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GAIL VALLEY IN AUSTRIA: SYMBIOSIS OF NATURE AND MAN

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Abstract

The Gail river Valley (Slovenian: Zilja, Italian: Zeglia) is located in southern Austria (geographic coordinates: 46°43'39.40"N, 12°30'32.33"E, Elevation 1628 m; 46°36'23.10"N, 13 °53'11.84"E, Elevation 488 m). The source of the river Gail is located east of the Kartitsch saddle and the Puster valley in the Tyrolean municipality of Obertilliach. The river flows from west to east through the Southern Limestone Alps, between the Gailtal Alps in the north and the Carnian Alps in the south. The river reaches Carinthia in Lesachtal and from Kötschach-Mauthen flows down the wider Gail valley (German: Gailtal) with its steep slopes, parallel to the borders with Italy and Slovenia. Beyond its confluence with the Slizza (Gailitz) tributary in Arnoldstein, the Gail joins the Drava below the western Karavanke mountain range near the village of Maria Gail, part of the town of Villach. In general, the Alps can be said to be the 'mother of Europe', its largest and most significant natural resource that generated the rest of Europe's goods. The Gail Valley is located at the border between the Germanic, Romanic and Slavic civilizations and cultures, so it is an extremely complex, dynamic and controversial area and as such is attractive (for the author of this paper) for the study of Architectural Spatial Definition (ADS).

Keywords: Gail Valley, Austria, Symbiosis of Nature and Man

1. Intruduction

The author's travels in Austria took place under different circumstances. Most of the trips were trips through Austria on the Author's route to some other destinations in Europe (Amsterdam-several times, Nice-several times, Barcelona, Munich-several times and to Oslo). During these travels, the Author stayed for a short time in some Austrian cities (Vienna, Salzburg), and sometimes he just passed through the passenger terminals of the airport (Vienna)

on his way to cities in various parts of Europe. The author made the most content-rich trip to Austria by participating in the scientific conference 15th International Passive House Conference 2011, which was held (May 26 - 30, 2011) in Innsbruck. In order to get to know those parts of Austria that are not on the main roads (from Slovenia to Germany, for example), the author decided to drive from the Slovenia-Austria border to Innsbruck by car (with

the possibility of taking breaks where he wants) the southern part of Austria and the northern part of Italy in order to better get to know the alpine part of these countries, smaller urban settlements in their natural environment and experience the atmosphere of the most important road that connects the southern part of Europe with its northern part. Arriving from Slovenia to the Austrian town of Villach (in the south of Austria), the Author continued his drive to Innsbruck through the colorful Gail Valley, which stretches in an East-West direction, passing through smaller towns - Sankt Stefan im Gailtal (St. Stefan in the Gail Valley), Hermagor -Pressegger See and Kötschach-Mauthen (Figures 1,2,3). Considering the time of the trip (May), the experience of the Gail valley, squeezed between the high peaks of the Alps (which were covered with snow), was particularly rich. From Austria, the journey to Innsbruck continued via the Italian cities of Bruneck, Bolzano and Merano. Staying in Innsbruck for five days, the Author got to know this city in detail. An intimate experience of Innsbruck The author connected it with Sarajevo, since both cities hosted the Winter Olympic Games, Innsbruck in 1960 and 1976, and Sarajevo in 1984¹. The author's visit to the Gail River Valley in Austria is part of an extensive study and confirmation of his theory of Architecturally Defined Space (ADS) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14, 15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27].



Figure 3. The author in a restaurant in the Gail Valley in Austria
Source: Haris Bradic (May 26, 2011)

The name Gail developed from Old High German Gila, and from the form Gila (which was also the source of the Slovenian name Zilja). It is probably a name of substrate origin, which predates the Roman presence in the area. The name is believed to derive from the pre-Romanesque word gailja meaning 'sparkling (water), powerful'. The river is documented as Gila in a document from 1090. The Slovenian name Zilja is also often mentioned because the Ziljska dolina is the traditional settlement area of the Carinthian Slovenes and the language area of the special Zilja dialect (Figure 4). While the upper river course is largely preserved in its natural state, a habitat for shorebirds such as the common sandpiper, white-necked bear and gray porpoise, large parts of the lower Gail have been gradually regulated since the 1870s. Recently, some parts have been renatured. Today, the trout zone extends to Hermagor with 17 species, among which are common barbel and common trout.

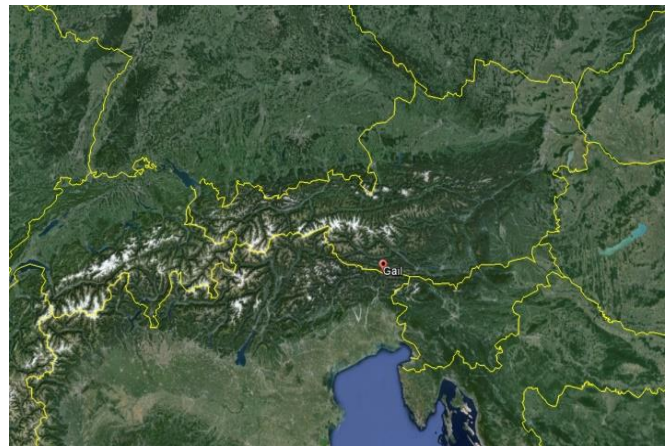


Figure 4. Gail Valley in Austria. Location
Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

2. Hermagor-Pressegger See

Hermagor-Pressegger See is a town (with about 6,900 inhabitants^[28]) and the administrative center of the Hermagor District (Figure 5). The city is located in the south of Austria, in the Lower Gail Valley near the border with Italy. It was named after St. Hermagoras (Saint Hermagoras of Aquileia, 3rd century-305), the first bishop of Aquiria. Archaeological finds near the local church of St. Hermagor confirm that this mining place was already inhabited around 1800-1200 BC. Later it was part of the Celtic Kingdom of Noricum (in the 1st century), which became a province in the Roman Empire. Parish of St. Hermagora was first mentioned in written documents in 1169. Due to its favorable geographical location, the parish (1288) received the right to trade freely and became the most important settlement in the Gail valley. Hermagor (1868) became the capital of the district of the same

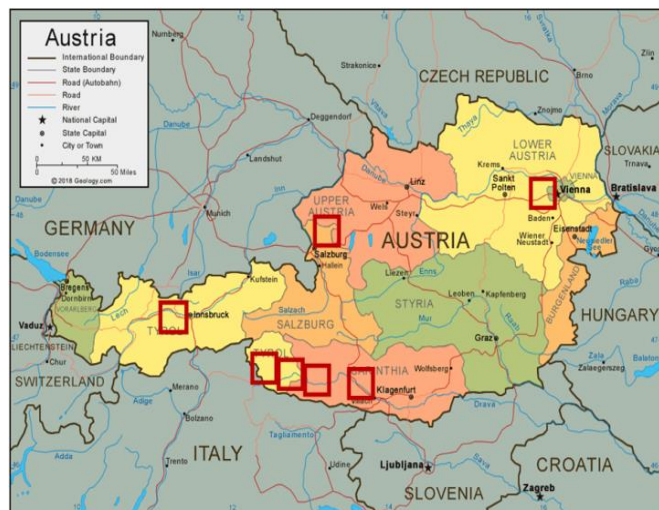


Figure 1. Map of Austria. (The places the Author visited are marked with red squares)

Source: <https://geology.com/world/austria-satellite-image.shtml>, Accessed: July 13, 2024.



