

LIVING
WORKING
PLAYING
LEARNING
VILLACH.

AUSTRIA



Günther Albel (43, mayor of the City of Villach) with young people at the Holi festival at the Silbersee, celebrating the start of the annual swimming season.

www.villach.at



VILLACH. CITY – REGION – PLACE TO LIVE

Welcome, willkommen, benvenuto, dobrodošli, bienvenue
to the heart of Europe!

You are looking for an exciting professional challenge and an attractive place for your family to live? A place where your work and private life don't have to compete with each other and new perspectives abound at every level?

Villach might be just the perfect spot for you. A city for a new life and new career, with access to first-class education, an active lifestyle and a healthy environment.

Over the following pages we'd like to give you a first glimpse of the outstanding opportunities awaiting you in and around Villach. Learn more about this place where Austria, Italy and Slovenia meet on the southern slopes of the Alps in the heart of Europe.

Some of the most innovative companies and organizations of our city have teamed up to produce this guide providing an overview of the broad range of offers in this region we call home. They include world-famous international brands and renowned local institutions alike, representing the entrepreneurial, intellectual and cultural variety of our region.

The success of these companies and many other enterprises in the region rests on the work of thousands of highly talented employees from the greater Villach area, Italy and

Slovenia just across the border and also from all over the world. The excellent reputation of regional educational institutions, such as the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, also draws a very diverse student population from a panoply of different countries to our region.

All of them have found Villach to be the ideal place to pursue their career while spending time with their families and enjoying the high quality of life offered by this lively town

located at the crossroads of three different cultural regions.

We are confident that this brochure will make you curious about this wonderful city that is our home and we look forward to welcoming you and your loved ones here in the not too distant

future.

See you soon in our neighborhood, see you soon in Villach!

Günther Albel
Mayor of the City of Villach





Karin Hufnagel (SWE, 32, Market Development Manager at 3M) having lunch at the Frierss Feines Haus delicatessen store and restaurant.

LIVING



www.kaernten.at

LIVE. WHERE OTHERS GO ON A VACATION

Just one of the many perks of living in the phenomenal City of Villach.

Located at the point where three cultures meet, the city on the Drau has long been an important transport hub in the Alps-Adriatic region.

Due to its particular geographic location and the outstanding natural beauty of the region, Villach and the whole province of Carinthia have for generations been popular holiday destinations for people from all over the world.

Centrally located at the crossroads of three important European highways, in close proximity to the northern ports of the Mediterranean and numerous airports in the surrounding area, this city in the south of Austria can easily be reached from any place in the world. And naturally, it is also convenient to travel around the globe from here. If you are dreaming of a fascinating vacation or paying a visit to family members living abroad, you will find that Villach is the ideal point of departure for any kind of adventure.

The unique landscape, combining mountains and valleys, lakes and rivers, city and countryside, draws hundreds of thousands of people to the region every year. No matter what season it is, fun, relaxation and inspiration are around every corner. At the same time, the diverse and pristine environment also makes Villach an extraordinary place to

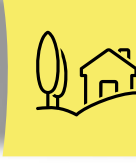
live for all those who call this region home. Lakes with drinking-water quality and the extraordinarily clean air are a testament to the high environmental standards of Villach and its surroundings.

In addition to the favorable geographic location, living in Austria also has many social, health-care-related and economic perks. The country's social and health care system is among the best in the world and for decades numerous international surveys have singled out Austria as a particularly safe and wealthy country with a high quality of life.

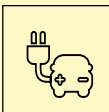
While the city's population enjoys an above-average prosperity level and comprehensive social benefits, living in Villach proves surprisingly affordable when compared to many other international destinations. Villach benefits from its status as a "small town," offering everyday living at affordable prices in an outstanding setting.

So it's no surprise that the city on the Drau is considered the "home of work-life balance."

The greater Villach region with its broad culinary variety and offering great value for money is a gourmet's paradise.



AN UNMATCHED NATURE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PARADISE



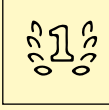
You will find more than **70 electric filling stations**, including a Tesla Supercharger station, all within a **30-minute** drive from Villach.



Carinthia boasts over **1,200** registered **lakes and ponds**, almost all of which are of **drinking-water quality**.



