

BUSINESS AND WORKING HUB
LIECHTENSTEIN

**BIGGER
THAN YOU
THINK**

THIS IS LIECHTENSTEIN



A unique form of government

Liechtenstein is a constitutional hereditary monarchy on a parliamentary and democratic basis. This form of government is based on the constitution of 1921.



Country and people

160 km² of land and fewer than 40,000 inhabitants. Liechtenstein is the smallest country in the German-speaking world, the fourth-smallest country in Europe and the sixth-smallest in the world. Only 11% of its area is used as residential space. The rest is agricultural land, wooded areas, mountains and lakes.



The Swiss franc

Euro or dollars? Neither. Liechtenstein has been part of the Swiss Monetary Union since 1924, and payments are made in Swiss francs.



An employment miracle

Liechtenstein has more jobs than employees and is popular with skilled workers in the four-country region. More than 23,000 people commute into the country every day.



Eleven municipalities

The population is spread over eleven municipalities. Vaduz, also known as the Residence, is the main town. The largest municipality is the neighbouring town of Schaan, which has a population of around 6,000.



A tourism destination

Around 200,000 guests from all over the world spend the night at this popular excursion destination every year. An insider tip for outdoor enthusiasts, pleasure lovers and art and culture fans.



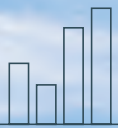
A mild climate

Despite the mountainous location, the climate is mild and the amount of precipitation is low. The average temperature is high at 10 °C thanks to the Föhn, a warm wind.



Triple A

Liechtenstein is one of the few countries that is debt-free. Independent analysts are impressed by Liechtenstein's stability, so it is one of the few countries to hold a AAA rating from Standard & Poor's, which has been confirmed every year since 1996.



A low government spending to GDP ratio

At 21.8 %, Liechtenstein has one of the lowest ratios of government expenditure to GDP in Europe. In Switzerland, the ratio is just over 10 % higher; in Austria it is over 50 % higher.



CHF 6.6 billion gross domestic product

In absolute terms Liechtenstein has the lowest gross domestic product of all EU and EFTA countries, but the figure per capita is relatively high at CHF 178,730.



7 facts about Liechtenstein
[youtube.com/@FuerstentumLiechtenstein](https://www.youtube.com/@FuerstentumLiechtenstein)

IN THE HEART OF THE ALPS

Nestled in the centre of the arc of the Alps between Austria and Switzerland, Liechtenstein offers an astonishing variety across just 160 km².

This thriving business hub boasts world market leaders and globally active industrial companies, a professional, innovative financial centre, up-and-coming and imaginative start-ups plus a large number of commercial and service companies. More than 5,200 companies provide more attractive jobs than there are people living in the country. The broadly diversified industry structure and stable economic and political environment attract talent from the region and abroad.

The exceptionally high quality of life is another reason why Liechtenstein is an attractive place for work and business. Locals and visitors alike enjoy the breathtaking natural diversity, richly faceted culture and outstanding pleasures on offer.



CURRENCY

In 1924, Liechtenstein declared the Swiss franc (CHF) its legal currency. All coins, banknotes and other means of payment in Switzerland are also recognised as legal currency in Liechtenstein.

DOUBLY LANDLOCKED

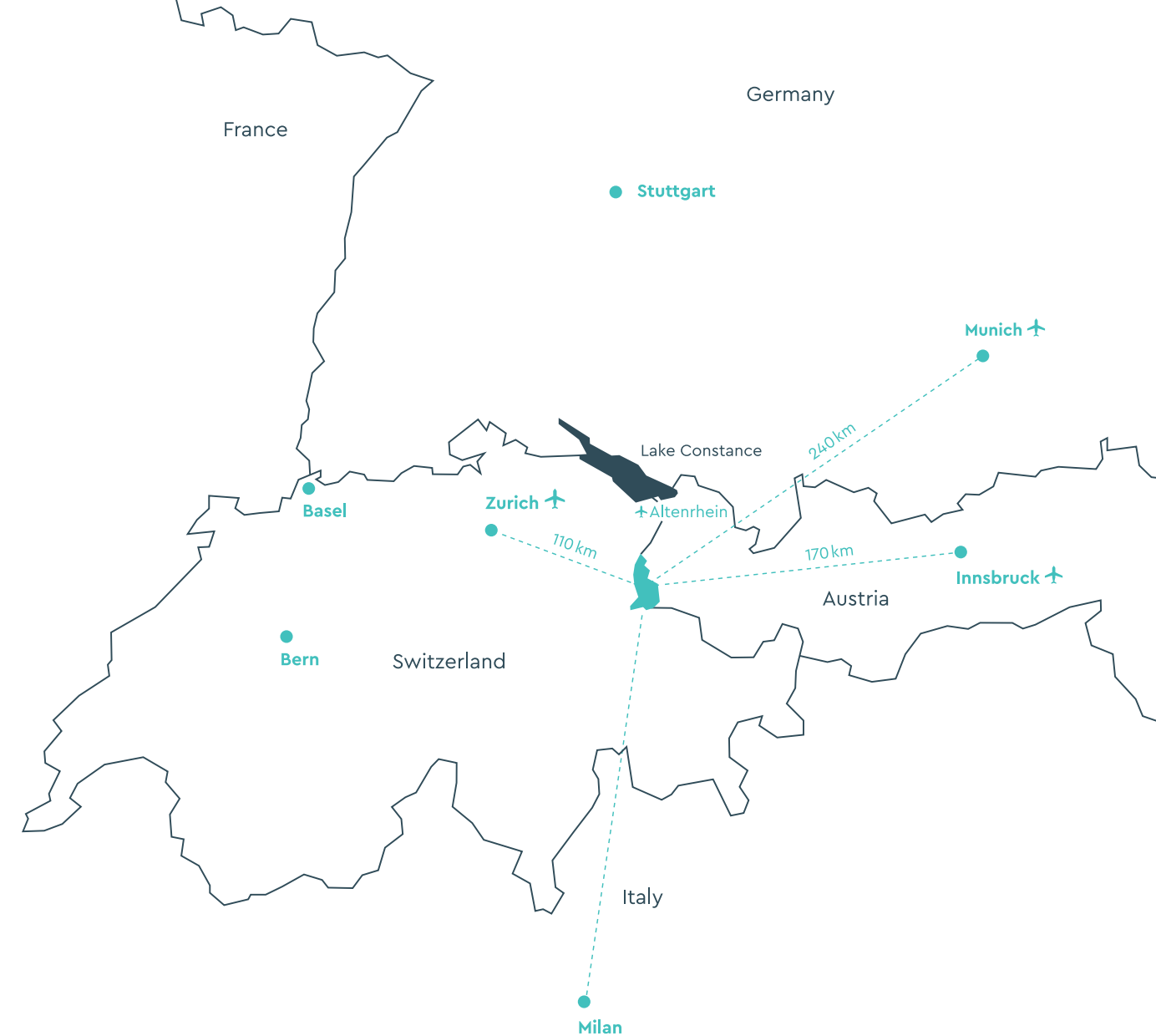
Liechtenstein has no access to the open sea, nor do its two direct neighbours Switzerland and Austria. This situation can be found in just two places in the world. The only other country similarly situated is Uzbekistan.