Figure 2. Gail Valley in Austria
Source: Author (May 26, 2011)

¹ The author was pleasantly surprised when, talking to people in cafes in Innsbruck, he realized how much they knew about Sarajevo, mostly due to the fact that this city hosted the 14th Winter Olympic Games.

name and the seat of the imperial-royal Landwehr garrison. The Gailtal railway station was built in 1894 and expanded (1915) for military purposes, on the Italian front during World War I. The city received (1930) special privileges on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Carinthian plebiscite. Today's municipality of Hermagor-Presssegger See was created by the unification of several (previously) separate municipalities, as a result of the administrative reform of 1973.

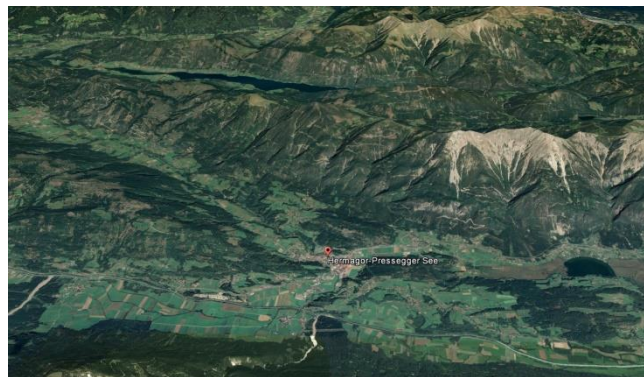


Figure 5. Hermagor-Presssegger See
Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Environment. We consider the environment to be every potential possibility in the space in which a person can realize his existence [29]. When we talk about the environment, we don't mean only those givens 'in themselves' provided by nature; here we also mean all the results of human work and presence in a certain place: built settlements, cultivated terrain, infrastructure, and cultural tradition, socio-economic relations, forms of consciousness (philosophy, science, religion, morality...). Different environments place different demands on an architecturally defined space, which results in a practically unlimited number of aspects in which it can appear. The environment is a fundamental feature of Architecturally Defined Space (ADS). As a complex expression of human struggle, architecture is simultaneously a strictly defined empirical phenomenon that is always realized in a concrete natural environment in which it must survive as a physical structure, resistant to more or less aggressive natural influences. At the same time, many inputs from the social environment give architecture the characteristics of a concrete society in the historical-time period context.

Natural environment. By 'natural environment' we mean all those features provided by nature, on which man (mostly) has not achieved his influence: geographical location, geomorphology, watercourses and water reservoirs, flora and fauna, available soil, climate [1] ...

The most important natural resource of the town of Hermagor-Presssegger See is the fertile valley along the river Gail, into which the river Garnitzenbach flows right next to the town. Both the rivers and the fertile valley are a gift of the Alps that generate snow and other precipitation, that is, an abundance of small and large springs and watercourses (Figures 6, 7, 8). The founding of the city and its life until today was related to agriculture (farming and livestock) and mining. Thanks to its great natural beauty, the Hermagor-Presssegger See town area is a tourist center in the Gail Valley, both in winter (for winter sports and recreation) and in summer (for hunting and hiking, mainly).





Figure 6. The natural environment of Hermagor-Presssegger See

Source: <http://www.pension-fritz.at/pages/de/aktivitaeten.php>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: <https://www.falkensteiner.com/en/hotel/carinzia/experience/excursions>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: <https://www.tiscover.com/at/destinations/nassfeld-hermagor-presssegger-see>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: <https://www.nassfeld.at/en/aktiv/wandern-und-biken/wandern/wandertouren/garnitzenklamm>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: https://farm3.staticflickr.com/2835/13702099073_821231c225_o.jpg, Accessed: July 9, 2024.



Figure 7. Mountaineering in the Alps in the vicinity of Hermagor-Presssegger See

Source: https://www.nassfeld.at/hr/buchen/packages/panoramawandern_package_26243, Accessed: July 9, 2024



Figure 8. Production of dairy products in the surroundings of the city of Hermagor-Presssegger See

Source: <https://www.tiscover.com/at/destinations/nassfeld-hermagor-presssegger-see>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Social environment. The social environment (society) is a group of individuals involved in a more or less permanent social interaction or large social group sharing the same geographic or social territory, usually subject to the same political authorities and dominant cultural expectations. Societies are characterized by patterns of relationships (social relations) among individuals who share a characteristic culture and institutions. A given society can be described as the sum of such relationships between its constituent members. In the social sciences, the larger society often shows patterns of stratification or dominance in subgroups ^[1].

Architectural cultural and historical heritage. Möderndorf Castle, including the Gail Valley Museum (German: Schloss Möderndorf, English: Castle Möderndorf, geographical coordinates: 46°36' 38.5"N, 13°21'43.6"E) is located next to the church in the village of Möderndorf am Zollfeld in the town of Maria Saal (Figure 9). Möderndorf was first mentioned in 1164. In the second half of the 13th century, it was a fortress-residence with a tower from the 14th century. Over time, the castle changed its owners. The year 1662 is inscribed on a stone in its wall with the coat of arms of the Jobornegg and Keutschach families. The castle consists of two floors covered by a multi-pitched sloping roof. On its eastern part (from the late Gothic period), a red stone portal with sandstone edges has been preserved.



Figure 9. Möderndorf Castle (Schloss Möderndorf)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Schloss_M%C3%B6derndorf.JPG, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: <https://www.holzschindel.at/holzschindeln/holzschindel-produktuebersicht/90-referenzen-daecher/164-schloss-moerderdorf-hermagor-knt>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

The parish church in Hermagor-Presssegger See (German: Pfarrkirche St. Hermagoras) is dedicated to St. Hermagori and Fortunato and rises in the middle of the village on the Stocksteinerwand (Figure 10). The parish was mentioned for the first time in documents from 1169. Today's building originates from the 15th century, and was built on the foundations of an older building, after the Ottoman invasion (1478). The church was remodeled (1904) in the Gothic style. The external restoration of the church was done in 1993 and 1994, and the internal restoration in 1998. The Zgeada of the church consists of a corridor and the main single-nave prayer space. The window frames are designed in the Romanesque-Gothic style. The tower of the church is located on its northern side. It has pointed Gothic windows. Statue of St. Hermagoras is on the south wall of the church, and was made (1961) by Hans Domenik (1906-1980).



