

Tradition & culture

In 1803, the canton of St.Gallen was founded from 12 landscapes. Depending on the region, agriculture, livestock and dairy farming were practiced or people worked for the urban textile industry. This gave rise to a variety of traditions.

Many of these traditions have also been shaped by religious influences.

The **Abbey District of St.Gallen** was an important spiritual centre of the European West. Thanks to its architectural richness with the baroque cathedral and the considerable stock of original manuscripts, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the canton of St.Gallen also became world-famous for its embroidery.

Nowadays, people associate the canton of St.Gallen with the **OLMA**, the **Openair St.Gallen** and the famous **St.Gallen bratwurst**.

Musical traditions and modern music events

- **Klangwelt Toggenburg** offers musical culture activities in Eastern Switzerland. These include the natural yodel, the alpine blessing, the bells as elements of alpine culture and the dulcimer as a natural-toned stringed instrument in dance music.
- **Carol singing**
- **Folk music in Appenzellerland and Toggenburg**
- **Open-Air St.Gallen**

Fasnacht: Carnival time

Fasnacht (🕒 The carnival season is a tradition in Switzerland and is linked to Lent before Easter.) is also called the 5th season.

During this time, cities and many residential communities throughout Switzerland are transformed into a colourful festival. There are parades with **Guggenmusik** (🕒 Association of brass music players during the carnival), children and adults dress up and everything is full of confetti.

- **Carnival in the city of St.Gallen**
- **Mask carving and carnival in Sarganserland**
- **Röllelibutzen in Altstätten**

Agricultural traditions

These include the [Alpauzüge](#) (🔗 Cattle drive that brings the grazing cows to the mountain pastures for the summer), the traditional cattle markets and [Chilbis](#) (🔗 Funfair or fairground) or the [Alpsegen](#) (🔗 Prayer of protection, which in some Catholic regions of the Alps is proclaimed every evening by the shepherd/dairyman on a small hill of his alpine pasture) and other traditions:

- **Appenzell and Toggenburg Alp Ride**
- **Peasant painting around the Säntis** (🔗 Highest mountain in Eastern Switzerland (2501.9 m above sea level))
- **Alpsegen** (🔗 Prayer of protection, which in some Catholic regions of the Alps is proclaimed every evening by the shepherd/dairyman on a small hill of his alpine pasture) in **Sarganserland**
- **Rheintaler Reinholzen** (Video)
- **Alpine saddlery**
- **Alpine carving**
- **OLMA:** OLMA is the largest and most popular public trade fair in Switzerland. It takes place every year in October with topics from agriculture and nutrition. There will be an animal exhibition, animal demonstrations, special shows, information stands, product shows and musical entertainment in the OLMA restaurants.

Other festivals and customs

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- **St.Gallen Children's Festival:** The St.Gallen Children's Festival is a municipal folk festival that children celebrate together with their parents, grandparents and friends. Schoolchildren from the municipal schoolhouses parade through the city in festive robes and give performances. The festival takes place every 3 years.
- **St. Gallen Book Culture:** The production of books has a centuries-old tradition, especially in the city of St.Gallen. The libraries house a historical treasure trove of artistic manuscripts and wonderful examples of the earliest printing techniques, as well as important holdings of contemporary book design.
- **Textile country Eastern Switzerland:** Haute couture, fabrics and lace from the canton of St.Gallen are presented on catwalks worldwide.
- **St. Gallen Machine Embroidery:** Even today, St.Gallen is known as the textile city.
- **all events in the city of St.Gallen**
- **The Ragaz May Bear in Bad Ragaz**
- **Oberrieter Eierlese in Oberriet**
- **Fire and light customs:** the Funkensonntag, the Kaltbrunner Kläuse or the Flawiler Lägelsnacht