




Pölstal
... natürlich

7 STRONG COMMUNITIES

1 REGION

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The parish of Bretstein

The Bretstein gorge, upstream from Möderbrugg, cuts deep into the Niederen Tauern mountain range. Until the late Middle Ages it was called "Finsterpöls", because for a long time it was an unpopulated and uncultivated side valley of the Pöls valley. The name "Finsterpöls" was first mentioned in a charter in 1245 and the name "Bretstein" first appeared in 1310. The wooded regions were first documented in 860 and in the 11th and 12th centuries, the area was deforested and cultivated by serfs of the noble archbishop.

In due course these serf families became the tenants of this gorge. However, it was not until the abolition of serfdom in 1848, that these farmers became actual owners of their estates. In 1850, the local administration officially became the newly established parish of Bretstein. During the Second World War, a sub-camp of the Mauthausen concentration camp was sited in Bretstein.

The parish of Oberkurzheim

Oberkurzheim was first mentioned in a document in 1140 a.D. Thereafter the settlements of Mosing, Thaling, Goetzendorf, Mauterndorf, Katzling, Winden and Unterzeiring emerged.

The name Mauterndorf, a one street village on the winding country highway, was once known by the old name of "Mautarn", meaning "people living by the toll" (Maut). In the 12th century, the village of Katzling was established in the middle of the valley because it was a more convenient location for an official tollgate.

The high court in Birkachwald near Unterzeiring, the gallows, mentioned in a charter in 1574, and the "Poor Sinners Chapel" were witness to the fact, that the Liechtensteiner dynasty had their judicial court in Unterzeiring.

The market town of Oberzeiring

Archaeological finds revealed that human habitation already existed in this area in the Stone Age. Later, groups with different backgrounds and heritage settled there. Together they were influenced by Roman culture (remains of Roman Aqueducts, bridges and streets). However, Zeiring had its heyday during the Middle Ages when, what were considered at the time as large amounts of silver were mined there; so Oberzeiring suddenly developed into a famous place. It was self governed by its citizens and enjoyed many other privileges (i.e. a town charter, its own coinage and its own law court). Unfortunately the silver boom didn't last very long – and although the mine was nearly shut down in 1400, the Zeiringer silver ore mountain has retained its attraction until this day. Even though mining has ceased, many new treasures can be found in Oberzeiring, in the unique tunnels below ground with their health giving air properties.

The market town of Pöls

Pöls was first mentioned in a document in 860 a.D. The German ruler King Ludwig later bestowed the archbishop of Salzburg with the "Königshof am Pölsbach". The fortification Offenburg was erected in 1074 and Reifenstein castle in 1145. The Sauerbrunn palace was built around 1550 by Franz von Teuffenbach. The Romanesque style parish church constructed in the 12th century is a very special historical treasure. In the 17th century paper production began and wood pulp production commenced in the 20th century.

The parish of Pusterwald

The oldest settlers in the Pusterwald valley had a connection with the Oberzeiringer Illyrians and Celts who followed the Romans that had come to dig for silver and gold. After a migration period (900-1000) these valleys were uninhabited. They were populated again by Bavarian and Frankonian settlers in the 10th - 12th century. The term describing the region as "FREYTAL" refers to the freedom granted to these new inhabitants during this resettlement period.

The parish of St. Johann am Tauern

The first settlements can be traced back to the Roman period. One of the most important Roman roads went through the village. There were also Slavic settlements. In the 13th century the Venetian Salt Street was built, a toll road which was used to transport goods from the Venetian regions to the north and the Ausseer salt to the south. The heyday was during the 1770's and after the abolition of serfdom in the middle of the 19th century.

The parish of St. Oswald-Möderbrugg

The villages of St. Oswald and Möderbrugg were both situated on the former Roman road and documented for the first time in 1401. The Roman term describing the post station "Viscellis" indicates the existence of a very early settlement in Möderbrugg. Worth seeing is the Gothic double naved church of St. Oswald built in 1497 with its rich baroque interior. Other places of interest, the "Propstei Zeiring" and the "Hanfelden" castles are located on the road running from St. Oswald to Unterzeiring.