Figure 10. Parish Church in Hermagor-Presssegger See (Pfarrkirche St. Hermagoras)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Source: <https://www.sakralbauten.at/pfarrkirche-sankt-hermagoras-her>, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

The town hall in Hermagor-Presssegger See (German: Rathaus Hermagor-Presssegger See) is by all accounts a modern building, erected (1963) on Wulfeniaplatz in Hermagor (Figure 11). From 2013 to 2017, the building was renovated as part of the "Columbus 13" project. The renovation involved a redesign with the application of a number of measures to increase the energy efficiency of the building.



Figure 11. Town Hall in Hermagor (Hermagor Rathaus)

Source: https://www.meinbezirk.at/hermagor/c-politik/hermagor-bekommt-ein-photovoltaik-buergerkraftwerk_a1969932#gallery=default&pid=9658106, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

3. Sankt Stefan im Gailtal

Sankt Stefan im Gailtal (St. Stefan in the Gail Valley) is a town and municipality (with about 1,600 inhabitants^[28]) in the district of Hermagor, in the province of Kärnten in the south of Austria (Figure 12). The city was developed on the banks of the river Gail, in a valley bordered on the south side by the Carnic Alps (with the highest peak Oisternig, 2052 meters above sea level) and the Gailtal Alps on the north. The municipality of Sankt Stefan im Gailtal unites 20 villages, and is divided into six cadastral municipalities: Hadersdorf, Köstendorf, Matschiedl, St. Paul, St. Stefan and Vorderberg. The settlement was founded by Slavic settlers (Slovenes) in the 8th century who incorporated themselves into the Frankish Kingdom. The local parish church of St. Stefan im Gailtal was built in the 9th century, and was first mentioned in written documents in 1275. During the Middle Ages, the city was in the possession of the diocese of Bamberg, with a constant struggle for supremacy with the Counts of Gorizia (Grafen von Görz), when Vordernberg Castle was destroyed. After it was rebuilt (1460), Vordernberg Castle was destroyed again and was never rebuilt. Since 1500, the Gail valley has been in the possession of the Habsburgs.

Natural environment. Median in the Gail valley has been one of the possessions of the Bamberg diocese for a long time, until in the 13th century there were disputes with the people of Gorica. After the reconstruction, it was destroyed again (1460), and then it was never built again. Around 1500, the Gail valley partially came into the possession of the Habsburgs.

During its history, the city suffered several fires and floods of the river Gail (of which the one in 1691 was one of the most destructive). Since 1850, the local community of Carinthia was formed in the area of today's Sankt Stefan im Gailtal. With the administrative reform (1973), the area of Sankt Stefan im Gailtal got its current borders, with the dissatisfaction of the residents of Vorderberg, who tried to achieve an independent status. The settlement of Vorderberga (1993) changed its name to the current name of Sankt Stefan im Gailtal.



Figure 12. St. Stefan in the Gail Valley (Sankt Stefan im Gailtal)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Natural resources and sights. The greatest natural wealth of the Sankt Stefan im Gailtal settlement is its geographical location in the Gail valley, where there is a river, fertile plains, extensive pastures and iron ore, a gift of the Alps mountain range (Figures 13, 14, 15). From the earliest times, this area provided good conditions for people to live in a direct relationship between man and the natural environment. Today, the mountains around the city are an area for various types of recreation, both in winter and in summer: winter sports, hunting, hiking...



Figure 13. Sankt Stefan im Gailtal

Source:

https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipNDwFANNsCxZAHUpxeOal_QJyDLULh7ThzrNIgA=h720

Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Source: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Dobratsch_01.jpg,

Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Source:

<https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipOT2OZPUHyGDzTt6POM3239c-DCyhg1k2WrR8h=h720>, Accessed: July 12, 2024.



Figure 14. Natural environment Sankt Stefan im Gailtal

Source: https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipPHLd8-qQdM0nuvgKHaOj2SLe6_f1DU0tbogu1v=w720-h720-pd

Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Source: <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipN2E0gdr0K1-taWiRbB4-strgL4trWNRPJVaVEj=h720>, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Source:

https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipP2VR0PIT8QKpIiOiVI-Dg_kY-uMwXycyz8w3M=h720, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Source:

<https://www.outdooractive.com/de/bergtouren/obertilliach/bergtour-en-in-obertilliach/2513928/>, Accessed: July 12, 2024.



Figure 15. Vordernberg

Source:

https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipMkq4Yyf6UPCUGnCGmbD0_L680f04zCfaQBBvzP=h720, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Social environment. Architectural cultural and historical heritage.

Vordernberg Castle (German: Schloss Vordernberg, geographic coordinates: 46°35'45" N, 13°31'19" E) is located on a hill above the Gail River in southern Austria, near the border with Italy (Figure 16). The origin and history of the settlement and castle Vordernberg is related to the exploitation of iron ore, since the time of ancient Rome (even today there is a famous "Iron Road" that transported iron ore). In the process of smelting iron ore and in its processing, the power of water flows was used. In addition, the ancient Romans built windmills here, which generated power for ore processing and iron processing. Vordernberg acquired the status of a free market in 1453, and in the period between the 17th and 18th centuries, it experienced its heyday^[29].



Figure 16. Vordernberg Castle (Schloss Vordernberg)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Source:

<https://austria-forum.org/af/Wissenssammlungen/Essays/Architektur-ISG/Vordernberg>, Accessed: July 12, 2024.

Church of St. Stefan im Gailtal (German: Die Pfarrkirche St. Stefan an der Gail, geographic coordinates: 46°36'58.1" N, 13°30'59.8" E) is the oldest church in the town of Sankt Stefan im Gailtal, which was built around 800 by order of Bishop Theodorich. In written documents, this church is mentioned for the first time in 1275 (Figure 17).



Figure 17. Church of St. Stefan im Gailtal (Die Pfarrkirche St. Stefan an der Gail)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sankt_Stefan_im_Gailtal_Pfarrkirche_Heiliger_Stephanus_25092011_511.jpg

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: https://www.kath-kirche-kaernten.at/pfarren/detail/C3038/konzert_in_der_pfarrkirche_st_stefan_an_der_gail

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipNWwUvWpPZBlbtS4EsuS01GCS9eUHCNqUSxmsW=h720>

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Greifenstein Castle in Sankt Stefan im Gailtal (German: Schloss Greifenstein im Sankt Stefan im Gailtal, geographic coordinates: 46°36'57.5" N, 13°30'58.3" E) was built by the Aichelburg family in the 14th century. The building got its present appearance in 1556 (as can be seen from the inscription). The castle survived several fires and was renovated, the last time in 1965. In addition to the main residential building, the castle has a castle church, several stables and auxiliary buildings. Over time, the castle changed its owners (Marie Elisabeth Freiin of Aichelburg-Zosseneegg, the princes of Liechtenstein to the count of Calice). Today, this castle is privately owned (Figure 18).



