**CULTURE IN THE**

**TOURISM REGION ATTERSEE-ATTERGAU**

**The artists around lake Attersee**

The region around Lake Attersee was already popular with famous painters and composers in earlier times. Gustav Klimt spent his summers at Lake Attersee from 1900 onwards and used the region as a source of inspiration for many of his works. In search of quiet places for relaxation and artistic inspiration, he found them on his favorite lake, Lake Attersee, away from the big city: from 1900 in the Bräuhof in Litzlberg, from 1908 in the Villa Oleander in Kammer and from 1914 in the south of the lake in the Forsthaus in Weißenbach. The Gustav Klimt theme trail, with various information boards and stations, provides information about the life of the painter. The trail leads from the Gustav Klimt Garden in Schörfling to Villa Paulick in Seewalchen. As an inspirational meeting place for Gustav Klimt and Emilie Flöge, Villa Paulick inspired Gustav Klimt and his relatives to spend seventeen summers at Lake Attersee. Members of the Wiener Werkstätte such as the painter, graphic artist and writer Oskar Kokoschka (1886-1980) and the writer and co-founder of the Salzburg Festival Hugo von Hofmannsthal also enjoyed being inspired there. The latter was also a frequent guest at the Villa Berghof in Burgau - the "Unteracher Villa" - where he performed "Der Rosenkavalier" for the first time.

In addition to Klimt, another person was of great importance in the high culture of Lake Attersee - Gustav Mahler. The composer spent his summers in the municipality of Steinbach am Attersee from 1893 to 1896. The region around Lake Attersee worked wonders on Gustav Mahler's creativity, because in the four summers that the composer spent in Steinbach, Mahler completed a dozen songs and two symphonies in the composer's cottage provided by his hosts, the Föttinger family. Over 30 years ago, Mahler's composer's cottage (also known as the Schnützlputzhäusl) was supplemented with a permanent exhibition. The Gustav Mahler exhibition in Steinbach can be visited all year round and free of charge. The Gustav Mahler Festival in Steinbach is also an important event at Lake Attersee. As part of the Capital of Culture Year 2024, a tribute will be paid to the great artist with the Salzburg Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of conductor Elisabeth Fuchs. Symphony No. 2 will be performed in the Steinbachhalle on June 1, 2024 at the place where the composer was born.

Every year, the Philharmonic Weeks in Steinbach am Attersee present themselves as a musical gem. From the end of July to mid-August, members of the Vienna Philharmonic make guest appearances in this unique cultural and natural setting and invite you to enjoy classical culture in a rural setting.

At the international Nikolaus Hanoncourt Days, organized by Attergau Kultur, everything revolves around the works of the great artist, who chose St. Georgen im Attergau as his home town. This concert series will be organized for the 5th time in 2024 and stands for cultural entertainment at the highest level.

**Modern culture in the region**

Many accents in the modern cultural sector round off the varied offer: for example, the Festival of Nations, which has been taking place in Lenzing for over 10 years now. During this week, the town of Lenzing is transformed into a backdrop full of film lovers and filmmakers from all over the world. Whether feature films, animations or documentaries - the short film festival invites you to a great supporting program followed by a discussion between the jury, filmmakers and the audience. The guests and filmmakers spend the supporting program around the festival at Lake Attersee every year.

FM4 Unlimited is the event of choice for the younger generation in particular. People dance, laugh and drink in front of a beautiful backdrop right by the lake. The program starts in the afternoon, where the FM4 Boombox provides the right sound for swimming and relaxing. After sunset, the festival site transforms into a dance floor that lasts until the early hours of the morning. The annual 3-week Perspectives Festival in Attersee is another fixture for young and young-at-heart culture lovers, bringing fresh perspectives to the cultural landscape at Attersee with curators Barbara Gölles and Thomas Kasebacher.

**Galleries and exhibitions in the region**

Lake Attersee continues to inspire artists today. As a result, a large number of galleries and exhibitions have emerged in the region in recent years, showing both renowned Austrian artists such as the Petra Seiser Gallery and young, up-and-coming artists in small, fine galleries.

**Traditional events**

Customs and traditions are of course an integral part of the region's cultural offerings. Classical brass band concerts, church celebrations and traditional festivities form the framework for a year-round cultural program and should not be missing from the calendar of events.

**Attersee – Attergau … clear water, vast landscape!**

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