CUSTOMS AND MONETARY UNION

Under the 1923 customs treaty with Switzerland, Liechtenstein forms part of Swiss customs territory, which is 260 times larger. This means that all bilateral free trade agreements with Switzerland also apply to Liechtenstein. Local companies benefit from privileged access to the Swiss economic area.

TWO ECONOMIC AREAS

Joining the EEA in 1995 gave Liechtenstein companies free access to the European Economic Area. They enjoy free movement of goods, people, services and capital. Liechtenstein is also a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and belongs to one of the largest networks of free trade agreements in the world.



” Hoi

LANGUAGE

The national language in Liechtenstein is German; two Alemannic dialects are spoken. Locals greet each other with a friendly “Hoi” and it is normal to be on first-name terms, whether you know each other or not.





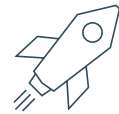
Strong entrepreneurship

With over 5,200 companies but fewer than 40,000 inhabitants, the company per head of population ratio is low at 1:7. In Switzerland the figure is about 1:14, and in Germany around 1:24.



Attractive corporate taxation

The income tax rate in Liechtenstein for legal entities is 12.5 % (flat tax rate). The minimum income tax is CHF 1,800. The tax system is simple and companies find dealings with the tax authorities friendly.



Investments in research and development

CHF 375 million was invested in research and development (R&D) in 2019. The majority of this, 98 %, came from private companies. Research institutions focus mainly on experimental research, but nevertheless invest more than half of their R&D expenditure in applied research.



Vibrant start-up scene

Over 100 companies were founded in Liechtenstein in 2022. The foundation process is simple and provides an ideal basis for a thriving start-up scene and dedicated new entrepreneurs.



Business hub
liechtenstein-business.li/en

BUSINESS HUB LIECHTENSTEIN

MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN YOU THINK



No moon landing without Liechtenstein

Balzers AG (now Oerlikon AG) studied changes in materials leaving the Earth's atmosphere, and in 1969 equipped NASA's Apollo spaceship with a special coating to protect it against cosmic radiation. As a thank you, the Liechtenstein flag travelled to the moon. The flag and a piece of moon rock can be viewed in the Liechtenstein TreasureChamber.

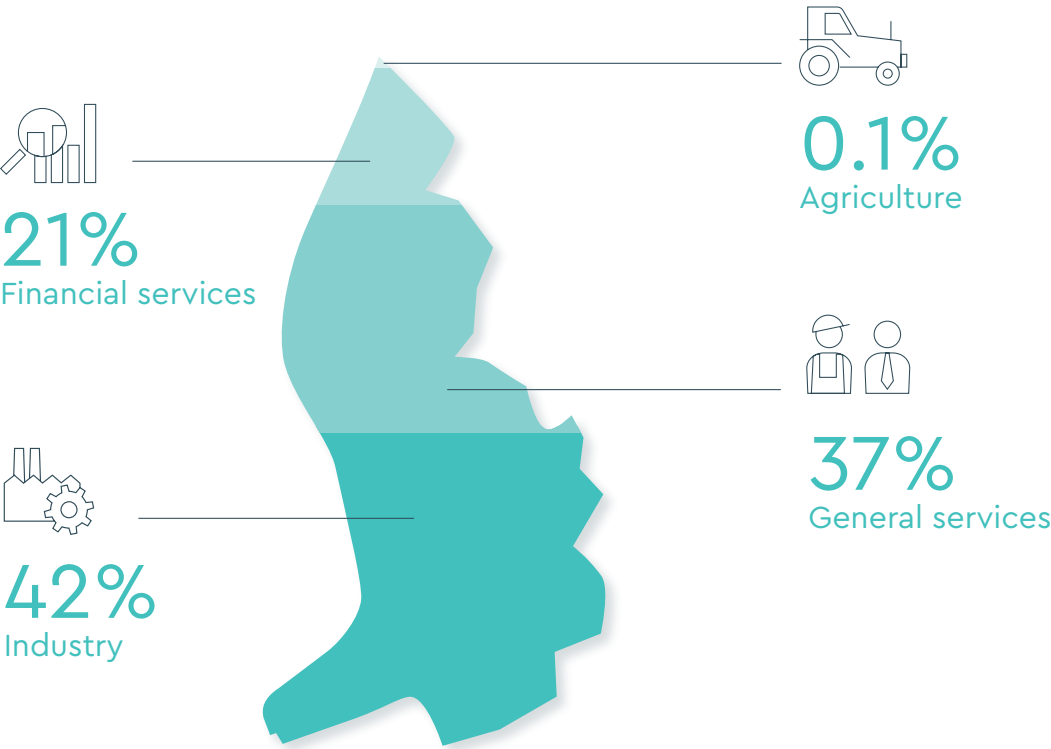
BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

A WIDE RANGE OF SECTORS

In Liechtenstein, innovative global market leaders can be found next door to niche players, and globally active large companies side by side with small and medium-sized enterprises. You see entrepreneurship in action across all sectors.

Manageable structures and stable framework conditions ensure efficient cooperation and synergies between companies. Alongside international corporations represented around the globe with their headquarters in Liechtenstein, small and micro-enterprises account for 90 % of the companies currently active in the country.

The strong industrial sector and the service sector are the main contributors to the country's high value-added. The formerly strong agricultural sector has lost importance over the years.



Gross value added by economic sector (2020)



INDUSTRY/MANUFACTURING

Liechtenstein's economy is strongly influenced by industry and the share of value-added is very high compared to other countries. In addition to construction and mechanical engineering, other important sectors include automotive, the manufacture of dental products and foodstuffs.



SERVICES

The largest economic sector is services. The range of services is broadly diversified and, in addition to general services, includes around 300 types of economic activity such as hotel and hospitality, real estate, retail, social and healthcare, IT and telecommunications.



TOURISM

Day guests from all over the world make up the majority of tourists visiting Liechtenstein. On average, overnight guests stay between two and three days and mostly come from the neighbouring countries.



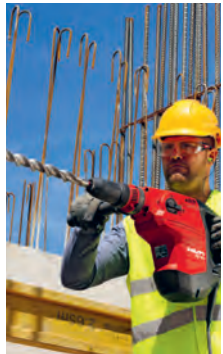
AGRICULTURE

Up to the 1940s, Liechtenstein was strongly influenced by agriculture. Today, this sector accounts for only a small share of value-added. Although agricultural land (excluding the Alps) occupies about 22 % of the country's area, less than 1% of the workforce is employed in agriculture and forestry.



