

Inntal City

How to turn the Inntal into a city...

Tyrol... an Austrian province, located in the center of Europe. Embedded in the Alps you can find the Inntal, a valley orientated in east-west direction, connected to several valleys leading to the north and south up the mountains. While the Inntal is characterized by industry, the elevated fields turned from agricultural area mainly to tourism and recreation resorts.



Separate from the provincial capital Innsbruck there are multiple towns that steadily grow together and generate an urban distribution all over the settlement area. Even if population growth is lower than in other regions of Austria, the land use per person has increased and large areas are used for the hotel sector and shopping facilities.

The Inntal can be regarded as a Network City.

Although the **density** of 53 per km² is rather low we should concentrate on the settlement area. Nearly 90% of the surface can hardly be used for permanent habitation. That leads to an adapted density of 445 per km². If also the 8,3 million visitors are included we can find peaks at around 600 people per km². That means 826.000 persons on an area of 1.377 km².



Along the Inntal we find a **complex infrastructure**. The international airport in Innsbruck provides frequent connections to the air traffic hubs Vienna and Frankfurt as well as around 40 charter flights per week, which are related in winter mainly to incoming tourism from Great Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden and Finland and of course Russia and Ukraine (which are fast growing groups). In summer it's also orientated on outgoing tourism to Greece, Spain, Italy, Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey.

Along the river Inn the A12 is an intense traffic highway crossed by the north – south connection over the mountain pass Brenner that is overcome by 8.8 million cars in 2003. The number will even grow as soon as the planned tunnel will be finished. Similar to the main car traffic lines you find the railway track supplemented by a dense net of bus connections.

Tyrol has also **social and cultural diversity** not only because of common migration but also because of a high number of immigrants during industrialization what had been supported in thought of a time-limited employment but turned to a permanent settlement of a rather high and growing rate of Turkish people. There also was a high immigrant rate of inhabitants of former Yugoslavia that moved during war. These both groups often are involved in disputes because they have formed special networks, partly life like in a parallel society, independently to the natives. Integration or maybe cooperation is difficult. In contrast to the highest group of foreigners, people of Germany, who are not noticed very much because they are quite similar in appearance and habits. The borders of the villages can only be guessed. We find an urban landscape all along the Inntal with regional centers surrounded by mountains.

The Inntal is favored by citizens, enterprises and visitors.

Tyrol is characterized by a pleasant climate. Appropriate for sports and recreation. The landscape is ideal for hiking, biking and due to establishments for all kinds of winter sports. The habitants appreciate the near leisure time facilities and divers options. It also provides high standard infrastructure.

Due to globalization and digitalization distance becomes nonrelevant but accessibility matters, the time effort and costs to meet your business partner if needed at all. That's why enterprisers start to choose their location measuring also soft factors and of cause like to be situated in a convenient surrounding like the Alps or costal areas. There are plenty of eligible personnel, due to University of Innsbruck, Management Center Innsbruck, UMIT Hall and the WIFI. The membership to the European Union makes enables unproblematic business.



Tourism regions are organized to meet the expenses of the visitors. Countrymen are also integrated in touristic actions as agriculture is not that lucrative anymore. They offer accommodation for "Urlaub am Bauernhof" and are busy cultivating the landscape.

All this facts contribute to economic growth, sufficient jobs and budget for a reasonable handling with the resources that are our capital.

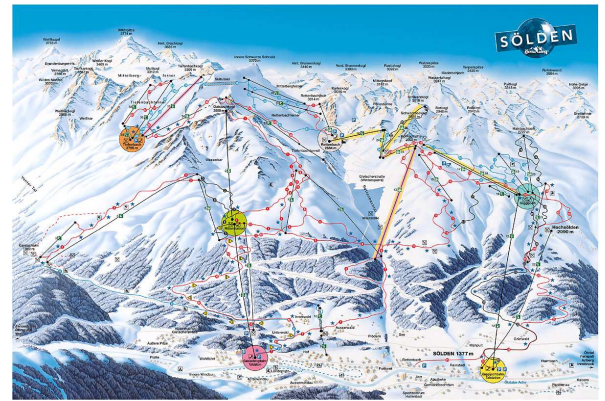
Unfortunately profit orientation is more important as sustainable behavior. People are depending on incomes out of tourism and communities need taxes from enterprises. Basically the province is responsible for the designated function of area and has the position to control the

development but in fact the communities have a high autonomy of decision.

They are often under pressure by investors and in competition with other communities what leads to insufficient reviewed actions.

Ski tourism should be reviewed critically. The boom started after World War II, most ski-lifts and hotels have been built within the last 30 years. High investment and maintenance costs are necessary and environmental problems are caused. By reason of climate change our glaciers are threatened with extinction. Ambitious competitors as Slovenia will soon be able to offer lower prices.

Small remote villages seem to die because of loss of micro infrastructure and corresponding jobs. They work as sleeping villages only for a limited period of time. That procedure should be avoided.



How about New Innsbrooklyn?

Let's try to get all Austrians into the Inntal and you can compare it with New York. We could construct skyscrapers in the remaining open spaces and fill it with mixed utilization. Conserve ancient city centers and replace inefficient building. Of course it would be a 150 km long "Bandstadt" – an expanded version of Wuppertal. As we know completely planned cities like Brasilia have disadvantages, maybe a mixture of planned city with natural grown islands could work out well. A linear underground could relieve the roads even if the construction would be challenging because of ground water and rocks. Maybe an air-transport-system would fit better. The mountains kind of isolate emissions in the valley (excepting the foehn is blowing) that's why we should try to reduce emissions to a minimum. A very dense agglomeration would



cause similar problems as in other cities. It would be interesting to watch the mutation but is it worth it to lose our home? No, for sure.

But if we could create a detailed planned scenario for an ecology working metropolis we could find investors for this intention. With marketing we could attract people from all over the world to visit the new city and maybe stay here. That would be an interesting thing to do but who is in the position to do that. Who risks putting energy in such a project? The "ZukunftsRaum Tirol" – I don't think so.

We are not the "Ruhrgebiet" but we can learn from it.

The Ruhrgebiet is the largest agglomeration in Germany and the 5th largest worldwide. There are 1.173 inhabitants per km² on an area of 4435 km². It's a polycentric urban landscape with integrated leisure areas. The growth of the region is related to coal mines during industrialization. The significant feature is the high identification of the population with the region and the superordinate planning instruments. I think we should not support a fast growth of the Inntal but also should not try to stop it. The main challenge is to find a balance between the economic sectors and work together, to advance cooperation and create a common identity.



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