

Historical accompanying texts

Das Liechtensteiner Wimmelbuch



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Balzers

Liechtenstein's southernmost municipality is known for the strong foehn wind that enables the wine to ripen and the kites to fly. The castle hill was settled long before the Romans brought the grape to the Alpine Rhine Valley. The ten Iron Age bronze figurines found here bear witness to this: Boar, stag and several warriors, including the "Mars of Gutenberg". ✱ Gutenberg Castle was constructed around one and a half millennia later, in the 12th Century AD. It later belonged to the Lords of Frauenberg, from whose family the minnesinger Heinrich von Frauenberg originated. The Frauenberg heraldic animal – the golden griffin with a blue background – now adorns the Balzers coat of arms. From 1314 to 1824 Gutenberg Castle was owned by the Archdukes of Austria and formed a Habsburg exclave in the County of Vaduz. The ruins were reconstructed between 1905 and 1912. ✱ There are many sagas associated with Balzers: Strong Jörg is said to have carried a boulder all the way to St. Katrinabrunna; where he collapsed. This spot then marked the border with the Swiss Canton of Grisons. And it is said that when the lad from Balzers looked at the white maiden's hair, her plaits turned into snakes and she was compelled to guard her treasure for another 100 years.



Triesen

At the Chapel of St. Mamertus on the upper edge of the village there was once a small fortress, probably the seat of the Knights of Trisun, to whom the municipality owes its coat of arms. There are many old wooden houses in the well-preserved upper village of Triesen. The fast-flowing village stream powered a mill, a sawmill, a smithy and other commercial enterprises. ✱ Water power was an important reason for the establishment of industrial enterprises in the 19th century: The cotton mill, built in 1863, remained in operation until 1982. Together with the factory owner's villa, the housing for the workers, the cooperative and the power plants (gasometer and high chimney), the mill or "Fabregg" helped shape the structural and social life of the farming village. After 1880, the families of Swiss factory workers formed the first Protestant congregation in otherwise Catholic Liechtenstein. ✱ Only the foundation walls of the Vogelsang baths in the forest above the village remain; according to legend, the goings-on were so debauched that the devil danced for joy and left his mark on the "devil's stone". The struggle between angels and demons, good and evil is depicted in the wooden coffered ceiling created by Johannes Hugentobler in 1942 in the parish church of Triesen.

Triesenberg

Triesenberg is Liechtenstein's largest municipality in terms of area and has the highest altitude. The geographical centre of the country is also located in the municipality of Triesenberg. The municipality comprises several hamlets situated on the eastern slope of the Rhine Valley at an altitude of 700–1250 metres. In recent years, these hamlets have gradually merged into each other. ✳ In the Late Middle Ages, so-called «Walliser» colonists from the Valais region of Switzerland first settled in the area. To this day, the people of Triesenberg are proud of their Valais origins, and this is specifically reflected by their dialect. This heritage is nurtured in the “Walser Museum” and is also echoed in the Theodulus saga of the bell-bearing devil, to which the Triesenberg coat of arms alludes. ✳ In 1768, Triesenberg was made a parish in its own right. As mountain farmers, the inhabitants led a harsh life. ✳ From the late 19th century onwards, tourism became increasingly important. Several health resorts were built on the Rhine Valley side as well as in the Alpine region. Later, Malbun, situated at an altitude of 1600 metres, became a centre for hiking and skiing. The “Kurhaus” health resort, built in 1908, was joined by other hotels from the 1950s, and chairlifts and ski lifts from the 1960s. The Maiensäss Steg with its ring-shaped settlement structure is enchanting.



Vaduz

Vaduz is the capital of Liechtenstein and the seat of the national authorities: the parliament (Landtag) and the government, the courts and the administration. The Head of State has resided at Vaduz Castle since 1938 – before that, the Prince had his domicile in Vienna. The Castle and the buildings of the Vaduz government quarter reflect the Liechtenstein form of government: the “constitutional hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis” with the power of the state being exercised jointly by the Prince and the people. ✳ Vaduz Castle was built probably in the 13th century by the Counts of Montfort and Werdenberg. Later owners of the County of Vaduz were the Barons of Brandis, the Counts of Sulz and the Counts of Hohenems, and since 1712 the Princes of Liechtenstein. ✳ For a long time, Vaduz was closely linked to the municipality and parish of Schaan. It was only in 1842 that it received its own curate and in 1873 became an independent parish. The parish church of St. Florin was also built at this time. This has served as the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Vaduz since 1997. ✳ The one-time agrarian and wine-growing settlement was transformed into a financial services centre in the 20th century: Most Liechtenstein banks and trust companies have their headquarters here. But Vaduz also has a great deal to offer in terms of culture and sport: the historical National Museum, the Art Museum, a concert hall, open-air concerts – and Liechtenstein's only professional football club.