CUTTING EDGE IN CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING

Industrial manufacturing and construction as a share of Liechtenstein's overall economic value-added in 2020 was the highest in Europe and third-highest in the world.



POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

IDEAL CONDITIONS

Over the 20th century Liechtenstein steadily evolved from a country of farmers to a broadly diversified and highly specialised business hub and financial center.

Access to both the Swiss and the European economic area, the attractive framework and growth potential paved the way for a consistent upswing. The stable legal system provides companies with a secure basis for adapting to economic and technological developments in a dynamic market environment. This encourages innovation and creates prospects for the future.

The unique form of government makes a major contribution to the political stability of the country. Liechtenstein is a constitutional hereditary monarchy on a parliamentary and democratic basis. Sovereignty is vested in the Prince and the people and is exercised by both in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of 1921.



GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT

The people are represented by the parliament, the legislative body. Twenty-five members of the parliament are elected in a general, direct and secret ballot for a four-year term. The supreme executive body is the government, which is appointed by the Prince on the proposal of the parliament for a period of four years and is run as a collegial government. The courts form the judicial power of the state. landtag.li/en

THE PRINCELY HOUSE

Liechtenstein owes its name to one of Europe's oldest noble families, the Princely House of Liechtenstein. The foundation stone for what is now the state of Liechtenstein was laid with the acquisition and unification of the counties of Vaduz and Schellenberg in 1719. H.S.H. Prince Hans-Adam II is the current head of state, but in 2004 he handed over government business to his son, H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Business in Liechtenstein is represented and supported by numerous industry associations and institutions. These are committed to optimising the economic framework conditions, providing modern infrastructure and safeguarding and further developing Liechtenstein as a successful place to do business.

LIECHTENSTEIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LIHK) has represented the employer interests of its 40 member companies since 1947. These provide over 12,000 jobs at home and a further 60,000 in 70 countries abroad.

lihk.li/en

LIECHTENSTEIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce (WKL) represents the interests of 25 industry associations with around 1,000 members in commercial, retail and services in their dealings with political institutions, public authorities, associations and the general public.

wirtschaftskammer.li



SUCCESS STORIES

AN ENTREPRENEURIAL PRINCELY HOUSE

It is not only entrepreneurs and investors who appreciate the Principality's advantages as a location. The Princely House is also one of the most successful companies and important employers in the country. In addition to the LGT Group, the Princely Foundations have a broadly diversified international portfolio of agricultural and forestry businesses, real estate holdings and companies committed to sustainability.

fuerstenhaus.li/en



H.S.H. Prince Hans-Adam II and his son
H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois

INNOVATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL

A CENTRE FOR INDUSTRY AND FINANCE

For its size, Liechtenstein has an astonishing number and range of internationally active companies and financial service providers.

Liechtenstein's industry is broadly diversified, which ensures stability even in difficult economic times. It is the largest economic sector in the country. Liechtenstein's companies are internationally successful and often global market leaders in their sector. The most important industries are mechanical engineering and equipment manufacturing, precision instruments and the dental and food industry. Products and technologies from Liechtenstein are used all over the world. Many people all over the world have encountered a product that was created thanks to ideas or innovations from Liechtenstein.

SUCCESS STORIES

THE IVOCCLAR GROUP GIVES PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD A HEALTHY AND BEAUTIFUL SMILE

"The Ivoclar Group, headquartered in Schaan, is one of the world's leading providers of integrated solutions for high-quality dental applications. Nestled in the heart of Europe, the country offers the ideal location for the dental company, which was founded in Zurich in 1923, thanks to its stable economic situation, political continuity and attractive framework conditions. Through 47 subsidiaries, Ivoclar supplies its products to dental laboratories, practices and hygienists in around 130 countries."

Ivoclar in Schaan, one of the region's top employers, employs around 950 specialists from over 30 countries, who contribute their international expertise to the global corporation. The company continues to invest in its home location. Small as Liechtenstein may be, it has a great deal of potential in terms of growth, innovation and the human factor.



"The Ivoclar Group invests heavily in R&D and people: for even more innovation, patents and inventions – made in Liechtenstein."
Markus Heinz, CEO, Ivoclar, Schaan

SUCCESS STORIES

BANK FRICK IS A PIONEER IN BLOCKCHAIN BANKING

"Liechtenstein is an innovative, specialised and economically stable financial centre. It is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA), so has full freedom to provide services in those countries. Thanks to the traditionally close economic relations and the customs and currency treaty with Switzerland, financial intermediaries also benefit from privileged access to the Swiss economic area. The country's liberal economic policy provides ideal framework conditions for entrepreneurs, especially financial service providers."

Bank Frick has outstanding expertise in regulated blockchain banking, developing fund solutions (including tokenising units), setting up capital market issues – and of course traditional banking too. In 2018, it was the first bank in Europe to offer blockchain banking. Bank Frick has extensive expertise in the area of credit card acquiring. Bank Frick has been family-run since it was founded in 1998 and employs over 200 staff in Balzers, as well as operating a branch in London.



"Bank Frick offers a fully integrated range of traditional and blockchain banking services."
Edi Wögerer, CEO, Bank Frick, Balzers

THE LIECHTENSTEIN FINANCIAL CENTRE

Liechtenstein is a specialised and internationally well-connected financial centre. It is based on the European system of law and values and offers clients access to the EU/EEA and Swiss markets. Firm regulation by the Financial Market Authority, strict implementation of international standards and the sound financial policy of the public sector ensure long-term stability.

The Liechtenstein financial centre is also a pioneer in regulating the token economy. For example, the Token and VT Service Provider Act (also known as the Blockchain Act) came into force in 2022.

This comprehensive framework law made Liechtenstein the first country in the world to create a clear legal space for transaction systems based on trustworthy technologies.

Here too, Liechtenstein ensures a high level of legal certainty.

finance.li/en



The financial centre in figures

- 1 Payment institution
- 2 Electronic money institutions
- 11 Banks
- 19 Retirement institutions and pension funds
- 32 Insurance companies
- 95 Asset management companies
- 136 Fiduciary companies
- 847 Single funds and sub-funds
- 1353 Charitable foundations and trusts

FLEXIBLE AND SUCCESSFUL

THE ECONOMIC POWER OF THE SME

Together with industry and the financial centre, the numerous small and medium-sized enterprises form the backbone of Liechtenstein's economy.

Liechtenstein's SME include traditional craft businesses, highly specialised suppliers for the export industry, high-tech and IT companies as well as innovative family businesses, creative freelancers and start-ups. For many large companies, agile and flexible small businesses are fundamental expertise partners and make a major contribution to innovation and development. There are also some hidden champions.

