow-green with crimson spots and reddish lines.

In autumn Hubert Wammes shows interested visitors around the Haiming storage building brimming with apples, and offers samples of apple juice and schnapps. Also popular are the leisurely, self-guided cycle tours through the Apple Valley, along endless rows of espaliered trees that proudly show off their wide crowns heavily laden with sweet, yellowish-green and red apples.

[www.haiminger-markttage.at](http://www.haiminger-markttage.at)



A bite into tasty apples at Haiming's Autumn Market

#### TESTIMONIAL

#### A GOOD ONE NEVER DISAPPOINTS

*"Old apple varieties are growing in our orchard: Croncels, Landsberger Renette, Boskop, Jonagold, Goldparmäne and Weinapfel. Our homemade sausages also require a perfectly distilled schnapps. Therefore we have refined only premium fruit over the last five years. I want to preserve all these superb apple varieties. I use sweet apples, like Renette, for producing apple brandy. They are harvested in October because they need frosty temperatures to develop their aroma. Top-quality fruit can only grow on healthy trees pruned by an expert. What's most important, a good schnapps should never burn in your mouth. The central taste must be well-balanced. Sampling the spirit, I imagine the apple's taste: ripe, juice and fruity. A small hint of bitterness is normal, maybe with a slight acid touch. On the nose and palate you taste the aroma's variety. And this nice flavor should last for a while. Good fruit brandy has to be enjoyed."*

Andreas Sonnweber (27) runs the organic farm of his parents in Oetz. He received the Spirits Sommelier Diploma of Innsbruck's Chamber of Commerce in 2011.

"Reaß'n'hof" farm shop, Andreas Sonnweber, Mühlweg 33, 6433 Oetz

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# LAWN MOWERS FUELLED ON SALT

The earliest evidence of herdsmen in the Ötztal Valley dates from 4000 B.C. Between Haiming and the main alpine ridge the cattle have been keeping the environment in good shape up to the present day.

Text: Isolde v. Mersi



Shepherd Matthias Neuraüter at the horse pasture of Feldringalm

The herdsmen's yell penetrates the silence and carries on across pines and rocks, up and down the slopes to several clusters of cattle grazing in the morning sun. Matthias Neuraüter, aged 28, shouts out commands to his cattle dog, Benny, who seems to enjoy his exciting job: He is to separate eight cows from the herd, for whom the time has come to return to the farm after a lazy summer on the Feldringalm mountain pastures.

"Salt and bran get the cattle going", says Matthias, producing a handful of the mixture from his leather bag and spreading it on a flat rock. They come trotting over immediately, and he directs those meant to return home towards the respective trail.

**Fencing helps to keep the cattle within the boundaries of the Feldringalm pastures. Therefore, walkers should always remember to close the gates in order to prevent the cattle from straying.**

Between mid June and mid September the Feldringalm at an altitude of 1888 to 2500 meters is home to 90 cattle and 90 horses. "Horses prefer short, stubby grass and therefore climb higher than cattle. And, besides, there are no flies and horse flies up there", says Matthias.

The Feldringalm covers a total of 1334 acres, including 544 acres of forage acreage. "Horses do not need much attention, we check on them only every other day", Matthias points out. "The cattle, however, must be counted and checked for injuries every day. And we have to make sure they don't graze on neighboring pastures."



Alfons Gufler takes his goats and sheep back home to South Tyrol

**There are more than 494,000 acres of mountain pastures in Tirol. Obergurgl's mountain meadows are among those with the longest tradition of cattle grazing since 4700 B.C.**

The herdsmen's accessories are merely a pair of sturdy boots, a crook, and a bag to carry salt, quite similar to the equipment used in the Neolithic period. The only modern aids are the binoculars and an off-road vehicle that allows for easy transportation to the Feldringalm for Matthias and his young assistant, Lukas (16). Matthias, who makes his living as a farmer and breeder of Braunvieh (brown cattle), is spending his sixth summer up here – owed to his love of animals and nature.

For more than thirty years now, early in summer, Alfons Gufler moves to Obergurgl with about a thousand sheep owned by South Tyrolean farmers, driving them up from Pfelders and across the Timmelsjoch Pass to the vast terrain of the Gurgler Alm pastures. Around September 20 the sheep and shepherd return to their homes. This kind of transfer of livestock from one grazing ground to another is called transhumance. The tradition of driving sheep from the Passeier and Schnalstal Valleys to the summer pastures of Obergurgl and Vent has been practiced for thousands of years and was even added to the list of UNESCO Intangible Heritage in 2011.

Alfons is the oldest and most experienced shepherd in the Ötztal Valley. At the age of 11 he came across the Timmelsjoch Pass with a flock of sheep for the first time. In his eyes the Ötztal pastures are the most beautiful place in the world. Between 1975 and 1979 Alfons tended sheep in the Timmelstal Valley. Following a tough summer with heaps of

snow, an avalanche, and a deceased sheep he quit his job. After three years of yearning Alfons returned to the mountain pastures in 1983. He was in charge of the Gurgler Alm then, with feeding grounds at altitudes of 2270 to 3000 meters. The Gurgler Alm had been abandoned for 15 years, and it took a while for the sheep to get the neglected pastures back to health.

"Sheep do not demand much attention", says Alfons, "all they need is some salt, and I have to keep an eye on them so they won't stray out." He is devoted to his job and spends many hours a day walking with his flock, feeding them salt and marveling at the beauty of nature. The main task of a shepherd, however, is the annual sheep drive in autumn, which takes three days. Together with eight young locals Alfons gathers his scattered sheep in a pen in Obergurgl before driving them back to their homes in South Tyrol.

**Together with eight young locals Alfons gathers his scattered sheep in a pen in Obergurgl before driving them back to their homes in South Tyrol.**

Alfons, the shepherd, owns a mobile phone, but no car or motorbike for a short trip to Obergurgl. With numerous walkers and hikers passing by and his best friends dropping in regularly he doesn't feel lonely anyway. Alfons is of advanced age and has other health problems. "When I was in hospital I was craving for the moment I would again be able to walk along the paths and trails high up on the Gurgler Alm mountain pastures." He was lucky indeed. Being able to spend another summer in the mountains of Gurgl with his flock of sheep is all the modest shepherd can wish for. Year after year.



# LIVING BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY

The mountain hamlet of Farst, an eyrie at 1482 meters altitude, was already founded in the Middle Ages. A dozen people still live here on the steep rock wall: snack station, dreamlike views and a different philosophy of life included.

Text: Lutz Bormann



Carrying the hay on the steep meadows in Farst

Scenic Farst, a mountain hamlet towering high above the village of Umhausen, can be seen from far if you look northwards. You can make out only a couple of brightly shining white buildings spread over verdant pasturelands, embedded in precipitous rock walls. Visitors may ask themselves: "How can you live up there in the middle of the rocks? And why?" That's the question! Karin Falkner from Umhausen answered it at least a thousand times. 30 years ago she married her husband Norbert in Farst. Right next to the hamlet with its four farmhouses, three hay barns and one chapel you find the steep Farstrinne mountain trench that looks like a tectonic gun barrel. In case of heavy rainfalls the waters of more than five square kilometers meet here before falling down to the valley bottom together with loads of gravel, rocks and mud. Control structures have been built over the last decades.

**The mountain hamlet of Farst dates back to the 13th century, ranking among Ötztal's oldest settlements. A truly spectacular place where progress has already arrived. But the hamlet and its inhabitants are still very special.**

Since then the snack station, the ten inhabitants, one hundred sheep, thirty goats, twelve cows and four pigs live on the safe side of the mountain. Splendid Reichalm is located some 500 meters above, the pastureland area where the cows of the Falkner Family spend their summer in July and August. There is always a lot of work in summer and winter alike. Karin Falkner is standing on the picture-book terrace and smiles: "How can you NOT want to live here, amid this superb panorama? We have everything we need, we are happy!" And if the kids' ball falls down to the valley or if you forgot to buy something in the supermarket? "Then we



Farst, the eagle's eyrie at 1482 m altitude, was founded in the Middle Ages

need a new ball – like it happened many times. It's most important to organize your life almost perfectly." And in winter? "We have sunshine from the early morning to the late afternoon. Therefore the snow melts quickly even with heavy snowfalls. Thanks to the snow-clearing trucks the road is open, too."

The road has changed everything. Around 1980 countless serpentine roads were cut into the rocks. Only the inhabitants of Farst, taxis or emergency vehicles are allowed to use the steeply winding road. It takes about one and a half hour to walk on foot, passing St. Martin's Chapel featuring a relief made by the local carver Gerhard Jenewein.