The parishes and their churches today



Home Produce for snack time

The parish of BRETSTEIN is located in the Lower Tauern region. The parish includes the valley in which the Bretstein stream flows and all surrounding mountain slopes. The highest point is the Bruderkogel at 2,299m.

Recreation in the mountains:

Agriculture, forestry and the hunt play an essential role in Bretstein. Thus many people manage farms or alpine huts there. Dairy products, like butter, butter milk and various cheeses can be tasted and some huts are also run to supply small snacks. The cultivation of the meadows and alpine pastures preserves valuable grazing land. This provides a versatile habitat for wild life. Animals native to the Wölzer and Rottenmanner Tauern, range from hoofed game like red deer, roe deer and chamois to wild fowl like the capercaillie, the black grouse or the ptarmigan.

Every nature enthusiast can, by appointment, join a gamekeeper and stalk wild life in the hope of catching memorable sights.

Would you like to pass through secluded woods, go over mountain ridges and find wonderful off piste, deep powder runs? Pure summit bliss, outstanding views, a satisfying exhilaration and the anticipation of a powder scattering descent in deep snow – these are moments reserved exclusively for touring walkers, far away from ski regions.

During the summer months, find out about the history of a sub-camp of the Mauthausen concentration camp in the upper Styrian Bretstein and pay a visit to the memorial site there.

- 1 Styrian chanterelle
- 2 Winter wonderland
- 3 Stag



Bretstein

... to experience nature!

Leisure activities

Summer

- Foraging for berries, mushrooms and fungi
 - Hunting
 - Fishing
- Visiting the memorial site of the concentration sub-camp in Bretstein
 - Summer skittles
 - Public sports ground

Winter

- Touring walking
- Ice climbing wall, ice skating, traditional curling
 - Sledging
 - Hunting

Discover the wonderful countryside on 1hp!

The parish of OBERKURZHEIM reaches from the castle Gusterheim near Pöls upstream as far as Unterzeiring. The settlement structure is characterised by scattered villages without town centres. For a few years now, the Götzendorf parish has had a new town centre with a fire station, council offices and a modern festival hall. The parish of Oberkurzheim once had a predominantly rural character and has become a popular residential municipality in the last few decades.

Being on horseback through the beautiful countryside is a delight for every rider and horse lover. Beautiful bridle paths offer an invitation to all riders and would be riders. Cycle paths for families, and also tracks for experts, let the hearts of cycle and bike fans leap for joy. Apart from the numerous sports and leisure options, the busy club activities must be mentioned. Various events take place throughout the year – and everyone is invited to join in and celebrate.

- 1 Gallows
- 2 Autumn landscape
- 3 Inseparable friends



Oberkurzheim

... a treat for every horse lover!

Leisure activities

Summer

- Fun court
- Natural skittle lane
 - Cycle paths
 - Horse riding
 - Tennis
 - Rambling
- Game reserve

Winter

- Traditional curling
- Cross country skiing
 - Carriage rides
 - Horse riding

From healing tunnels to the theatre

OBERZEIRING, embedded in the harmonious mountain landscape of the Lower Tauern region in Styria, receives its guests with its idyllic surroundings and healthy mountain air. Gentle hilltops, appealing hiking paths, sunny alpine pastures, magical forests and picturesque mountain streams issue an invitation for rest and relaxation.

The historical market town of Oberzeiring is known today especially for its healing tunnels. With the efficacy of the dust and allergy free air of its tunnels and qualified medicinal care, it is a cure centre specialising in treating respiratory diseases and ideal for health conscious holiday makers who wish to recharge their batteries. You can find relaxation and inner harmony here together with elements of traditional Chinese medicine. To get to know the site better, one can follow the tracks of the former Zeiringer miners and penetrate the depths of the exhibition mine. Let yourself be taken back into the world of former miners and delve into times long forgotten.