SUCCESS STORIES

AT MESSINA METALL DESIGN, EVERY PRODUCT IS UNIQUE

"Small and medium-sized enterprises play a major role in shaping Liechtenstein as a place to do business. In an SME, especially a family business, decision-making paths are short. Individual requirements and technical innovations can be implemented quickly and without red tape. An SME is like a family. Everyone knows exactly what makes the other person tick, and we can rely on each other. Messina Metall Design was founded by my father. Metal construction, stove manufacturing and silicone dyeing come together under one roof. Our technically sophisticated wood-burning stoves in particular ensure we are well known outside the country. Every product we make is unique and optimally adapted to the needs of the client. I'm proud to be maintaining the standards of perfection, functionality and design that characterise our work in the second generation."



"An SME is like a family."
Roberta Hoch-Bargetze, metalworker
and metal construction designer,
Messina Metall Design, Triesen

SUCCESS STORIES

B SMART SELECTION IS ONE OF THE LEADING PROVIDERS OF SELF CHECK-IN HOTELS

"I came to Liechtenstein from South Tyrol in the summer of 2015 and became the first employee at b_smart. Back then, the company was still in its infancy. My first workstation consisted of a notebook in a building container in front of the building site of the new b_smart hotel Bendern. To start with, I did everything. The business consisted of a motel and the bare shell in Bendern. The motivated core team and the forward-looking b_smart concept enabled us to grow dynamically and quickly. Nowadays I work on selling and developing b_smart services. I can focus on my strengths and do what I enjoy most. The opportunities and possibilities to grow with the company were enormous. I appreciate the flat hierarchies and the opportunity to have a say. Being part of the b_smart family is more than just work."

b_smart has developed an idea into an innovative and forward-looking hotel concept. In addition to Liechtenstein, self-check-in hotels from b_smart can now be found in Switzerland and Austria too.



"The opportunities and possibilities were enormous." Peter Ritsch, Head of Sales Services, b_smart, Bendern

PROMOTION AND SUPPORT

Innovative exporters are essential for a thriving economy, especially in a small country. Global trade as well as investments in innovation and development are prerequisites for growth and securing jobs in Liechtenstein.

National support programmes are an important part of economic policy. SME in Liechtenstein benefit from a host of offerings and subsidies.

[liechtenstein-business.li/supportprogrammes](https://www.liechtenstein-business.li/supportprogrammes)

THE INNOVATION CHEQUE

The innovation cheque enables SME to approach research institutions and benefit from research and development services.

THE EXPORT CHEQUE

The export cheque is a way for SME to apply for extra financing for things like trade fair appearances or export advice.

THE DIGITAL CHEQUE

The digital cheque allows SME to apply for support to finance the digital transformation of production, service, work, teaching and learning processes.

SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION

ACTIVELY SHAPING THE FUTURE

Liechtenstein is a forward-looking hub with a high density of research and development centres as well as a strong innovation and start-up culture. There are numerous platforms to promote the exchange of ideas and initiatives that support the development and refinement of ideas and projects.

One special feature for promoting innovative individuals and their investors is the legal form Liechtenstein Venture Cooperative (LVC). This is a legal entity under Liechtenstein law which regulates cooperation between several parties to develop an innovation. It offers legal certainty for inventors and investors and provides a legal basis for innovative creativity.

SUCCESS STORIES

UV LIGHT SOURCES FROM ULTRALIGHT ARE USED ALL OVER THE WORLD

"Innovation and development are important to be able to survive against international competition and not miss the boat. The large number of SMEs is an important pillar of Liechtenstein's diverse business landscape. The diversity of companies, fields of activity and job profiles creates a fertile breeding ground for development and progress. Political stability, a liberal economy and society and comparatively lean and efficient administrative processes are excellent foundations for successful economic growth and freedom to flourish."

Ultralight is a highly specialised family-run company that develops and manufactures special light sources for industrial processes. The company's products are used all over the world in the manufacture of printed products and packaging, for example, as well as for sterilisation in food and water technology.



"Innovation and development are crucial for international success."
Dr Karl R. Przybilla, CEO and Owner, Ultralight, Schaanwald

TECHNOPARK LIECHTENSTEIN

Technopark Liechtenstein supports start-ups from the initial idea and development through to distribution and marketing. In addition to co-working spaces and support services, regularly organized networking events connect founders.

technopark-liechtenstein.li/en



LIECHTENSTEIN BUSINESS ANGELS CLUB

This private initiative puts start-ups and growth companies in contact with experienced investors who provide founding and seed capital as well as network and expertise.

businessangels.li

DIGITAL LIECHTENSTEIN

This is the central platform for digital innovation and networking in Liechtenstein. Members from all sectors and levels of government support each other in their digital transformation and together are developing Liechtenstein into a leading digital business location.

digital-liechtenstein.li

DIGITAL IDENTITY

Digital identity (eID) is a way for individuals and legal entities to securely login and to use a range of electronic government services provided by the state administration. The high security standard of the eID app ensures protection against unauthorised access and manipulation.

UNIVERSITIES

Two officially recognised universities attract students from all over the world to Liechtenstein for specialised degree programmes. The University of Liechtenstein has two specialities: architecture and town planning, and business studies. The Private University Liechtenstein has faculties of medical sciences and law.

Liechtenstein is also one of the sponsors of OST – Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences and the Inter cantonal University of Teacher Education in Special Needs in Zurich (HfH).

In addition to education, the universities also act as important drivers for business, politics and society through the projects and programmes they run.



In but not from Liechtenstein

The University of Liechtenstein had 802 student in the 2022 academic year. Most come from Austria, followed by Germany and Switzerland. Students from Liechtenstein make up only the fourth-largest group, at 14.3 %.

FAMOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD

IDEAS MADE IN LIECHTENSTEIN

Liechtenstein companies are strongly driven by innovation. So it's no surprise that good ideas from Liechtenstein can be found all over the world.

HILTI – ROBOTICS FOR DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION SITES

Having become internationally famous as the drill tool manufacturer with the red case, global group Hilti has for several years now been focusing increasingly on digitalisation in the construction industry. Innovations include the Jaibot, a semi-autonomous drilling robot that uses digital planning data to independently drill holes in ceilings and walls.



THYSSENKRUPP PRESTA – THE STEERING TECHNOLOGY OF THE FUTURE

thyssenkrupp is one of the world's leading suppliers of steering components. At its development site in Liechtenstein, the company's automotive division is developing the steering technology of tomorrow. Steer-by-wire systems with electronically assisted steering are the next step in technology. These eliminate the mechanical connection between the steering wheel and the wheels – steering movements are transmitted purely electronically. This opens up completely new freedoms in vehicle architecture. For example, a vehicle can be steered from any position.



