



Welcome Working and living in the Bregenzerwald

MIT UNTERSTÜTZUNG VON BUND, LAND UND EUROPÄISCHER UNION



MINISTERIUM
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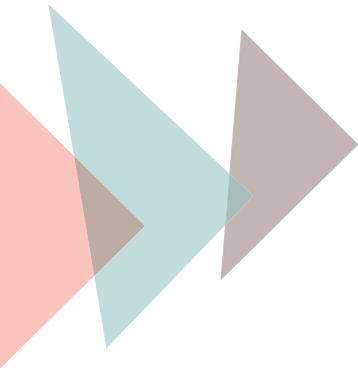
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Preface



The business network witus always places emphasis on what we share in common. For the project “getting ahead”, our focus is supporting new employees on their arrival in the Bregenzerwald and in their subsequent steps. To help specialist workers get ahead while looking for new employment and a new place to live, we would like to be proactive in our support.

With this welcome brochure we aim to support you with all the necessary information you will need when taking your first steps on this journey. Much will be unexplored territory for you and we want to accompany you on this journey with openness, respect and a willingness to help. By doing

so we aim to lay the foundation for an atmosphere of productivity and harmonious integration. You will discover that we have many things in common, such as your interest in finding fulfilling employment and our interest in finding the right person with the necessary expertise and motivation for each job. Our common interests have common interfaces where we will often meet and be able to interact.

These things bind us together – you as a new resident and us as companies, municipalities and engaged people in the Bregenzerwald.

A warm welcome!

Magdalena Steurer,
Managing Director of witus

Welcome - Working and living in the Bregenzerwald

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1 Welcome to witus

Welcome to witus

Entrepreneurs and businesses are inseparably linked to a region, because without companies and entrepreneurial spirit a region would look bare. Many different institutions and companies in the Bregenzerwald are strongly committed to retaining the unspoiled living environment and shaping it in an attractive way for future generations. Entrepreneurs can only survive in a region if they have a sufficient number of specialist workers and employees, for only in this way will they be able to cope with the challenges of the economy.

witus (Wirtschaft und Tourismus – economy and tourism) is a business network with about 150 members from the sectors craft, agriculture, trade, services and tourism. The five municipalities Mellau, Schnepfau, Bizau, Reuthe and Bezau support the network and collaborate intensively.

In the five municipalities, there is a wide range of occupations including electricians, carpenters, accountants, plasterers, cooks, waiters, nurses, salespeople and roofers – a large number of existing job profiles are covered.

A particular quality of the companies in the Bregenzerwald is that often they are run as family businesses. As such, personal contact and trustworthiness matters. And in

contrast to some other valleys in the Alps, the Bregenzerwald is an attractive place to live and work even in the low season.

The craft companies range from small family businesses to big enterprises which operate internationally. Concerning hotel and restaurant businesses, all types are represented in the region from the traditional restaurant to the 4-star-superior hotel. The region is very proud of its agriculture and its farmers' products – the alpine dairies and mountain huts, too, are always looking for employees. Trading companies in the region raise awareness with the slogan „ich kauf im Wald“ (“I buy in the Bregenzerwald”). Thanks to the favourable commercial distribution structure “almost” anything can be bought in the Bregenzerwald. The services sector includes many occupations – from the hairdresser to the tax consultant, the massage therapist to the beautician: the entire range is covered in the Bregenzerwald.

The witus network includes 18 craft companies, 47 tourism businesses, 10 farmers and alpine dairies and more than 60 trade and services enterprises among its members.





