

# Winter News

Winter 2025/26

4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**#austriainspires**

pressuk@austria.info  
Austria Tourism | London

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Hotel News</b> .....	<b>4</b>
1.1. Vorarlberg .....	4
1.1.1. New Hotels .....	4
1.2. Tirol .....	4
1.2.1. New Hotels .....	4
1.2.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels .....	5
1.3. Salzburger Land .....	6
1.3.1. New Hotels .....	6
1.3.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels .....	7
1.4. Styria .....	9
1.4.1. New Hotels .....	9
1.4.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels .....	9
1.5. Carinthia .....	10
1.5.1. New Hotels .....	10
1.5.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels .....	10
1.6. Upper Austria .....	11
1.6.1. New Hotels .....	11
1.6.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels .....	11
1.7. Vienna .....	12
1.7.1. New Hotels .....	12
1.8. Austria .....	14
<b>2. Infrastructure &amp; Offer News</b> .....	<b>15</b>
2.1. Tirol .....	15
2.1.1. New Lifts .....	15
2.1.2. New Attractions & Offers .....	18
2.2. Salzburger Land .....	22
2.2.1. New Lifts .....	22
2.2.2. New Attractions & Offers .....	23
2.3. Styria .....	25
2.3.1. New Lifts .....	25
2.3.2. New Attractions & Offers .....	26
2.4. Carinthia .....	26
2.4.1. New Lifts .....	26

2.4.2.	New Attractions & Offers .....	27
2.5.	Vienna .....	28
2.6.	EPIC Pass .....	29
<b>3.</b>	<b>Event News &amp; Anniversaries .....</b>	<b>30</b>
3.1.	Tirol .....	30
3.2.	Salzburger Land .....	31
3.3.	Styria .....	32
3.4.	Carinthia .....	32
3.5.	Vienna .....	33

## 1. Hotel News

### 1.1. Vorarlberg

#### 1.1.1. New Hotels

##### **Hotel Kristberg**

Where: Lech

When: December 2025

Hotel Kristberg is opening as a brand-new luxury hotel in December 2025 with 27 exclusive suites, extensive spa area and Scotch Club 1966. The design blends alpine style with colorful elements inspired by Chile's mountain landscapes — a country beloved by the hotel's original founder, Egon Zimmermann, an Olympic champion and world champion in alpine skiing.

Website: <https://www.hotel-kristberg.at/en/>

### 1.2. Tirol

#### 1.2.1. New Hotels

##### **Elva – Premium Apartment Hotel**

Where: Neustift im Stubaital

When: Summer 2025

Elva brings premium alpine living to the heart of the Stubai Valley. With 45 stylish apartments and rooms (23–120 m<sup>2</sup>), guests enjoy a blend of modern architecture and alpine charm. Two penthouse apartments offer extra luxury; one even has its own panoramic sauna. All units come with a balcony or terrace overlooking the mountains.

The Sky Spa features a 20 m outdoor pool with breathtaking views, while the fitness area includes a yoga room and bouldering wall. A restaurant, bistro and bar cater to every taste, and skiers benefit from dedicated lockers and a ski workshop.

Website: <https://www.elva-stubai.at/en/>

### **Lärchenlodge Apartments and Spa**

Where: Fulpmes, Stubaital

When: Since July 2025

Thirteen newly opened apartments invite guests to relax in the heart of the Stubai Valley. Built from family-owned larch and spruce wood, each apartment features panoramic windows, a fully equipped kitchen, and either a balcony or loggia. A standout highlight is the 122 m<sup>2</sup> penthouse and the rooftop LärchenSpa, which includes a whirlpool, sauna, and cosy wooden nooks – plus breathtaking views of the Stubai mountains.

Website: <https://www.laerchenlodge.at/en>

## **1.2.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels**

### **8erAlm Hochfügen**

Where: Hochfügen

When: Summer 2025

Since summer 2025, the 8erAlm in Hochfügen has been welcoming guests with a new look and added comfort. Wood and glass define its modern Alpine style, while large panoramic windows offer stunning views of the surrounding mountains. Inside, there's a self-service restaurant with a front-cooking area as well as a full-service restaurant. Outside, the sun terrace can now be covered with a mobile glass roof, ensuring guests stay sheltered no matter what the weather is.