RISCH SHOES – MADE-TO-MEASURE SHOES WITH FOOT DNA

Shoemaker Dominik Risch combines traditional craftsmanship with 3D technology. Before a first order, he measures customers' feet to the millimetre in a 30-minute scan. The result is the Risch Foot DNA, which is saved, making it possible to place orders online for shoes made with traditional Italian craftsmanship and Liechtenstein 3D technology that always fit perfectly.

LABOR DR. RISCH – RESEARCH AND SCIENCE

Since 2010 the GAPP study supported by Labor Dr. Risch has been investigating the causes of cardiovascular diseases – the world's number one cause of death. The observational study, in which around 2,000 Liechtensteiners participate, provides important insights into the development and prevention of risk factors for cardiovascular diseases such as heart attack and stroke.



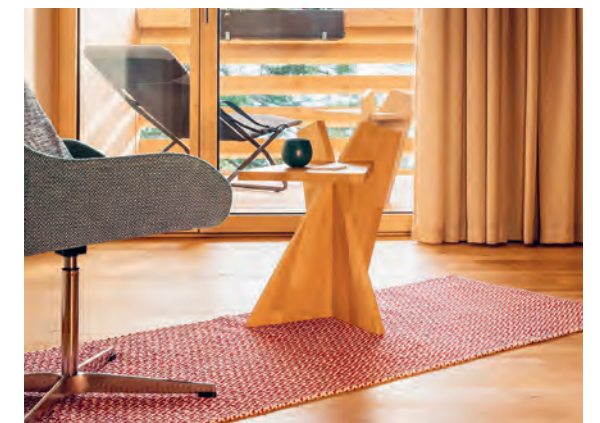
ARGUS – REMOTE-CONTROLLED SECURITY

Known as a traditional security service, ARGUS has made a name for itself in remote refrigeration monitoring and optimises company processes at over 4,000 cold facilities throughout Europe. A failure that is noticed too late will cause great damage. ARGUS rectifies malfunctions immediately with 24-hour remote access or organises an emergency response on site.

FROMMELT – VISIONS IN WOOD

One of the oldest companies in the country is also one of the most innovative. The combination of traditional timber construction and award-winning design makes the company not just a regional innovation leader in construction, but also a modern designer.

For example, the company won the coveted "Red Dot Award" for its wooden stool design, which is now exhibited at the Red Dot Design Museum in Singapore.



LYSANDO – A SOLUTION FOR THE FUTURE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Antibiotic resistance is one of mankind's greatest challenges. To counteract this ever-growing threat, the biotech company has developed Artilysin® technology, which uses specially designed proteins from flexibly combinable antibacterial modules in the fight against bacteria. Compared to antibiotics, Artilysin® also attacks resistant and persistent germs without weakening the body's natural barriers. Artilysin® technology is proving to be a promising and effective tool for fighting bacterial infections.

MY COMPANY

FOUNDING MADE EASY

Liechtenstein has a strong entrepreneurial spirit and already offers more than **5,200 active companies** a successful location for their business. It offers ideal conditions for company founding and relocations. Easy access to authorities and contact persons, liberal company law and manageable tax law make the start-up process simple.

As a rule, it takes a week to set up a company in Liechtenstein. The legal form of the GmbH is popular among start-up entrepreneurs and enables companies to be founded with a low minimum capital.

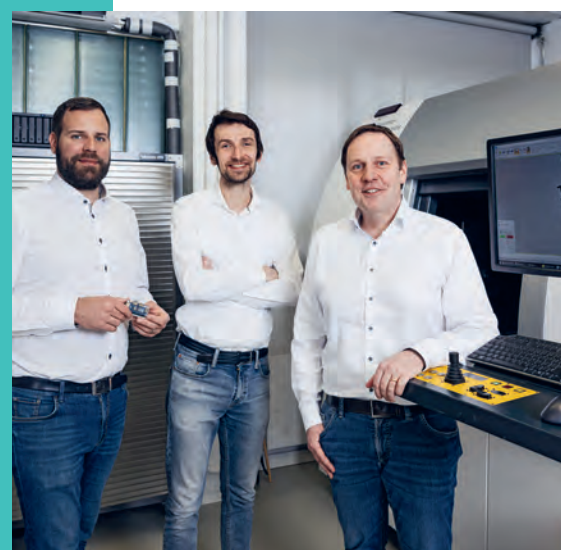
Young people with innovative business ideas find a thriving start-up scene, a well-funded network of supporters and numerous co-working spaces.

SUCCESS STORIES

MAXERIAL X-RAY ANALYTICS – A NEW ERA IN MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT THANKS TO AI

"Our motivation was to usher in a new era of materials development with maXerial: using X-rays and artificial intelligence (AI) to make industrial materials literally intelligent. We saw that our technology could support important industrial issues, such as processes and quality. Liechtenstein is in one of the most industrialised areas of Europe. There are many high-tech companies with fascinating technology in the four-country region. This is a good environment for a deep-tech start-up like maXerial. Conditions for start-up entrepreneurs in Liechtenstein are very good. We were strongly supported by Technopark Liechtenstein. Easy access to local tech entrepreneurs and government authorities were also valuable. Getting help was quick and straightforward."

The three founders of maXerial are materials scientists with over 45 years of experience in materials development. In addition to their expertise in developing materials and expertise in X-ray physics and AI, they had one thing in common: the vision "We make materials intelligent – thanks to X-rays and AI".



"We make materials intelligent – thanks to X-rays and AI."
Thorsten Wiege, Patrick Bleiziffer, PhD and
Roger Herger, PhD, maXerial, Vaduz

A START-UP PLATFORM

Specialists help young entrepreneurs optimise their business models in free workshops. Start-up funding is also awarded as part of a competition. startup-platform.li

INNOSUISSE START-UP COACHING

Experienced entrepreneurs help people interested in starting a business to implement and refine innovative and science-based business ideas.

IMPULS LIECHTENSTEIN

This platform provides developers and start-ups in the financial sector with a bundle of building blocks and measures for innovative start-up projects. The Innovation Club and Venture Capital Seed X Liechtenstein were created as a result.

impuls-liechtenstein.li/en

IDEA CHANNEL

This format promotes meaningful projects in the German-speaking four-country region. Project ideas are worked on together and the ability to contribute to a shared creative process is trained and cultivated. Over the past 12 editions, more than CHF 4 million in grants have been raised.

ideenkanal.com

ENTREPRENEUR SERVICE

The Entrepreneur Service of the Office of Economic Affairs assists in official matters to do with founding, running and dissolving a company. This service is available to companies and individuals from Liechtenstein, Switzerland and EEA/EFTA countries.

liechtenstein-business.li/PSC

SIX STEPS TO YOUR COMPANY

The founding process is clear and can be completed in about a week.

