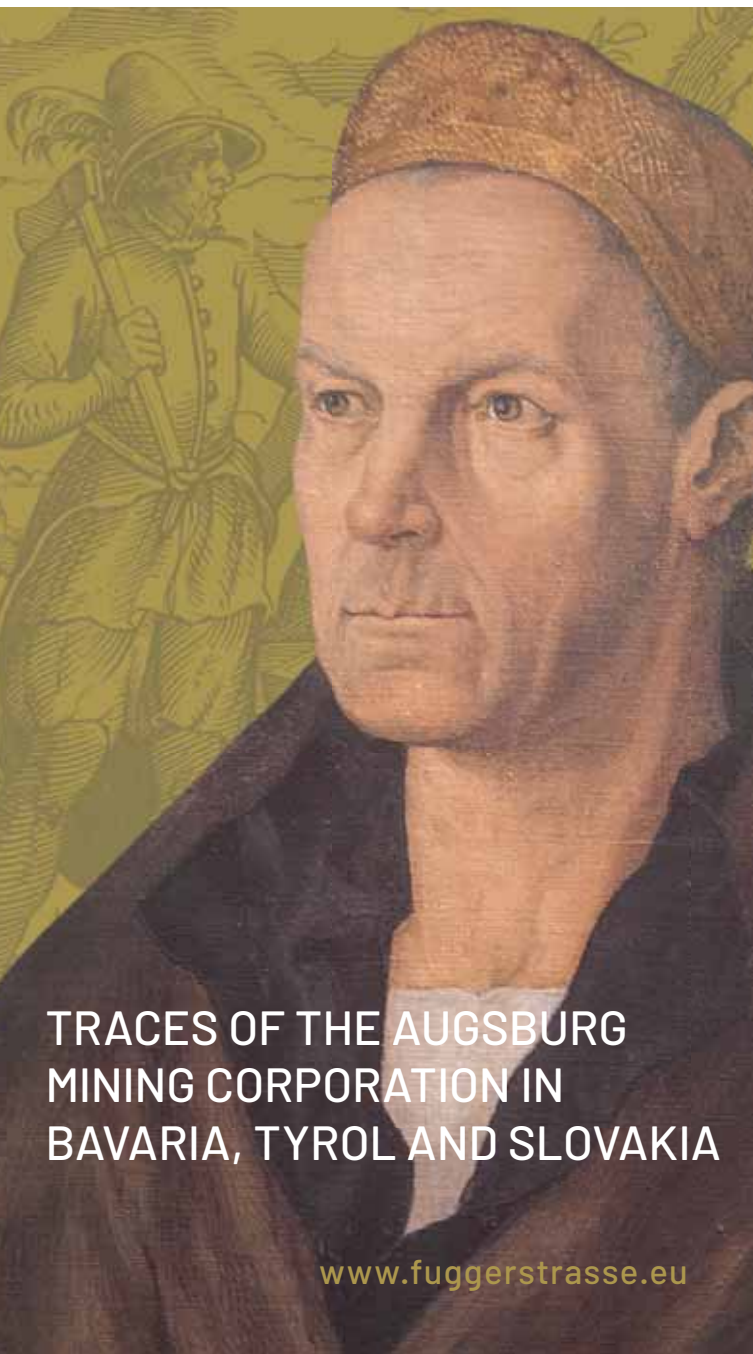




EUROPEAN FUGGER ROAD



TRACES OF THE AUGSBURG MINING CORPORATION IN BAVARIA, TYROL AND SLOVAKIA

www.fuggerstrasse.eu



A replica of the Fugger's era: miners in the Silver mines in Schwaz, which was named "mother of all mines".

What is the European Fugger Road?

The European Fuggerstraße (Fugger Road) is a cultural heritage route, which guides tourists through the mining business of the early modern age in Allgäu, in Tyrol and in Slovakia. Fugger houses, Fugger castles, mining relics, visitors mines, educational mining trails and technical monuments, as well as museums and art represent a significant chapter of European economic history, in which the Augsburg Fuggers played a central role. Mining and metals to a large extent, determined the political fate of the Habsburgs and Europe, with an enormous impact on Africa, the Americas and the Indian subcontinent. The Fuggerstraße leads to interesting cities, but also to alpine landscapes in Oberallgäu and in Tyrol as well as in the Carpathian mountains. Here there is always a chance to go below ground into mining tunnels and to the miners domain. Commemorative anniversaries for the Habsburg Emperor Maximilian I and for Jakob Fugger "the Rich", and events including exhibitions and theater pieces devote themselves to mining in central Europe - from its golden age to its decline.

Who were the Fuggers of Augsburg?