Figure 18. Greifenstein Castle in Sankt Stefan im Gailtal (Schloss Greifenstein im Sankt Stefan im Gailtal)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schloss_Greifenstein_\(K%C3%A4rnten\)#/media/File:Iphone_170822_177.jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schloss_Greifenstein_(K%C3%A4rnten)#/media/File:Iphone_170822_177.jpg)

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRzltGnbOmg>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <http://schloss-greifenstein.de/schloss-greifenstein-geschichte/>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

4. Kötschach-Mauthen

Kötschach-Mauthen is a town (with about 3,600 inhabitants ^[28]) located in the district of Hermagor, in the Austrian province of Herzogtum Kärnten, in the immediate vicinity of the border with Italy (Figure 19). The town is situated at the crossing of the upper Gail valley into the Lesachtal, between the Gailtel and the Karnk Alps, about 34 km west of Hermagor, on the road leading to the Gailberg Saddle and the town of Oberdraurg. The area of the town of Kötschach-Mauthen has been inhabited since around 200 AD. The route of the Roman road led here via the Plöcken Pass to

the province of Noricum where there was a settlement Loncium, above today's Mauthen (according to the German "maut" meaning "toll"). During the Middle Ages, most of today's settlements in the area of Kötschach-Mauthen were known, mostly for iron production: Mauthen (1276), Höfling (1300), Kötschach (1308), Podlanig (1374), Würmlach (1374) and St. Jakob (1376). Later settlements are mentioned: Laas (1510), Mandorf (1521) and Gentschach (1590). Mauthen was the seat (from 1319) of the regional court. In the 15th century, the area of today's Kötschach-Mauthen was ruled by the counts of Ortenburg, who were engaged in the production and processing of iron. During World War I, the area of Kötschach-Mauthen was on the front line between Austria-Hungary and Italy. The city (1930) received the right to free trade. The city got its current name (Kötschach-Mauthen) (1958) from the unification of Kötschach and Mauthen, and with the administrative reform (1973) the areas of the upper Gail valley and Lesachtal were added to the city.

Kötschach-Mauthen is divided into four municipalities: Kötschach, Mauthen, Strajach and Würmlach. There are 31 inhabited places on the territory of the city. The population of Kötschach-Mauthen mainly consists of Austrians (95 %), while the minorities are Germans (1.2 %) and Turks (0.9 %), and with regard to religious affiliation, Roman Catholics (89.1 %), Protestants (6.6 %), Muslims (1.3 %) while 1.8% of the population is non-religious.



Figure 19. Kötschach-Mauthen

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Natural environment. Natural resources and sights. The most significant natural resource of the city of Kötschach-Mauthen is its geopolitical position in the upper Gail valley, in the Alps (Figures 20,21). The Alps generate great water potential (many springs and watercourses), which is a significant driving force for other activities, iron ore processing, wood processing and small hydroelectric power plants. This area is rich in forests and pastures, and these riches were the basis for a wide range of wood products, including architectural structures, and livestock farming. Animal husbandry provided rich sources of food (meat and dairy products), wool and hides, as the basis for the production of various types of clothing and footwear. Today, as a by-product of animal husbandry, bio-gas, an ecological energy source, is produced in Kötschach-Mauthen, which is used by the local thermal power plant.

Thanks to the rich natural environment of the Alps, Kötschach-Mauthen is visited by guests, both in winter and in summer, so tourism has become an important economic branch.



Figure 21. Kötschach-Mauthen's natural environment

Source:

<https://www.nekteo.eu/de/energieschauplatz/kaernten/world-of-energy>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: <http://www.filmcommission.at/en/lesach-valley>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: <https://www.geo-explorer.at/?id=60626&pid=567>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Social environment. Architectural cultural and historical heritage. Way of the Cross near St. Jakob (German: Kreuzung in der Nähe von St. Jakob) is part of a network of pilgrimage routes or pilgrimages (Spanish: Camino de Santiago, Latin: Peregrinatio Compostellana) that lead to the shrine of the apostle St. James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, in northwestern Spain, where, according to belief, the saint's remains are buried (Figure 22). Many people follow his ways as a form of spiritual path or retreat into their spirit world. This route is popular among hiking and cycling enthusiasts, in organized groups. Some sections of this extensive network of roads (such as the French Way (Camino Francés) and roads in northern Spain) are on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Figure 22. Way of the Cross near St. Jakob (German: Kreuzung in der Nähe von St. Jakob)

Source: <http://www.hotelroomsearch.net/im/city/sankt-jakob-im-lesachtal-austria-4.jpg>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

One of the many Lesachtal water wheels (German: Eines von Lesachtals vielen Wasserrädern, geographic coordinates: 46°41'36.67" N, 12°48'20.59" E). The Lesachtal Valley is known as the "Valley with a hundred mills". Watercourses are a gift to the people of the Alps. Farmers used the power of water not only to grind wheat, but also to operate plows, cranes, threshing machines and saws. As industrialization increased, the mills disappeared one after another. To this day, several water mills have been preserved, which can be seen on the "Path of Mills". In this valley there is an organized Museum of Mills (Figure 23).



Figure 23. One of Lesachtal's many water wheels (Eines von Lesachtals vielen Wasserrädern)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:K%C3%B6tschach_Sankt_Jakob_Roethengraben_Muehle_03062007_06.jpg

Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Weidenburg Castle (German: Schlosses Weidenburg, geographic coordinates: 46°38'52.3" N, 13°3'24.7" E) is located high above the romantic Neckar valley, in the southeast of the municipality of Kötschach-Mauthen, south of Würmlach (Figure 24). The castle was probably built around 1200 as a manor seat on the southern and eastern sides of the steep rock. The castle is first mentioned in written documents in 1225, as "Castro Weideberg", together with Johannes de Waidberch. Later, the counts of Gorica came into its possession. After the peace in Pusanitz (1460), the castle came (1460) into the possession of Emperor Frederick III (Frederick III of Denmark, 1609-1670). The castle (1545) became the property of the Khevenhüller family from Aichelberg, and in 1571 the castle was bought by Georg Khevenhüller (1533-1587). In the 17th century, the castle was owned by the Fromiller family. From the 18th century, the castle began to deteriorate, and in 1931 it was rebuilt. The castle burned down again in 1933. After the Second World War, the ruins of this castle came into the possession of the Austrian federal forests.





