

## Through Rauris History with Kolm Naz

**Old gold-mining valley and natural jewel in Hohe Tauern National Park: The Salzburg Rauris Valley shines with a sparkling history and diverse nature. Picturesque valleys, mystical mountain forests, sunny alpine pastures and the three-thousand-metre peaks of the Gold Mountains on the horizon are waiting to be discovered.**

A white goat on a red background, miners' hammers on a golden background: the coat of arms of the **"golden little town"** recalls glittering times. The mining era lasted from **1354 to 1929** and can still be felt today in the village centre and in the most remote corners of the valley. Rauris is adorned with **tradesmen's houses** with Gothic **ogee-arched portals** and **bay windows**. Along the **Tauerngold circular hiking trail** at the valley head of Kolm Saigurn and the educational trail on the edge of the Sonnblick Glacier, visitors pass collapsed adit entrances and **miners' houses**, **washing sites**, ruins of **brake houses and wheel houses**, and other traces of gold mining. More than **600 years** of prospecting for Tauerngold left behind a **133-kilometre-long tunnel system**. During the heyday of gold mining, Rauris had more inhabitants than it does today and its own regional and mining court. Up to **2,000 miners** worked in the tunnels. With one tenth of global gold production, the 450 mines in the Gold Mountains formed the **largest gold-mining area in Europe** and the foundation for the wealth and power of the **Prince-Archbishops of Salzburg**. The gold extracted from the Hohe Tauern also helped shape the face of today's **Baroque city of Salzburg**, 80 kilometres away.

### **From Deep Underground to the Three-Thousand-Metre Peaks**

A special place in the Rauris Valley Museum is dedicated to the last **mine owner** and builder of the **observatory on the Hoher Sonnblick: Ignaz Rojacher** (1844-1891) began working in mining at the age of twelve, became leaseholder at 32 and,

**Further information:**  
Rauris Tourism Association  
A-5661 Rauris, Sportstraße 2  
Tel.: +43 6544 20022, Fax: +43 6544 20022 88  
E-mail: [info@raurisertal.at](mailto:info@raurisertal.at)  
[www.raurisertal.at](http://www.raurisertal.at)

**Media Kommunikationsservice GmbH**  
PR agency for tourism  
A-5020 Salzburg, Auerspergstraße 42  
Tel.: +43/(0)662/87 53 68-127  
E-mail: [office@mk-salzburg.at](mailto:office@mk-salzburg.at)  
[www.mk-salzburg.at](http://www.mk-salzburg.at)

four years later, owner of the mining facilities. He was commonly known as "**Kolm Naz**" and brought **electric light and telephone** as well as the **first skis** to the valley. Yet the outstanding weather observer is considered a pioneer above all because he built the observatory on the Hoher Sonnblick, **one of the most important weather, climate and environmental monitoring stations** in the Alps, with a telephone connection to the **Central Institute for Meteorology** in Vienna from the very beginning. Using the measurements from the Sonnblick, **Julius Hann** laid the foundations for modern meteorology and today's **weather forecasting**. Ignaz Rojacher died in 1891 at just 46 years of age. In his honour, his friend and mentor **Wilhelm Ritter von Arlt** had the **Rojacher Hut** built six years later at 2,700 metres between Kolm Saigurn and the Hoher Sonnblick.

### **Striking Gold While Gold Panning**

Even though the era of gold mining came to an end almost 100 years ago, an estimated **120 tonnes** of the precious metal are still stored in the Goldberg Group. Every summer, gold-rush fever returns to the Rauris Valley. Then young and old hobby gold prospectors try their luck at the **Bodenhaus gold panning site** and on the **Heimalm**. With plenty of patience, a little skill and some help from **professional gold panners**, treasure seekers still filter genuine gold grains from the stream today.  
[www.raurisertal.at](http://www.raurisertal.at)

0,000 characters  
**Reprint free of charge,  
voucher copy requested!**

**Further information:**  
Rauris Tourism Association  
A-5661 Rauris, Sportstraße 2  
Tel.: +43 6544 20022, Fax: +43 6544 20022 88  
E-mail: [info@raurisertal.at](mailto:info@raurisertal.at)  
[www.raurisertal.at](http://www.raurisertal.at)

**Media Kommunikationsservice GmbH**  
PR agency for tourism  
A-5020 Salzburg, Auerspergstraße 42  
Tel.: +43/(0)662/87 53 68-127  
E-mail: [office@mk-salzburg.at](mailto:office@mk-salzburg.at)  
[www.mk-salzburg.at](http://www.mk-salzburg.at)