The Fuggers became incredibly rich in the Augsburg of the early modern age in cotton trade and loans made to popes, kings and emperors - but most of all in the business of mining. After their

beginnings in gold mining near Gastein and Rauris in the Hohe Tauern around 1490, the Europe-wide mining company of the Fuggers was established. But it was the mines and smelting mills in Tyrol, especially in Schwaz and Sterzing, in Neusohl in upper Hungary (Banská Bystrica in Slovakia), in Corinthia and Castile, which made the Fuggers their largest profits. The Imperial city of Augsburg was geographically located right in the center of the pan-European network of transport, trade and communication routes. The wealth that was acquired by the Fuggers is still evident today in churches, monumental fountains and other historical points of interest in the Fugger city. The most famous is probably the Fuggerei, which the mining entrepreneur, Jakob Fugger "the Rich" founded in 1521.

What is the Mining Industry?

The Fuggers were called "the Krupps of the early modern age": it is true that a horizontally and vertically diversified mining corporation of modern dimensions was established under the direction of Jakob Fugger "the Rich" and his nephew Anton Fugger. Along the expansion of the Fugger empire, whose mines and smelting mills were located all the way from Spain to Slovakia, makes the term "corporation" a fitting one. The company developed new and flooded mines, mined ore, processed crude ore in stamping mills and smelting mills and traded half



Miners in the Mining Experience Museum in Ridnaun and a monument for miners in Schwaz.

finished and finished products. The related organization of transport - in pull sacks, on horses, in wagons, rafts and ships (in which the copper was sent over the Baltic and North Sea, from Antwerp to Portugal and then around Africa to India) - was a major logistical accomplishment. With the mining industry, the financial business of the Fuggers was intertwined with the Habsburgs, with the Kings of Hungary, Portugal and Spain, with princes and cardinals. But also the provision of tallow for the miners (to light their lamps) and of food for the miners and their families was a lucrative line of business.

The mining corporation of the Fuggers

- Z** Company headquarter
- F** Trading office
- Smelting mills

- ◇ Silver
- ◆ Cooper
- ◆ Iron
- ◆ Lead
- ◆ Zinc
- ◆ Salt

© context verlag Augsburg
www.context-mv.de



Is it also about the Little Guy?

Show mines, educational mining trails and museums on the European Fuggerstraße are not only concerned with technical complexities, but also with the people who lived in the mining areas, where miners came in waves from all over Europe. Life for the hewers, haulers, sack pullers, transport drivers, ore washers, boy miners and their families play as important a role in the show mines and museums as the minting master, the mining judge, the mining engineers, craftsmen, mine owners, kings and emperors.

Which Metals play a role?

It was primarily the copper from the mines in Schwaz, which could be sold without any claims by the territorial sovereigns. The demand for copper exploded in great part due to trade with Africa and India. This occurred at the time when the Fuggers began to dominate the European copper market. Copper was only a by-product in the segregation of silver: it accumulated when the silver was separated from black copper. The valuable silver served as coin minting metal - and for the Fuggers it was a security for the loans to the territorial sovereigns, who owned the mineral royalties and mining rights. The lead from Sterzing and from the area near Hall was used for segregation in mass quantities. In Hindelang iron ore was mined and smelted as well as being crafted into weapons and tools.

Why these Mining Areas, why Augsburg?

Neusohl and Schwaz were the defining mining regions in central Europe for the Fuggers: their copper ore was the reason for the meteoric rise of the mining corporation. All of the mining areas on the European Fuggerstraße are worth seeing - show mines, museums, educational mining routes, and hiking trails, technical monuments and Fugger houses offer "history you can touch". These places are located in extremely appealing alpine regions. Visitors to the Fugger city of Augsburg will see how the "mountain blessings" (mine returns) turned into works of art and beautiful architecture. It was also the basis for the Fuggerei (founded 1521), today the oldest social housing settlement in the world.

Partners in the European Fugger Road

AUGSBURG

Regio Augsburg Tourismus GmbH
Tourist-Information
Rathausplatz 1 | D-86150 Augsburg | Tel. +49 821 50207-0
regio@regio-augsburg.de | www.augsburg-tourismus.de



Fürstlich und Gräfllich Fuggersche Stiftungen
Fuggerei 56 | D-86152 Augsburg
Tel. +49 821 319881-0 | info@fugger.de | www.fugger.de



BAD HINDELANG

Bad Hindelang Tourismus
Marktstraße 9 | D-87541 Bad Hindelang
Tel. +49 8324 8920 | info@badhindelang.de | www.badhindelang.de



BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

Tourist Information center Banská Bystrica
29. augusta 27 (At the bus Station)
SK-974 01 Banská Bystrica | Tel. +421 48 4330626
tic@banksabystrica.sk | www.visitbanksabystrica.sk



HALL

Regional tourism union Hall-Wartens
Unterer Stadtplatz 19 | A-6060 Hall in Tirol
Tel. +43 5223 455440 | info@hall-wattens.at | www.hall-wattens.at



