

StGallen
Bodensee



History &
culture

#lovestgallen

Art in public spaces

Walking around St.Gallen feels like being in a giant museum. Works of art by well-known artists enhance the look and feel of the city, and its numerous art institutions and cultural institutions host a diverse calendar of events. Take a self-guided art tour around the City of St.Gallen and discover works by Santiago Calatrava, Wannenmacher, Giacometti, Pipilotti Rist and Joan Miró, all in public spaces.



Discover all our guided city tours!



**St.Gallen, Rorschach, Wil,
Altstätten and Rheineck**

All guided tours are in German.
Other languages are available on request.
st.gallen-bodensee.ch/guided-tours



Culture galore!

Eastern Switzerland has something special for everyone who is interested in culture. You can visit an impressive art exhibition in St.Gallen, explore the charming old town of Wil, or view historic buildings in the Rhine Valley. Check out our top 10 must-see highlights so you don't miss a thing.





Museums and galleries

The St.Gallen museum quarter certainly lives up to its name. With so many exhibitions and contemporary art collections to choose from, as well as the treasures of the Culture Museum and the Art Museum, you'll have a hard time tearing yourself away. The St.Gallen Textile Museum, which was built in 1886, tells the story of the St.Gallen textile industry. The 2,000-square-metre Naturmuseum (Natural History Museum) offers visitors of all ages the opportunity to discover the local flora and fauna.

And that's not all. In the western part of the city – on Davidstrasse – there are also plenty of other museums that are definitely worth a visit. The open art museum here provides a platform for freelance artists, who often struggle to get exposure in a world dominated by galleries and big names. The centre for outsider art is more than a place for displaying art – it is a vibrant platform that breaks down creative boundaries and creates space for interaction.

Outside of the city, you will also find some very special museums, such as Fort Heldsberg Museum, Museum Prestegg and a number of local museums dotted along the Rhine. Rorschach, the charming town by Lake Constance, is also an artistic and cultural hub. The Kornhaus, the town's best-known landmark, was built as a granary in the 18th century. It eventually made Rorschach the most important trading hub for grain merchants from southern Germany. Today, it houses a museum whose exhibits include impressive models of the houses on stilts that used to stand here. Würth House Rorschach hosts arts and cultural events of various genres. There is something for everyone here: guided tours, workshops for children and adults, comedy shows and concerts.



This place is bursting with things to see and do!

Travelling solo, or with friends? Find out what else there is to do in our region. **Curious?**

st.gallen-bodensee.ch/offers



Abbey District: a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site

The foundation stone of the abbey was laid in 612 by the Irish wandering monk Gallus. The Prince-Abbacy of St.Gallen was established in 719 and dissolved in 1805. Over the course of their over 1,000-year history, the monastery and the Abbey District have been considered a spiritual hub within Europe and they were included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list in 1983. Today, the Abbey District is still a place brimming with history. It is home not only to some of the finest baroque libraries in the world but also to the oldest monastery plan of its kind, which is accessible to the public.



SCAN FOR ROUTE DESCRIPTION →



Discover all of our region!

Find out more about the City of St.Gallen, Rorschach on Lake Constance, the abbey town of Wil and the historic market town of Altstätten in the Rhine Valley.

st.gallen-bodensee.ch/en



Exhibitions and experiences

Exciting exhibitions in the Abbey Library, the Lapidarium and the exhibition hall give you the chance to discover a unique treasure trove of manuscripts, documents and prints. The on-site multimedia stations will provide you with further great insight. There are both public and private guided tours available, led by experts who will make history come alive for you on a personal level. For families with children, the "Rätselspass" ("Mystery Adventure") is a fun way to access the history of the monastery.