No longer a secret is the attractive and diverse cultural offering of the THEO-Studiobühne (Oberzeiringer Theatre) with its annual programme. In Oberzeiring you can also find the highest located windpark in Europe, which is 1,900 metres above sea level and impresses with its state of the art electricity generation.

- 1 Exhibition mine
- 2 Tobacco Museum
- 3 Tauern Windfarm



Oberzeiring

... pure relaxation!

Leisure activities

Summer

- Rambling, Nordic walking, leisurely walks
 - Indoor rifle range
 - Tennis
 - Minigolf
 - Balloon rides
 - Skating park
- Public sports area
 - Exhibition Mine
 - Tobacco Museum
 - Tauern Windfarm
 - Theatre
 - Library

Winter

- Skiing
- Ice skating, traditional curling
 - Sledging
 - Theatre



Surrounded by castles and ruins

PÖLS, with its approximately 3,000 residents, is located at the entrance to the old Tauern road and counts without doubt as one of the most beautiful towns of this region. On first impression, Pöls certainly appears as an industrial town, characterised by paper and wood pulp production, maintaining a 300 year old tradition. But there is more to Pöls than that! Industry and nature are not in conflict, but complement each other. It is certainly worth a journey to discover the town and its surroundings: a journey, which is made best on foot, - on Shank's pony, so to speak. There are many options: a tight net of walking routes lead to the most beautiful corners of this parish. One passes ruins, old castles, secluded clearings and gently murmuring streams, all witnesses of ancient times.

Take a dip in Pöls - into Austria's largest bio-lake. A 4,700 sqm expanse of water, cleaned biologically by 11,000 aquatic plants and many play areas let you have fun even in soaring temperatures. In the foothills of the Pöls valley, surrounded by deep green slopes, lies "THALHEIM CASTLE", its original fortifications (Sternschanze) dominating the area deep into the countryside. There, are the springs of the "THALHEIMER SCHLOSSBRUNNS" (Thalheim castle well), still in use since 1578. About 1500, Baron von Teufenbach established the mineral spa and erected the castle around it. Coming from the catchment area of the Niederen Tauern region, the mineral spring emerges from a depth of 300 m. It surfaces under its own pressure at 13° C. The Thalheimer Schlossbrunn water comes from one of the oldest Styrian springs and is of the highest quality. The so called "Knödelquelle" can be visited free of charge. According to tradition, it has been said that Paracelsus once quoted: "Bibite! Sanum est!" - Drink! It's healthy!

- 1 Experience Pöls from a birds eye perspective
- 2 The ruins of Reifenstein
- 3 One of Austria's largest bio-lakes



Pöls

... in harmony with nature!

Leisure activities

Summer

- Asphalt curling
- Beach volleyball, Boules
 - Bio bathing lake
 - Archery
- Climbing rock, climbing wall
- Paragliding, hang-gliding
 - Sauna, Indoor pool
 - Skating park
 - Summer skittles
- Eating smoked mackerel on a stick (Steckerlfisch)
 - Rambling

Winter

- Skiing
- Ice skating, traditional curling
 - Cross country skiing
- Swimming (Indoor pool)



Gold panning, hunting, fishing,...

PUSTERWALD lies in the heart of the Niederen Tauern region and is surrounded by 15 mountains which are over two thousand metres high. The area starts at 951 metres above sea level and reaches its highest summit, the Hohenwart, at 2,363 metres. The village itself lies at 1,072 metres. Pusterwald is a hidden, quaint farming village with well run public houses and a shop. As you travel along the valley going into and out of the village, there are firmly established farms that sustainably maintain and manage the agricultural areas as well as successfully breeding cattle. The countryside offers the holidaymaker not only a clean mountain climate but also many attractive places to visit and things to do.

One of them is gold-panning. Ever since man can remember, it has influenced destinies and with it mother earth's history – gold. Time and time again, the magic of the yellow metal has put mankind under its spell. Every day dreams of fame and fortune are kindled. With a little luck and patience you can fulfil your dreams.

