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Autor: [s.n.]
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Hohle Gasse and William Tell



The very spot where the Swiss national hero, William Tell, is said to have shot Gessler, the bailiff, is more glamorous than ever after a complete overhaul. The historic hollow alley was prolonged by 80 meters. A parallel trail allows persons in wheelchairs to have access to the site. Sit-down areas, as well as a new fountain were also installed. But the true highlight of the site is the new pavilion featuring an info show which starts at the push of a button.

William Tell is the most important mythical figure in Switzerland

Folk Hero

The folk hero was known in our latitudes as early as the late Middle Ages and the early modern period, long before Friedrich Schiller helped the figure to world fame with his famous stage drama "William Tell" (world premiere in Weimar in 1804). Tell is mentioned for the first time in the so-called "White Book of Sarnen", a chronicle of the Obwalden land writer Hans Schriber around 1470. It is therefore an integral part of the federal liberation mythology for over 500 years and is mentioned in the same context as Habsburg oppression by the bailiffs, Rütlichschwur, Burgenbruch and liberation battles.

As a respectable mountain farmer he defends himself against the tyrannical Vogt Heinrich Gessler and shoots him as a marksman with the crossbow in the hollow lane at Küssnacht from ambush. He thus becomes a hero and triggers the legendary self-liberation of the Confederates around 1300, which

finds its first climax in the Battle of Morgarten (1315).

Tell dies as an old man in the rescue of a toddler from the raging mountain brook Schächen in the Uri Schächental. To this day, he is regarded as the epitome of heart, will and determination, and has stood for centuries as a symbol of freedom and independence.

History and stories

Experience the Hohle Gasse:
Impressive, accessible information

The Foundation for the Preservation of the Hollow Alley offers visitors easily

accessible and impressive information about the history and the stories surrounding the historic memorial site.

The story becomes experienceable, visible and perceptible.

Thanks to the up-to-date information pavilion, the story of Wilhelm Tell in the Hohlen Gasse can be experienced, seen, felt and heard. The information can be retrieved in five languages.

The modern presentation includes five shop windows each with a theme:

- The Hollow Lane as a historic traffic route, trade links in earlier times, the importance of the region.
- Wilhelm Tell's story from central Switzerland, the most important stages of his unusual life from the refusal to greet in Altdorf to the act in the hollow lane.
- William Tell in the story, mention in the chronicles, William Tell in the course of the time, the national-historical meaning of this figure.
- Wilhelm Tell's leap into world literature; Goethe, Schiller (1804 premiere of the stage play "Wilhelm Tell" in Weimar), Rossini.
- The Foundation for the Preservation of the Hollow Lane, the rescue of the lane from through traffic, the Swiss School Youth as the owner of the memorial. Experience the Hollow Alley.