Website: <https://www.hochfuegenski.com/en/discover-experience/huts-culinary/8er-alp/>

### **Kristall Apartments Opening**

Where: Neustift

When: From October 2025

The fully renovated Pension Kristall reopens this autumn as Kristall Apartments, offering modern accommodation built from natural, regional materials. The nine eco-friendly apartments range from 35 m<sup>2</sup> to 85 m<sup>2</sup> and are operated with a focus on sustainability. A new breakfast area invites guests to start their day in comfort and style.

Website: <https://www.pension-kristall.com/>

## 1.3. Salzburger Land

### 1.3.1. New Hotels

#### **Falkensteiner Saalbach-Hinterglemm**

Where: Saalbach-Hinterglemm

When: Winter 2026/27

Nestled in the heart of the Austrian Alps, the new Falkensteiner Hotel Saalbach-Hinterglemm promises a unique year-round escape for families, sports enthusiasts, and those seeking relaxation. Located right next to the Reiterkogelbahn, the 5-star-standard hotel will feature 127 rooms and suites, an extensive wellness and sports offering, a rooftop adults-only spa, and a separate pool area with a dedicated Family Spa.

Website: <https://www.falkensteiner.com/en/new-projects>

#### **aja Bergresort Werfenweng**

Where: Werfenweng

When: Spring 2026

Set against the backdrop of the Alps in Werfenweng, the new Family DAY SPA at the aja Bergresort will open in spring 2026. The relaxation oasis includes a 120 m<sup>2</sup> outdoor pool, an indoor and outdoor children's pool, a relaxation pool and a sauna world for adults with a steam bath, bio and Finnish saunas and a textile sauna. The facilities also include playgrounds, indoor and outdoor retreats, and a bistro.

Website: <https://aja.de/standorte/werfenweng/day-spa.html> (in German only)

#### **Dips and Drops**

Where: Flachau

When: May 2025

The Hotel Dips & Drops in Flachau, which opened in May 2025, offers 92 modern rooms and suites ranging in size from 16 m<sup>2</sup> to 65 m<sup>2</sup> with a balcony or terrace. Some rooms can be combined into family units thanks to connecting doors. The 800 m<sup>2</sup> spa area with saunas, indoor and outdoor pools and access to the river Enns for ice bathing is ideal for relaxation. Perfect for sporty guests are the well-equipped loft gym, a bike and ski hub with rental facilities, and a workshop. The meeting place for children is the KidsZone with a ball pit, bouldering wall and children's cinema. The restaurant selection includes a bistro, the Forks & Friends restaurant and the Schusterhäusl steakhouse.

Website: <https://www.dips-drops.com/en/>

### 1.3.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels

#### Revier Hotel Kaprun

Where: Kaprun

When: December 2025

Hotel Active by Leitner's becomes Revier Hotel Kaprun: The award-winning Swiss hotel brand Revier Hospitality Group is taking over the family-run Hotel Active by Leitner's retroactively as of 1 September 2024 and is leading the hotel into a secure future with an extension and comprehensive renovation. The reopening of the hotel with 91 guest rooms and a new lifestyle concept is planned for December 2025.

Website: <https://revier.kaprunhotel.net/en/> <https://www.active-kaprun.at/>

#### Berghotel Schmittenhöhe

Where: Kaprun

When: Winter 2025

Now in its second winter season, the fully renovated Berghotel Schmittenhöhe welcomes guests right at the summit. Next door, the Kaiserblick panorama platform awaits – with a 50-metre glass-floored walkway extending high into the air, offering breathtaking views of 30 peaks over 3,000 metres in the Hohe Tauern range. Ski-in/ski-out luxury is part of the experience at the Berghotel Schmittenhöhe. Guests step straight from the hotel onto the slopes each morning and return to alpine comfort, regional cuisine, and sweeping mountain views – a true highlight for discerning winter sports enthusiasts.

