

Brief Portrait

Appenzell Ausserrhoden is one of the 26 cantons (federal states) of Switzerland. In terms of population, it is one of the smaller cantons. Typical for Appenzell Ausserrhoden are the lived traditions and the regional natural diversity.

Numbers and Facts

The canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden has over 56,000 inhabitants, of whom approximately 18% are foreign nationals. The canton, covering an area of 243 km², consists of 3 districts and 20 municipalities. The main municipality is Herisau. The official language is German.

Living here is a privilege. Charming villages nestled in the gentle pre-Alpine hills offer unique opportunities to live away from the hustle and bustle, yet close to urban centers.

In Appenzell Ausserrhoden, we have:

- a robust and stable economy with a low unemployment rate
- a beautiful landscape and exciting tourism offers
- vibrant traditions
- stable, low taxes
- affordable rental and construction costs
- a well-connected transportation network
- a stable healthcare and education system

The population, economy, and politics are characterized by constructive collaboration and open dialogue. This is essential to sustainably shape the future of living environments in Ausserrhoden. For harmonious coexistence, everyone is needed!

History

Appenzell Ausserrhoden was established in 1597 through the division of the Appenzell region into a Protestant (Ausserrhoden) and a Catholic (Innerrhoden) part. In 1513, Appenzell became part of the Swiss Confederation. Textile production shaped economic development from the 16th century onwards.

Key milestones included the first cantonal constitution in 1834 and the construction of railways between 1875 and 1913. In the 20th century, the canton saw significant political progress: in 1934, the first Federal Councilor from Ausserrhoden was elected, women gained the right to vote on the municipal level in 1972 and on the cantonal level in 1989.

Customs and Traditions

As if time had stood still!

Nowhere else in Switzerland are traditions and customs lived as intensely as in the Appenzell region. From mid-May, the Sennen (herders) drive their animals to the alpine pastures wearing traditional attire. Dressed in a Kranzrock (traditional skirt), adorned with cameo jewelry, and carrying a Mailändertuch (colorful scarf), they attend the « Stobete », a cheerful festival with string music. In autumn, the most beautiful cow is crowned at the cattle shows. Our traditions accompany us throughout the year.

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.hallo-ar.ch/en/canton-appenzell-ausserrhoden/brief-portrait