SCHWAZ

City marketing and hall Management Schwaz
Andreas-Hofer-Straße 10 | A-6130 Schwaz
Tel. +43 5242 6960-101 | info@szenium.at | www.schwaz.at



STERZING

Tourism Association
Sterzing Pfitsch Freienfeld
Stadtplatz 3 | I-39040 Sterzing, Südtirol
Tel. +39 0472 765325 | info@sterzing.com | www.sterzing.com



IN COOPERATION WITH **FUGGER®**

More? www.fuggerstrasse.eu

IMPRINT/PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Publisher: Regio Augsburg Tourismus GmbH,
Tourism Director: Götz Beck (V.i.S.d.P.)
Concept and Text: Martin Kluger/context verlag Augsburg (www.context-mv.de)
Design: concret Werbeagentur GmbH, Augsburg (www.concret.cc)
Cover: Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen -
State Gallery in St. Katherine's church
Photographic content: Martin Kluger/context verlag Augsburg (7),
Thomas Baumgartner/context verlag Augsburg (1), W.B. Kleiner/Bad Hindelang (1)

FUGGER® is a registered Trademark of „Die Fugger GmbH Augsburg“

AUGSBURG



Around 1490, Jakob Fugger created the leading mining corporation in Europe. His portrait is displayed in the State Gallery in Augsburg.

Augsburg, the City of the Wealthy Fuggers, the Fuggerei and the Renaissance

In 1367, the first Fugger moved to Augsburg. Two generations later the family business, especially due to metals trade and mining, had risen to the highest level of the European business elite. Today, the Fugger and Welser Museum is the only place in Augsburg where the mining business of the Fuggers is remembered. There are, however, numerous monuments established by Jakob Fugger “the Rich” and his descendants. The wealth they attained through their mining industry allowed them to be patrons of the arts, donors and founders. Their art-minded buildings like the Fugger chapel in St. Anne’s church and the Fugger city palace brought the Italian Renaissance to Augsburg. The Fuggerei is the oldest existing social housing settlement in the world.

A „must-see“ in Augsburg

- ›**Fuggerei** Around 150 needy, catholic Augsburg citizens live in 67 houses of the social housing settlement for a yearly rent of 0.88 Euro cents and 3 daily prayers for the founders. | www.fugger.de
- ›**Fugger und Welser Erlebnismuseum** The story of the Fuggers in Augsburg | www.fugger-und-welser-museum.de
- ›**State Gallery in St. Katherine’s church** The portrait of Jakob Fugger “the Rich” by Albrecht Dürer | www.pinakothek.de/node/235

BAD HINDELANG



The search for gold and iron ore mining led the Fuggers to the Allgäu region. Three age-old hammer mills in Bad Hindelang are reminders.

The Fugger House, Art, Four Alps: Iron lured the Fuggers to Bad Hindelang

By 1529, the Fuggers had established a presence in the Allgäu region, when their horses began spending summers in the Hindelang Alps. First, it was attempts at gold mining and refining iron ore with water powered hammer mills on the Ostrach river which attracted the Augsburg mining company to the area of present day Marktgemeinde Bad Hindelang. Four of the Fugger’s Alps in the Ostrach river valley and in Retterschwang valley still exist today. A house of the Fuggers in Bad Hindelang and one of the Fuggers gifts of a valuable painting of the virgin Mary by Hans Holbein the Elder in Oberdorf, bring them to mind. Ore mines are a minder that Hindelang was the place where the Fuggers produced thousands of spears. Three hammer mills are unique monuments of pre-industrial metal processing.

A „must-see“ in Bad Hindelang

- ›**Hammer mills** In three originally preserved black smith’s shops, powered by water wheels, visitors can purchase wrought iron cookware and dekorative weapons. | www.badhindelang.de
- ›**Alps** Hiking and local snacks atop the Alps in Mitterhaus and Engeratsgund - which once belonged to the Fuggers.
- ›**Art** The painting of the virgin Mary by Hans Holbein in the church in Bad Oberdorf (a district in Bad Hindelang) is an artistic treasure.

BANSKÁ BYSTRICA



Copper was the basis for the rise of the Fuggers. A trading office of the mining corporation was located in the Thurzo’s house in Neusohl.

The Fuggers Earned an Enormous Fortune with the Copper Ore out of Neusohl

A saying from the middle ages says: “Golden Augsburg rests on ‘coppery’ Neusohl”. The rise of the Fugger’s copper empire began in 1494 with the help of a mining engineer from Krakow, Johannes Thurzo, in the heart of modern day central Slovakia, in Banská Bystrica (Neusohl). Thurzo brought with him, his contacts with the Hungarian royal court, technical knowledge and an innovative vertical mining technique into the process of mining the silver-containing copper ore. The Fuggers brought their considerable capital. The copper trade, which was dominated by the mining companies of the Fuggers in Europe, made both families rich. The Fuggers were the leading mining company in Neusohl from 1496 until 1546, the Thurzo family left the corporation in 1526.