witus Members

Trade & Services

Adeg Aktiv Markt Berlinger (supermarket)	Gerücheküche (herbs)	Raiffeisenbank
Adele Moden (fashion)	Geschenk & Handwerk (gifts and handycraft)	Bezau-Mellau-Bizau (bank)
Alba's Magnetschmuck (magnetic jewellery)	Getränkhandel Artur Egender (beverage shop)	rar.schönes (fashion)
Ammann Irmtraud Kosmetik (cosmetics)	gshtrub grafikdesign (graphic design)	Rosi's Werkstätte (lace)
Ayurveda & Massage Beatrix Gridling	Haarstudio Manuela (hair dresser)	Schuh Fröwis (shoes)
Bäckerei Kleber (bakery)	Hausarzt Dr. Fink (general practitioner)	SoxBox (socks)
belinda wohnen - blühen - schenken (living, flowers, gifts)	Hawo (sanitary and heating)	Sparkasse Geschäftsstelle Bezau (bank)
Bergsport & Outdoor Leitner (mountain sports)	Heilmasseurin Heidi Meusburger (massage)	Sport & Mode Natter (sports and fashion)
Blumen-Fee (florist)	Honda Meusburger (cars)	Sport Broger (sports)
Coiffeur Lipburger (hairdresser)	Katharinen-Apotheke (pharmacy)	Strubobuob - Gartenwerkstatt & Tischkultur (garden and tableware)
Deuring Jagd & Outdoor (hunting)	Kaufmann Mode (fashion)	Sutterlüty Ländlemarkt (supermarket)
Dorfmetzge Strohmaier (butchery)	Klunkar Fimo-Modeschmuck (costume jewellery)	Tabak Trafik Haller (tobacconist)
Druckhaus Gössler (printing shop)	Konsum Bizau (supermarket)	UNIKUM Metallwerkstatt (metal workshop)
ediths	Konsum Mellau (supermarket)	Übelher Steuerberatung (tax consultancy)
Elektro Beer (electronics)	Kulinarium Metzler (regional food and husky tours)	Viten (gems, gem jewelry)
Elektro Meusburger (electronics)	Moosbrugger Dirndlwerkstatt (traditional dresses)	Volksbank Mellau (bank)
Erath & Partner Steuerberatung (tax consulting)	Natter Wohnbau (residential building)	Wolff Shop (underwear)
evelyn SchönSein (beauty)	Nigano IT	Wälderhaus Bezau (construction market)
Fischer Wolle (wool)	Padma Edelsteinschmuck & Mineralien (gem jewelry & minerals)	Waelderspielzeug (toys)
Friseur „Blütezeit“ (hair dresser)	Panto Outdoor (outdoor fashion)	Wüstner Teppiche & Bettsysteme (carpets and bed systems)
Friseur Kosmetik Patrizia Kleber (hair dresser / cosmetic)		

Agriculture

Alpe Wildmoos (alpine dairy)	Sennerei Oberdorf (alpine dairy)	Schafmilchbetrieb Gmeiner (sheep's milk products)
Christahof (chicken and cattle)	Bergbauernhof Fegg (mountain farm)	
Sennerei Kriechere (alpine dairy)	Rainer Bergbauer (mountain farm)	
Alpenkäse Breggenzerwald	Bergsennerei Schnepfau (alpine dairy)	
Sennerei (alpine dairy)		
Hubert Kaufmann (mountain farm)		

witus Members

Tourism

Aktivhotel Kanisfluh	Apartment Gridling Edeltraud	Ski- und Snowboardschule Mellau
Cafe-Restaurant Katrina	Flugschule Bregenzerwald	(ski and snowboard school)
Hotel Kreuz	(flight school)	Apartment Sutterlüty Gertrud
Aktiv-Zentrum Bregenzerwald	Rössle appartements	Gästehaus Graf (guesthouse)
(outdoor activities)	Apartments Irma	Sonne Lifestyle Resort (hotel)
Campingplatz Bezau (campsite)	Gasthof Taube	Bergbahnen Mellau
Hotel Post	(restaurant/guesthouse)	(mountain railways)
Alphof Rossstelle	Seilbahn Bezau	Gästehaus Meusburger
(restaurant/guesthouse)	(mountain railways)	(guesthouse)
Die Sonnigen (hotel/apartments)	Apartments Isabella	Wälderbähnle Bregenzerwald
Hütte Fegg (mountain hut)	Genießer- und Kuschelhotel	(touristic train)
Apartments Christine	Gams (hotel)	Berghaus Kanisfluh
Erlebnisgästehaus Kanisfluh	Seminar- und Gästehaus „Im	(mountain hotel)
(guesthouse)	Kloster Bezau“ (seminar and	Gästehaus Puchmayr Manuela
Kurt´s Dorfzüge (touristic train)	guesthouse)	(guesthouse)
Apartment Greber	Apartment Natter Petra	Wanderführer Pius Feuerstein
Ferienhaus Sonnalp	Gesundhotel Bad Reuthe	(hiking guide)
(holiday home)	(wellness hotel)	Biohotel Schwanen
Panoramahütten Sonderdach	s'Bärle (après-ski pub)	Hotel Bären & Café Deli
(mountain huts)	Apartment Monika	Cafe Konditorei Natter
	Gästehaus Egender (guesthouse)	(café and pastry shop)
		Hotel Engel