Schaan

Schaan is the centre of Liechtenstein's industrial sector and of the Liechtenstein Carnival: The first carnival procession took place in 1952. In 1965 the Jesters' Guild was founded, while the oldest carnival band dates from 1970. The great bonfire event held on the first Sunday after Ash Wednesday is also a national custom. ✳ A few excavated sections of wall remain from the former Roman fort, which was part of the defence system against the Germanic tribes in the 4th century. A church with a baptismal font was built on these foundations in the 5th century. This early evidence of Christianity is today located below St. Peter's Chapel. ✳ While the first industrialisation took place in Vaduz and Triesen in the 19th century, a number of global corporations such as Hilti and Ivoclar-Vivadent emerged in Schaan from the 1930s onwards. ✳ With the TAK Theater Liechtenstein, founded in 1970, the junges THEATER liechtenstein, the Stein Egerta adult education centre, an arthouse cinema, the Liechtenstein Literaturhaus and the "domus" (gallery and museum), Schaan has a number of cultural venues that spread culture both internally and externally. Since 2010, the Saal am Lindaplatz (SAL) with its monumentally designed Lindahof has also been the venue for various cultural events.



Planken

The smallest Liechtenstein municipality in terms of population and the second smallest in terms of area is located on a mountain plateau at the foot of the Three Sisters Massif. Over the last decades, the one-time street village has grown into an scattered settlement. Along the "Gasse" or street, many historical wooden houses such as the "Three Sisters House" have been preserved. The Joseph Chapel was built in 1768, but Planken is still part of the parish of Schaan. ✳ Planken is the starting point or destination of the popular hiking route over the Three Sisters and the Fürstensteig. According to the saga that gives the mountain range its name, three sisters missed Mass on the Assumption of Mary, and instead gathered berries on the mountain; as punishment for denying a woman – Mary the Mother of God – a request for berries for a poor child, they were turned into stone. ✳ The Gafadura Hut is located high above the village, at an altitude of 1428 metres. It was built in 1926 as a princely hunting lodge and has served as a refuge for the Liechtenstein Alpine Club since 1968. In the autumn, cattle herds, decorated with bells, flowers and carved alpine hearts, return to the valley from Liechtenstein's high Alpine meadows. This custom no longer exists on the Galtviehalpen (non-dairy cattle meadows), like Gafadura.



Eschen – Nendeln

The largest municipality in the Liechtenstein Unterland is considered the principal town of the former Lordship of Schellenberg. On Rofaberg, the Schellenberg chief magistrate (Landamman) and the twelve jurors held court. The Way of St. James also led through here, as is evidenced by pilgrims' signs inside the Chapel of the Holy Cross. ✳ The dove in the Eschen coat of arms and the substantial presbytery are reminders of the Pfäfers Monastery, which was mentioned in the year 843 as the owner of the church and of the rights to the tithe in Eschen – and retained patronage rights to the Eschen church until its dissolution in 1838. ✳ The Eschen Fair, founded in 1927 as a livestock and goods market, evolved over time into an entertainment event for children and adults; although a livestock market (Prämienmarkt) continues to be held there to this day. ✳ The Hamlet of Nendeln, where a Roman farmstead has been excavated, belongs to the Municipality of Eschen. From the middle of the 18th century onwards there was a brickyard in Nendeln, whose tenant built an innovative ring kiln in 1881. ✳ Presta AG in Eschen, founded during the Second World War, developed into a major automotive supplier and the largest employer in the country (today: thyssenkrupp Presta).



Mauren – Schaanwald

“Murer Räba”: The jocular nickname for the inhabitants of Mauren derives from the fact that the small farming community was once known for its widespread cultivation of turnips (“Räba”), especially in the Mauren Riet. When the marshes were drained from the 19th century onwards, the former Egel Lake in the border area with Austria silted up. It was revived in 2012 as a biotope and flood protection reservoir. ✳ Mauren has traditionally had close links with the nearby Austrian City of Feldkirch: The Parish of Mauren was incorporated into the Priory of St. Johann in Feldkirch. In the 19th century, many residents of Mauren found work in Feldkirch's factories, and the Feldkirch market has remained a centre of attraction to this day. ✳ The historian Peter Kaiser (1793–1864), who hailed from Mauren, is regarded as the founder of Liechtenstein historiography and the “discoverer of the Liechtenstein people”; in the revolutionary year of 1848, the liberal democrat represented Liechtenstein in the German National Assembly in Frankfurt. ✳ After the signing of the Swiss-Liechtenstein Customs Treaty in 1923, a “Swiss Customs Office in the Principality of Liechtenstein” has been located in the Hamlet of Schaanwald. This is run by Swiss customs officers.