Legal form

Choose the most suitable legal form for your company from 16 possible legal forms.

1

2

Information sheet

Read the information sheet on setting-up and registering your chosen legal form.

3

Company name

Identify the company name you want and check it is available and lawful in the company index.

4

Documents

Compile founding documents. The checklist for each legal form provides an overview of the documents required.

5

Registration/approval

Register or apply for approval. Check type of business. A simple business only has to be registered; a qualified business requires approval. Both processes can be carried out online.

6

Commercial register

If necessary or desired, enter the company in the commercial register by means of a registration letter.



Everything you need to
know setting up a business
liechtenstein-business.li/founding

FOR COMPANIES AND EMPLOYEES

AN ATTRACTIVE LOCATION

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs Sabine Monauni answers three questions on the advantages of Liechtenstein as a business and working hub and why it is attractive.

01

WHAT MAKES LIECHTENSTEIN SO SPECIAL AS A LOCATION?

Liechtenstein is home to a large variety of over 5,200 successful companies – from small niche players to global market leaders – in a very small space. In addition to a professional financial centre, a liberal economic order and attractive framework conditions, the central location in the heart of Europe with free access to the economic areas of Switzerland and the EEA is also crucial. Social and legal security, political stability and a functioning social partnership shape our attractiveness as a location. Our services and financial sector offers a high degree of diversification and innovation, which, together with our economy's ability to react quickly, ensures a high degree of resilience and a strong entrepreneurial spirit.

HOW DOES LIECHTENSTEIN'S STRONG ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT MAKE ITSELF FELT?

Our success as a centre of work and knowledge depends heavily on research and innovation. The only way we will be able to hold our own in the long term against international competition is by continuously developing what makes us special as a location. The government has been striving to create ideal framework conditions for many years. Successfully: the number of start-ups in Liechtenstein is high. The many entrepreneurs appreciate the easy access here, they know each other and there is a good network. Support is no stranger to us: there are many ways of obtaining financial support from the state – for innovation, export efforts or to implement energy efficiency measures.

02

03

AND WHAT MAKES LIECHTENSTEIN AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO WORK?

An innovative and competitive economic area needs the right skilled workers. It is very important to us to further strengthen the tried-and-tested education system and the very high level of vocational training, while at the same time setting the tone for continuing and executive education. These measures affect STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), for example, which enable us to bring on the next generation of technical professionals. But Liechtenstein offers diversity in all areas – from tradespeople to highly qualified employees – and can look back on a long tradition as a successful participant in WorldSkills, the world championships for vocational skills.

”

Liechtenstein's versatility makes it a resilient location.

Sabine Monauni, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs, Liechtenstein





Jobs per head of population

Liechtenstein has more jobs than employees. 18,103 people from Liechtenstein work in the country, compared to 23,249 employees resident in neighbouring countries. Swiss commuters make up the largest group, accounting for 36.9 %.



Unemployment rate

Liechtenstein has almost full employment. There are 313 people without work, giving an unemployment rate of 1.6%. The rate is declining on an annual average basis and is lowest in the summer months.



Categories of occupation

The breakdown of occupational categories is relatively stable. Academic occupations make up the largest category, followed by office workers, technicians and managers. One-tenth of the workforce is employed in service or craft occupations.



Investments

Around 25 % of public spending is invested in education every year. This is equivalent to 3 % of gross national income being spent on education.



Working hub
liechtenstein-business.li/working

WORKING HUB
LIECHTENSTEIN

MORE DIVERSE
THAN YOU THINK



Public holidays

With 15 public holidays per year, Liechtenstein is well ahead of the rest of the region. The most important is the national holiday on August 15th, followed by the well-known holidays around Christmas and Easter. A feature to note is "bank holiday," which only apply to certain sectors, such as banks or public authorities.

MORE DIVERSE THAN YOU THINK

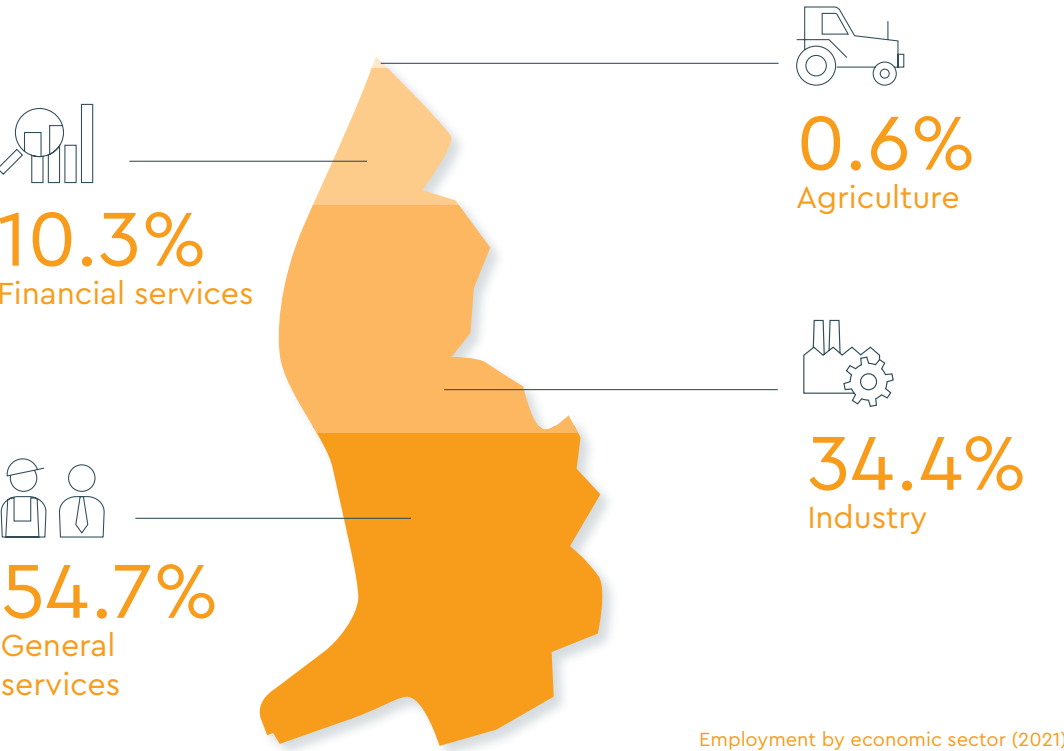
GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKILLED WORKERS

Outstanding employers in an international environment, innovative family businesses and versatile craft, service and high-tech companies offer dedicated specialists opportunities to develop and pursue their careers.

Centrally located between Switzerland and Austria, Liechtenstein is an important labour market for foreign workers. The diversity of industries and professions in a small area and the attractive working conditions attract specialists and talented people from neighbouring countries and offer employees interesting career opportunities.