Craft

casimo Holzhandwerk	ewollution Filzgestaltung
(woodworking)	(felt products)
Kunstschmiede Figer (metalwork)	Meusburger Fliesen (tiles)
Tischlerei Wolfgang Meusburger	Zimmerei Oliver Beer (carpenter)
(carpenter)	Fink Martin Wasser-Wärme-Solar
Dachdecker Robert Lang (roofer)	(water, heating, solar)
Manser Verputz (plasterwork)	Morscher Bau- & Projektmanage-
Traumtischler Leo Metzler	ment (construction and project
(carpenter)	management)
d´juppo & emlmachare (tailor	Kaufmann Zimmerei und
shop for traditional dresses)	Tischlerei (carpentry)
Mayr-Melnhof Holz	Norbert Lukasik (carpenter)
(wood industry)	
Troy Raumausstattung	
(interior design)	

The synergy of working together benefits the region's further development, the maintaining of values and a constructive exchange between members; it is a form of giving and taking.



2 Welcome to the Bregenzerwald





It is said of the people in the Bregenzerwald that they like doing things correctly and rigorously. At the end of the day, it should last for a long time. The distinctive character of the people reflects the landscape in which they live and work. Gentle hills contrast with rugged peaks in the high mountains, while picturesque villages combine traditional and at the same time innovative timber construction. They are thus witnesses to the past, to contemporary culture and to the future. Space has been made here for cultures in their diversity.

Welcome to the Bregenzerwald

Local people from the Bregenzerwald address foreigners with the “du”, the informal form of “you”. Do you still feel foreign then? Though you may not always immediately understand their language, you will understand their hospitable nature, even without words. Their “du” sounds friendly.

Reaching out to other people is not easy when you are new to a place. Your limited language skills make you uncertain at the beginning and you need to develop an understanding of the local culture. We appreciate this and so we try, through our genuine pleasure at your arrival, to say to you: welcome to the Bregenzerwald!



A welcoming culture for me is part of the corporate culture.

Ellen Nenning,
Genießer- und
Kuschelhotel Gams



It is difficult to find good specialist workers but for our future it is indispensable.

Robert Lang
Dachdecker



I feel like a colleague here, not an immigrant.

Johannes Strößenreuther
NIGANO IT



The landscape and the closeness to nature in the Bregenzerwald inspire me again and again.

Valentina Maretic,
Hotel Post

3 Working and living in the Bregenzerwald



Working

The working environment in the Bregenzerwald is really special. It is characterized by a high commitment for work as well as collegial and uncomplicated interactions with fellow residents. As employers, the companies offer interesting and sometimes unexpected opportunities. Here you can find practical information about employment.

Job search

Internet and newspapers

The largest offer of vacancies in Vorarlberg can be found on the online platform www.laendlejob.at. The regional daily newspaper Vorarlberger Nachrichten (VN) contains an extensive career section with job offers on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Public Employment Service Austria (AMS)

Jobseekers in Austria have access to the services of the Public Employment Service Austria (Arbeitsmarktservice - AMS).

AMS Bregenz

Rheinstraße 33, 6901 Bregenz
Tel: +43 5574 691-0

Further information: www.help.gv.at » Information for foreign citizens » Working » Job Search

Formal recognition of qualifications from abroad

Before searching for a job, one must ascertain in advance whether the qualifications in the home country are recognized in Austria. For questions concerning the need for and the official recognition of qualifications acquired abroad, the „Contact point Tirol and Vorarlberg for persons with qualifications acquired abroad” provides substantial support.

AMS Feldkirch

Contact point Tirol and Vorarlberg

Reichsstraße 151, 6800 Feldkirch

Tel.: +43 660 4369654

Email: ast.vorarlberg@zemit.at

Further Information: www.berufsanerkennung.at



Die Natur
sich nicht
um
Se ist es!
(and Guts)

3 Working and living in the Bregenzerwald

Working

Visa and residence permit

EU-citizens

Austria is a member of the European Union (EU) – therefore, EU citizens do not need a visa, a residence permit or a work permit. Within three days of arrival, registration is required only with the municipality or the local residents' registration office. This rule also applies to citizens of non-EU countries. If a stay of at least four months is planned, an additional registration must be made with the district administration (Bezirkshauptmannschaft).