About **28%** of Villach's surface area have been declared **landscape conservation areas**.



The City of Villach has been awarded the **European Energy Award Gold**, recognizing its exemplary commitment to saving energy.

Members of the Carinthian International Club at the traditional dragon boat race at the Ossiacher See.

JOYFUL NETWORKING

The region's international community has been steadily growing for years. The Carinthian International Club founded several years ago welcomes new arrivals and introduces them to both expats and locals.

New residents thus feel at home in Villach in no time at all. The Club also organizes a large variety of courses and events throughout the year.

cic-network.at

A GLOBAL LOOK AT AUSTRIA'S QUALITY OF LIFE

3rd / 163

Global Peace Index
visionofhumanity.org

8th / 57

Top Countries For Expats
internations.org

9th / 163

Good Country Index
goodcountry.org

15th / 149

Prosperity Index
prosperity.com

VILLACH'S CURRENT KEY INDICATORS BY NUMBEO.COM

Cost Of Living: **64.44** (moderate)

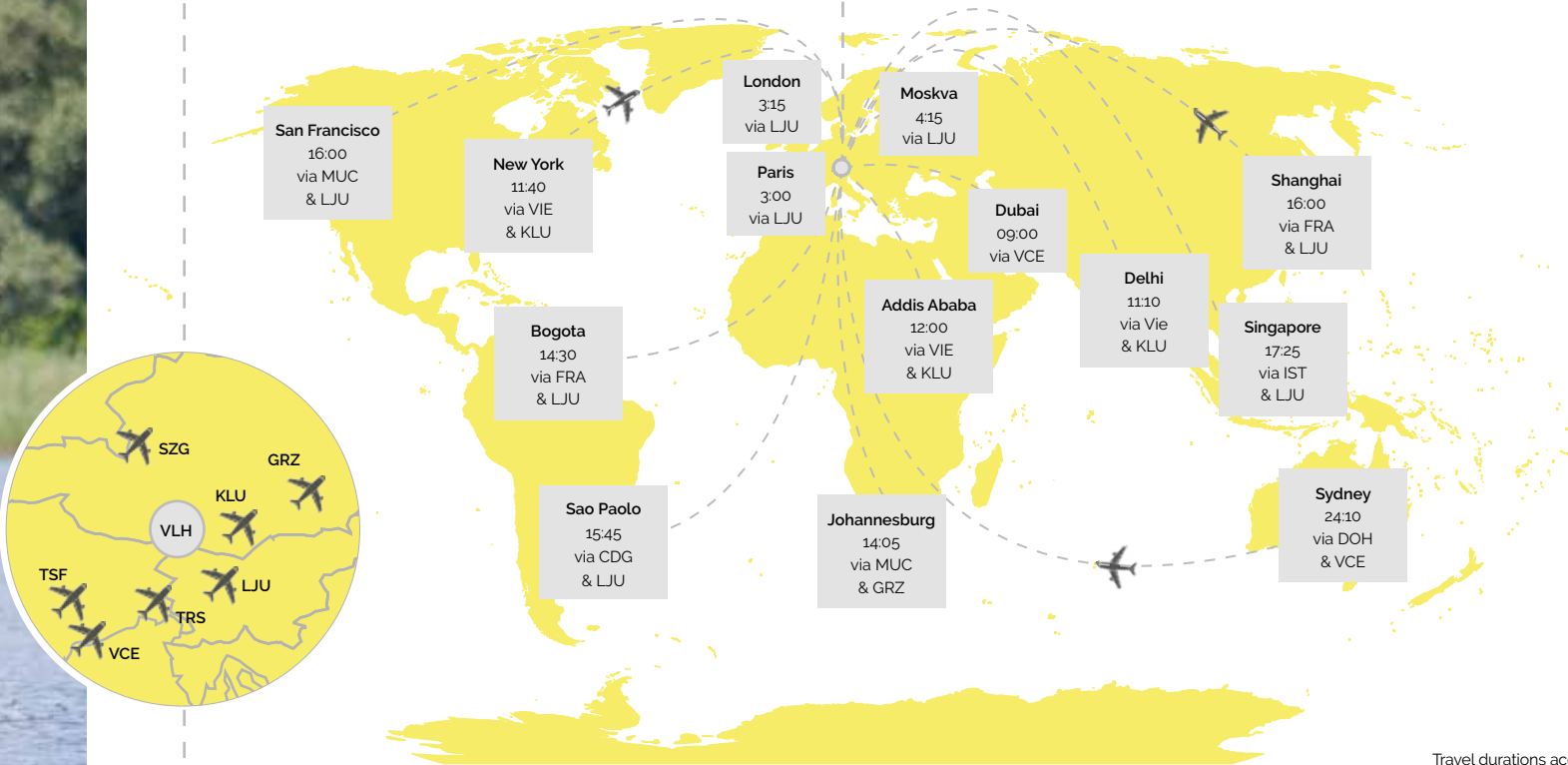
Safety: **91.97** (very high)