On hot summer days the dusty air seems to glow, only a few walkers dare to conquer the steep ascent. Once arrived in Farst, there is always a breath of air. On cooler and cloud-covered days many hikers get together in the vantage point's quaint parlors where freshly prepared lamb roast or venison delights are served. The original Farst Farm Region, focusing on cattle breeding, was founded as a permanent settlement by wealthy landlords between the 12th and 13th centuries. The local dairymen had to deliver 300 cheese loaves per year to the owners. The name of Farst derives from the Latin word "foris" which means "outside" – how obvious!

Founded by Bavaria's Frauenchiemsee Monastery, the settlement became a renowned hunting base of the landlords. The rent was much lower and the farmers had to pay only a third of the regular amount. Nature's hazards and the weary ascent of course remained the same. If a cow was brought down to the valley in winter four strong farmers had to guide the animal with ropes and chains. The icy path was extremely dangerous for both men and animal. Rainfalls and snow eroded the meadows and pastures. In spring the farmers had to bring back all the material in huge wooden panniers.

Norbert Falkner's mother, Sabina nicknamed "Mina", has experienced loads of such strains in her life. She was born at home without the help of Umhausen's midwife because she was late, it simply took too long to reach Farst. Mina herself has eight children, and she had exactly the same problem. "Once I was in labor and at home alone. So I walked down to the valley and gave birth to my baby at the doctor's house. I wanted to go home afterwards but he didn't let me go. He thought I needed some rest", explains Mina Falkner.

A nice-smelling apple strudel on the kitchen table, another great passion of Mina. The sprightly, 84-year old lady is the undisputed cake and bread baking queen of Farst. The old bread baking oven can be found right next to the house. Some 100 meters beeline below, Karin lays the tables on the terrace. The first guests will soon come and take a rest. Someone arrives on his motorbike: the husband of Mina's granddaughter loves to enjoy a piece of apple strudel on the terrace. He also designed and built the beautiful kitchen stove for his beloved mother-in-law, a masterpiece of stove fitting.

A group of mountain bikers has reached the snack station right in time for lunch. Mina's older sister, Maria, rings the chapel's bell three times a day. That must be a good exercise! Hard work maybe has many positive effects on the persons living here in Farst. "Troubles and problems break a person's mind, the hectic of everyday life makes it even worse", confirms Mina. But what was the most straining thing in her life? "The never-ending work and the children!"





# WHY WATER STRIDERS LIVE LONGER

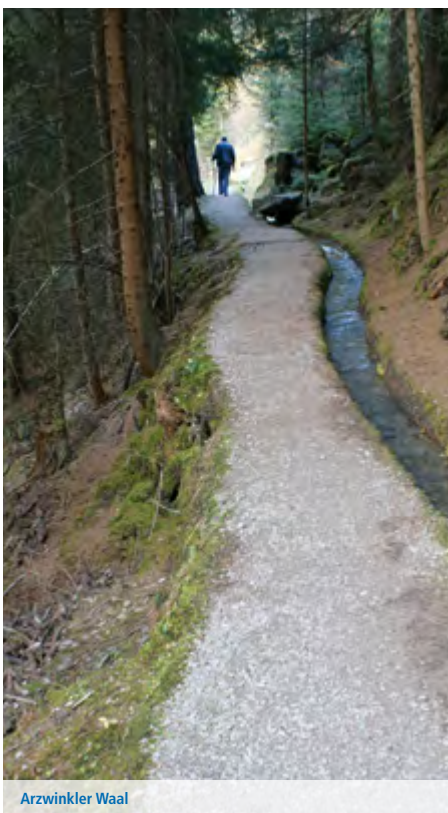
The Health Treatment Center in Umhausen has a healing radon spring, Ötztal's newest water attraction. But also the surroundings boast unlimited sources of mountain water: Arzwinkler Waalweg, Horlachbach Brook and Stuiben Waterfall! Follow the scenic "Ötztal Water Strider" route, a marked loop trail for all senses.

Text: Lutz Bormann

A striking new building nestling on the edge of the forest close to the village: welcome to the new Umhausen "Kurzentrum" Health Treatment Center. A radon spring provides plenty of healing water used in varied specialized health departments. Guests at the health resort mainly suffer from diseases of the respiratory tract, rheumatism or aching joints. The swimming area – without radon water – adds to the holistic well-being of all guests, even those who stay at the Health Hotel. A heated outdoor pool, sauna parlors, steam baths and brine pools offer everything your heart could possibly desire.

The shady forest just behind the health center is starting point for the wonderful "Steppsteig" route, a nature theme trail providing detailed information on the forest and its flora, coupled with cultural highlights. Steppsteig is a part of the popular "Ötztal Water Strider" route in Umhausen. Several theme hiking trails feature special signposts focusing on the wet element and Ötztal's most scenic waters. Umhausen's water route ranks among the most fascinating stages: the water theme route was awarded "Premium Hiking Trail" by the German Hikers' Institute.

The loop trail can be accessed in several places or at the official trailhead, the car park of



Arzwinkler Waal

Umhausen's swimming lake. Right behind the parking area you turn left sharply into "Arzwinkler Waalweg". Walking through the sparse forest, you follow a leisurely path also suitable for prams. The rushing waters of a mountain brook accompany you next to the hiking trail: this is the "Arzwinkler Waal" fed by Horlachbach mountain brook. Times long past these routes were irrigation ditches for the meadows down in the valley. The former "head of the Waal" decided how to share the waters among all farmers.

Along the route hikers find information panels describing the history of the forest, its waters and the village of Umhausen. Every step you take on the splendid Water Strider Trail promises a unique experience. A true feast for your eyes and lungs, enhancing also your blood circulation. At the turn-off to the Ötzi Village, the Waalweg joins the rising trail up to the marvelous Stuiben Waterfall. Roaring waters, fresh air, fine water particles accompany you along Horlachbach brook towards Umhausen. The waterfall cascades down some 160 meters before reaching a natural basin. A scenic via ferrata is only a stone's throw away.

Hikers climb the steeply winding route next to the Stuiben Waterfall. According to medical studies, the refreshing water spray has more



Stuiben Waterfall near Umhausen

healing effects for asthmatics than cortisone. Breathe in deeply while standing on the viewing platforms and resting places.

**Tirol's mightiest waterfall makes an enchanting experience. Umhausen also has more "silent" waters – like healing springs or Kneipp trails.**

On top you reach the asphalt road again – with Horlachbach brook as lovely backdrop: the trail to the right takes you to Gasthof Stuibenfall while the left path leads to Umhausen's High Altitude Trail. On this "upper floor" you enjoy picture-book Alpine meadows and unique landscapes of natural beauty. The route travels past the forest in the direction of Roßlachgasse, a steeply descending trench rooted in history. The Tirolean priest Adolf Trientl (1817 - 1897) became a witness to the devastating mudflows in early August 1851. His desperate prayers didn't help – Muhrbach brook coming down from Satteler area and Rainbach brook coming down from Narrenkogel brought giant rocks and masses of mud right to the village center of Umhausen. At the fork-off to the old road to Niederthal you follow the trail in south-eastern direction, walking past the former Hirschberg Castle which was completely destroyed by the mudslide. Legend has it that the castle ruins plus a silver bell are still hidden in the little forest of "rauer Bichl" between Umhausen and Östen.

Here you reach the Steppsteig Trail. Walkers again head towards the Health Treatment Center in Umhausen, past a wayside attraction called "Stuiben-Nannele" – a legendary figure who bewitched men. As a punishment she had to turn the windmill for the rest of her life. After about six walking hours you finally return to the car park. A refreshing footbath in the nearby Kneipp Area is strongly recommended.

## INFO

**Kurzentrum Umhausen / Ötztal**  
Lehgasse 50  
6441 Umhausen  
umhausen@kurzentrum.com  
www.kurzentrum.com

## Water Strider Folder

The themed folder on all water trails is downloadable on [www.oetztal.com](http://www.oetztal.com) or available at all Ötztal Tourismus information offices.



# MONUMENTAL LANDMARKS OF HOSPITALITY

The descendants of the early landlords and hosts aim to create a pleasant, comfortable and lovely atmosphere at the oldest Ötztal Guest Houses and Hotels, just as it always was in a beautiful film style backdrop.

Text: Inge Ahrens



Quaint wooden parlor of Guest House "zum Stern"

**H**efty calf muscles were normal at that time for the enthusiastic local churchgoers from the village of Oetz. The paths leading up to the church are both extremely steep and energy sapping. Churchgoers of today are rewarded for their exertion by the atmosphere in the baroque decorated, late Gothic church with its beautiful nave bays. And they are also rewarded on their descent. At the foot of the Kirchweg there is the most magnificent and one of the oldest houses in the village, "zum Stern" Guest House.