Figure 24. Weidenburg Castle (Schlosses Weidenburg)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source:

<https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipNo5VI4yP9ZWvTb14NIFA7ihKdFRVThGuQ1Q7VG=h1440>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: <https://schloss-weitenburg.de/en/home/>, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

The ruins of Pittersberg Castle (German: Ruinen der Burg Pittersberg, geographic coordinates: 46°41'55" N, 12°58'53" E) are located on a free rock, on the southern side of the Gailberg saddle, northwest of the village of Laas in the town of Kötschach-Mauthen (Figure 25). The castle is mentioned (1252) as the property of the county of Gorizia. After the peace in Pusarnitz (1460), the castle came into the possession of the Habsburgs, who gave the building to guardians. The castle was the seat of the district court, but it was already a ruin in the middle of the 17th century. The remains of the Romanesque church, parts of the wall and a circular stone cistern are still visible.



Figure 25. Ruins of Pittersberg Castle (Ruinen der Burg Pittersberg)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source:

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Burgruine_Pittersberg12.JPG, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Church of St. Mark in Mauthen (German: St. Marcus Kirche in Mauthen, geographic coordinates: 46°39'46.06" N, 12°59'57.40" E) is a Roman Catholic parish church in the municipality of Kötschach-Mauthen whose patron saint is St. Marko (Figure 26). The church was first mentioned in written documents in 1466. After it was damaged during the invasion (1478) of the Ottomans,

the church was restored and rededicated (1485) by Bishop Pietro von Caorle. The church was built in 1234 in the Romanesque style. Later, a baroque nave and a sacristy with an oratory were added on its northern side. On the west side of the church, a choir was added (1742). Frescoes from the first third of the 16th century on the southern wall were discovered in 1932. On the southern wall of the tower there are frescoes from 1340 depicting saints and angels.



Figure 26. Church of St. Mark in Mauthen (St. Marcus Kirche in Mauthen)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source:

https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipMANAjFSUhwjTFqeg-b6s7Vh_TmPHpDikX8D2HK=h1440, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source:

<https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipM0YsggxFMwEAXf3BHNVRvzBpyGbLbzNeEHB1h7=w1440-h1440-pd>

Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Mandorf Castle (German: Mandorf Schloss, geographic coordinates: 46°40'23.88" N, 13°01'15.96" E) is located in the village of the same name in the municipality of Kötschach-Mauthen. It was built by Hans Mandorfer, captain of Ortenburg, and it was first mentioned in written documents in 1521. Since 1802, the castle has been owned by the Pichler-Mandorf family and today serves as a seminar center. The castle is a three-story Late Gothic building with a rectangular floor plan. Late Gothic windows framed in red sandstone from Laas. On the north side there is a late Gothic arched portal in red sandstone. The vestibule is vaulted and has four painted coats of arms from the middle of the 16th century on its walls (Figure 27).





Figure 27. Mandorf Castle (Mandorf Schloss)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

Source: https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-mrmwRxdynY0/W08-berO6wI/AAAAAAAAABSc/ADiZLRvbjwcalbvEI4_Gb18EsfrcTI/DzQCLIBGAYYCw/w408-h726-k-no/, Accessed: July 9, 2024.

The Museum of the First World War (1915-1918) (German: Museum des Ersten Weltkriegs, geographical coordinates: 46°40'17.60" N, 12°59'59.99" E) is an open-air museum that witnesses the atmosphere of the First World War, that is, the southwestern front, where the battles (1915-1918) were fought between the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and Italy (Figure 28). The front stretched from the border with Switzerland to the Adriatic coast, in a length of about 600 kilometers and at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,900 meters.



Figure 28. Museum of the First World War (Museum des Ersten Weltkriegs)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: https://www.1sites.eu/index.php?id=35&tx_wwicaheritage_caheritage%5BcaHeritage%5D=6&tx_wwicaheritage_caheritage%5

[Baction%5D=show&tx_wwicaheritage_caheritage%5Bcontroller%5D=CaHeritage&cHash=9b1f457a6085bacd6139b2f3276b19c6](https://www.1sites.eu/index.php?id=35&tx_wwicaheritage_caheritage%5BcaHeritage%5D=6&tx_wwicaheritage_caheritage%5)

<https://www.tracesofwar.com/sights/44462/Museum-1915-1918.htm>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipN-IJtZP8IDOBBrJY6VwoSX-hz8BF-clp3lnJk=h1440>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

5. Villach

Villach is a city (with about 61,900 inhabitants ^[28]) located on the Drava River in the Austrian federal state of Carinthia (Slovenian: Koroška) near the Austrian-Slovenian border (Figure 29). The city lies on the slopes of the Gailtal Alps near Lake Ossiach, in its northeastern part. The city is a major traffic hub not only in southern Austria, but also in the entire Alpe-Adria region. Archaeological finds confirm the presence of people in this area since the Neolithic. There are also traces of later Roman culture. The famous Roman road, now called the Römerweg, which connected the area of today's Italy with the Roman province of Noricum, founded in the 15th year. The Romans founded the settlement of Sanctium here, on the site of today's Warmbad quarter, south of the center of today's town of Villach. The Slavs settled this area in the 7th century (during the famous "migration of peoples") and founded the Principality of Carantania. In the middle of the 8th century, this area was attacked by the Avars, when (740) the then prince of Carantania, Borut (Prince Boruth, ruled 740-750), asked for help from the Bavarian duke Odil (Duke of Bavaria, ruled 736-748). Odilo agreed to provide help on the condition that Prince Borut recognized the supreme authority of Bavaria over Carantania. The Carolingian king Karlmann donated (878) this area to the Bavarian monastery of Öttingen (today's Treffen am Ossiacher See) when today's Villach is first mentioned in written documents, under the name Uillach (ad pontem Uillach), near the royal castle of Treffen. The etymology of the name Villach has its roots in the Latin word "villa" ("town"). In the period (1007-1759), Villach was owned by Bamberg, in the Holy Roman Empire. In 1060, Gred received the status of a free market. Parish Church of St. Jakov was first mentioned in written documents in 1136. Emperor Frederick II (Frederick II, King of Sicily from 1198, King of Germany from 1212, King of Italy and Holy Roman Emperor from 1220 and King of Jerusalem from 1225, lived 1194-1250) approved (1222) holding an annual fair (Jacobitag). The town of Villach survived several fires and earthquakes during the Middle Ages. From 1526, the majority of the population of Villach turned to Protestantism, which provoked a sharp reaction from the Catholic Church. As a consequence of this religious orientation of the population of Villach, it was persecuted, when its majority left the city. Villach is experiencing a setback in every respect. Empress Maria Theresa (Maria Theresa Walburga Amalia Christina, 1717-1780), from the Habsburg family, bought (1759) Villach from Bamberg and included it in the "successor lands" of the Habsburg Monarchy, and the city became the seat of the Carinthian district. During the Napoleonic wars (1804-1815), Villach was occupied by French troops when it was administratively included (1809) in the Illyrian provinces. After the Austrian Empire regained (1813) Villach in its possession, the town was administratively included (1816) in the Kingdom of Illyria (Austrian Kingdom of Illyria). Villach was included (1864) in the Southern Railway line from when its intensive development began. During World War I, Villach was the headquarters of the 10th Command of the Austro-Hungarian Army, near the Italian front. Villach acquired the status

of a city in 1932. During the 2nd World War, Villach (as a German city at that time) was bombed 37 times by Allied aircraft when a large number of its population and its physical structure perished.