A „must-see“ in Banská Bystrica

- ›**The Thurzo’s house** In this house in the historical city center, the trading offices of the Thurzo-Fugger-Corporation had its home. The frescos in the Green Hall depict several mining motive. | www.visitbanskabystrica.sk
- ›**Mining town** The mines of the Thurzo-Fugger-Corporatio were located in Špania Dolina (Herrengrund). A copper museum and an educational mining trail inform visitors about the historical mining industry. | www.slovakia.travel/de/bergbauwerke-in-spania-dolina

HALL



The Münzerturm (Minting Tower) is the outstanding structure of the fortress Hasegg, where silver from Schwaz was minted to coin.

The Hasegg Fortress , the Mining Museum, the Fugger Office and the Fugger Epitaph

It was especially in the last years of Jakob Fugger’s life and in the era of his nephew, Anton Fugger, that the Fugger company in Hall, Tyrol had a central role. It began, however, much earlier. In December of 1485, when Sigismund the “Rich in Coin”, the archduke of Tyrol, obtained a loan of 3000 Florins from the Fuggers, the history of the Augsburg family company became closely connected with coin and salt in Hall. In 1488 the Fuggers had already lent the archduke Sigismund 150,000 Florins. Thus the majority of the silver in Tyrol fell into the hands of the Fuggers. The salt city should have played an important role for the Fugger company for decades, but in 1539 the offices in Hall were moved to the nearby mining city of Schwaz. There is still a former Fugger office in Hall’s old town.

A „must-see“ in Hall

- ›**Coin Museum Hall** In this museum in the Hasegg Fortress visitors can see the first „Taler“ in the world - making Hall the birthplace of the dollar. | www.muenze-hall.at
- ›**Mining Museum** The history of salt mining - in the center of Hall’s old town visitors can discover a reproduced mining tunnel, tools, minerals and a slide just like underground. | www.hall-in-tirol.at

SCHWAZ



The second Fugger trading office was in the Kreuzweigerhaus in Schwaz. The Fuggers were mine owners in Schwaz beginning in 1522.

In the Mining Town of Schwaz: Epitaphs to the Fuggers and Two Fugger Houses

According to legend, Schwaz became a mining Town in 1409. But copper ore was already mined here in pre-historic times. The mining of copper and silver was first a business operated by local companies - in Schwaz, Hall or Innsbruck. But already in 1487, the Fuggers bought shares in the trading company of a big manufacturer in Kufstein. In 1522 Jakob Fugger “the Rich” was able to buy into the mining industry in Schwaz with mining shares and smelting mills out of the bankruptcy assets of that Kufstein firm. As a result, Schwaz became one of the most important locations for the Fuggers: in 1546, Anton Fugger temporarily re-located the company headquarters from Augsburg, there. Two Fugger houses and the “Knappensteig” remind visitors of the era of the Fuggers, which ended in Schwaz in 1657.

A „must-see“ in Schwaz

- ›**Show mines** Tours of the silver mines in Schwaz remind visitors of the Fuggers while taking them 800 meters underground with miners, tunnels and waterworks. | www.silberbergwerk.at
- ›**Fugger monument** Visitors can see a monument of Ulrich Fugger the Younger at the Fugger house on Fuggergasse street.
- ›**Castle** The former Fugger castle of Tratzberg recalls the mining era for example in its „Fuggerstube“. | www.schloss-tratzberg.at

STERZING



In Sterzing the Fugger’s house is a reminder of the Augsburg mining corporation. The Fuggers were active in mining near Sterzing until 1663.

In One of the Most Beautiful Streets in South Tyrol is a House of the Fuggers

The Fuggers of Augsburg were represented as mine owners near Sterzing beginning in 1524. Jakob Fugger “the Rich” purchased the first mine shares one year before his death. Soon the mining corporation in the mines around Sterzing took on a dominant position: the Fuggers steadily attained a large portions of the mine shares in Schneeberg, in Pferch, Ridnaun, and Passeiertal, in Gossensass and Grassein, including several ore crates and two water powered stamping mills. The Fuggers had a mining presence near Sterzing longer than any of their other locations. At the beginning of 1663 the mining company, of which a house in Sterzing Neustadt recalls, gave up the last of its mining shares to Schneeberg.

A „must-see“ in Sterzing

- ›**Show mine** The National Mining Museum in Ridnaun is 20 minutes away from Sterzing’s city center. In the mining tunnels visitors run into mine workers like those in the time of the Fuggers. | www.bergbaumuseum.it
- ›**Mining village** Once the mining settlement at the highest altitude in Europe - St. Martin on Schneeberg mountain - guides hikers to the rear Passeier Valley. | www.suedtirolerland.it