Health Care: **90.51** (very high)

Environmental Quality: **99.31** (very high)

Get a direct comparison of your current city and Villach at
welcome2villach.at/citycomparison

HERE. THAT'S VILLACH'S LOCATION

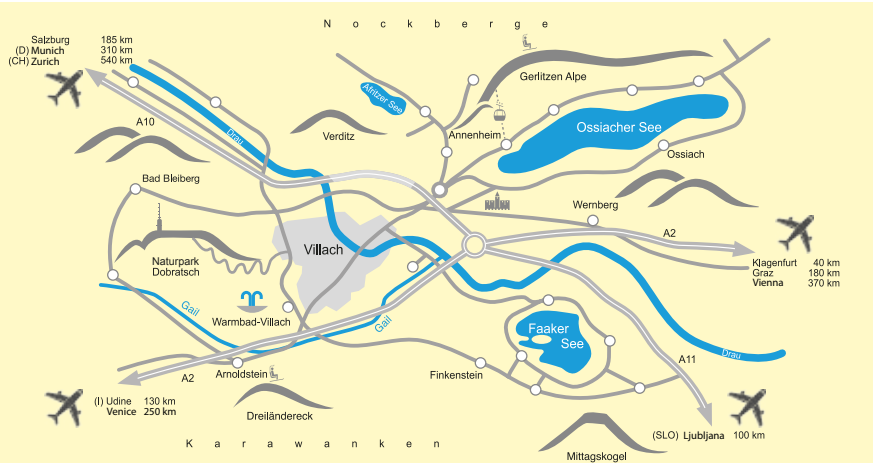


ALPS-ADRIATIC TRAFFIC HUB IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

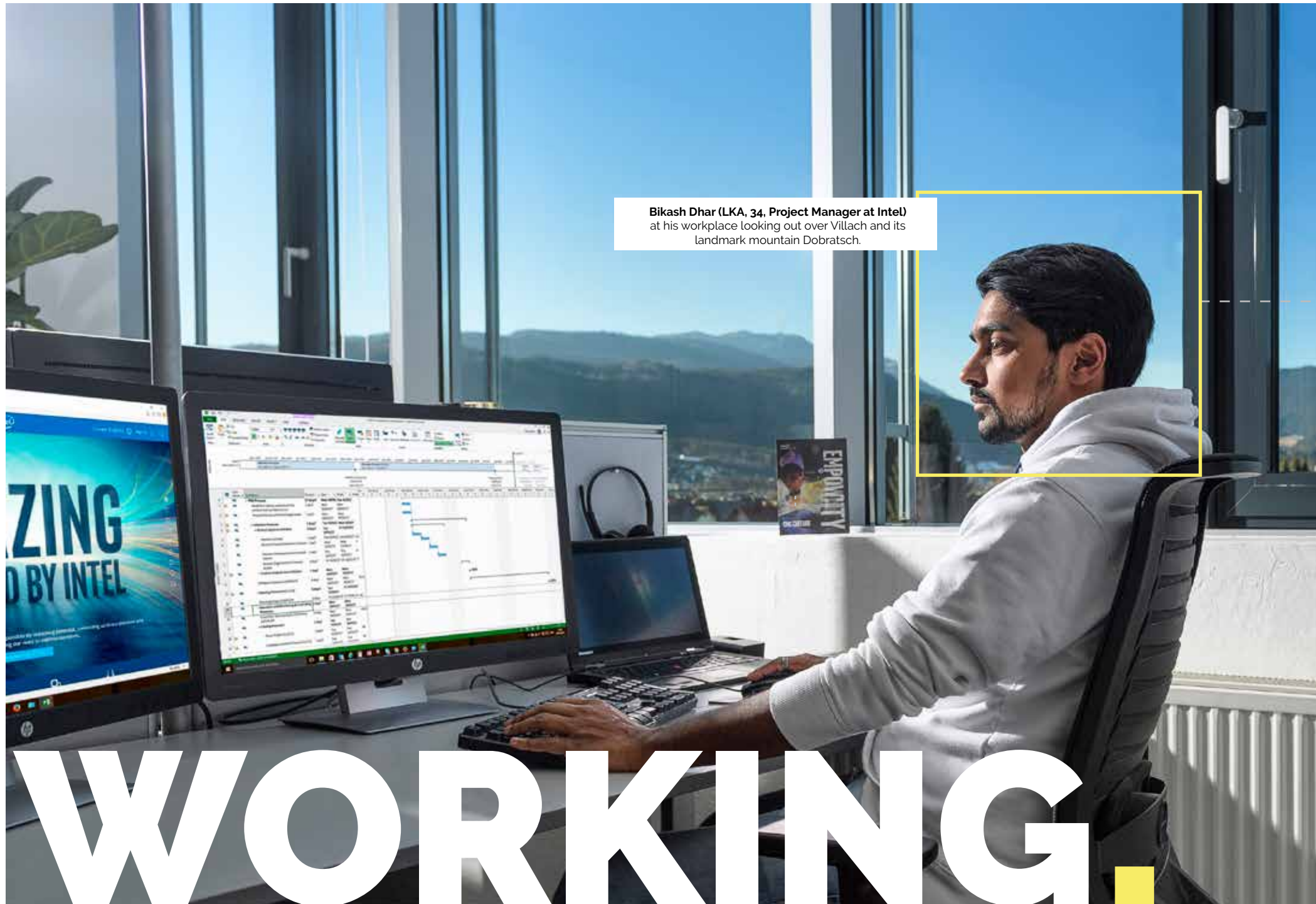
The City of Villach is located in the center of Carinthia, Austria's southernmost province, in close proximity to the Italian and Slovenian border. For centuries, this place has been an important transport hub in Central and Eastern Europe, which is why the region is easily accessible and excellently connected by rail, road and air.

There are direct rail connections to many major European cities, such as Rome, Belgrade, Zurich and Munich. The Austrian capital of Vienna is just a little more than a four-hour train ride away. Well-developed highways also connect the region to crucial central, eastern and southern European cultural and economic regions.

There are as many as seven international airports around Villach, which can be reached in about a two-hour drive. Several flights a day ensure that all major European air traffic hubs can be reached conveniently, keeping transfer times to destinations across the globe short.



David Kretz (USA, 43, Director Business Management and Product Marketing at Lam Research) and his wife Jitske shopping at the weekly farmers' market in the old town of Villach.



Bikash Dhar (LKA, 34, Project Manager at Intel)
at his workplace looking out over Villach and its