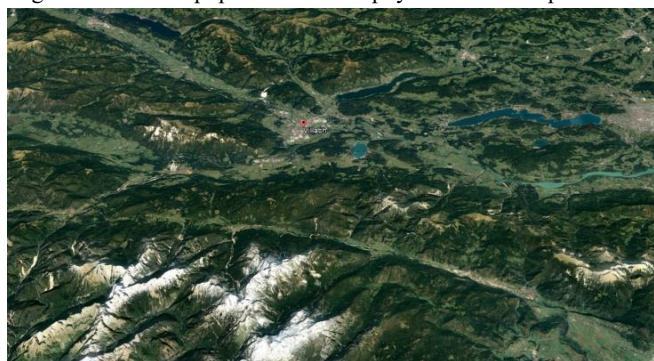


Figure 29. Villach. Location

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Natural environment. Natural resources and sights. The city of Villach has a continental climate with cold and wet summers (type Dfb, according to the Köppen climate classification). The highest summer temperature is 25.6 °C (July), and the lowest is 11.1 °C (June), while the highest winter temperature is 1.8 °C (December), and the lowest is -6.4 °C (January).

The largest and most significant natural resource of the town of Villach are the Alps, which generate all other natural resources (Figures 30-35).



Figure 30. The natural environment of Villacha

Source: <http://www.roadbike-holidays.com/en/racing-bike-holidays/carinthia/villach-lake-faak-and-lake-ossiach-p67-10.html>

Accessed: July 10, 2024.



Figure 31. Drava river in Villach (Fluss Drau in Villach)

Source: <https://keane.li/2017/01/25/brezel-beers-and-bridges-in-villach-austria/>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.



Figure 32. Lake Faaker (Faaker See)

Source: <https://www.tiscover.com/at/destinations/faaker-see>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.



Figure 33. Lake Ossiach (Ossiacher See)

Source: <https://www.educare.co.at/lake-ossiach>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.



Figure 34. Gerlitz

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Villach_Gerlitz_11042_007_03.jpg, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <http://www.dogsincluded.nl/hotels-honden-welkom->

[omschrijving/394719/oostenrijk/karinthie/treffen/hotel-met-hond-almresort-gerlitzten-kanzelhohe-de-alpen.html](https://www.bergfex.cz/oostenrijk/karinthie/treffen/hotel-met-hond-almresort-gerlitzten-kanzelhohe-de-alpen.html), Accessed: July 10, 2024.



Figure 35. Warmbad Villach

Source: <https://www.bergfex.cz/sommer/villach-ossiachersee-faaker-see/thermenhotel-karawankenhof-das-hotel-der-kaernten-therme/>

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Social environment. Architectural cultural and historical heritage. The architectural, cultural and historical heritage reflects the history of the city of Villach, and its coexistence with the contemporary moment of this city projects its future as well. Architecture is integrated into nature, making its content familiar to people.

Roman Road in Warmbad (German: Römerstraße in Warmbad, geographic coordinates: 46°32'47.8" N, 13°40'16.6" E). The hot springs of Warmbad in the southwest of Villach, which date back to the Celts and Romans, have a long history of treatment with natural thermal waters (Figure 36). Traditional spas gave way to modern spas and became an attractive vacation destination with top hotels, a famous therapy center, KärntenTherme (Austria's most modern water park and entertainment center) and natural beauty of the surroundings. Here you can see the local trails in the Dobratsch nature park, on the Alpe-Adria-Trail, on the Dobratsch and on the Roman road - the oldest road in Carinthia. The modern Finkenstein golf course is arranged here. The Warmbad-Villach Spa Resort has a unique swimming pool with thermal springs. "May stream" is another hot spring not far from Warmbad's spa hotels. The warm water flows into two natural lakes with water temperature of 28 °C.



Figure 36. Roman road in Warmbad (Römerstraße in Warmbad)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villach#/media/File:Warmbad_Villach_-_Roemerstrasse.JPG, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Landskron Fortress (German: Burg Landskron, geographic coordinates: 46°38'33" N, 13°53'49" E) is a medieval castle on a hill northeast of Villach in the state of Carinthia (Carinthia). The property around Lake Ossiach is first mentioned in a document from 878 issued by the Frankish king of the Carolingian dynasty, Carloman of Bavaria (830-880), who granted the property to the monastery. Around 1024, this area was among the Carinthian possessions of Count Ozi from Chiemgau, probably a descendant

of the Otakar dynasty, who founded Ossiach Abbey in the immediate vicinity. The castle already existed when the Ortenburg counts bought the property in 1330. The castle was built at the beginning of the 14th century on a rock in the Ossiach Tauern area, at an altitude of 658 meters. Today, Landskron Castle is a falconry center where regular flight demonstrations are held. Landskron itself was first mentioned in 1351, when the fortress was bought by Albert II (duke Albert II of Austria, 1298-1358), the Carinthian duke from 1335, who rebuilt it as an important stronghold within the Carinthian possessions of the Bamrov princes. Later, the Habsburg rulers temporarily granted it to Count Herman II of Celje (Hermann II, Count of Celje, 1360-1435), the heir of the Ortenburg dynasty (1418) and the Lords of Stubenberg. In 1511, the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Maximilian I (Maximilian I, 1459-1519), donated the property to the Knights of St. George in Millstatt (Knightly Order of Saint George at Millstatt). In 1542, Emperor Ferdinand I (1503-1564) sold Landskron Castle to the lord of Ortenburg Castle, Christoph Khevenhüller, who turned the castle into a main residence and renovated it in a lavish Renaissance style. In 1552, Khevenhüller received a visit from the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (Charles V, 1500-1558), who, fleeing from the Protestant troops of Count Maurice of Saxony, fled to Carinthia. Despite this, the Khevenhüllers, themselves Protestants, were deprived (1628) of their possession of Landskron Castle during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), by order of Emperor Ferdinand II (1578-1637). In 1639, the castle passed into the possession of the Dietrichstein dynasty (Dietrichstein comital dynasty). While the owners from the Dietrichstein dynasty mostly lived on their estates in Nikolsburg (Mikulov) in Moravia, the castle fell into disrepair. In 1812, lightning destroyed Landskron, and since it was no longer rebuilt, it became a ruin. Since 1953, its remains have been systematically preserved, and a restaurant has been opened inside the walls (Figure 37).





