

Expeditions through Dornbirn

City and themed tours.

Learn interesting, entertaining and historic facts about Dornbirn and its most important personalities, as well as the lifestyle in the past and today.

Rappenloch gorge tour

The hard limestone of the Rappenloch and Alploch gorges eroded over hundreds of thousands of years and they are now among the largest gorges in Central Europe.

Booking and tickets:

Dornbirn Tourismus, tourismus@dornbirn.at, T +43 5572 22188

Oh, I didn't know that! Really? These are exciting stories! Oh, I've never seen that before! You'll hear cries like these when Sabine Spiegel, Isabelle Rümmele and Saskia Reinhard are on the move with interested visitors on their expeditions in and around Dornbirn. The three tour guides can take you on selected routes through the history of the city, past old and new architecture and right into the life of their home city. And during these tours, they tell interesting anecdotes, give new insights and draw your attention to details that you hadn't noticed before. Or would you know what the first high-rise building in Dornbirn was? Or that there is a single unpainted part inside St. Leopold's church? Or why Vorarlberg was called the Manchester of Austria? On each guided walk, you can immerse yourself in the secrets of the city and get to know new views and perspectives. This is an unforgettable experience.

Hatlerdorf village and church stories with Sabine Spiegel.

In 2020, the largest city in the state reached the 50,000 residents mark and can look back on a rapid industrial development over the last 200 years. But how did Dornbirn come to exist? What was life here like before, and how did the Dornbirner people relate to religion? In her walking tour in Hatlerdorf, Sabine Spiegel will answer and explain all these questions and more. In Dornbirn's oldest settled area, you can really see and feel the olden times. Although there are now much fewer farmers and cultivators, the well cared-for houses with their beautiful gardens speak their own language. The feeling around the Hatler fountain is immensely tranquil, there are still many meadows with fruit trees and the vast number of tiles on a farmhouse bear witness to an agricultural tradition and the history of this place.

St. Leopold's church is a complete contrast to this farming part of the village. At the time of its construction, it was seen as monumental because of its 78-metre steeple. When you look at it today, you see completely preserved and impressive historic evidence of the 19th century. And if you look inside, you won't find a single unpainted white mark on more than 4,000 m² of painted area.

If you would like to learn about the problems the farmers had to face over the centuries, or if you would like to learn about the role that religion played, you are warmly invited to join the walk.

Sabine Spiegel was born in Dornbirn and is a big fan of Vorarlberg's beautiful landscape, its innovative economy, great cultural life and exciting cities. She has passed this enthusiasm on

to interested visitors on her varied tours for more than 10 years. For her, every experience and every new discovery is like a small piece of a puzzle that you can fit into an open map.
spiegels-ansichtssache.at

Hatlerdorf village and church stories

Themed tour in Dornbirn

Duration: Approx. 90 minutes

Group price: € 105.00

Maximum 20 participants

Book via: Dornbirn

Tourism & city marketing

Michelangelo meets Rotes Haus with Isabelle Rümmele

A landmark, an unusual church or the first high-rise building. In her tour, Isabelle Rümmele presents new insights into old and new architecture, tells stories and, on her tour “Michelangelo meets Rotes Haus”, shows you how beautiful and exciting the city centre of Dornbirn really is.

On the market square, you are faced with the question of how Dornbirn came to exist. Why the Rotes Haus is the Symbol of the city. Which villa is the oldest and why Dornbirn has pears on its coat of arms. There are also countless stories to be told about Walter the police officer who controlled traffic events here for many years.

The tour then takes you into the former suburbs, past Vorarlberg’s first high-rise building. Here, she discusses the textile industry, the love a manufacturer has for the flora and fauna, and about the architecture of Vorarlberg.

Then, the journey takes you to the old monastery and the brand new city library with its facade that looks like bookshelves. Did you know that 7,714 ceramic tiles were used for this? Walking through the city gardens takes you to the former Rüscherwerke plant, once the largest metalworking operation in the state. Once more, this leads to insights into the industrial history that allowed Dornbirn to grow and which made it into what it is today.

And if you’re now wondering what Michelangelo has to do with Dornbirn, you are welcome to join Isabelle Rümmele on a city tour and find out from her directly.

Isabelle Rümmele was born, grew up and still lives in Dornbirn. She knows the city like the back of her hand. And at the same time, perhaps not. The city is changing. This is why she always learns new things and listens to new stories. And she loves it. She has worked as an Austria Guide since 2018 and leads interested visitors through Dornbirn. And when she has the time, she drives through the countryside with her vespa Emil on journeys of discovery.

Michelangelo meets Rotes Haus

City tour in Dornbirn

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Ammansbündt & Villenpracht with Saskia Reinhard

Old villas, special gardens and many stories. In her tour “Ammansbündt & Villenpracht”, Saskia Reinhardt invites you to explore the magnificent villa district of Dornbirn. Here, she brings the old times back to life, and tells of well-known industrialists, hardworking servants and old and new architecture.

The walk takes you left on Stadtstraße, behind the town hall and up towards Oberdorf. At one time there were fruit trees, vines and Bündte, which are fenced-in meadows. However, this all changed in the middle of the 19th century. This was when Dornbirn’s industrialists came with their immense wealth and build their magnificent villas here.

The tour takes you past gorgeous buildings with 14 rooms, servants’ houses and large entrance gates. To magnificent gardens with exotic plants which were planted for the former ruling classes. And there are always moments of surprise with one small detail that you only discover when you look twice.

The red-brick houses are really striking here. The industrialists brought these bricks back with them when travelling in England. This was because England, and especially Manchester, was then considered the “cradle of industry” and quickly became an example to the clever people of Dornbirn. Did you know that at this time, Vorarlberg was the most industrialised region of Austria and was therefore named the Manchester of Austria?

And why a telegram from Chicago arrived quicker than one from Vienna. Or what Süßlerschnitz, Native Americans, and pail closets have to do with old villas and manufacturers. Saskia Reinhard will tell anyone who’s interested in person.

Saskia Reinhard lives in and loves Dornbirn, history and nature. Along with her fascination for architecture and the successes of the industrial age gone by, this makes an exciting combination. These interests led her to create her tour where she allows everyone to immerse themselves into her favourite subjects.

Ammansbündt & Villenpracht

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