Fishing enthusiasts are also well catered for in our valley. Idyllic lakes are an invitation to indulge in this hobby. The forests, alpine meadows and mountain regions offer peaceful and wonderful rambling and ski touring options. Make parallel turns on the Pusterwald ski lift slopes and spend a few unhurried hours in the snow, away from mass tourism.

- 1 Gold panning – An experience for young and old
- 2 Mountain biking on designated routes
- 3 Wonderful downhill runs when alpine touring



Pusterwald

... a small part of Canada!

Leisure activities

Summer

- Rambling and leisurely walks
- Cycling / mountain biking
 - Nordic walking
 - Fishing
 - Gold panning
 - Tennis
 - Horse riding
- Public sports ground
 - Hunting

Winter

- Ski touring
 - Skiing
- Cross country skiing
- Ice skating, traditional curling
 - Sledging



Customs and tradition

ST. JOHANN lies south of the Triebener Tauern pass at an altitude of 1,056 metres encircled by several mountain peaks of above 2000 metres. The wonderful countryside, fresh air, crystal clear mountain water and the "fog free" location characterize St. Johann. An extensive range of sport and leisure activities throughout the year make our village a secret tip for connoisseurs. Are you looking for unspoilt nature, genuine relaxation and respite from mass tourism? Then St. Johann is just right for you! In St. Johann customs and traditions are actively cultivated and many clubs contribute to a colourful village life. The annual events calendar features various festivals and social occasions that invite participation and celebration.

In the centre of the village is a bathing lake for water lovers and sun worshippers. Numerous easy or challenging walks and ski touring routes are well marked and sign posted; starting from the car park, they can be found without problems even at the first visit. The new sledging slope is only metres from the village centre and is an experience for everyone! Two ski regions, Hohentauern at 1,800 metres and Lachtal at 2,200 metres, nature and leisure parks and countless other tourist attractions close to St. Johann, invite young and old. St. Johann am Tauern is a great family holiday resort for fun, action and relaxation.

- 1 Girls playing mini golf
- 2 Hiking
- 3 Trail signs



St. Johann/Tauern

... simply boost your energy!

Leisure activities

Summer

- Rambling and leisurely walks
 - Tennis
- Multi-purpose sports ground
 - Asphalt curling
 - Minigolf
 - Swimming

Winter

- Ski touring
- Cross country skiing
- Ice skating, traditional curling
 - Sledging

Idyllic and picturesque

Take a rest and set your spirits free – where the countryside is still unspoilt. The upper Styrian Pölstal is embedded amidst the Wölzer und Rottenmanner Tauern mountains and the Seckauer and Seetaler Alps. Upstream from Pöls, villages appear one after the other, each of them rich in history and tradition, just like the picturesque villages of ST. OSWALD and MÖDERBRUGG. Both villages, at the foot of the Niederen Tauern region, are located in one of the most delightful areas of “green” Styria. The exceptionally favourable climate and “fog free” location make St. Oswald and Möderbrugg a popular holiday destination. The hospitality of this region is typical of the friendliness found only in areas away from the main tourist centres. Wherever you go, you will encounter local agricultural produce. If walks in untouched nature appeal in summer, then miles of well prepared cross country ski tracks, stretching across both villages, will invite beginners and the advanced in winter. Not only can guests looking for relaxation walk in the unspoilt countryside, St. Oswald-Möderbrugg also has many cultural places of interest to offer. The “Propstei Zeiring” and the “Hanfelden” castles are located on the road running from St. Oswald to Unterzeiring.

- 1 Bike ways
- 2 Schneeberg Chapel
- 3 Countryside lake facility



St. Oswald-Möderbrugg

... set your spirit free!

Leisure activities

Summer

- Rambling and leisurely walks
- Countryside lake facility
- Cycling and mountain biking
 - Nordic walking
 - Tennis
 - Volleyball
- Public sports ground
 - Asphalt curling
- Quad bike, ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) driving
 - Herb garden
- Fuchsia cultivation

Winter

- Ice skating, traditional curling
- Cross country skiing
 - Sledging