



Tyrol & Vorarlberg

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Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Breakfast Club (p299)

Best Places to Sleep

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Why Go?

There's no place like Tyrol for the 'wow, I'm in Austria' feeling. Nowhere else in the country is the downhill skiing as exhilarating, the après-ski as pumping, the wooden chalets as chocolate box, the food as hearty. Whether you're schussing down the legendary slopes of Kitzbühel, cycling the Zillertal or hiking in the Alps with a big, blue sky overhead, the scenery here makes you glad to be alive. Welcome to a place where snowboarders brag under the low beams of a medieval tavern about awesome descents; where *Dirndls* and lederhosen have street cred; and where *Volksmusik* (folk music) features on club playlists.

The Arlberg Alps give way to rolling dairy country in pleasingly low-key Vorarlberg. Spilling east to the glittering expanse of Bodensee (Lake Constance), this eastern pocket of the country swings happily between ecofriendly architecture on the cutting edge of design and deeply traditional hamlets with more cows than people.

When to Go

- ➔ In winter (December to early April), skiers flock to the Tyrolean Alps for snow and après-ski fun and prices soar, making advance booking essential. At Christmas, markets bring festive sparkle to towns and cities.
- ➔ In summer (June to September) room rates are lower in alpine resorts and this is prime time for high-altitude and hut-to-hut hikes, lake swimming and adventure sports such as rafting, paragliding and mountain biking. Zillertal rocks to summer folk music; the Bregenz Festival in mid-July lures opera fans to Bodensee.
- ➔ Crowds are few and room rates low in the shoulder seasons of April/May and October/November, though many places close in alpine resorts. Seasonal colour is at its best, with wildflowers in spring and foliage in autumn.

Tyrol & Vorarlberg Highlights

- 1 Kitzbühel** (p311) Saving your best chuss for the slopes of Kitzbühel.
- 2 Goldenes Dachl** (p294) Admiring the golden wonder of Innsbruck's late Gothic oriel.
- 3 The Zillertal** (p304) Mountain biking in Tyrol's Alpine heartland.
- 4 Aqua Dome** (p318) Peak-gazing and bathing at this spa in Längenfeld.
- 5 St Anton am Arlberg** (p324) Partying in the rollicking après-ski bars.
- 6 Hall in Tirol** (p302) Slipping back 500 years in this pristine medieval old town.
- 7 Bodensee** (p333) Splashing and cycling at Europe's third-largest lake.
- 8 Bregenzerwald** (p336) Enjoying pure mountain air in this off-the-radar region.
- 9 Feldkirch** (p339) Tiptoeing back to medieval times in riverside Feldkirch.
- 10 Bludenz** (p341) Gorging on Milka chocolate in Bludenz.