Website: <https://www.berghotel-schmittenhoehe.at/en/winter-amp-sommer.html>

#### Hotel Oberforsthof

Where: St. Johann/Alpendorf

When: November 2025

The Hotel Oberforsthof reopens in autumn 2025 with several exciting updates. A new extension now houses an 800 m<sup>2</sup> adults-only spa, a 700 m<sup>2</sup> family spa, and six new treatment rooms. The expanded restaurant includes a dedicated family area, and several of the hotel's 69 rooms and suites have been stylishly modernised by the host family.

Website: <https://www.oberforsthof.at/en/>

### **Hotel Wenger Alpenhof**

Where: Werfenweng

When: December 2025

Fully renovated and featuring a newly designed façade, Hotel Wenger Alpenhof reopens in December 2025. All 19 rooms have been newly furnished and now include a balcony. New additions include four family rooms ranging from 32 to 34 m<sup>2</sup>. The wellness area, restaurant, and entrance have also been modernised for added comfort and style.

Website: <https://www.werfenweng-hotel.com/> (in German only)

### **Hotel Neuburgerhof**

Where: Filzmoos

When: December 2025

In 2024, the Neuburgerhof in Filzmoos burned down almost entirely. In December 2025, the hotel, which has been largely rebuilt and redesigned, will reopen. It has 55 rooms and suites. The selection ranges from 20 m<sup>2</sup> double rooms to 38 m<sup>2</sup> to 70 m<sup>2</sup> family rooms with a separate sleeping area for children, to 60 m<sup>2</sup> suites with saunas. Also brand new are the wellness area with a 52 m<sup>2</sup> indoor pool, the restaurants and the kids' club with numerous play options.

Website: <https://www.neuburgerhof.at/en/4-star-hotel-filzmoos.html>

### **Zauchenseehof**

Where: Altenmarkt-Zauchensee

When: December 2025

The Zauchenseehof family hotel will open the winter season in December 2025 with lots of new features. Of the 79 rooms, 64 will be completely redesigned. Family rooms with two bedrooms will expand the range of accommodation on offer. The restaurant will be redesigned into four cosy rooms. The buffet with front cooking station will be located in the centre. Wood and gables characterise the newly designed façade and create a connection to the alpine surroundings.

Website: <https://www.walchhofer.at/umbau-familienhotel-zauchenseehof/> (in German only)

## 1.4. Styria

### 1.4.1. New Hotels

#### **Boutiquehotel Mikeli**

Where: Hartberg

When: Spring 2026

In spring 2026, the Mikeli boutique hotel, built by natural cosmetics company RINGANA, will open in Hartberg. The hotel, which has 40 stylishly furnished rooms, is located in a historic 19th-century building. New sections have been added to the renovated building, which was once a bakery. Facilities also include a restaurant and bar, as well as a green courtyard.

Website: <https://www.ringana.com/pressemeldung/mikeli/> (in German only)

### 1.4.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels

#### **Haus Zirngast**

Where: Schladming

When: November 2025

In late autumn 2024, the Zirngast house in Schladming burned down. From November 2025, the host family will once again welcome guests to the newly built, cosily furnished house. There are 43 rooms to choose from, ranging from 20 m<sup>2</sup> double rooms to 41 m<sup>2</sup> family rooms. There is also a wellness area. The à la carte restaurant has been open since summer 2025. It focuses on down-to-earth Styrian cuisine with modern accents.

Website: <https://www.haus-zirngast.at/en/>

#### **Therme Nova Spa Hotel**

Where: Köflach

When: November 2025

In November 2025, the Therme Nova spa hotel in Köflach will open a new extension, thereby expanding its range of therapies. The building, which has been carefully integrated into its surroundings, covers an area of 500 m<sup>2</sup> and houses modern rooms for gymnastics, strength and endurance training, as well as an outdoor terrace for yoga and exercise classes.