landmark mountain Dobratsch.



WORKING. WHERE FUTURE IS MADE

The perfect place for bright minds and future-oriented innovators.

The region excels in blending tradition, a cosmopolitan mindset and a high quality of life with the perks offered by an innovative business location. International companies and their highly qualified employees have always played key roles in Villach's success story.

Villach has developed into a high-technology location thanks to its enduring ambition to reinvent itself. In order to maintain this pace of development, the city has been investing effort into its role as a research and start-up hub for a number of years. In addition to research activities at the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, trendsetting collaborations between academia and industry, as exemplified by the Josef Ressel Center, pave the way for successful research into highly promising technologies of the future. Start-up initiatives such as the build! business incubator or the Smart Lab Carinthia, both located in the Villach Technology Park, offer ideal starting conditions for entrepreneurs.

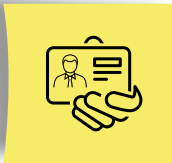
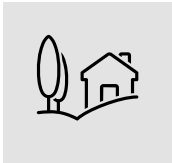
The industrial companies that have collaborated to produce this brochure are only a few examples of the manifold of entrepreneurs active in Villach. The region is home to a diverse portfolio of businesses from a wide array of industries. Whether old or new economy, industrial, trade, service or crafts companies: all of them are always on the lookout for new talent.