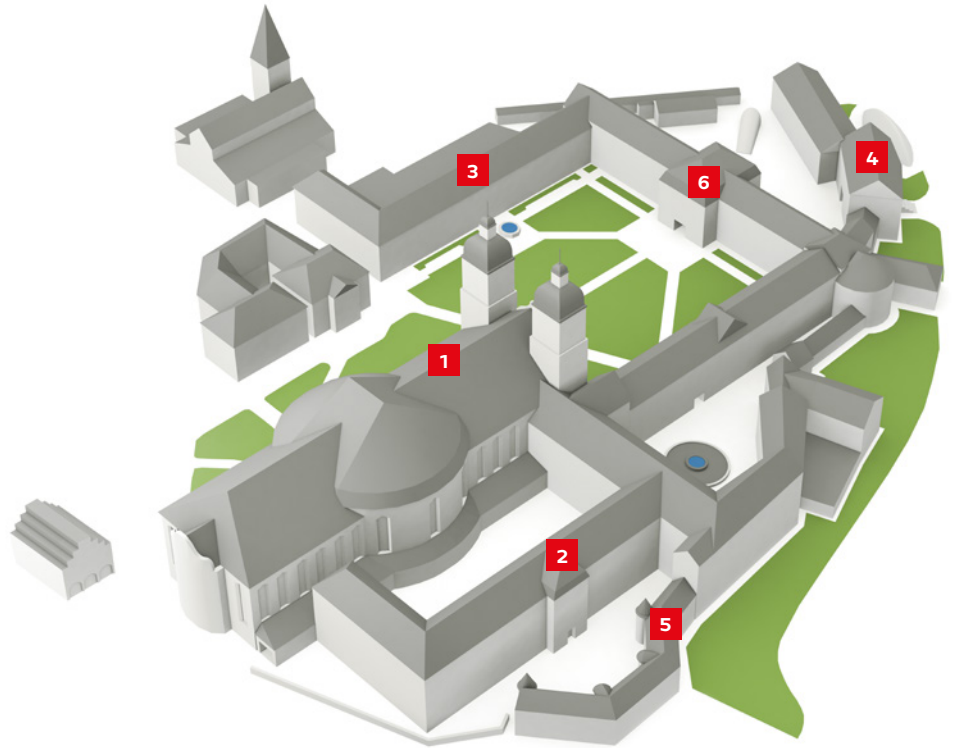
Lapidarium

The "Gallus and his monastery" exhibition uses original manuscripts and objects to take visitors on a journey through 1,400 years of cultural history, from St. Gallus' hermit cell to the Abbey District UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. It describes how the monastery contributed to European culture in writing, language, music, architecture, art and spirituality.

You can also see the Evangelium Longum, a manuscript with jewelled binding made around 895 by Tuotilo, an artist and monk of the Abbey of St.Gallen. A presentation illustrates the route that Gallus took from Ireland to Lake Constance, and onwards to the Steinachtal valley. The impressive capitals and impostes from the Gozbert Basilica, consecrated in 837, are good examples of early medieval building culture at the time of the famous St.Gallen Monastery Plan.

There is a separate section about the later development of the prince-abbacy and its relations with the nearby city of St.Gallen. Precious items from the church treasury and the collection of curiosities, as well as the Baroque model of the monastery church, will bring the Baroque period to life.

- 1** Cathedral
- 2** Abbey Library and Lapidarium
- 3** Exhibition hall with monastery pl
- 4** Karlstor (Charles' Gate)
- 5** Kloster Bistro
- 6** Government building
- i** Tourist Information



Permanent exhibition in the exhibition hall of the St.Gallen Abbey Archives

The exhibition "The Miracle of Transmission – The Plan of St Gall and Europe in the Early Middle Ages" deals with the unique abundance of early medieval documents in St.Gallen. These include legal documents that have been preserved in the St.Gallen Abbey archives. Among them are two confraternity books and the only remaining book of vows from the Carolingian period. There are also temporary exhibitions featuring documents on selected themes that provide insight into everyday life in the Early Middle Ages.

The St.Gallen Monastery Plan has its own place of honour in a separate room in the Abbey Library. It is considered the most important architectural drawing of the Middle Ages. After watching an introduction to the topic on a multivision display, you can view the original for a few seconds. This document is so precious it must be protected against light exposure to prevent deterioration.



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St.Gallen Museum Card

Discover St.Gallen's rich history and culture with the St.Gallen Museum Card – your ticket to the city's cultural attractions. This handy card gives you access to 11 prestigious museums across the city of St.Gallen. It can take you on exciting journeys through history, introduce you to contemporary art and fascinate you with science. The possibilities are endless.

Buy a one-day card or a card for two consecutive days now.