Figure 37. Landskron Fortress (Burg Landskron)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/191262315403889188/>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: http://www.varmania.hu/Landskron_EN.html, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.thousandwonders.net/Ch%C3%A2teau+de+Landskron>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL4rEKu4qBo>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Europe/Austria/West/Carinthia/Villach/photo1408446.htm>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.eurotrek.ch/de/aktivitaeten/veloferien/oesterreich/at-alpe-adria-radweg-salzburg-villach-7-6>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Church of St. Jakob (German: Die Kirche St. Jakob, geographic coordinates: 46°36'48" N, 13°50'43.6" E) is the main Roman Catholic parish church in Villach, dedicated to St. Jakob (Figure 38). This late Gothic building has a dominant position at the end of the main square in Villach. Church of St. Jakob was mentioned for the first time in 1136, while recent research confirms the existence of two older churches in this place. The earthquake of January 25, 1348 destroyed the church, while its tower remained undamaged. The renovation of the church lasted more than a hundred years: in the period 1360-1370, the choir was renovated, and in 1450-1460, the main nave of the church. In 1462, Countess Katharina von Görz (?-1329) donated the southern chapel and Georg Leininger (1482) the northeastern chapel while Balthasar von Weißpriach erected (1482-1484) the organ. The vault of the main prayer area, mentioned by Santonino in 1486, was probably rebuilt after the fire that struck the city in 1524. After the fire (1784), the choir was rebuilt. In 1906, a ramp with a fountain designed by Alfred Keller (1882-1974) was built around the church. In 1908, the church received the status of the main parish church of the city. During the bombing in World War II (1944), paintings from the 16th century and the roof of the church were destroyed. The complete restoration of the church was done in 1951, and in 1996-1999.



Figure 38. Church of St. Jakob (Die Kirche St. Jakob)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.bergfex.com/sommer/villach/bilder/#images-16>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.bergfex.com/sommer/villach/bilder/>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/47/Villach_kosciol_sw_Mikolaja.jpg, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipNsBdkYiQ3_bYc7PWE01HIO02Gmm5R0UFrofrvf=h1440, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipPcxvYZ-edCycyZRWvGdt9FVFN0qbD50WbBg8OT=w1440-h1440-pd>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Church of the Holy Cross (German: Heiligenkreuzkirche Villach, geographic coordinates: 46°36'32.8" N, 13°51'7.1" E) is a Roman Catholic parish and pilgrimage church located on the southern bank of the Drau River in the district of Perau (Figure 39). Church of St. Peter in Perau, whose origin dates back to the 8th century, was first mentioned in 1233. The original church was closer to the Drava river. Church of St. According to the founding legend, the cross is a pilgrim church, where a crucifix was found on a nearby wall. Thus, Perau became a place of pilgrimage in the 18th century. The current church was built (1726-1744) according to the project of Hans Eder, who also designed the chapels of the Wernberg, Ehrenhausen and Werthenau castles.

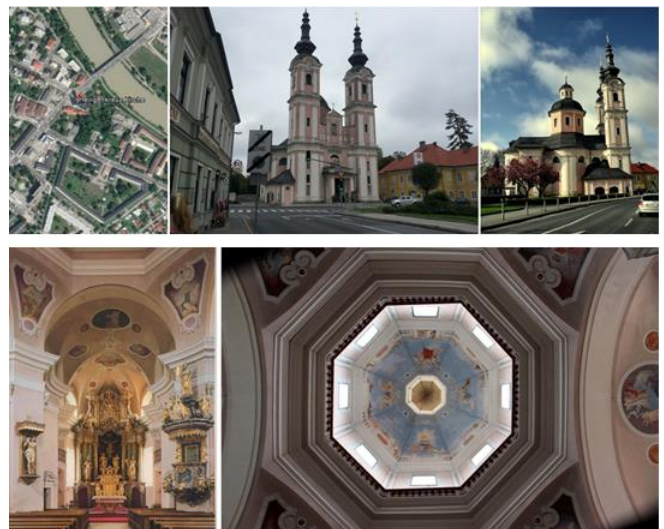


Figure 39. Church of the Holy Cross (Heiligenkreuzkirche Villach)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipNJOTehS29_m80y_B9g0wfYX6JVaqYKEDd4PcoU=h1440, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipNICUcfJGLYL0gSHf_oPD26nj5WidGc_6zST5liN=w1440-h1440-pd

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

https://www.wikiwand.com/de/Heiligenkreuzkirche_Villach,

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

The main square in Villach (German: Hauptplatz Villach, geographic coordinates: 46°36'51.24" N, 13°50'48.89" E) is one of the most beautiful and romantic places in the entire region, with authentic Austrian architecture and lights (Figure 40). The square is located in the very center of the city where the Trinity Column is located. The square is the venue for various performances, and during Christmas it turns into a colorful market.



Figure 40. Main square in Villach (Hauptplatz Villach)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <http://turistipercaso.it/carinzia/image/120754/villach-centro.html>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.tiscover.com/at/destinations/villach>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipN9I_t46D3FGeDcSxv_PCQVEI13Ytd-flLWlr3XO=h1440, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

The Museum of the City of Villach (German: Stadtmuseum Villach, geographic coordinates: 46°36'48" N, 13°50' 39.7" E) is one of the largest and oldest museums in all of Austria (Figure 41). Their collection includes artifacts that date back to the earliest times of human presence in this area until today. The collection of silver and gold coins is a central attraction that has great historical value. The Stadtmuseum Villach is housed in the former Palais Crusiz in Widmannsgasse in Villach. The museum was founded (1873) by the architect Carl Andreas Picco, as his own collection of exhibits. After several changes of location, the museum found its home (1935) in a historic building on Kaiser-Joseph-Platz. Since 1960, the museum has been located at its current location in Widmannsgasse. The former Crusitz Palace is a three-story building dating from the second half of the 16th century. The bent, neo-historical facade was added (1890) by A. C. Candoloni.



Figure 41. Villach City Museum (Stadtmuseum Villach)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.outdooractive.com/en/museum/villach-faaker-see-ossiacher-see/museum-der-stadt-villach/8766567/>

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Evangelistic Church (German: Evangelische Kirche, geographic coordinates: 46°36'29.5" N, 13°50'41" E). In the 19th century, Villach belonged to the Protestant community of St. Ruprecht (Figure 42). Since 1896, the service has been held in the gymnasium building. In 1899, Johannes Heinzelmann came to Villach as vicar, in 1902 he was appointed the first parish priest, and in 1928 he was elected supervisor. The church was built (1901-1903) according to the project of the architect Ludwig Schöne (1845-1935) in the Neo-Gothic style. The organ was built (1907) by the Rieger brothers, and restored (1976) by Rudolf Novak. In 1994, this organ was replaced by a new organ made by the company Reil (Heerde, the Netherlands).