The Grießer brothers and sisters, Josef (75), Margit (73) and Maria (67) manage the Guest House and are the soul of the place which has been in the family ownership since 1780. Maria has worked her whole working life alongside her profession as a teacher, to cook Ötztal specialties daily on the large wood burning stove. Nephews Georg (39) and Martin (48) Grießer continue the family tradition. George is responsible for serving the guests. Hotel expert Martin acquires traditional skills and know-how with regard to local cuisine from Maria and Martha at his side. "As the younger generation we must carry on the tradition together with all its rituals and responsibilities". Martin is very aware of this. "The old recipes and dishes must never

be tampered with, only the kitchen equipment", he says.

The fresco facade of the "Stern" originates from the 17th century. This magnificent house was probably built more than 1000 years ago as the legal court for the Bavarian Frauendieme Monastery; after a devastating fire it was rebuilt even more beautiful than before.

Nowadays historically interested guests can sleep in comfortable rooms, dine in one of the most beautiful pine wood restaurants in the region, and sit on chairs made by the altar wood carver Johannes Oberleitner (1941). Or on the bench in front of the house, sometimes with the entertaining companionship of the host family themselves, with just the quiet splashing sound from the stone well in the distance.

**Goethe, who was well travelled, summed it up as: "No pleasure is temporary; it's the impression which lasts."**

Situated at the foot of the 3008 m high Acherkogel, the village of Oetz developed into a famous summer resort during the latter part of the 19th century. The "Posthotel Kassi" holds memories of these good old days when well-to-do ladies and gentlemen celebrated the art of



Posthotel "Kassi" in Oetz is a perfect blend of tradition and progress



idleness for weeks on end in the almost southern-like climate of Oetz. The hotel resembles a romantic play in a huge puppet show with its little towers and gazebo bays. The oldest part of the building is 400 years old. Wash tables from the turn of the century stand outside the rooms. There is an extensive collection of valuable hotel silverware in the glass cabinets and also fountains from the end of the 19th century. The impressive dining rooms, music and reading rooms are mainly still in their original state.

"We have invested our hearts and souls into this house", says Anton Haid (58), the owner. "An old house should never be allowed to deteriorate!" The preservation of this old house gives him great pleasure. "Guests want modern comfort alongside tradition and therefore we never lose sight of keeping the connection between old and new".

**A life without celebration would be like a journey without a Guest House, to quote the Greek philosopher Democritus of some 2500 years ago.**

Heiner Haid, who is also a descendant of the Oetz Hotel pioneer from the Posthotel "Kassi", has achieved exactly the same in his Hotel "Drei Mohren" which is a stately Art Nouveau Hotel built in 1908.

The parlors are decorated with ornamental timber panels from Längenfeld's wood carver Johann Klocker, and the heating appliances are the originals from the first central heating system in 1920. It has wrought iron banisters and original furniture and door panels in the recently added rooms. And of course there are the gazebo arches. All these historical treasures have remained since the hotelier took over the hotel ten years ago from his aunt.

Up in the valley in Umhausen, an ardent landlord also works hard at the Guest House "Krone" which dates back to the 17th century and is under a conservation order since 1980. Walter Hager originates from Upper Austria and is a tenant in the family inheritance. His passion compensates for any shortcomings. It was love at first sight when he took over the "Krone" three years ago with his motto: "Back to roots!" In the Guest House one can sit comfortably in the lovely 1929 parlor, named after its creator – the architect Franz Baumann.



## Krone Cake

This sweet temptation from the "Krone" Guest House in Umhausen refers to a recipe dating back to 1929.

### Ingredients:

280 g sugar  
250 g butter  
3 rows of soft eating chocolate  
280 g ground almonds  
10 egg yolks  
10 egg whites  
1 pinch of cinnamon  
1 pinch of vanilla sugar  
1 pinch of clove powder  
1 pinch of salt  
2 handfuls of biscuit crumbs  
(soaked in rum)  
1 packet of puff pastry  
1 large baking tin

## Preparation

- Cream together butter and sugar.
- Mix in the egg yolks.
- Whisk the melted chocolate together with the cinnamon, vanilla sugar and cloves for 5 minutes until fluffy.
- Whisk the egg whites with the salt until stiff and carefully fold in the ground almonds and biscuit crumbs.
- Grease a large baking tin and cover with puff pastry.
- Pour in the mixture.
- Bake for about an hour at 180 degrees in an oven with top and bottom heat, or at 170 degrees in a fan oven.

The beautiful building, the old recipes: "Everything is already here to create a place for everyone to enjoy just as it always was" raves Hager, "we don't need to invent anything new".

The Ötztal priest Franz Senn is seen as the discoverer of modern Tirolean tourism. The development of the tiny 1900 m high settlement of Vent as a mountaineering village, goes back to his initiative in 1860. At that time he helped to provide the poor mountain farmers in his parish of St. Jakob in Vent to achieve a better livelihood by building mountain paths and huts for the alpinists. Right opposite the church is the "Wildspitz" Guest House dating back to 1911. Adolfine Pirpamer, the mother of the current landlady Caroline (45), talks about how it was in

the beginning: "Academics stayed here at that time who wanted to get right up to the glacier lakes".

Today mountain hikers can stay overnight in comfortable and bright apartments which have been furnished in wood with beautiful fireplaces. Most wonderful of all are the pine wood parlors created by the carpenter Klocker from Längenfeld, with a collection of sayings such as: "Adam found his love, Noe his wine." "Earlier the whole of Vent would meet at the Wildspitz", explains Adolfine Pirpamer. However, "since the arrival of television everything has changed." But the Inn has always been the heart of communication in the village.

Anton Haid, who was only twenty years old when he had to take over the "Kassl", is still happy today about this "wonderful task". It's only Maria, Margit and Josef at the "zum Stern" Guest House who dream of another future. At some point very soon they want to go back to the old farmer's ways. "Together of course", emphasizes Maria. "Something must remain along the way to the church", says nephew Georg. And that is the Guest House "zum Stern". If it was up to him and his brother local guests and villagers should all meet up there. Like in the old days.



Symbol of the inn and fresco paintings at "Krone" in Umhausen



# My summer in the Alpine region of Hochoetz

- **Family hiking**  
Well maintained route network - from forest paths suitable for pushchairs to impressive summit tours
- **Pleasure hiking**  
Breathtaking panorama views, idyllic alpine meadows, rustic rest stops, Tirolean hospitality
- **Adventure hiking**  
Knappenweg, reflection routes and circular routes Rotes Wandl

## SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS 2013

02. 06. 2013	<b>FOLK MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS</b>
30. 06. 2013	<b>RADIO U1 MUSICIANS MEET-UP</b>
14. 07. 2013	<b>ALPHORN MEET-UP</b>
18. 08. 2013	<b>ALPINE &amp; MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL</b>
15. 09. 2013	<b>OCTOBER FESTIVAL</b>



**Operating times for Acherkogel railway** 01.06. - 13.10. 2013, daily from 09.00-12.00 and 12.45-16.30. Lunch break from 12.00 - 12.45

## Almenregion Hochoetz

A-6433 Oetz Angerweg 13 T +43 (0) 5252 6385 F +43 (0) 5252 6385-15 info@hochoetz.at

hochoetz.at





The drama's protagonist, Archduke "Friedl Empty Pockets"

## ONE OF NATURE'S SPECTACLES

Archdukes Friedl's empty pockets are filled with new stories. A "Hiking Theater" amidst the superb Alpine scenery in the surroundings of Vent – Tirol's mountaineering village. This open-air drama signs the highlight of Ötztal's 2013 Cultural Summer: innovative concept, renowned producer, breathtaking nature stage.

Text: Johanna Abentung

**T**irol in the late Middle Ages. Archduke Friedrich IV struggles against countless other noble families. His enemies, sneering at him, called him "Friedl Empty Pockets". This nickname was one of the reasons why he has become both a legend and the most famous archduke in the history of Tirol.

Probably he was never in the rear Ötztal Valley but one thing is for sure: he tried to escape and found a place to stay – legend has it that he took shelter at the traditional Rofenhöfe Farms in Vent while fleeing towards Italy, southwards across the main Alpine ridge in 1416.

Scene change: almost 600 years later, in early September 2013. Amidst the wide open pastures of the rear Ötztal Valley where less than 100 people live on more than one hundred square kilometers. No trace of the 21st century. Everything looks like at the time of Archduke Friedrich.

In a truly authentic setting and almost in "real time", Hubert Lepka and his lawine torrén artistic team have created a new story referring to the legend of "Friedl Empty Pockets". Some may call it a theater "road movie" performed amid the unspoiled landscapes of the upper Ötztal.

Thanks to Lepka – choreographer, producer and director of the glacier spectacle "Hannibal" on Sölden's Rettenbach Glacier – spectators can catch a glimpse of Tirol's history in the Middle Ages. This unique summer open-air drama takes place between Rofenhöfe Farms, Niedere Ötztal Valley and Marzell Glacier at 2700 meters above sea level.