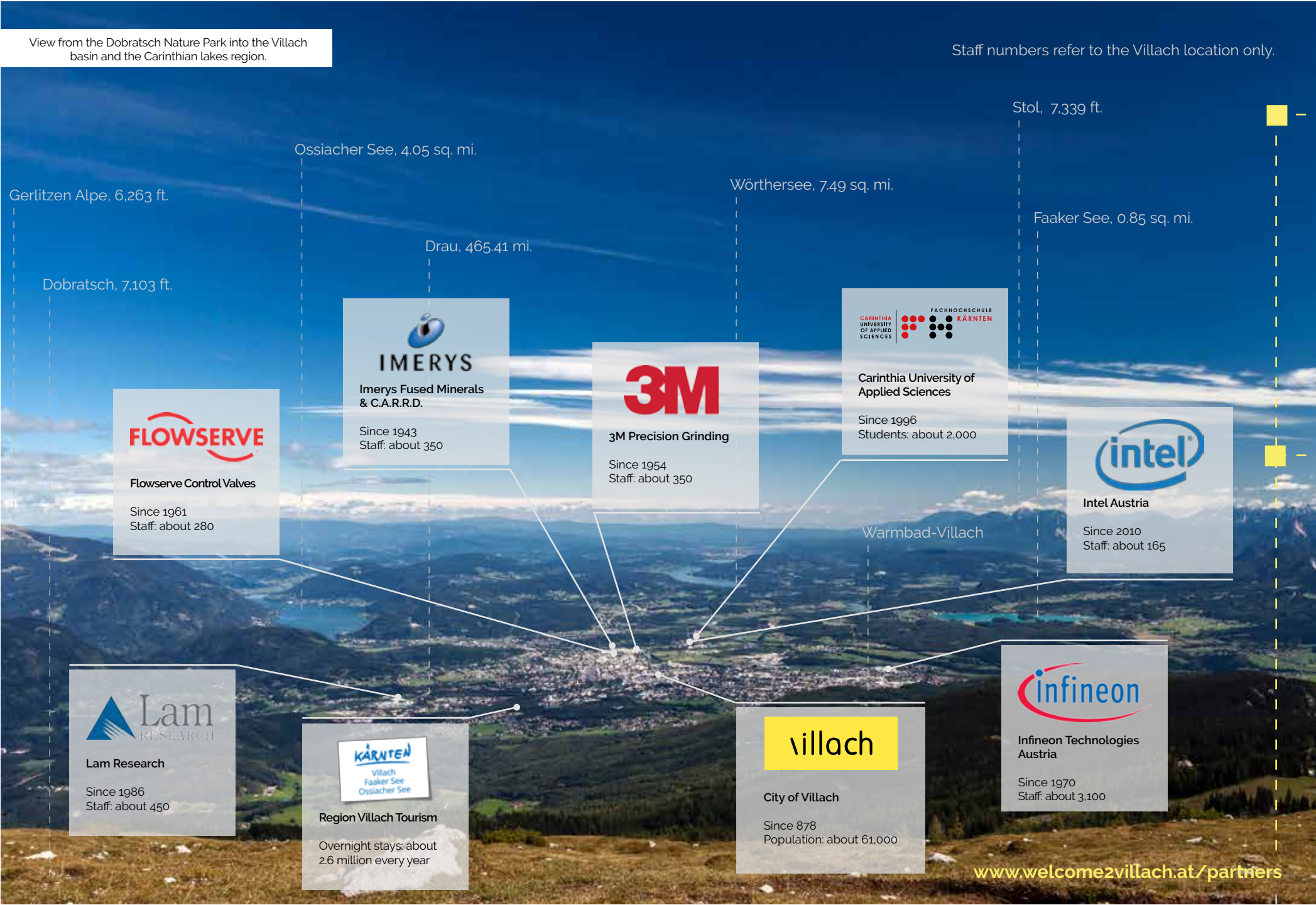
I get to work on technology here that will ensure safety around the world in the future.