None-EU-citizens

For non-EU citizens all formalities must be completed before entering Austria. This means all permits must be applied for from the home country! For entry into Austria there are the following options:

C Visa: Travel visa

This is the conventional tourist visa. It can be issued for durations of stay up to 90 days (in total) within a period of 180 days and entitles the visa holder to enter into and stay in the territory of the Schengen states. Schengen states are the following ones: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal,

Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden as well as the non-EU members Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. To apply for a tourist visa, the following documents are required:

- Passport photo
- Valid passport (at least six months)
- Travel ticket or booking confirmation
- Confirmed hotel bookings or an invitation from your company
- Proof of health insurance for your stay in Austria
- In addition, we recommend a „letter of recommendation“ from an Austrian company. Thus the visa application can be accelerated.

D Visa: Residence visa

D visas entitle to a stay of between 91 days and six months. They are issued primarily for the purpose of courses which do not fall within the scope of residence permits and for filling a gap until a residence permit is granted. In this case, the issuance of the residence permit must be certain at the date of the visa issue and the only barrier must be time.

A (national) D visa that is issued by Austria or another Schengen state in combination with a valid travel document entitles the visa holder to move freely across the other Schengen states' territory for up to 90 days per period of 180 days.

In general, D visas can only be issued by Austrian representation authorities. A foreign authority in another Schengen state that represents Austria can only issue Schengen visas. If a D visa is required, the visa applicant may apply to an Austrian representation authority in a neighbouring state.

Further information: www.help.gv.at
» Information for foreign citizens » Living in Austria
» Visa for Austria » Types of Visas

Red-White-Red Card for permanent immigration

Austria has introduced a flexible new immigration scheme: the Red-White-Red Card. It aims to facilitate the immigration of qualified third-country workers and their families with a view to permanent settlement in Austria, based on personal and labour-market related criteria.

The Red-White-Red Card is issued for a period of twelve months and entitles the holder to fixed-term settlement and employment by a specified employer. The following persons are eligible for a Red-White-Red Card: very highly qualified workers, skilled workers in shortage occupations, other key workers, graduates of Austrian universities and colleges of higher education, self-employed key workers.

Further information: www.help.gv.at » Information for foreign citizens » Living in Austria » Residence

in Austria » Residence of Third-Country Nationals
» General Information for Third-Country Nationals

Public authorities

The necessary official steps after arriving in Austria are linked to different public authorities. The following is a brief overview of the most important steps.

Compulsory registration

In Austria, registration is compulsory. That means that when somebody moves into an area or changes his primary residence within Austria, he has to register his new main place of residence at the registration office (Meldeamt), which is located in the offices of the local/municipal authorities. Generally a person has three working days from the time he has moved to register the new place of residence.

Competent authority:
Municipal office at the place of residence

Confirmation of registration

Persons establishing their residence in Austria must register with the competent registration authority. As a citizen of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA, including all EU member states, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) or Switzerland you are entitled to set up residency in Austria under certain condi-



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tions. However you must apply to the responsible authorities for a confirmation of registration within four months after you have entered Austria. The same is true for the members of your family insofar as they are also citizens of the EU, the EEA or Switzerland. Family members who are not citizens of the EU, the EEA or Switzerland must apply for a residence permit, which is issued for five years.

Competent authority:

Bregenz District Commission
(Bezirkshauptmannschaft Bregenz)
Bahnhofstraße 41, 6900 Bregenz

Tel.: +43 5574 49510

e-mail: bhbregenz@vorarlberg.at

Further information: www.help.gv.at » Information for foreign citizens » Living in Austria » Residence in Austria » Residence of Third-Country Nationals » General Information for Third-Country Nationals

Conversion of a foreign driving licence

European Union driving licences are recognized in Austria, and may be converted at any time on a voluntary basis. Driving license holders from non-EU countries with a residence in Austria, must have their driving licence converted within six months to an Austrian driving license.