**Splendid open-air theater: a kind of road movie dealing with the dramatic escape of Archduke Friedrich IV across the Alps in a truly authentic setting.**

The drama - focusing on loyalty and betrayal, love and jealousy, death and victory – is performed while hiking the scenic mountains. A new story of old sensations enchants the audience, thanks to the unique blend of Alpine pastures and glacier topped-peaks.

The audience is a group of pilgrims accompanying the theater team. The hikers themselves become a part of the production. Innovative technology included: live sounds and quotes are transmitted via earplugs. The actors in historical dresses are both near and far at the same time. Nature remains untouched, other hikers won't get disturbed as all dialogues

reach the spectator's ear via microports. After a rest stop at Martin-Busch-Hütte you can either return to Vent or spend a memorable night on the hut. With a pocket full of great theater experiences in the wild nature.



### INFO

#### FRIEDL mit der leeren Tasche

This very special "hiking theater" produced by Hubert Lepka and his lawine torrén team, takes visitors from Vent to Marzell Glacier. The dramatic escape of Archduke Friedrich IV across the Alps is performed daily between 01 and 22 September 2013. It starts in the morning and lasts until the late afternoon. Tickets, advance booking and more details at [www.vent.at](http://www.vent.at)

## Timmelsjoch High Alpine Road 2.509 m



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**A unique trip to the South.**





# TIME FLIES

For 120 years Breslauer Hütte has offered mountaineers a roof on their way to Wildspitze summit. Everything has changed over the years: the accommodation, the climate and our mountaineering ambitions. Still there are our memories and a longing for the horizon full of mountain summits.

Text: Birgit Antes

**BRESLAUER HÜTTE (2844 M)**

The hut, inaugurated in 1882, was extended and modernized several times. The quaint and comfortable Alpine Club accommodation is a way-point along the classic route up Wildspitze Summit and along the Ötztal Trek.

Ascent from Vent past Stablein in 3 hours.

[www.dav-sektion-breslau.de](http://www.dav-sektion-breslau.de)

**M**id-October 2011. Despite the fantastic autumn weather we are the only hikers to set off from the car park in Vent. The huts around have been closed for two weeks. Winter is only a few days away. A lot of water has flown down to the valley from the glaciers around Wildspitze summit since we first stood on its peak, impeccably white back then. An old picture of Breslauer Hütte has brought back memories. And the wish to see for ourselves what it looks like up there meanwhile.

Almost 40 years ago we stayed overnight at Breslauer Hütte for the first time. Since that time many things have changed between the mountaineers' village of Vent and Wildspitze summit in the Ötztal Valley. The view from the basin below the hut to Rofenkar cirque is thought-provoking. Only a sorry tail of the once wildly jagged ice tongue of Rofenkarferner glacier expands across the edge of the rock. Mitterkarferner glacier, one floor further up, too has been thoroughly depleted. The route up to Mitterkarjoch saddle leads no longer through a wide snow trench, but across unpleasantly brittle terrain strewn with rocks.

The Breslau Section of the German Alpine Club inaugurated Breslauer Hütte as an un-

vised accommodation for 15 people on 20 August 1881. Already in 1896 a two-storied building was added, a four-storied dormitory building in 1913 and in 1928 it was completely renovated for the first time.

The second redevelopment took place in the year before our first visit at the end of July 1972. Back then we were just as young as curious, and of course we were daredevils. Wildspitze seemed to be the perfect 3000m-high mountain for us. Heroes-of-the-mountains-to-be we didn't care that Breslauer Hütte was fully booked for the weekend. Our motto back then: If the weather report is fine, we will head for the mountains.

**That's the way of life: Mountaineers get older, huts are rejuvenated. The exterior and interior of Breslauer Hütte have definitely improved thanks to several face-liftings.**

The night was an unpleasant one for all those who had to sleep on the floor, the tables or benches of the guesthouse parlor. So we were rather stiff-legged when we set off at the back of the tail of the caravan heading up Wildspitze. On the summit pride and euphoria were com-



Glacier snout at Rofenkar cirque high above Vent

pleted by an appetite for more. A horizon full of mountains – and we were among the lucky ones that could get there from any direction! We couldn't get it out of our minds. We returned at the end of May 1974. This time the four of us were the only guests at Breslauer Hütte. Summer operation was to start in one month only, and we thought that the winter room was the right choice for men of our caliber anyway. To prepare for higher aims we had our eyes on the north face of Wildspitze. We wouldn't consider anything easier in a time of inflated egos.

The winter room welcomed us with bleakness, dampness and uncomfortableness. It wasn't getting any better. The oven answered all our attempts to get it going with the emission of eye-stinging wads of smoke. We waited irritably in dense snowfall with zero sight for two days. The most ambitious of our quartet found it increasingly difficult to accept that we couldn't advance. When the atmosphere was too bad inside, we got outside of the hut and exercised skiing upright with our new snow blades. In the end we had no other choice but return to the valley and this probably saved our lives.

The experience of a fall down the north face

of Wildspitze was thus made a year later. Again we stayed in the winter room – but only three of us since Mr. Ambitious had better things to do. And only one of us wanted to climb the ice face. He set off at the first daylight; the rear-guard was to meet him at the northern summit. When the two stragglers eventually could see into the face from the north-west ridge there was no one.

**Bad weather often causes cabin fever. Antidotes are safe outdoor exercises like skiing with snow blades.**

Yet down in the basin of the glacier a figure could be seen moving towards the north-west ridge. Minutes before the companion fell down almost the entire ice slope. A few steps before the tail to the northern summit the tip of the – cheap and homemade – ice axe broke off. It was almost a miracle that the lad survived the 200m fall almost unharmed.

The happily survived lessons of the wild years have continuously improved our self-evaluation and made it a more realistic one. Yet the mountains and nature are still as fascinating as they were. This time the winter room was a positive surprise. In 1997 the Breslau Section of the Al-

pine Club set up a separate self-catering winter hut: with two dormitories, a spacious kitchen with a cooker – in good working order, crockery, solar light, composting toilet and a storage room for fire wood.

The view from our comfortable loge place is simply fantastic; the sunset is a gala performance. While in the south-east the last rays of light touch the summits around Ramolkogel and Schafkogel mountains, our thoughts wander from the already experienced to new aims. Just as well that the horizon is still full of mountains.





# IT'S THE TAKING PART THAT COUNTS

The crossing of Bachfallen Glacier ranks among the undisputed highlights of the Gries Glacier Hike. Hundreds of hikers get together for this yearly summer event held already for more than 40 years. Many of them are repeaters and know the high Alpine route like the back of their hand.

Text: Stefan Herbke

At six o'clock in the morning the mountain village of Gries is still asleep. Normally. Only on the last Sunday in July the first hikers are strolling through the hamlets already at day-break – locals and guests, single walkers and small groups. They are heading towards the big car park at the edge of the village, the official starting point of the legendary Gries Glacier Hike. It's quite busy here. The participants want to start in time - like Günter Heyn from Germany. The 77-year old hiker is one of the oldest participants, and conquers the Glacier Hike already for the 13th time.

"We want to give all hikers – who marvel at the glacier landscape without having the chance to enter them – the opportunity to explore the eternal ice with a minimized risk", explains 68-year old Peter Gürtsch. He is positioned at Gaislehnscharte Ridge where he stamps the hikers' time cards. This alpine crossing is the highest point of the entire loop hiking tour at 3054 meters above sea level, and can be reached via Winnebachseehütte and the mighty glacier snout of scenic Bachfallen Glacier. From here a downhill trail leads the glacier hikers back to Gries through Schrankar Cirque and Sulztal Valley.

Günter Heyn starts the Glacier Hike at a leisurely pace. He smiles, "It's not a race or competition. For me the whole tour is a personal challenge. Am I still fit enough? Can I stand the pace?" Furthermore he knows another secret: "Many hikers start the tour too speedy, running out of breath very quickly. It's much better to walk slowly and steady." The average time for this demanding hike is seven to eight hours. Of course some participants can conquer the course much faster. "At the moment the record stands at two hours and nine minutes", says Alois Schöpf. He took part already in the very first edition of the Glacier Hike and was the record holder for several years. That's easy to explain: "In the past there was much more snow and we could ski down all along Gaislehnscharte Ridge towards Schrankar Cirque."

**Hikers always dream about a glacier crossing. You can make this dream come true at the ultimate hike for everyone across Bachfallen Glacier in Gries.**

Avid mountain runners only concentrate on the best time. For all others it's the taking part that counts, and the truly memorable moun-



Winnebachseehütte is the first rest stop for passionate glacier hikers

tain experience. Günter Heyn has been a regular guest in the Ötztal Valley since 1991, he spent already 42 holidays in Gries. He remembers his first glacier hike: "The time was not important at all. They told us to start slowly and to marvel at the beautiful Alpine scenery. They warned us of the dangerous descent as at the end of the hike you concentrate less and your muscles get stiff."