Secure and well-paid jobs have made the location an attractive destination for specialists and managers from all over the world. The companies, among them both hidden champions and world-renowned market leaders, are well established in the region and offer their staff many benefits in addition to the high quality of life in Villach.

New arrivals can rely on support services ranging from assistance in administrative issues to job hunting for their partner or childcare facilities, which help them settle into their new home. It is thus easy to reconcile work and family life. A welcoming attitude and diversity are non-negotiable principles that are not just preached but also put into practice here.

Framework conditions for employees in Austria also serve as an important pillar supporting Villach's success. Employment law provides mandatory insurance that safeguards employees financially in the case of illness, accident or unemployment. This comprehensive protective umbrella also covers family members. And no less than 25 days of paid annual leave also speaks for itself.





GLOBAL BRANDS IN A LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

The overview on the left page shows Villach and a selection of its natural attractions as well as the locations and key data of our partners.

The listed companies and organizations are the initiators of welcome2villach.at and are responsible for the information provided here:

- six world-renowned **industrial** companies,
- the local **university**,
- the region's **tourism** organization and
- the **city** administration of Villach.

Together they stand for Villach as a modern business location, innovative research hub and outstanding place to live.

Our industrial partners employ about **4,700 employees** from over **56 countries** in the City of Villach alone.

2,683

new companies were founded in Carinthia in 2016.

3.07%

is Austria's research ratio, ranking the country in the third place in the EU.

For vacancies at our partner organizations see welcome2villach.at/jobs.

PLENTY OF ROOM FOR THE IDEAS OF FOUNDERS

OTELO, an "open technology laboratory," provides space for creative minds experiment and grow. Well-equipped co-working spaces in both the old town (**Co-Quartier**) and more rural outer districts (**Bizfarm**) are convenient places to work and network. The **Business Beach** is your office right on the shore of a lake and **Gründergaragen** (founders' garages) provide all the infrastructure a start-up requires.

Business Beach in Drobollach on Faaker See is a one-of-a-kind alternative to the typical day in the office.



Roel Pleunis (NLD, 43, GAD Drawing Coordinator at Flowserve) with his tuba in the Villach-based music store Dany's Music Shop.



www.region-villach.at

PLAYING. ENJOYING AND COMING TO LIFE

Whatever spare time activity strikes your fancy, you will find it around Villach.

The meeting point of three European cultural regions is not only full of career opportunities, but you are also spoilt for choice when it comes to nature, entertainment, culture and fine cuisine.

Take a day trip to the picturesque Lagoon of Venice, stroll through the historic old town of Salzburg or climb the highest peaks of the Alps. A trip by car or on the country's modern trains will bring you to major European cities such as Ljubljana, Munich and Vienna in no time. Adventure will be right on your doorstep in your new home.

While the short distances to many European towns and sights certainly add to Villach's appeal, the city's immediate surroundings also offer a myriad of spare time activities. The region has been among the most popular vacation destinations in Central Europe for more than a century, attracting visitors with a high-class mixture of history, nature and adventure.

Especially sports enthusiasts and nature lovers will find the greater Villach area to be heaven on earth. From swimming and cycling in summer to skiing and snowshoe hiking in winter, each season seems to offer an endless variety of activities suitable for both the young and the young at heart. A modern tourism infrastructure, such as the KärntenTherme

spa with its unique architectural design, combined with the world-renowned culture of Austrian hospitality make Villach a wonderful spare time destination.

Culture aficionados will not be disappointed either: they can explore the eventful history of Europe at countless historic sites, stroll through museums and galleries or choose from a wide selection of events.

I love the cultural variety the region offers and as a member of a band playing in traditional costume I help preserve it.

Once you have checked off your sports or culture program of the day, you can look forward to the Alps-Adriatic region's culinary delights: authentic dishes from the area's three countries as well as delicacies from all over the world. Going out for Italian food in Villach may very well mean embarking on a quick trip to Italy.

If you feel like doing some shopping in the course of such a culinary journey, you can go window-shopping in the historic old towns or bargain-hunting in the region's numerous malls and outlet malls. Only one thing is for sure, you'll never get bored.





Boundless winter sports opportunities in the Dreiländereck ski resort.

