

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Unique diversity – from the Rhine Falls to Lake Constance

Everyone knows the Rhine Falls in the canton of Schaffhausen. But the region has so much more to offer, starting with Schaffhausen itself – the historic city with its 171 oriel windows. And then there's Stein am Rhein, the small medieval town and must-visit destination with its magnificent painted facades. Or the unique river landscape of the Rhine and the Schaffhausen Blauburgunderland pinot noir area, where you can enjoy hiking, biking and gourmet delights.

#### **The Rhine Falls: simply spectacular**

With a width of 150 metres, an average of 600,000 litres of water per second fall an astonishing 23 metres to the basin below. As the largest waterfall in Europe, this is one of the most popular attractions in Switzerland with 1.5 million visitors per year. Three panoramic pathways lead visitors so close that they are almost standing in the spray. A ship brings the bravest to one of the rocks that rise from the waterfall's basin.

#### **Schaffhausen: historic and cultural**

The nearby Rhine Falls and rapids forced the boatmen and raftsmen near Schaffhausen to transfer their loads onto carts at this point. The city owes its rise to the flourishing trading post that developed. In the 16th century the local residents built a fortress: the Munot. Even today, the Munot guard stands in the tower and rings the bell every night at nine o'clock. The extensive historical old town is almost car-free throughout, and with its many small boutiques and shops, it is the perfect place for a relaxing stroll. Visitors keen on culture will enjoy the Romanesque Kloster Allerheiligen (All Saints' Abbey), with its richly-stocked museum detailing the cultural history of the region and an impressive Romanesque column basilica from the 11th century.

#### **Stein am Rhein, the gem in the canton of Schaffhausen**

Where the Rhine leaves Lake Constance, you will find the town of Stein am Rhein, with its richly painted facades, beautiful oriel windows and calm, quiet corners. Nature, culture and history are uniquely combined here, to the delight of local residents and visitors from near and far alike. The rich cultural heritage and tradition-steeped life in the town have their beginnings in the founding of the Benedictine Kloster St. Georgen (St. George's Abbey) more than 1,000 years ago. Nowadays the alleyways between the impressive half-timbered buildings and the Rhine promenade are ideal for a gentle stroll. Hohenklingen Castle is an imposing landmark visible high on the hill above the town, and one of Europe's most beautiful river journeys can be enjoyed by boat between Stein am Rhein and Schaffhausen.

**Klettgau: vineyards and wine festivals in the Blauburgunderland pinot noir area**

Klettgau, a broad valley where a fruity, full-bodied wine is cultivated, lies nestled in the hillsides west of Schaffhausen. Local winegrowers invite you to visit their winegrowing estates in the most important wine-growing region in German-speaking Switzerland. Enjoy wine tasting and visit the wine-making museum in Hallau to learn more about the fascinating tradition of wine making. The wine-growing regions celebrate the 'Schaffhauser Herbstsonntagen' (Schaffhausen autumn Sundays) in September and October: fountains and buildings are festively decorated and wineries are turned into cosy wine taverns. You will find wine festivals, parades and wine tastings in Schaffhausen and the small winegrowing villages almost every weekend at this time of year.

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More information:

Schaffhauserland Tourismus  
Vordergasse 73  
8200 Schaffhausen, Switzerland  
Phone +41 (0)52 632 40 20  
[info@schaffhauserland.ch](mailto:info@schaffhauserland.ch)  
[www.schaffhauserland.ch](http://www.schaffhauserland.ch)