On this long high Alpine hiking tour you have enough time for several rest stops. The first refreshment station providing drinks and energy bars is quaint Winnebachseehütte. Further rest stop areas are installed on the glacier, at Gaislehnscharte Ridge, at Schrankar Cirque and in Sulztal Valley.

27 volunteers – like Alois Schöpf and Peter Gürtsch – take care of the hikers in all weathers. In the past it was quite different. "It happened that the hut evening at Winnebachseehütte lasted a bit longer than normal, and that we didn't reach the stamp station at Gaislehnscharte in time – the first hikers eagerly awaited us", remembers Peter Gürtsch.

The crossing, secured with a steel rope, is one of the crucial points of the whole glacier hike. Although the members of the Gries and Längenfeld Mountain Rescue teams take care

of the hikers, some of them get scared when standing on the windswept precipice. "We were standing in the foothill of this via ferrata for about fifteen minutes, and we still hesitated", says 10-year old Yannic Janitzki who took part in the hike with his parents. Now the boy is happy that the expert team on the spot could convince his family to overcome their fear. This was the first black hiking route in his life!

**Hobby sportsmen don't focus on record times but on the stunning nature exploration.**

Yannic was quite surprised about his very first glacier crossing: "I thought the glacier fields were cleaner and brighter, similar to a ski run." His dad Matthias comments: "In my imagination glaciers are always white. I can't believe that there is ice below these big masses of gravel and boulders."

Everyone enjoys his own adventure. But there is one experience that remains always the same for all hikers: the stunning views of Ötztal's picture-book mountain peaks and glaciers! Additionally, the crossing of Bachfallen Glacier will always rank among the undisputed hot spots of the Gries Glacier Hike.



## DATES

### Gries Glacier Hike

From Gries (1599 m) via Winnebachseehütte and Bachfallen Glacier towards Gaislehnscharte (3054 m), descent via Schrankar to Sulztal Valley, back to Gries. Start: 6 am - 7 am. Finish: until 5 pm. Date: last Sunday in July. Distance: 20 km. Difference in altitude: 1480 m. [www.oetztal.com](http://www.oetztal.com)

### Glacier Flea Hike

From Obergurgl (1930 m) via Ramolhaus and Ramoljoch (3200 m) to Vent. Start: 6 am – 8 am, village square in Obergurgl. Finish: until 5 pm. Date: early August. Distance: 16 km. Difference in altitude: 1300 m. [www.oetztal.com](http://www.oetztal.com)





## A DEEP ROOTED VISIONARY

In the 20th century the pioneer Hans Falkner laid the foundations for the wide branching network of the Sölden mountain and glacier railway system. In the 21st century his son Jakob Falkner took over to ensure that Sölden remained Austria's top destination in both winter and summer.

Text: Wilhelm Wurm

It all began during the dynamic building era in the 1950s. Ötztal was still experiencing frugal times in an isolated and remote Tirolean mountain farming region, as Hans Falkner, commonly known as the "the Bug-gls Hans," was making a good living as a cattle dealer in Sölden. The first and still very new ski lift was operated by numerous owners and was at that time stuck in an unprofitable low. Hans Falkner spontaneously assisted and he took over the Sölden/Hochsölden ski lift company working together with the founders Hermann Gurschler and Martin Riml, and he provided a solid financial basis.

It then went uphill very quickly. On the 22nd November 1963, the day of US president J.F. Kennedy's death, the project Gaislachkoglbahn was completed. And an extraordinary alpine success story began its course; the pioneer and visionary business expert Hans Falkner, an Ötztal local with heart and soul, is still recognized with the highest honors four years after his demise.

His son Jakob, 56 years old, took up his inheritance a long time ago. Naturally with his own visions. They call him "Jack" in Ötztal, and as manager of the railway he has made it his task to develop the infrastructure at 3000 m even

further. Encouraged by a positive media echo, by the negative prophecy of the critics, and most of all by his own tourism instinct, Jakob Falkner further developed and renewed the gigantic network of the Ötztal glacier mountain railway up to record standards: 150 connecting kilometers of slopes and around 50 million Euros profit, including gastronomy.

**Many mountain lifts  
whiz through Sölden in the summer  
so that hikers can experience the glaciers  
and summits close up just like  
the skiers in the winter.**

500 members of staff earn their living in the mountain railway and gastro areas. The company is a unique technical microcosm, equipped with architectural master pieces such as the Big 3, the three viewing platforms on three 3000 m high peaks around Sölden, with the first Tirolean thermal spa, the Aqua Dome in Längenfeld, a magical building of glass, wood and stone in front of the magnificent backdrop of the Ötztal summit, and the "Area 47", the world's largest outdoor fun park offering 30 different types of sport. The new Gaislachkoglbahn belongs to the most modern



Gaislachkoglbahn mountain gondola, 3058 m



Scenic ride from Sölden up to the middle station of Gaislachkoglbahn mountain gondola

mountain gondola systems in Europe.

"Jack" loves his job. His touristic abilities started in kindergarten at the ski cash desk or at the restaurant till. He accumulated experience abroad after completing his schooling, in the USA and in England. His encounters and his cosmopolitan experience helped him to make Ötztal a destination with an international reputation. Most of all says Jack, he learnt from the teachings of his father who was "a patriarch in the most positive sense".

Jakob Falkner knows that he belongs to the most enigmatic people in the valley. He doesn't see himself as a celebrity or a star though, more as an earthy local who loves responsibility and with careful tourism and a huge respect for nature, has built a hereditament from which the next generation should also be able to profit. "The success story is okay", says Falkner. "Sölden is a landmark today. But we must reinforce our strengths with great caution and approach the projects by degree." Sölden is not only considerably larger than Vienna with 468 square kilometers, but also the largest county in Austria. And about 350 square kilometers of this are quiet zones which cannot be cultivated and used for tourism. Falkner believes quality is far more important than quantity; tourism

will always be an alternative blessing for Ötztal even if the critics and the envious see it otherwise.

His success has naturally made him proud, but also reflective. "I see myself as someone who has created and also contributed an added value to positive tourism with sustainability. However the story shows us that the top regions have already shrunk. I believe that: "A rolling stone gathers no moss! Caution should always be present and also gratefulness. Our predecessors have achieved wonderful things under the hardest circumstances and conditions and that deserves the highest respect."

### INFO

#### Lift-assisted Hiking

From June to October Sölden's summer mountain lifts whisk you up: Gaislachkoglbahn mountain gondola, Giggijoch gondola, Tiefenbach gondola, Rotkoglbahn chair lift and Zentrum-Shuttle.



# CLIMBING DUO

Although they climb the world's rock faces, for Barbara and Sabine Bacher from Längenfeld their one and only true home is the Ötztal Valley. That is also where the two World Cup Sisters have their favorite and time-tested climbing spots.

Text: Lisa Reinthaler



"Home is simply a special place", says Barbara Bacher, "and here in the Ötztal Valley many things come together: the atmosphere is a casual and personal one, we all know each other and thanks to the mountains and the nature we've got many opportunities to enjoy skiing, hiking or rock climbing." She and her younger sister Sabine have especially taken to rock faces from their childhood onwards.

The Bacher sisters Babsy and Sabby have been exploring the Ötztal Valley vertically for almost twenty years. Their base was a small, close training group, the success and continuity of which is a result of the work of Heiko Wilhelm, today's coach of the Austrian national team, and the sisters themselves. With talent and effort the two climbed all steps to the stage of the international climbing World Cup fast. They still shine there today. Babsy's favorite discipline is lead climbing and Sabby's bouldering.

"Actually it should be the other way round, considering our physical and athletic potential", answers Sabine Bacher to the question of the choice of their disciplines. "Babsy is the more athletic one and this is what is usually required for bouldering. And I'm more of a tech-

nical climber, I use my feet more often. Seen that way we've both picked the wrong discipline." But in a competition it is mostly the mental constitution that counts. For bouldering one needs to be concentrated for a very long time and the head mustn't tire even after the fifth problem, in lead climbing one attempt is decisive. The Bacher sisters are perfectly up to these challenges. Barbara got 8th at the European Championship in Imst in 2010 and Sabine has been constantly among the best 15 boulder climbers of the world for many years, despite of several injuries.