Competent authority:

Bregenz District Commission
(Bezirkshauptmannschaft Bregenz)
Bahnhofstraße 41, 6900 Bregenz

Tel.: +43 5574 49510

e-mail: bhbregenz@vorarlberg.at

Competent authority: Dornbirn District

Commission (Bezirkshauptmannschaft Dornbirn)
Klaudiastraße 2, A-6850 Dornbirn

Tel.: +43 5572 308 0

e-mail: bhdornbirn@vorarlberg.at

Further information: www.help.gv.at » Information for foreign citizens » Documents and Identification » Driving Licence

Social security

The social security system in Austria covers the following: Prevention, sickness, incapacity for work/invalidity, maternity, unemployment, old age, death of a person liable to provide maintenance, survivors' pensions, nursing care and social need. As an employee with an employment contract one is automatically covered by social insurance. The employer takes care of the registration with the insurance institutions. The insurance contributions to be paid by employees are deducted every month from their gross salary/gross wages by their employer. The employer applies for a social security number of the employee as well as for an e-card at the responsible social insurance institution. Children and spouses can also be insured.

Competent authority for Health insurance:

Vorarlberger Gebietskrankenkasse - Servicestelle
Egg, Bundesstraße 1039, 6863 Egg

Tel.: +43 50 84 55-5421, e-mail: egg@vgkk.at

Further information: www.sozialversicherung.at or <http://www.migration.gv.at/en/living-and-working-in-austria/austria-at-a-glance/the-social-security-system>

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Finances

Family allowance

In Austria, families with children up to the age of 24 are granted a monthly financial allowance in the form of a family allowance.

Competent authority: Finanzamt Bregenz

Brielgasse 19, 6900 Bregenz
Tel.: +43 5574 692

Further information: www.help.gv.at » Information for foreign citizens » Family and Partnership » Birth of a Child » Benefits and Financial Support for Parents

Childcare allowance

In Austria, parents with entitlement to family allowance can also ask for a child-care allowance. There is the possibility to choose from various forms of payment of this financial support by the social insurance institution.

Competent authority for Health insurance:

Vorarlberger Gebietskrankenkasse - Servicestelle
Egg, Bundesstraße 1039, 6863 Egg
Tel.: +43 50 84 55-5421, e-mail: egg@vgkk.at

Further information: www.help.gv.at » Information for foreign citizens » Family and Partnership » Birth of a Child » Benefits and Financial Support for Parents

Bank account

The opening of a private account with an Austrian bank institution is recommended for the monthly transfer of salary. The opening of a bank account is possible without difficulty, with a valid ID card, driving license or passport. The following banks are at your disposal in the witus municipalities.

Raiffeisenbank Bezau

Platz 398, 6870 Bezau
Tel: +43 5514 23 45 E-Mail: bmb@raiba.at
www.raiba-bmb.at

Sparkasse Egg - Geschäftsstelle Bezau

Bahnhof 740, 6870 Bezau
Tel: +43 50100 75550
E-Mail: thomas.meusburger@egg.sparkasse.at
www.waelderbank.at

Raiffeisenbank Mellau

Platz 58, 6881 Mellau
Tel: +43 5518 22 34 E-Mail: bmb@raiba.at
www.raiba-bmb.at

Volksbank Vorarlberg

Übermellen 78, 6881 Mellau
Tel: +43 50 882 3800 E-Mail: volksbank@vwb.at
www.volksbank-vorarlberg.at

Raiffeisenbank Bizau

Kirchdorf 340, 6874 Bizau
Tel: +43 5514 21 28 E-Mail: bmb@raiba.at
www.raiba-bmb.at

Training and education

In Vorarlberg there are three major providers of vocational education and training with a wide range of courses. Most courses take place in the cities of Dornbirn, Bregenz and Feldkirch.

WiFi Vorarlberg

Bahnhofstr. 24, 6850 Dornbirn
Tel: +43 5572 3894-425

Further information: www.vlbg.wifi.at

BFI der AK Vorarlberg

Widnau 2-4, 6800 Feldkirch
Tel: +43 5522 70200

Further information: www.bfi-vorarlberg.at

Volkshochschulen des Landes Vorarlberg

Römerstraße 14, 6900 Bregenz
Tel: +43 5574 525240

Further information: www.vhs-vorarlberg.at



3 Working and living in the Bregenzerwald

Living

Childcare in the region

Childcare centres in Austria differ according to the age of children. Nurseries are child care facilities which are appropriate to the needs of babies and toddlers up to the age of three. Kindergarten are facilities for children from three to six years. Registration for the kindergarten is done via the municipality. Attendance at a kindergarten is obligatory one year before school enrolment.

