

From “Torrinpuirron” to “Dornbirn”

The History of Our City

In 895, the name of “Dornbirn” was mentioned for the first time in a deed from St Gallen. This deed refers to “Torrinpuirron” (settlement of the Torro). Under the rule of Duke Leopold II of Austria, Dornbirn becomes a Habsburg city in 1380.

From the end of the 14th century, the Counts of Ems started to acquire land in Dornbirn. Thanks to the “Redemption of Ems” in 1771, it was possible to repurchase the entire land. In 1793, Dornbirn was granted the higher status of a market town. Based on the peace treaty of Pressburg, Dornbirn briefly became a part of Bavaria in 1805, but was returned to the Austria Empire in 1814.

At the end of the 18th century, an economic boom set in: on the one hand due to the construction of a railway line, on the other hand due to the textile industry. By the mid-19th century, this business sector had become the most important driver of economic development in the region.

In 1901, Dornbirn, the largest village in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, was finally granted the higher status of a city. At that time, 13,000 inhabitants were living in Dornbirn. Since then, Dornbirn has turned into an important business location.

Since the establishment of the Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences in the 1990s, Dornbirn has become a university location in demand. Today, Dornbirn is the tenth largest city in Austria with more than 50,000 inhabitants. Andrea Kaufmann, the first female mayor of Dornbirn, has been in office since 2013.