



## South Tyrol – Land of Myths and Legends

### Berchta's Axe

**O**ne day the people of Kollman went to Klausen. Along the road, there stands a wayside shrine. When they had gone about a half hour past it, they heard a noise. Then one of them shouted, "Be quiet. Here comes Berchta." Berchta did come, and she put an axe into the foot of the one who had shouted. He was in terrible pain and suffered long for it. People told him to go to the same spot where the accident had befallen him at the very same hour, but on Christmas Day. He followed this sound advice and Berchta removed the axe. It was like Werch (flax, hemp waste), which must be removed on Christmas Day or is lost. It was certainly Berchta who had carried it away.