Figure 42. Evangelistic Church (Evangelische Kirche)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipOAhbC5A9ryoDuhORH0_rvVacaYarvx5rN8z4SL=w1440-h1440-pd

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/Evangelische_Kirche_St_Ruprecht%2C_Villach_-_Kanzelaltar.JPG

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

The Drau Bridge (German: Brücke über Drau, geographic coordinates: 46°36'51.1" N, 13°51'00.1" E) is an important bridge in Villach that connects its historic core with the modern city districts (where the congress center is located, hospital, brewery, railway station...), (Figure 43).



Figure 43. Bridge over the Drau (Brücke über Drau)

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Villach,_Br%C3%BCcke_%C3%BCber_die_Drau.jpg, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.villach.at/stadt-service/presse-und-medienportal/pressemeldungen/3-august-villach-sagt-in-der-kirchtagwoche-gut>

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

The town hall (German: Rathaus, geographic coordinates: 46°36'45.49" N, 13°50'46.51" E) is located on the Rathausplatz in Villach (Figure 44). This building replaced the city palace Khevenhüller which was bombed during World War II. Only the lofty portal of the building from the 16th century reminds of the past of the palace.



Figure 44. Gradska vijećnica (Rathaus) u Villachu

Source: Google Earth, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.5min.at/20170695494/klangwolke-in-der-altstadt/>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

<http://www.sagen.at/fotos/showphoto.php/photo/33694/size/big>,

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

The Carnival in Villach (German: Der Karneval in Villach) begins on November 11 and ends on March 4 (Figure 45).



Figure 45. The Carnival in Villach (Der Karneval in Villach)

Source: <http://www.travelquotidiano.com/estero/villach-festeggiamo-il-carnevale-sfilata-maschera-nel-centro-storico/tqid-204609>

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

The Arts and Crafts Festival (German: Das Kunst-und Handwerksfestival) is a well-known festival that takes place in Villach, mostly at the beginning of November (Figure 46). The goal of the festival is to provide an opportunity for local artists and craftsmen to display and sell their work. Another goal is to emphasize the importance of the connection between city life and local schools.



Figure 46. Arts and Crafts Festival (Das Kunst-und Handwerksfestival)

Source: <https://www.schlosshof.at/alle-veranstaltungen/schlosshof/event-detail/veranstaltung/kunst-und-handwerksfest/>

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

<https://www.meinbezirk.at/salzburg/flachgau/themen/handwerksmarkt.html>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

<https://www.alpenwelt-karwendel.de/boznermarkt-mittenwald-1>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Villach Carnival (German: Villacher Fasching oder Mardi Gras) are carnival celebrations held in the city, starting on or after the Christian holiday of Epiphany (Three Kings Day) and culminating the day before Ash Wednesday (better known as Shrove Tuesday). The festival season varies from city to city. Carnival is an important celebration in Anglican and Catholic European countries (Figure 47).



Figure 47. Carnival in Villach (Villacher Fasching oder Mardi Gras)

Source: <https://rove.me/to/austria/fasching>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source:

<https://deskgram.net/explore/tags/villacherfasching>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Street-art festival (German: Das Straßenkunstfestival). Artists from all over Europe come to Villach every year (Figure 48). For two days in July, Villach City Center becomes a place of special art

presentation (music, juggling, dancing, clown performances...), sometimes over a hundred performances during two days.



Figure 48. Street Art Festival (Das Straßenkunstfestival)

Source: <https://www.meinbezirk.at/villach/lokales/villach-feierte-sein-17-strassenkunst-festival-d313119.html>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <https://www.villach.at/stadt-service/presse-und-medienportal/pressemeldungen/strassenkunstfestival-villachs-altstadt-wird-zur>

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Villach Church Day (German: Der Villacher Kirchtag) is a festival that lasts all summer and ends on the first Saturday in August (Figure 49).



Figure 49. Villach Church Day (German: Der Villacher Kirchtag)

Source: <https://kaernten.orf.at/news/stories/2856667/>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: https://www.kleinezeitung.at/kaernten/villach/4939751/Villach_Dr_ohnt-dem-Villacher-Kirchtag-heuer-eine-Preiserhoehung

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Performances on a floating stage on the Drava River (German: Aufführungen auf einer schwimmenden Bühne auf der Drau). Opera on the Drava: during summer evenings it is possible to enjoy a free opera performance on a floating stage in the middle of the river Drau in Villach (Figure 50).

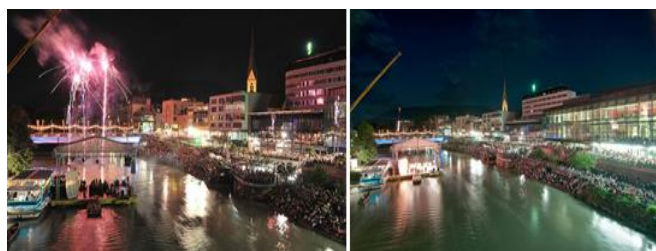


Figure 50. Performances on a floating stage on the Drava River (Aufführungen auf einer schwimmenden Bühne auf der Drau)

Source: https://www.kleinezeitung.at/kaernten/villach/aktuelles_villach/5258061/Summertime_Jazzige-Plaene-fuer-die-Draubuehne

Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Source: <http://www.fewo-zollner.com/en/congress-center-villach-accommodation-hotel/>, Accessed: July 10, 2024.

Conclusion

The Alps can be said to be the 'mother of Europe', its largest and most significant natural resource that generated the rest of Europe's goods. The river Gail is documented as Gila in a document from 1090. The name Gail developed from Old High German Gīla, and from the form Gīla (which was also the source of the Slovenian name Zilja). It is probably a name of substrate origin, which predates the Roman presence in the area. The name is believed to derive from the pre-Romanesque word gailja meaning 'sparkling (water), powerful'. While the upper river course is largely preserved in its natural state, a habitat for shorebirds such as the common sandpiper, white-necked bear and gray porpoise, large parts of the lower Gail have been gradually regulated since the 1870s. Recently, some parts have been renatured. Today, the trout zone extends to Hermagor with 17 species, among which are common barbel, common trout and rare sufi. The Gail Valley is located at the border of the Germanic, Romanic and Slavic civilizational and cultural circle, so it is an extremely complex, dynamic and controversial area and as such is attractive for the study of Architectural Spatial Definition (ADS).

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