

„WEG DES SALZES“ ASSOCIATION

Ausseerland region - Upper Austria - Bohemia

The young association “Weg des Salzes” was founded by numerous private individuals along the route to accompany the path of salt, which focuses on the history and culture along this trading route.

It is impressive to see how closely this topic is linked to the economic development of our region. It is important to the supporters to bring all the sights along this route, which lie dormant in nature museums and associations, before the curtain. We invite all interested parties to support this unique industrial heritage project:

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Scan and become a member of the WEG DES SALZES!



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GOOD LUCK! HISTORY OF SALT MINING

Ausseerland region - Hallstatt - Salzkammergut



© Domenico Loglio

Iron Age salt mining in Hallstatt, Natural History Museum Vienna, Archeult Initiative for Archaeology and Culture Traunkirchen

Salt has been present in the mountains of the Salzkammergut for more than 250 million years and has brought people and animals to this beautiful region.

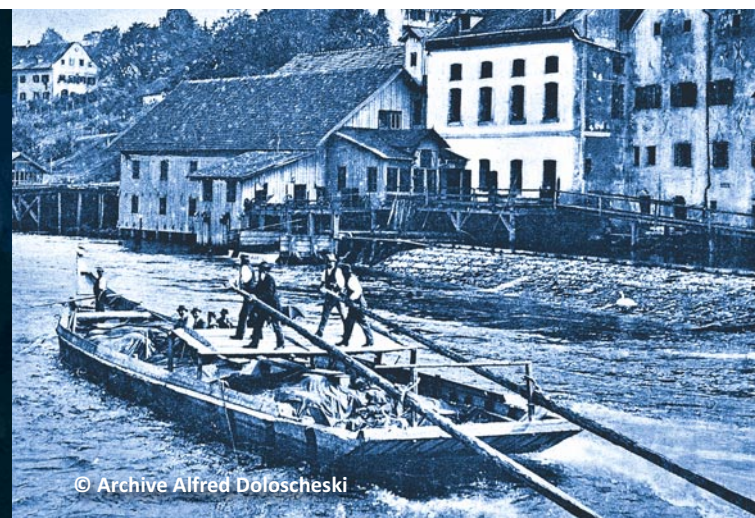
The first traces of human presence on the Hallstatt salt mountain are around 7000 years old; worked deer antlers and stone axes dating back to the Neolithic period Stone Age have been found there. The older part of the Iron Age is also known as the Hallstatt period due to the finds in the Hallstatt burial ground.

In 1311, the Habsburgs formally renewed the legal basis for salt mining in the “Kammergut”, placing salt mining under the sovereignty of the imperial house. Salt not only gave this region its name, but also increasingly contributed to the economic rise of the Salzkammergut area in the late 17th and 18th centuries with the salt trade.



SALT TRANSPORT BY WATER

Steeg - Stadl-Paura - Linz - Enghagen



© Archive Alfred Dofoscheski

A historical illustration of a Salt transport boat at full speed at the so-called Kurzmühle in Gmunden, fully loaded with salt pots

Shipping on the Traun has always been characterised by the transport of wood and salt. In order to transport this salt to the Danube by water, the problem of making the Traun, which is wild in its upper reaches, navigable for shipping. A series of dams succeeded in taming the Traun and thus making navigation less dangerous.

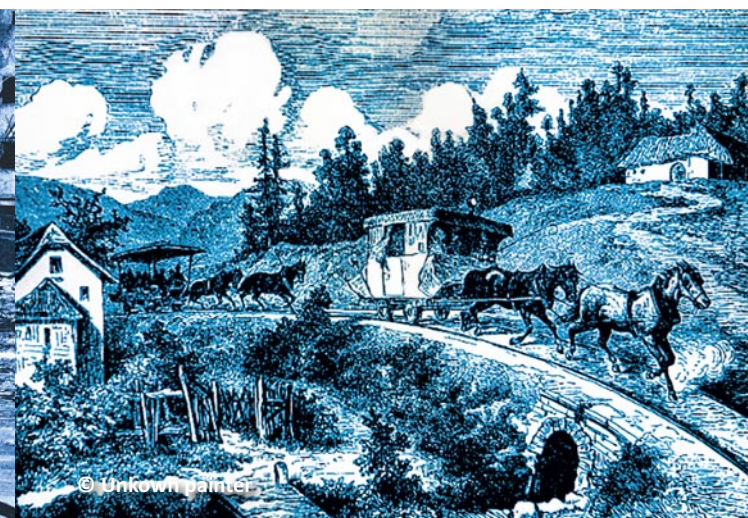
Gmundner 12er-Trauner



Worth mentioning is the Seeklause in Steeg on Lake Hallstatt - by deliberately opening the locks, the salt transport boats were given the necessary flooding to navigate downstream. The ‘Wild Lauffen’ near the village of Lauffen and the Traunfall in Roitham were the two most difficult river obstacles. The salt was reloaded in Stadl-Paura (Salzstadl), then the journey continued in the shallower river Traun to the Danube. www.schiffleutmuseum.at

SALT TRANSPORT ON THE HORSE DRAWN RAILWAY

Budweis - Linz - Gmunden



© Unknown painter

The birth of the first horse-drawn railway took place in Bohemia in 1825 and was an important step for rail transport within Europe

Transport along the river Traun was not only dangerous but also enormously expensive. So, the construction of the horse-drawn railway seemed plausible and economically sensible. On 28 July 1825, the ground-breaking ceremony for the Budweis - Gmunden horse-railway took place in Netrebice. On 1st August 1832, the section from Budweis to Linz went into operation, and in 1836 the section from to Gmunden/Engelhof was completed. The salt wagons used to transport salt carried around 45,000 tonnes of salt per year. A salt wagon was loaded with 2,500 to 3,500 kg, depending on the route. A huge pioneering achievement, which formed the basis for Austria's later leading position in the construction of mountain railway lines for passenger and freight transport.