Further information: www.help.gv.at
» Information for foreign citizens »
Family and Partnership » Childcare

Bezau Nursery LaLeLu

Age: 1,5 to 4 years

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7:30h to 17:00h, Friday 7:30h to 13:00h
Pelzrain 610, 6870 Bezau, Tel: +43 664 884 331 65
www.sozialzentrum-bmr.at/kinderbetreuung.php

Bezau Kindergarten

Age: 4 to 6 years

Opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7:30h to 16:00h including child-care over the lunch hour, Monday and Friday from 7:30h to 12:30h

Platz 375, 6870 Bezau, Tel: +43 5514 2213-15
kindergarten@bezau.cnu
www.kindergarten.bezau.at

Bizau Nursery

Age: 3 years

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 7:30h to 11:30h

Kirchdorf 371, 6874 Bizau, Tel: +43 5514 2493
www.bizau.at/gemeinde/kindergarten

Bizau Kindergarten

Age: 4 to 6 years

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 7:30h to 12:00h,

Monday and Thursday from 13:30h to 16:00h

Kirchdorf 371, 6874 Bizau, Tel: +43 5514 2493
www.bizau.at/gemeinde/kindergarten

Mellau Nursery and Kindergarten

Age: 3 to 6 years

Opening hours: Group 1 for three year old children: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30h to 12:30h;

Groups 2+3 for four to six year old children:

Monday to Friday from 7:30h to 12:30h,

Tuesday and Thursday from 13:30h to 16:00h

Platz 285, A-6881 Mellau

Tel: +43 5518 27 66

<http://gemeinde.mellau.at/gemeinde/infrastruktur/kindergarten>

Schnepfau Kindergarten

Age: 3 to 5 years

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 7:45h to 12:15h

Kirchdorf 37, A-6882 Schnepfau
Tel: +43 5518 28524





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Reuthe Kindergarten

Age: 3 to 6 years

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 07:30h to 12:30h, Tuesday and Thursday from 13:45h to 15:45h

Vorderreuthe 139, 6870 Reuthe

Tel: +43 5514 2459-13

kindergarten@reuthe.cnv.at

www.reuthe.at/bildung/kindergarten

Schools in the region

For all children who live permanently in Austria compulsory education is from 6 to 15 years of age. An overview of all school facilities in Vorarlberg can be found at www.landesschulrat.at.

Further information: www.help.gv.at » Information for foreign citizens » Education » Compulsory Schooling

Bezau primary school

Platz 45, 6870 Bezau

Tel: +43 5514 23 79

www.vs-bezau.vobs.at

Bezau lower secondary school

Platz 138, 6870 Bezau

Tel: +43 5514 23 77

www.hs-bezau.vobs.at

Bezau pre-vocational school

Platz 138, 6870 Bezau

Tel: +43 5514 35 10

<http://pts-bezau.vobs.at>

Bezau commercial high school

Greben 178, 6870 Bezau

Tel: +43 5514 24 02

www.bws.ac.at

Mellau primary school

Platz 285, 6881 Mellau

Tel: +43 5518 22 28

<http://gemeinde.mellau.at/gemeinde/infrastruktur/volksschule>

Bizau primary school

Kirchdorf 72, 6874 Bizau

Tel: +43 5514 3193

www.bizau.at/gemeinde/volksschule/

Reuthe primary school

Vorderreuthe 139, 6870 Reuthe

Tel: +43 5514 3159

direktion@vsre.snv.at

www.reuthe.at/node/954

Schnepfau primary school

HNr. 37, 6882 Schnepfau

Tel: +43 5518 2852

www.schnepfau.at/volksschule.html

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Sports and leisure time

The Bregenzerwald offers you numerous possibilities for recreational activities: besides a varied cultural offer (for example Bezaubatz www.bezaubatz.at etc.) there are countless possibilities to do sports, to enjoy nature or to engage in voluntary work.

Further information:
www.bregenzerwald.at/s/en/sports-leisure-time

Associations and clubs

In addition to sports clubs, many inhabitants of the Bregenzerwald are members of an association such as the volunteer fire brigade, the music band or the scouts. Membership of an association is a good way to find new friends. All clubs in the witus municipalities can be found on the homepages of the municipalities.

Further information:
Bezau - www.bezau.at/Vereine.129.0.html
Bizau - www.bizau.at/gemeinde/vereine
Mellau - <http://gemeinde.mellau.at/gemeinde/vereine>
Reuthe - www.reuthe.at/vereine/vereinsindex
Schnepfau - www.schnepfau.at/vereine.html

Shopping

In the witus municipalities there are many small, modern shops that enrich the village life. In the region almost everything can be purchased locally. The offer ranges from the grocery store through fashion and shoe shops to the specialist trade in construction supplies.

