



Information for the Press
Wildschönau
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Through the valley of 1000 tales: A trip through the Wildschönau Valley in Tyrol.

A winter walk on the Path of Reflection and on the trail of an historical freedom fighter!

On a winter walk through the Wildschönau all the valley's secrets will be revealed. The Path of Reflection dedicated to St Francis of Assisi, on the trail of historical vigilante groups from two centuries ago, the smallest school in Austria, wonderful cure-all schnapps and any amount of tradition and history.

The secluded valley in the Kitzbühel Alps has 4200 inhabitants living in four villages and on 260 working farms. The Wildschönau has been a well kept secret for ski fans for over 50 years. A trip through the 15 km long Wildschönau Valley is one full of fascinating tales. The first noteworthy feature is the Path of Reflection dedicated to the Canticles of Francis of Assisi, which winds its way for three kilometres from Niederau to Oberau, through beautiful winter scenery. Sculptor Hubert Flörl who lives in the Wildschönau has erected nine monuments in bronze to Love, Mother Earth, Fire and the Universe. And why here of all places? "Because your heart lifts when you come to this place and you let nature's wonders work their magic on you.

A stop in the Z'Bach Mountain Farmer's Museum on the way, takes you not quite so far back in time as the Path of Reflection. The quaint old farmhouse named Z'Bach houses 1200 exhibits of farming life in the Alps and tells a tale of the sometimes hard life of the Wildschönau mountain farmers over the last 200 years.

The wooden forms for washing butter, the huge pan for preparing the family meals, the comb for gathering berries, you don't need too much imagination to picture the simple but often arduous life these people led.

The local elixir – Krautinger Schnapps needs no imagination at all for you to feel the benefit. Made from locally grown white beet, it has been distilled uniquely in the Wildschönau and only in the Wildschönau by royal decree from Empress Maria Theresia since the middle of the 18th century. These days only 15 of the original farming families still make Krautinger which is a famous cure-all and culinary speciality. One of these farmers is Josef Thaler who brews the schnapps in ancient family tradition and provides a taste of it for those following the Path of Reflection from Niederau to Oberau.