WHERE THREE CULTURES MEET

Villach's location at the point where three large influential European cultural regions merge is unparalleled. Germanic, Romance and Slavic influences have left their mark on everyday life and surely also play a part in the local population's cosmopolitan and vivacious spirit.



Villach's Kirchtag fair is the largest event of its kind in Austria.

87

mountain peaks higher than **3,000 m (9,843 ft.)** await mountaineers in Carinthia alone.

ALL OF VILLACH IS A STAGE

Villach's locals love their celebrations. The Villach Carnival is famous around the world and the Kirchtag fair is the largest event celebrating traditional customs in Austria. The "Carinthian Summer," a music and culture festival featuring first-class performers, is known far across the borders. The largest Harley Davidson meeting in Europe takes place in September and the Villach Christmas market is considered a special gem in the Alps region, drawing over a hundred thousand guests from Italy and Slovenia.

SO CLOSE TO EUROPE'S VARIETY

A drive from the city center will take you only...

minutes	30	60	90	120	150
15 min.					
30 min.					
45 min.					
60 min.					
75 min.					
90 min.					
105 min.					
120 min.					
135 min.					
150 min.					

GERLITZEN ALPE
GERLITZEN ALP

Hiking
Skiing
Mountain biking
Paragliding
Trekking

OSSIACHER SEE
LAKE OSSIACH

Culture
Sailing & surfing
Diving
Climbing
Boating

WÖRTHERSEE
LAKE WÖRTHERSEE

Lifestyle
Diving
Beach volleyball
Triathlon
Strolling

FAAKER SEE
LAKE FAAK

Swimming
Kayaking
Surfing
Tennis
Climbing

KANZELBAHN
KANZEL CABLE CAR

VASSACHER SEE
LAKE VASSACH

ST. LEONHARDER SEE
LAKE ST. LEONHARD

ALTSTADT
OLD TOWN

Strolling
Culture
Shopping
Dining out
Bars and parties

NATURPARK DOBRATSCH
DOBRATSCH NATURE PARK

Trekking
Hiking
Ski touring
Ski jumping
Sleigh rides

AFFENBERG & ADLERSCHAU
MONKEY MOUNTAIN & EAGLE SHOW

SILBERSEE

DRAU & GAIL FLUSS
DRAVA & GAIL RIVER

Fishing
Jogging
Skating
Cycling

MAIBACHL
MAY CREEK

VILLACHER ALPENSTRASSE
VILLACH ALPINE ROAD

WARMBAD
WARMBAD SPA

Thermal spa
Swimming
Jogging
Fitness
Health and well-being

PYRAMIDENKOGEL

TABORHÖHE
TABOR HEIGHT

ZITRUSGARTEN
CITRUS GARDEN

KANZIANIBERG
MOUNT KANZIANI

Just a few of Villach's numerous spare time and sports activities.



Rashmi Dudda Krishnamurthy (IND, 35, Engineer Innovation Management at Infineon) and Srivatsa Raghunath (IND, 33, Application Engineer at Infineon) playing with their two children in the International Daycare Center.

LEARNING.



www.cic-network.at/en/education

LEARNING. WITH FUN AND PURPOSE

A suitable educational offer for every stage in life.

"If your only tool is a hammer, then every problem looks like a nail." This quote by world-famous Villach-born communication studies scholar Paul Watzlawick hits the proverbial nail on the head. At the place where Paul's educational journey started many years ago, children and young people can today choose from a wide array of educational offers that give them all the tools they will need in their professional lives.

As a city of artists, researchers, inventors and developers, Villach sets great store by education and offers (lifelong) learning opportunities to people of all ages.

More than 240 preschools and close to 100 primary schools in the greater Villach area give our youngest citizens a head start on their educational paths. Parents can choose from a wide array of care and educational offers for their children, including those with a multilingual focus, Montessori education and inclusive schooling. The International School Carinthia and its outstanding International Baccalaureate program round off the broad range on offer.

Upon graduating from primary school at about age 10, children can choose from many different (specialized) secondary schools, catering to diverse interests and talents.

The region's educational opportunities for our children are outstanding. What's more, most of them are very close by.