Salt transport-horse drawn



INDUSTRIAL CULTURE IN THE REGION TRAUNSEE-ALMTAL

The culture of labour and local history



© Geyerhammer scythe museum, brainpark.traunsee

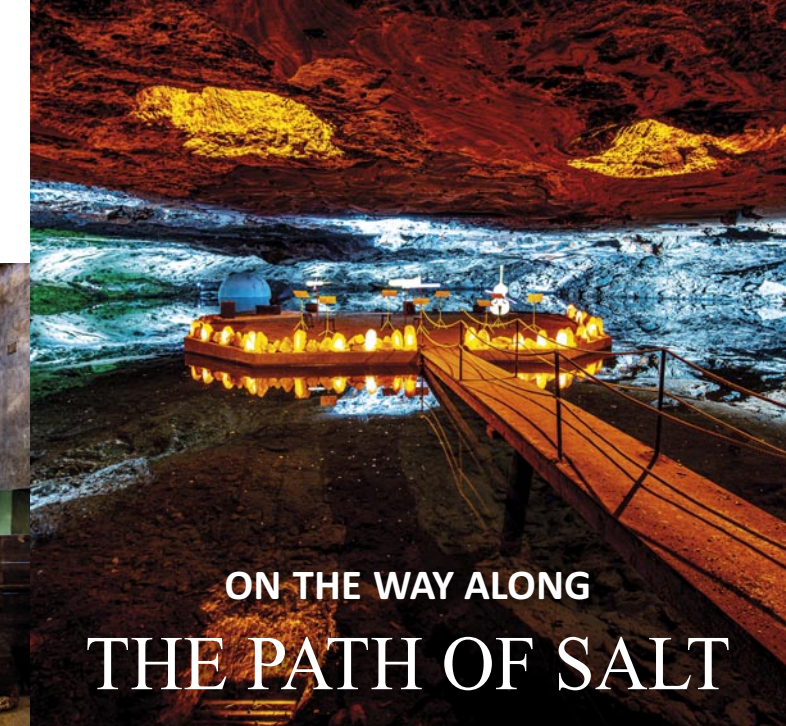
Geyerhammer scythe museum in Scharnstein, 400 years of scythe production with water-powered forging hammers in the Almtal valley

The term industrial culture encompasses many things: technology, economy, culture and local history. There is no other region that has so much to offer industry and crafts, and there is nothing comparable in Austria.

The production and trade of salt was the central key industry in the Salzkammergut for many centuries. It encompassed the lives of all people in industrialised society, their everyday lives, their living and working conditions. Every year in September, a day is dedicated entirely to industrial culture.

The ‘Long Night of Industrial Culture’ offers locals, tourists, job and apprenticeship seekers, school pupils, students and anyone interested the opportunity to take an otherwise impossible look behind the scenes of the industrial companies and experience them up close.

www.industriekultur.at



ON THE WAY ALONG THE PATH OF SALT

From Ausseerland region via
Upper Austria to Bohemia



www.wegdessalzes.at

Mit Unterstützung von Bund, Land und Europäischer Union





Salzwelten Altaussee - salt lake in the mine Hallstatt in the morning light 'The wild Lauffen' at the pilgrimage site Lauffen Drinking hall in Bad Ischl Steamboat GISELA on Lake Traunsee The former 'salt town' of Gmunden with Ort lake castle and Lake Traunsee Traun Falls nature experience near Roitham Counter-boat pulling 'UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage' on the Traun - © Schiffeutmuseum Stadl-Paura



LONG-DISTANCE HIKING TRAIL "THE PATH OF SALT" ALONG THE HISTORIC SALT ROUTE

Duration 14 days / 13 nights
Level of difficulty No special requirements - good and comfortable hiking boots recommended, good physical condition required due to the length
Start Salzwelten Altaussee, A-8992 Altaussee, Lichtersberg 67
End point Guardhouse no. 1, Museum of the horse-drawn railway - 370 01 České Budějovice
Total distance 81:55 hours - 301,3 km - 187 miles
Availability All year round (trail through the Koppental valley is closed from the beginning / middle of November to the beginning of May - winter closure / alternative option Koppenpass national road)

For exact route description, POI's and accommodation options see www.wanderspass.at

Scan the QR code and discover the PATH OF SALT on the internet

Bad Ischl - Perneck town square Bad Ischl - brewhouse Historic Engelhof railway station in Gmunden Guardhouse no. 39 in the Gusental valley Kronbach bridge near Waldburg 'Historical travel' Rainbach horse-drawn railway Horse-drawn railway & museum in Bujanov Town square and town hall in Budweis



Embark on the PATH OF SALT from Ausseerland through the scenic beauty of Upper Austria, visit the numerous cultural and production sites of the white gold. Enjoy the Upper Austrian and Bohemian cuisine and experience South Bohemia along the route of the horse-drawn railway to České Budějovice, the end point of this long-distance hiking trail.