Large corporations have international networks and give globetrotters the opportunity to prove their worth around the world within the company. In small businesses, on the other hand, there is a family atmosphere and employees are actively involved in the day-to-day business.

A high quality of life and attractive leisure activities enhance the attractiveness as a place to work.



POPULAR PLACES TO WORK

Liechtenstein's companies not only develop creative ideas and innovative products, they are also excellent employers in the truest sense of the word and regularly feature among the top ten rankings of employers.

LIECHTENSTEIN EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

The Liechtenstein Employees' Association (LANV) represents and promotes the social, economic, professional and legal interests of its members and all employees.
lanv.li



Nationalities

More than 39,400 people live in Liechtenstein. Around two-thirds of them have a Liechtenstein passport. Most of the country's foreign population comes from Switzerland, followed by Austria, Germany and Italy. In total, people from over 100 nations live in the country.

EASIER THAN YOU THINK

WORKING IN LIECHTENSTEIN

Thanks to the diverse and attractive offering on the labour market, over 50 % of employees commute to Liechtenstein every day from Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

Swiss make up the largest group of commuters, accounting for almost two-thirds. Around one-third come from Austria, the rest from Germany or other countries. More than one-third of cross-border commuters work in manufacturing and manufacturing goods. The second-most popular sector for foreign workers is financial services.

Labour law for foreign employees is basically simple. Citizens of both Switzerland and the EEA can take up a job without any complicated approval procedures, provided they return to their place of residence on a daily basis.



SWISS CITIZENS

Due to the customs treaty with Switzerland, Swiss citizens do not need a work permit when taking up a job in Liechtenstein and are not required to register. Swiss employees continue to pay taxes at their place of residence, unless they work in the public sector.

EEA CITIZENS

As a result of joining the EEA, citizens of the European Economic Area do not need a work permit to take up a job in Liechtenstein. However, they do have to register within ten days of starting work. Employees are then issued what is called a confirmation of cross-border commuter registration. Income tax is deducted from the salary of EEA citizens.

LIVING IN LIECHTENSTEIN

A valid employment contract does not automatically allow a person to take up residence. Cross-border commuters from Switzerland and the EEA can apply for a B residence permit. People in the nursing, care and hospitality sectors may apply for a weekly stay if they have an employment contract that specifies an unpaid afternoon break.

GREEN CARD

Persons from the EEA can take part in the lottery for residence permits. Around half of the approximately seventy residence permits in Liechtenstein are issued in this way each year. The other half are awarded directly by the government to Swiss and EEA citizens.

[liechtenstein-business.li/residency](https://www.liechtenstein-business.li/residency)

”

Fascination at first glance

“Even when I drove through the Rhine Valley for the job interview and saw the snow-capped mountains in a bright blue sky for the first time, I knew: today has got to go well! It's been ten years since then, but my fascination for nature and the mountains here in the region has remained. Liechtenstein is an exciting mix of local and international flair. Growing companies, modern working conditions and an entrepreneurial spirit make the country attractive to employees.

Over the last ten years of my career I have managed various production departments and completed an Executive MBA at the University of St. Gallen. Things never get boring in a large, internationally active company. Our products have an excellent reputation and Hilcona is also highly regarded as an employer. I appreciate working in a forward-looking and innovative company that is also very committed to its employees.”

Antoine Bontemps, Production Manager, Hilcona, Schaan



PROSPECTS AT ANY AGE

QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FAMILIES

Liechtenstein offers families a safe and diverse environment. Everywhere is close and there are plenty of opportunities to relax in the great outdoors.

Well-maintained playgrounds and leisure facilities and numerous walking, themed and cycle paths invite you to discover and marvel. The small scale of the country has many advantages for families. "You know each other" and quickly find support and like-minded people among the warm-hearted and accepting population. There is a lively scene of local club activities, and anyone interested has a wide range to choose from.



THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM

The education system reflects the school systems of German-speaking countries, particularly Switzerland. Liechtenstein can offer its young people an education from primary school through to a university degree. The International School Rheintal in Buchs, Switzerland is supported by Liechtenstein and complements the traditional school system, teaching pupils in English from kindergarten age to completion of the International Baccalaureate (IB).



CHILDCARE OPTIONS

Liechtenstein has a wide range of kindergartens, daycare facilities, lunch options and daycare families. Infants are cared for in daycare centres from the age of four months.

THE LLAMA AND ALPACA FARM

The llama and alpaca farm in Triesenberg is always worth a visit for families. Whether it's a child's birthday, a trekking tour, an overnight stay in the yurt or just shopping in the farm shop: many people have lost their hearts to the woolly four-legged friends.

GROSSABÜNT

The Grossabünt outdoor centre in Gamprin is a popular meeting place for all the family. At its heart is a swimming lake and there are numerous games and sports areas all around the centre.



”

Leisure activities for every season

"We all feel very comfortable in Liechtenstein. We love country life with lots of greenery and the surrounding mountains. I also really appreciate the fact that my children can still walk to the playground or pursue their leisure activities on their own. We enjoy a whole range of leisure activities all year round. In spring we love the playgrounds, the pump track facilities, walking and barbecuing at home in Ruggeller Riet. In summer we couldn't do without the Grossabünt swimming lake; it's easy for us to get there by bike. In autumn we like to go out into the woods and in winter, of course, we go skiing or sledging in Malbun."

Jessica and Josef Oehri, with Jan (10) and Jonas (7), Ruggell



GET ENERGETIC AFTER WORK

ADVENTURES FOR ACTIVE PEOPLE

In Liechtenstein, recreation and leisure are practically on your doorstep or where you work. Hiking, biking, skiing, cross-country skiing, swimming or joining one of the many clubs offer a varied range of opportunities to get moving, indoors or outdoors.

Many local companies support and promote the sporting activities of their employees. The mild climate and the clean, clear mountain air offer ideal conditions.

tourismus.li/en



CYCLE AND HIKING TRAILS

With over 400 km of hiking trails, the 75 km long Liechtenstein Trail, which runs through the whole country, and over 220 km of cycle paths, there's no chance of being bored. There is always something new to discover.

MALBUN

This holiday and leisure resort offers sport and recreation at any time of year. In winter, idyllic winter hiking trails, ski and toboggan runs and 12 km of groomed cross-country trails await.



LieMudRun

Every September, the LieMudRun attracts many sports enthusiasts to Ruggell. The obstacle course extends between 8 and 20 km and also offers a shorter alternative for children. One thing is for sure: no one will be dry or clean when they reach the finish line.

ROPE PARK FORST

The high-rope adventure park in the forest in Triesen is a special adventure for the active: following an introduction, three courses of varying degrees of difficulty call for skill and concentration.