At about age 14, young people can again select the school at which they will continue their educational path, choosing, among others, from a wide range of vocational schools and schools for higher vocational education with a technical, commercial or social focus in and around Villach. These schools offer ideal learning environments for students to receive a high level of vocational training. Some of them also lead up to the Matura school-leaving examination, enabling graduates to

enroll in university. Austria is the only country in Europe offering this unique combination of vocational and academic training at pre-university level that produces young graduates who are ideally prepared for their future careers.

And finally, the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt (AAU), the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (CUAS) and the University College of Teacher Education Carinthia (PH) as well as a number of further well-known universities in the region and in neighboring Italy and Slovenia offer graduate and post-graduate programs. The country's research institutions, in turn, provide attractive opportunities to conduct research in a vast array of fields.



CITY OF KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

The region has lived up to its reputation as a dynamic technology hotspot for years. Not only is it home to the largest research unit in the field of microelectronics, but has also been the location of the industrial company with the highest research rate in Austria since 2014.

In addition to independent research bodies such as **Carinthian Tech Research**, in-house research institutions, such as **Kompetenzzentrum Automobil- und Industrieelektronik** (center of excellence for automotive and industrial electronics) and **C.A.R.R.D.**, form the core of the region's innovation scene.

The **High Tech Campus Villach** is home to the **Silicon Alps** technology and innovation cluster, which connects stakeholders in the field of electronic-based systems in the south of Austria.

The **Carinthia University of Applied Sciences** with locations in Villach and the nearby cities of Spittal, Feldkirchen and Klagenfurt frequently cooperates with companies in innovative research projects. One example is **digitalLab**, which offers help to the public administration and enterprises to master the digital transformation process. The University also directly cooperates with the regional industry, for instance in the **Josef Ressel Center**.

Last but not least, the **Austrian Research Center for Primatology** at Landskron's "monkey mountain" is an interesting counterpoint on the otherwise technology-focused Carinthian research landscape.



85+

degree programs are offered at AAU, CUAS and PH.

Florent Polge (FRA, 34, R&D Engineer at C.A.R.R.D.) at his workplace in Imerys' research center.

International School students participate in a play staged by the Vienna English Theatre.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CARINTHIA

The International School Carinthia (ISC) in Velden offers top-class education to children of both Austrian and international families in the region. The curriculum is based on the Austrian system and the educational approach of the **International Baccalaureate** (IB). This outstanding school is located a few minutes outside of Villach by car.

isc.ac.at

60+

secondary schools can be reached from Villach by a 30-minute car ride.

20%

of the young people enrolled at AAU and 10% at CUAS are international students.

VILLACH'S GREAT CHILDREN

The city on the Drava is a mecca of innovation. Villach has produced many famous personalities, such as the revolutionary physician Paracelsus, the painter and sculptor Bruno Gironcoli and the philosopher Paul Watzlawick. Today it is the many researchers employed in the local industry who bring groundbreaking innovations to the city. And it is the very active cultural scene that keeps the creative juices flowing.



Villach Tourist Board

Tourism and vacation news

facebook.com/regionvillach



Slovenian Tourist Board

News from our Slovenian neighbors

twitter.com/sloveniainfo



Faaker See

Snapshots from the warmest recreational lake

instagram.com/faaker_see



Friuli-Venezia-Giulia

Spots from the neighboring region

youtube.com/FVGlive



Social Wall

Snapshots from the region

snapshotboard.com/villach



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



VILLACH'S VARIETY IN SELECTED LINKS



Webcam Villach

Live footage of the old town

villach.it-wms.com



City of Villach

Pictures of everyday life in the city

instagram.com/villach_city



Ossiacher See

Picture gallery featuring the greater Villach area

flickr.com/groups/ossiachersee



A product of the "Industrie + Tourismus Villach" cooperation.

For further information please visit www.welcome2villach.at.

Contact: Region Villach Tourismus GmbH, Töbringer Straße 1, 9523 Villach, Austria, Europe, YouAre@welcome2villach.at
Concept & content: thefanmedia.com
Research & consulting: heinzjosef.at
Pictures: hphoto.at, region-villach.at, mg-projects.at, arnoldpoeschl.com, infineon.com, insanity-arts.at, isc.ac.at, istockphoto.com/hannagottschalk, slovenia.info, turismofvg.it, villacherkirchtag.at, kreinerdruck.at
Printing:

home of work | life balance

www.welcome2villach.at