**The Bacher sisters stick together: In sports and in their love for their home in the Ötztal Valley with its many climbing spots.**

In addition to competitions the two sisters are also passionate rock climbers – preferably together and in the Ötztal Valley. "What makes it so great is that the rock is different in every single crag. In Oberried it's more bouldery, in Nösslach it's eroded and smooth. So climbing is varied and exciting!" marvels Babsy. Their favorite spot is the crag in Niederthai near Umhausen. The granite boulders at Tauferberg of-



Barbara Bacher climbs her favorite rock face



fer an unlimited choice for experts and evoke a special feeling in the Ötztal-born Sabine Bacher: "Niederthai is a home for me. There we have spent the most hours by far and still we discover new things there. And if we watch other climbers there it almost feels like they are climbing on our rock."

**The Tauferberg granite boulders are the spot where the athletes have trained most often.**

In the Ötztal Valley, in the Armelen crag near Tumpen, Babsy and Sabby have conquered their most difficult individual rock project. The "Schwarze Schwan" is a cult route with a difficulty of 8c. It was first conquered by the Ötztal climbing pioneer Markus Haid. The Bacher sisters conquered the route after two months of preparation and with the help of their family: Their sister Kathi proved to be an expert in belaying and motivating. The World Cup athletes agree: "This success is the highlight of our rock experiences up to now."

What they have tested at the rock faces of the Ötztal Valley, the sisters together with mountain guides and pros like the extreme climbers Hansjörg Auer and David Lama or boulder star Lukas Ennemoser, hand on to interested (amateur) climbers within the scope of the Ötztal Climbing Camps that take place every summer. "The Climbing Camps are a fixed point for us. We have a fantastic team and it is great fun to teach others and to see how the participants improve. That's a great thing!" trainer Sabine rejoices.

## INFO

### Ötztal Climbing Spots

19 climbing gardens, 7 secured via ferratas. More than 600 routes of all difficulty levels. The Ötztal Valley ranks among Tirol's absolute climbing hot spots offering loads of possibilities.

### Ötztal Climbing Camp

Late July/early August 2013  
[www.oetztal.com/klettern](http://www.oetztal.com/klettern)  
[klettercamp@oetztal.com](mailto:klettercamp@oetztal.com)



# ENDURANCE PERFORMANCE

One of the most difficult and challenging white water routes world-wide: we are talking about Weller Bridge on Ötztaler Ache. Internationally renowned athletes fight for their chance at glory and the World Champion title.

Text: Isolde v. Mersi



"Sick Line" is the most extreme, the fastest and the most demanding kayak line on white water. Already before the races start, kayaking pros search their perfect line by walking up and down the river shore. Once they are in the water it's not possible to check out the best position.

That's the reason why every year at the end of the summer season loads of athletes in neoprene suits get together on the shores of Ötztaler Ache river. In search of currents and riffles they prepare for the upcoming Sickline Extreme Kayak World Championship – a spectacular sprint race held on the 280-meter long Weller Bridge Track.

The grade 5 white water route of Weller Bridge is rated highly difficult and dangerous. Therefore the track requires excellent technique skills and a good physical shape. Currents and riffles are permanently changing. Last year, for example, suddenly a new river rapid appeared, formed by the melting waters just behind the waterfall area called "Champions Killer".

150 of the world's best white water, slalom and freestyle paddlers from 30 different countries meet on the Ötztaler Ache river. A truly outstanding challenge as the glacier brook is said to be one of the haute routes of white wa-

ter sports in the Alps. The ultimate adidas Sickline World Championship ranks among the most difficult courses requiring excellent stamina and perfect technique skills. A number of crucial parts - like the "Champions Killer" – are located at the end of the race track.

**The wild waters of Ötztaler Ache are a challenge for white water pros.**  
Thrilling fights await you at the World Championship.

Every mistake has severe consequences on such a demanding track. During two qualification rounds on a much easier route the best 45 kayak athletes qualify for the finals and the World Championship competition. Last year, for the very first time, eight female kayakers took place in the sickline contest. At the end, the three best women competed for the title of "adidas Sickline Queen".

In addition to the highly coveted title, the World Champion of the Year can also win a public bath session with the reigning Miss Tirol – amid the applause of the crowd. All dangerous moments and thrilling seconds are a thing of the past as soon as the party begins: fun is guaranteed!



DATE

Adidas Sickline  
10.10. – 13.10.2013

# FUN AND ADVENTURE AM 47. BREITENGRAD

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# LADIES' CAMP AT ITS FINEST

Female mountain bikers have their own pace and spirit. At the unique Bike & Yoga Camp in Längenfeld they are guided by a Transalp Challenge winner and a certified yoga teacher: great inspiration and loads of fun are on the program.

Text: Nadine Kühn

**M**ountain biking at a leisurely pace, pedaling past verdant meadows, ringing cow bells and picturesque little villages. It's an easy stroll from Längenfeld towards the hamlet of Winklen. We have plenty of time and enjoy pedaling side by side. While chatting the time away, we reach the first moderate ascent leading up to scenic Wurzburgalm. "Shift down in time and pedal steadily", recommends Karen Eller (44).

Our female coach is a three-time winner of the hardest mountain bike stage race in the world – the feared Transalp Challenge. The participants of the Bike and Yoga Camp for Women admire Karen, they appreciate her uncomplicated style and highly motivated attitude. Most of the "camp ladies" have quite ambitious plans like an Alpine crossing. But no one has already participated in races or real competitions.

Quickly they are heading towards the mountains. In Karen's opinion too quick, urging them to be careful: "Slower, much slower! Shift down to gear two, then you have still one lower gear if you can't handle it anymore." Like a herding dog she keeps her group together. She takes a look at the bikers in front, but she also cares about the last one in the group. The weaker ones need her help: "You have twenty or thir-

ty gears, just perfect for conquering the mountains at a very slow pace."

**Group lessons for female mountain bikers enhance both their self-confidence and team spirit at the same time.**

Suddenly a cracking sound. One of the bike chains was just hanging there. "Normally my husband repairs it", says one of the sportswomen. Karen knows exactly what to do: "Most women try mountain biking because their partner is a passionate bicycle fan, too." And the male biking enthusiasts also take care of all technical repairs. Karen always starts her mountain biking day with a short theory lesson for women who are not used to a bike's technical details. Here you can also learn how to fix or change the bicycle gearing system, the handlebars or the wheels for transport reasons.

After repairing the bicycle chain, they continue on the winding road up to scenic Wurzburgalm. The fastest bikers are already there, the slower ones still fight against the slope and their own physical shape. Of course it's allowed to push the bike if you are out of breathe. Finally on top, all biking ladies receive a great applause.



Mountain biking in the surroundings of Längenfeld

It's time for a short rest stop amid the stunning Alpine scenery, just in time before the really challenging part of the route starts. Karen reminds: "Always remember that you should move your body and legs constantly. Simply use the forefinger for braking, if not you could be thrown off your bike quickly when passing a pothole."

Karen checks the descending forest trail. "Look ahead and don't take the corners too fast!" All women are standing upright, balancing the bicycles in the right way. On a short, level track Karen asks: "Is everyone okay?" Team spirit is one of the most important facts among women. Nobody conquers the mountain alone, there is always someone "standing" behind you.

**Daily yoga lessons held at the Wellness Hotel help to keep body and mind in balance.**

The fun-filled tour ends at lovely Naturhotel Waldklaus in Unterlängenfeld. Awarded "Europe's most beautiful Eco-Hotel" several times, this design and wellness lodging offers a really perfect backdrop for the Ladies' Bike and Yoga Camp. Stylish architecture, solid wooden furniture, design elements made of glass and stone

provide this very special home-away-from-home feeling. At the end of the instruction day, part two is on the program: yoga lessons.

Yoga, but why? "Biking stands for effort and exercise, yoga promises relaxation, stretching stiff muscles. Furthermore yoga enhances your body consciousness", explains Karen. Barbara, the yoga teacher, agrees with her: "Many activities are one-sided and you need to balance them out."

She starts the lesson quietly, but with a tremendous personal energy. "Yoga means doing", says Barbara. She welcomes her group, leaving enough time to settle. Among the first exercises are the typical "salutation to the sun", "cobra" or "tree" poses. They require a maximum of concentration and exact moves. Barbara stands up and takes a look at everyone, giving useful advice.

A relaxation unit signs the end of the lesson. Peace and quiet. Did they already fall asleep? No, not at all! At the sound of the gong they feel revitalized, in a good mood. Plans are made for the next mountain bike day: demanding ascents, steep turns and technique training await them.



## INFO

### Bike & Yoga Camps

Details, dates and booking:  
[www.dierasenmaeher.de](http://www.dierasenmaeher.de)



# KIDS, GET SOME FRESH AIR!

Rowing on the lake. Speedy waterslides right into the refreshing pond. A journey back in time to the Stone Age or an excursion to the Alpine pasture. Even on rainy days the Ötztal Valley boasts a myriad of attractions for the youngest guests.