Schellenberg

Schellenberg is the smallest Liechtenstein municipality and the only one with a purely German name. This dates back to the Lords of Schellenberg and the two castles they built in the 13th century. The Lordship of Schellenberg came into being only in the 15th century, by which time the Lords of Schellenberg had long since left the area. The “Upper Castle” is said to have been burnt down during the Appenzeller War by rebellious Eschnerberg peasants in 1405. Today, the ruins are home to a popular scout campsite. ✳ For a long time, Schellenberg belonged to Benden in ecclesiastical terms, and only became a parish in its own right in 1881. A few years before this the Sisters of the Precious Blood had built the convent that remains there to this day. The listed parish church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, built between 1960 and 1963, anticipated the spirit of the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) with its contemporary design. ✳ The Biedermann House, which dates back to 1518, was dismantled on several occasions during the 17th and 18th centuries and rebuilt elsewhere. It has served as a farmstead museum since the last relocation in 1993.



Gamprin – Benden

The municipality is closely associated with the River Rhine: The very name Gamprin derives from the ancient Rhaeto-Romanic “camp rin” (field on the Rhine). There was once a floating mill on the Rhine, a ferry crossing the river, and since 1868 a bridge. The Rhine flood of 1927 caused tremendous damage – and gave rise to the so-called Little Gamprin Lake. ✳ In addition to Ruggell and Schellenberg, the Parish of Benden also included Haag, Salez and Sennwald in Switzerland. In 1194, Rüdiger von Limpach donated his assets in Gamprin including the church of Benden to the Premonstratensian Monastery of St. Luzi in Chur. According to legend, he had vowed to bequeath his goods to the saint on whose day his missing son would be found. He was discovered on St. Lucius’s Day during the threshing of the grain – he had fallen under the sheaves during the harvest. During the Reformation, Benden was a safe haven for the monks expelled from Chur between 1538 and 1636. It was then that they built the presbytery. ✳ On 16 March 1699, the first homage to a Prince of Liechtenstein took place on the church hill after Prince Johann Adam I had acquired the Lordship of Schellenberg. ✳ The rapid development of recent times is represented by the fast growing commercial district and the “Grossabünt” leisure and sports facilities.



Ruggell

The village centre of Liechtenstein's northernmost municipality is the only one that was not built on a slope, but instead on the Rhine plain – although this happened fairly late, probably from the 16th century onwards. The route from Feldkirch across the River Rhine through Toggenburg to Zurich probably played a role in this. At Ruggell there was a Rhine ford, later a Rhine ferry. From 1613 onwards, a customs house and inn was recorded in Ruggell, and in 1614 the village received a chapel (St. Fridolin). The separation from the Parish of Bendern took place in 1874. ✱ The Ruggeller Riet is well-known as the largest preserved area of marshland in the country. In May of each year, the Siberian iris blooms by the thousands. The natural jewel was recognised as an area of international importance by the WWF in 1976, and was made a nature reserve in 1978. The white stork has bred here again for many years – but the former iconic resident, the curlew, has vanished as a breeding bird. The harmoniously natural design of the point where the Inner Canal joins the River Rhine contributes to the scenic attractiveness of the area. Peat cutting, which used to be used as an energy source, has now been discontinued. ✱ Ruggell was the first municipality in Liechtenstein to be awarded the Unicef's "Child-Friendly Municipality" label in 2018.



Policeman Markus

Dedicated road traffic education for the young aims to ensure that children learn the traffic rules in Liechtenstein. Specially trained road traffic instructors familiarise young children, from kindergarten age upwards, with road traffic signs and the traffic rules. During these courses, participants can put their knowledge to the test in simulated traffic situations at the road training centre operated by the National Police. The programme aims to increase road safety and to reduce accidents among the youngest and most vulnerable members of the population. ✱ Markus Ott was a traffic instructor in Liechtenstein for over 35 years and is popular and well-known among many children and parents. As "Policeman Markus", Markus Ott can be seen in all 11 hidden object pictures as a friend and helper in various situations.