Further information:
www.bezau-bregenzerwald.com/sommer/bezau-region/einkaufen-genießen

Learning German

German is the national language of Austria, but there are some peculiarities in terms of vocabulary and grammar in comparison to other German-speaking countries. Although English is widely spoken as a foreign language in the Bregenzerwald, it is very advantageous to acquire German language skills as soon as possible.

Further information:
Overview of Austrian course institutes and online language courses - www.sprachportal.at
Overview of the course offer for German as a foreign language in Vorarlberg - www.pfiifikus.at
Potential funding opportunities for German courses - www.kursfoerderung.at
Online language training tests - <http://sprachportal.integrationsfonds.at/pruefungen/online-uebungstest.html>



Housing

Housing search

There are different possibilities for you and your family to find accommodation in the Bregenzerwald:

Online platforms

A good way to find housing is the online search, for example on www.laendleimmo.at or www.immoagent.at

Newspapers

Housing offers are published in regional newspapers such as WANN & WO or Vorarlberger Nachrichten (VN).

Community bulletin

The Bregenzer Gemeindeblatt (community bulletin) for the district of Bregenz appears weekly - approximately 11,350 copies are printed - and is the most popular subscription weekly in the district of Bregenz. It contains a section for rental offers and rental requests.

Municipal office

The municipal office can provide information about temporary and permanent housing options in the respective municipality.

Estate agents

The estate agent WÄLDERIMMO offers support when looking for housing (to rent or to buy) in the Bregenzerwald. www.waelderimmo.at

Rental costs

The average rent for an apartment (up to 65 m²) in a good location in the wltus municipalities is about 700 €, without running costs.

Compulsory registration

Anyone who rents an apartment in Austria is obliged to register with the registration office of the local municipality.

Competent authority: Municipality

Further information: www.help.gv.at

Transport

Bus

The Bregenzerwald has an excellent public bus network. You can find departure times, maps and prices at www.vmobil.at. For people that regularly take the bus it is worth buying a monthly or yearly ticket.

The price for adults for a yearly ticket covering all public transport in Vorarlberg is around € 370.

Car

If you bring your own vehicle from abroad to Austria, you must register it within one month after your arrival.

Competent authority:

Car insurance provider of your choice

Further information: www.help.gv.at » Information for foreign citizens » Freetime and Mobility » Motor

Vehicles » Rules for Driving Motor Vehicles in Austria » Driving with Foreign Number Plates

Bicycle

The people of Vorarlberg are bike enthusiasts and Vorarlberg is the most cycling-friendly province of Austria. This is demonstrated by the well-developed cycle track network as well as by the over 1,500 km of marked mountain bike trails. The most beautiful bike tours can be found at www.vorarlberg.travel/de/biketouren.



4 Useful links



General information on immigration in Austria www.migration.gv.at/en

Brochure „Welcome to Austria“ - www.integrationsfonds.at/fileadmin/img/Kampagnen/Wien/Willkommen-in-Oesterreich-Englisch.pdf

Living and Working in Austria

Information for persons eligible for asylum or subsidiary protection

http://www.ams.at/_docs/ENGLISH_lebenundarbeiten_publ_16.pdf

International contacts in Vorarlberg

www.globalvorarlberg.com

Information about working in Vorarlberg

www.chancenland.at

Information about the Bregenzerwald

www.bregenzerwald.at/s/en

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Picture source witus and Bezaun Tourismus: p1: summer action of witus at the crafts fair | p5: portraits of some witus companies | p7: casimo wood work | p8 top: team Sport & Mode Natter, middle: Geschenk & Handwerk, bottom: alpine dairy Gemeiner | p11 top: hiking and ski area Niedere, bottom: Meusburger carpentry | p13: mountain view Bregenzerwald (Hirschberg, Diedamskopf, Hoher Ifen) | p14: cable car Bezaun summit station | p17: mountain biker in the Bregenzerwald | S19: alpine dairy Alpenkäse Bregenzerwald | p22: Kaufmann carpentry | p25: participants of the language course vorankommen | p27: Kindergarten Bizau | p28: squash carving at the Gallomat (yearly fair in Bezaun) | p31: top: hiking in the witus municipalities, bottom: ski school Mellau | p33: Morscher construction and project management | p34: view of the Bregenzerwald with the Mittagsspitze