”

After work, you can quickly climb a mountain to watch the sunset

"I love being in the mountains – summer or winter. It was the attractive job offer in an innovative and ambitious environment that brought me here. But the region's high recreational value was an additional plus for me. Movement means life as far as I'm concerned. I like trying out new things and don't want to commit to one sport."

The location of the large companies here is just unique for me: usually they are based in cities. The connection and proximity to nature are something very special."

Lukas Reumschüssel is a development engineer at Hilti in Schaan. Between his bachelor's and master's degrees, he crossed the Alps on foot.



WITH ALL THE SENSES

PLEASURE AND CULTURE

Liechtenstein has a lot to offer from both a culinary and a cultural point of view. Local products from the farm shop around the corner are just as impressive as the local food industry, which is well known beyond the national borders. Traditions are still cultivated in this small state and bring people together.

The country's gastronomy attracts locals as well as guests to numerous restaurants. Plain home cooking, international cuisine or gourmet menus from top chefs – everyone will find something to their taste here. Wine lovers delight in the first-rate Liechtenstein wines, while beer fans enjoy the local beer.

Liechtenstein offers a wealth of cultural offerings in a small area. In the capital Vaduz in particular, the cultural centre of the country, visitors can find impressive architecture, historical and modern art, as well as several museums and attractions, all within just a few hundred metres.

tourismus.li/culture



BONFIRE SUNDAY

On the Sunday after Ash Wednesday a pile of wood, is set alight in communities up and down the country. A figure set on the top and filled with fire crackers symbolises winter. When the figure has exploded, winter is banished. Bonfire guilds take care of collecting the fuel, setting up the spark and igniting it.

VADUZ CLASSIC

Every year at the end of August the Vaduz Classic takes place directly below Vaduz Castle, with international stars from the classical music scene. The classic open-air is just one of many high-calibre music and cultural events in Liechtenstein.

VADUZ CULTURAL MILE

Six exciting museums stand literally next door to each other: the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, the Hilti Art Foundation, the National Museum, the Postal Museum, the Treasure Chamber and the Kunstraum Engländerbau. Naturally, the museums are linked by a multitude of sculptures by world-famous sculptors, which adorn the pedestrian zone in an outdoor exhibition.

NATIONAL HOLIDAY

The Princely Festival, as the people of Liechtenstein call their national holiday, is held on August 15th each year. The public holiday opens with the official state ceremony on the castle meadow in front of Vaduz Castle, with speeches by the Prince and the President of the parliament and then a reception. In the afternoon, young and old enjoy the large fair in the historic centre of Vaduz. The festival finishes off with a brilliant fireworks display, which is set off next to the castle.



”

An impressive amount of culture on offer

“In 2021 I moved from Bolzano to Liechtenstein to take over running the Kunstmuseum. The welcome was so open-hearted and warm I immediately felt at home. Of course, I was already familiar with the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein before, mainly because of its collection of international contemporary and modern art. But what always impresses me is the amount of culture on offer here in this country and in the neighbouring regions: it's a tiny place, but you find numerous institutions, associations and initiatives, so cultural life is wonderfully diverse. What I also enjoy about Liechtenstein is nature and being active outdoors: I love hiking in the mountains, skiing in Malbun or cross-country skiing in Steg. Normally I get around on my bicycle, and I also really appreciate the Mühleholz outdoor pool, where I can swim my lengths. Last but not least, I find the culinary scene here is excellent and have drunk some very good local wines!”

Letizia Ragaglia,
Director, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz



ADDRESSES

GET IN TOUCH AND CONTACT US

BUSINESS AND WORKING HUB

Liechtenstein Employees' Association (LANV)

+423 399 38 38 | lanv.li

Liechtenstein Medical Association

+423 370 20 30 | aerztekammer.li

Liechtenstein Finance

+423 239 63 20 | finance.li/en

Liechtenstein Hotel and Catering Association (LHGV)

+423 232 21 31 | lhgv.li

Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LIHK)

+423 237 55 11 | lihk.li/en

Financial Market Authority Liechtenstein (FMA)

+423 236 73 73 | fma-li.li/en

Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce (WKL)

+423 237 77 88 | wirtschaftskammer.li

**Entrepreneur service (EAP)
of the Office of Economic Affairs (AVW)**

+423 236 69 96 | lv.li/avw

LIVING IN LIECHTENSTEIN

Foreigners and Passport Office (APA)

+423 236 61 41 | lv.li/apa

National Police

+423 236 71 11 | landespolizei.li

Road Traffic Office (ASV)

+423 236 75 01 | lv.li/asv

School Office (SA)

+423 236 67 70 | lv.li/sa

Tax Administration (STV)

+423 236 68 17 | lv.li/stv



Your contacts

liechtenstein-business.li/contacts



IMPRINT

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us and stay informed about Liechtenstein as a place for work and business.
LinkedIn **Liechtenstein Business**
Twitter **@LI_Business**
YouTube **@FuerstentumLiechtenstein**

NEWSLETTER

Sign up for the business newsletter and receive exciting information and inspiring stories about Liechtenstein as a place for business.
liechtenstein-business.li/businessnews

FACTS AND FIGURES

Find out more about the latest data and analyses from all areas of Liechtenstein on the statistics portal of the Statistical Office.
statistikportal.li

CONTACT US

Any questions or comments? Get in touch with us.
Liechtenstein Marketing
Äulestrasse 30
9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein
+423 239 63 63
business@liechtenstein.li
liechtenstein-business.li/en

PUBLICATION DETAILS

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Published by | Liechtenstein Marketing |
| Editors | Liechtenstein Marketing / GERRYFRICK Est. |
| Concept/design | GERRYFRICK Est. |
| Lithography/printing | BVD Druck+Verlag AG |
| Proofreading | Das letzte Auge GmbH |
| Translation | Apostroph Group |
| Print run | 3,000 German / 2,000 English |
| Publication | 05 / 2023 |

PHOTO CREDITS

Adrian Schröder – 31
ARGUS – 19
Bank Frick – 13, 32
b_smart selection – 15
Labor Dr. Risch – 19, 25
Eddy Risch – 19
Frommelt Holzbau – 19
Gaëtan Bally – 18
Hilti – 9, 18
Ivoclar – 9, 12
Jana Son – 9, 34
Julian Konrad – panorama, 5, 30, 34, 37
Kevin Wildhaber – 32
Liechtenstein Marketing – 7, 9, 17, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35
Liechtensteiner Brauhaus – 34
Lysando – 19
Martin Walser – 9, 30, 33
Michael Zanghellini – 9, 14, 20, 29, 31
Miriam Mayer – 27, 32, 33
Paedii Luchs – 32
Roland Korner – flap, 4, 9, 10, 11, 23, 25
Sandra Maier – 35
Seilpark im Forst – 33
Sven Beham – 34
Technopark Liechtenstein – 17
thyssenkrupp – 18
Ultralight – 9, 16