Text: Stefan Herbke



A minimum of one hour in the outdoors is recommended to children and young adults. Sports and activities of all kinds keep their body fit and healthy. According to the latest health reports, more than 20% of all girls and boys are overweight. The wrong food is only one of the many reasons, coupled with a lack of exercise. Nowadays for many children it's not normal anymore to play in the garden or spend their time in the outdoors. They often prefer computer games and new technologies. This problem is easy to solve in the Ötztal. Adventure-packed excursions amid unspoilt nature, swimming in a crystal-clear mountain lake and plenty of games are on the varied holiday program. Computer games can never be as good as activities in the outdoors.

**Ötztal promises great fun in the outdoors: the valley's holiday villages offer unlimited nature exploration and endless adventures.**

It's obvious what we need on hot summer days: water! Superb Lake Piburger See in the surroundings of Oetz makes a dreamlike spot for water rails. In summer temperatures can rise up to 24 degree Celsius. At the southern

edge of the lake you find the rowing boat rental station – the best way to explore the picturesque lake close-by. The lake shore features many places which are accessible only by boat. And what's best: rowing is healthy!

Water and children - a perfect symbiosis: the little ones doesn't always need a lake or brook for enjoying a fun-filled afternoon. They shouldn't miss out on a visit to the Water Park next to the children's playground in Vent. Parents can relax and unwind on the sun loungers while their kids are busy with the water. The area covers some 500 m², offering a water pump, beautiful water wheels, dams and two wooden troughs. Tons of sand are available as well. Who can build the biggest dam or the hugest sandcastle? Fun-packed hours for the whole family are almost guaranteed.

A waterslide could add to an even more adventurous day! Therefore you should also try the giant inflatable slides at the Fun Park in Längenfeld. Covering about 4600 square meters, this children's paradise offers not only water fun but also slacklines, trampoline, mountain lift, sand building area and a mini climbing wall.

The most thrilling water slides can be found in the Area 47 at the entrance to the Ötztal. A 7000 square meter swimming lake signs the



"Stone Age Day" at the Ötzi Village



Outdoor swimming fun on lake Piburger See



central part of this play area ranking among the world's biggest adventure grounds. The undisputed attraction: a giant waterslide park featuring five huge slides for adrenalin junkies of all ages. Among the special highlights is the FREE-FALL slide which allows a speed up to 80 km/hour – suitable for children over 15 years.

**If the parents need a break it's up to the expert guides to keep the kids moving with varied events and activity programs.**

Year round water fun for all generations also in colder weather: we warmly welcome you to the Aqua Dome Spa Center in Längenfeld with its soothing thermal waters. Kids get together at "Noah's Alpine Ark", at the separate Water World for children with two swimming pools on deck of a huge boat, and on the giant 90-meter waterslide called "Schlingeschlange". Are you still of the opinion that story-telling is boring? Then you should come to the Ötzi Village in Umhausen. This archaeological outdoor park focuses on the glacier mummy "Ötzi" discovered by chance in the surroundings of high Alpine Similaunhütte in 1991. Children up to 14 years can join the Stone Age Day held every Wednesday in July and August.

## FAMILY DESTINATIONS & EXCURSIONS

The folder contains all details about great family holidays in the Ötztal – in all weathers! Available for free at all Ötztal Tourismus information offices.

## INFO

### Oetz Children's Paradise

Huge, brand-new and free of charge: the "Oetz Kinderland" covers 3000 square meters – located next to the outdoor pool. Fun-filled games, natural materials, shady areas, separate zones for young and older kids. A perfect extra service in addition to the child activity summer program in Oetz – with guided games, sports, excursions and adventures.



# ART-INSPIRING ENVIRONMENT

Famed as a mountaineering resort, Vent turns into an important center of culture and the arts during the summer in an effort to promote sustainable tourism.

Text: Ursula Scheiber



The horses seem to enjoy the short, stubby grass (= 'Bart', hence the name) at Bartebn'e, a charming plateau between Vent and the Rofenhöfe settlement surrounded by mighty mountains. Big, erratically scattered rocks and stones line the trail. Not all of them were placed there by nature. Certain rocks were chosen by artists to be rearranged and turned into pieces of art in order to draw the attention of people walking by. Observant visitors will notice a couple of peculiarities: Four smooth rounded stones appearing to hover over a rock, a narrow passage through a split rock, an installation of white pebbles on the rock face symbolizing the sun and moon wheel.

Barteb'ne has more to offer than meager grasslands. It is appreciated by artists as an open-air workshop, a precious gem of nature encouraging inspiration and imagination, with a range of mountains bending around the place as if in protection. For seven years now the artists participating in the international ARTeVENT symposium (taking place every August) have been turning the plateau between Vent and Rofen into an alpine open-air workshop.

"I love this place for its awe-inspiring atmosphere. The ARTeVENT initiative benefits from the fact that the natural surroundings encourage

artistic inspiration", says Haesim Kim, a sculptor from South Korea. A foggy day in Vent was her source of inspiration for "Rising Cloud", a stone art installation. Along with many other art objects created of rock and stone it is to make people sensitive and receptive to the beauty of nature. Those walking along should be encouraged to linger, to reflect, and to understand.

**The alpine surroundings of Vent make a splendid open-air studio, and nature itself inspires artists to produce superb works of art.**

The temporary book exhibition in Vent is open every day throughout August. It is dedicated to a different mountain-related topic every year and attracts visitors and locals alike. In addition, there are related exhibitions and lectures in the evenings.

Located at an altitude of 1890 meters, Vent is an internationally recognized mountaineering resort. It was in the 19th century when Franz Senn, a priest and founding member of the German Alpine Association, encouraged tourism in this place in the mountains, which was then marked by severe poverty. He initiated the creation of hiking trails and mountain huts and shel-



Barteb'ne area near Vent



Perfect symbiosis of art and culture on your way from Vent to Rofenhöfe Farms



Sculptors working in Vent's artistic open-air arena



ters, and the village has been attracting outdoor enthusiasts ever since. Vent prides itself in having retained its rural charm and unspoiled environment. Wildspitze, Weisskugel, Similaun, Hintereisferner and Kesselwandferner – these precious gems of nature are the key to Vent's popularity!

**Both mountaineers and artists appreciate Vent's authenticity.**

How did this place in the Alps, whose major concerns had always been alpinism, science and nature, get infected with the art virus? The Sculptors Symposium is organized by the Ötztal artist Gerbert Ennemoser (interview on page 46). Among those in charge of the varied culture and activity program within the framework of the Sculptors Symposium is the Ötztal author and folklorist Hans Haid (interview on page 47).

Some 8000 years ago hunters from the south chose Barteb'ne to set up camp after their long and tiring journey across the mountains. There may well have been artists among them who were also charmed and inspired by the picturesque surroundings to create ideas and pieces of art that would promote the development of an advanced society.

## INFO

### Cultural Summer in Vent

ARTeVENT is a Cultural Initiative held yearly in August. It focuses on book exhibitions and stone sculpture art objects displayed at Barteb'ne area. Varied side program: exhibitions, lectures, guided hikes. Main theme in summer 2013: "Mythic Mountain"

[www.vent.at](http://www.vent.at)



# ARTISTIC WORK

For several decades now the Längenfeld sculptor Gerbert Ennemoser has been trying to encourage public interest in art in the Ötztal Valley. In addition, he offers fellow artists from all over the world participating in the Sculptors Symposium an opportunity to experience the magic charm of the mountains.

Interview: Ursula Scheiber

**What does the term 'home' mean to you from an artist's perspective?** Home is where I feel valued and loved. You are defined by the environment you grow up in, and it becomes a part of your identity over the years. Therefore, I define 'home' also through the mountains. They are of fundamental importance to my job, since I get most of my inspiration through walking in the mountains. Having the mountains on the doorstep and being able to live and work in such an inspiring and unspoiled environment is a privilege I cherish.

**How did you first become interested in art?** I loved to draw and paint when I was a child. My teacher soon recognized my talent in art and encouraged parental support. Fortunately, my family was open to that idea and I was able to join a distance learning program just after I had completed my apprenticeship. In the early 1970s I moved to Munich, which seemed to me like a whole new world and deeply influenced my life. Love and the wish to have a family made me return to the Ötztal Valley. I have to admit that it was not easy to be an artist and feed a family at the same time.

**You are one of the founding members of the ARTeVENT initiative and in charge of the Sculptors Symposium. Could you explain that in a little more detail?** It is an encounter with nature, with the landscape, with local history and traditions. The topic is determined by the natural surroundings, which are a source of inspiration at the same time and permit artists to give vent to their thoughts and ideas. People visiting Vent are overwhelmed by the spectacular scenery, which should be carefully explored and experienced with all senses. And this is where art comes in, as a link and mediator between man and nature.

**What does Bartebe'ne, the venue for the Symposium, mean to you?** Bartebe'ne between Vent and Rofen is indeed a very special place. In autumn, for instance, the sun shines a lot longer here than in Vent itself. This place has got everything you need: water, flat terrain - and it's peaceful and quiet without being isolated, the perfect place to work for an artist.

**What is your vision for ARTeVENT in the next five years?** I would like ARTeVENT to be what it is now: an unpretentious art and culture event for everyone, promoting top-quality art together with an attractive culture program.



# RESEARCHING

Folklorist and writer Hans Haid doesn't mince words when it comes to the preservation of Alpine culture treasures and traditions. He dedicates his life to defining, collecting and spreading the cultural heritage. Known as a lateral thinker, he looks far beyond the Ötztal Valley and its future.

Interview: Ursula Scheiber

**Is there a kind of "valley culture" in the Ötztal?** I don't think so. Looking back to the history of settlement, the region has never been an independent cultural area. Relationships across cultures and mountain passes were just normal. But there is a characteristic feature: the spoken Ötztal dialect which is typical of the young and old inhabitants of the whole valley. And it's really very specific.

**Dialect and landscape: do they belong to a home country?**

"Home" seems to me a quite emotional concept. But on the other hand this word describes something like your home farm or birthplace which is strongly connected to each person. Maybe "home" is a part of where you live. In the Ötztal the farmer's culture has been strongly influenced by the extreme mountainscape over centuries. It should be scrutinized critically: "home" to me means taking part in the valley's life and having a say. To do so one must know a lot of things about his own culture and tradition.

**You have always looked far beyond the boundaries of your home country.**

Yes, of course. My home are the Alps in general. The most formative aspect of the Alps is their cultural landscape. I put my focus on man-made nature and landscape. The mountains still play an aesthetic role but I'm merely interested in the specific way of life of all Alpine people, and how they tried and will try to master their life.

**Writer, collector, cultural initiator, tourism critic, lateral thinker, poet.**

**You have many talents: how would you describe yourself?**

When I received the title of "professor" they tried hard to describe what I have been doing over the last decades. The official document says "cultural interpreter" and that's a perfect description. I find myself amidst a great cultural variety with countless unique facets. This cultural area is the upper Ötztal Valley, connected to South Tyrol's Schnalstal and Passeiertal. Maybe there is also a touch of Pitztal because my father was born there.

**Looking ahead to the future: What do you wish for the people in the valley?**

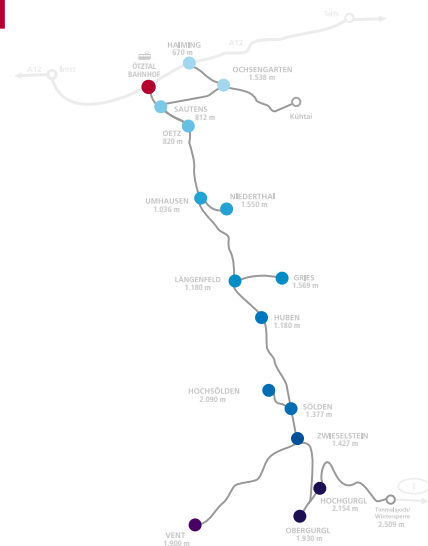
Young people should keep alive the interest in their home country, including their culture and nature. I think this is the most important fact for the valley's future. All those who leave the valley for studying purposes should be encouraged to come back home and work here as qualified experts. At the same time, we should make it easier for young mountain farmer's families to stay in the valley.





# VILLAGE LIFE AMIDST A SEA OF BLOSSOMS AND SUMMITS

670 m – 2.150 m



## HAIMING-OCHSENGARTEN. HOLIDAY UNDER APPLE TREES.

Sunny days in abundance at the entrance to the valley. A paradise made of orchards. Fruit trees accompany you on family-friendly walking and cycling path through gentle hills. Ochsenegg boasts Alpine pastures and vantage peaks.



## SAUTENS. HIGH-PROOF VACATION.

Mild climate at the entrance to the Ötztal Valley. Luxuriant fruit trees are essential for fine distilled delights and clear brandies just perfect for the tired legs of hikers and cyclists.



## OETZ. FAMILY HOLIDAY WITH A SCENIC BACKDROP.

Painted facades in the village center, deeply rooted in history. Emerald green Lake Piburger See ideal to forget everyday routine. Splendid Hochoetz Pasture Region attracting sporty people.



## UMHAUSEN-NIEDERTHAL. JOY IN TUNE WITH NATURE.

Encountering old traditions. Niederthal, sunny high Alpine plateau. Ötzi Village, via ferratas for all abilities and scenic Water Strider Trails to mighty Stuibenfal, Tirol's biggest waterfall. Reviving spirits at the new Health & Spa Center.



## LÄNGENFELD. THE POWER OF WATER.

High-altitude training base and nordic fitness center. Wellness check-up and ultimate relaxation at the Aqua Dome thermal spa. Being close to both heaven and nature in the mountain and pilgrimage village of Gries.



## SÖLDEN. HOT SPOT IN THE ALPS.

Getting in top shape. Ambitious, modern, enterprising, loads of action on trails, pastures and glaciers. Futurist Gaislachkogel mountain gondola. Exploring the BIG3 viewing platforms.



## OBERGURGL-HOCHGURGL. THE DIAMOND OF THE ALPS.

Peace and silence, surrounded by glaciers and Alpine pastures. Breathing pollen-free air on walking tours. Highest level of comfort and top quality easily affordable for everyone.



## VENT. MOUNTAINEERING VILLAGE.

In the foothills of 3.774 m high Wildspitze peak, Tirol's Alpine highlight. Glacier priest Senn has kicked-off Alpine tourism here. The „Geierwally“ was put on stage in Vent.



ÖTZ  
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## ALL HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

### EVENTS:

ON-MOUNTAIN FOLK MUSIC FEST  
HOCHOETZ PASTURE REGION  
02.06.2013

### MUSIC:

GILBERT LIVE IN CONCERT / AREA 47  
01.06.2013

### CHILDREN:

NATURE PARK FAMILY FESTIVAL  
UMHAUSEN-NIEDERTHAI  
21.07.2013

### CULTURE: ARTEVENT – THEME:

MYTHIC MOUNTAIN - VENT  
AUGUST 2013

### EVENT:

8TH ÖTZTAL COUNTRY FEST - SAUTENS  
02. – 03.08.2013

### HIKING EVENTS:

GRIES GLACIER HIKE  
21.07.2013

### GLACIER FLEA HIKE

04.08.2013 (from Obergurgl to Vent)

### SPORT:

SCHNITZELJAGD  
28. - 30.6. 2013

This paper chase event is an ultimate Enduro Challenge: not really a race or competition – but a fun-filled, uncomplicated sports day with loads of splendid trails and challenges. Teams of two have to conquer the cream of downhill trails in order to obtain the "Giant Golden Schnitzel" – mountain lifts can be used too! Starting at 3000 m altitude plenty of tricky missions and superb single trails await you.



EVENT:  
ÖTZTALER CYCLE  
MARATHON  
25.08.2013

For more than 30 years, the Öztaler Cycle Marathon has been a cult event. Ambitious cyclists from 31 different countries take part in the toughest Alpine cycle marathon: 5500m altitude gain on 238 kilometers.



EVENT:  
ADIDAS SICKLINE  
10. – 13.10.2013

Already for the 7th time, the international kayak slalom elite will compete for the title of World Champion on the legendary Weller Bridge canoe race track in Oetz. Challenging competitions are scheduled!



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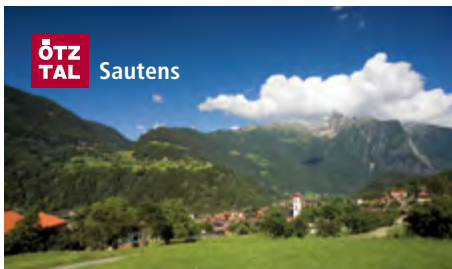
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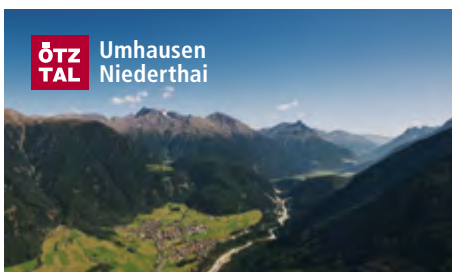
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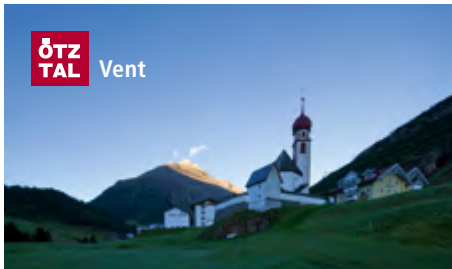
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