Website: <https://www.novakoefflach.at/news/therapiezubau-2025> (in German only)

## 1.5. Carinthia

### 1.5.1. New Hotels

#### Lakeside Petzen Glamping Resort

Where: Feistritz ob Bleiburg

When: June 2025

Since June 2025, the Lakeside Petzen Glamping Resort in Feistritz ob Bleiburg offers even more space for holidays on Lake Pirkdorf. Five new 32 m<sup>2</sup> tiny houses, five 43 m<sup>2</sup> glamping chalets for families and two 63 m<sup>2</sup> glamping chalets deluxe have been added. The glamping area is also open in winter. The small Petzen ski resort is only four kilometres away.

Website: <https://www.pirkdorfersee.at/en/glamping/glamping-resort-by-the-lake>

### 1.5.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels

#### Hotel Garni Zerza

Where: Tröpolach am Nassfeld

When: Summer 2026

From summer 2026, the Hotel Garni Zerza in Tröpolach am Nassfeld will offer its guests even more comfort. The new features include six rooms, including one barrier-free room, a panoramic restaurant and a breakfast room with a view. The reception area and sauna area with outdoor access will be larger and more modern. An elevator will improve accessibility within the building. There will be additional covered parking spaces for cars and motorcycles, as well as charging stations for e-bikes. The new photovoltaic system will provide environmentally friendly energy.

Website: <https://en.hotel-garni-nassfeld.at>

## 1.6. Upper Austria

### 1.6.1. New Hotels

#### **Sein Boutique Suites**

Where: Gosau am Dachstein

When: January 2025

The Sein Boutique Suites opened in Gosau am Dachstein in January 2025. The building, constructed in traditional timber style, houses twelve suites for guests aged 18 and over. The comfortably furnished accommodation units range in size from 50 m<sup>2</sup> to 86 m<sup>2</sup> and all have a balcony. Guests can either cater for themselves or use the breakfast service, which can be ordered separately. A raclette set can also be ordered, with ingredients on request.

Website: <https://www.sein-salzkammergut.at/english/>

### 1.6.2. Refurbished/Renovated Hotels

#### **Schloss Sunzing**

Where: Untersunzing

When: March 2025

For families or groups of friends dreaming of living in a castle for a while, Schloss Sunzing in the Innviertel has been available since March 2025. Surrounded by greenery, the lovingly restored castle is now open for private stays and events for up to 36 people. Up to ten guests can sleep in five individually styled rooms. The garden features quiet spots to relax and a small swimming pool.

Website: <https://schloss-sunzing.at/> (in German only)

#### **Freiraum: Baumgartner Camping**

Where: Schärding

When: April 2025

Opened in April 2025, Baumgartner Campsite is located just outside Schärding, close to the River Inn. Spanning around 6,700 m<sup>2</sup>, the year-round site offers 37 pitches in various sizes. Facilities include modern sanitary blocks, a laundry room, an on-site shop, and charging stations for both cars and bicycles.

Website: <https://www.camping-baumgartner.at/> (in German only)

## Hotel Gugerbauer

Where: Schärding

When: September 2025

From mid-September 2025, Gesundheitshotel Gugerbauer in Schärding will shine in new splendour. The Gugerbauer family has redesigned and enlarged all 39 rooms and suites, using wooden furnishings and warm tones to create a welcoming atmosphere. The bathrooms have also been modernised to offer more space and comfort, with some rooms featuring floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the river. The spa area now includes new quiet zones and bright rooms for movement sessions. The therapy rooms surrounding the new ice fountain have also been refreshed and are now brighter and more modern.

Website: <https://www.hotel-gugerbauer.at> (in German only)

## 1.7. Vienna

### 1.7.1. New Hotels

#### Hotel Astoria Vienna, Curio Collection by Hilton

Where: Vienna

When: May 2025

Hilton's first Curio Collection by Hilton hotel in Vienna has opened its doors in the heart of the city. Located on the iconic Kärntner Straße, Hotel Astoria Vienna blends Art Deco elegance with contemporary comfort in a prime location just steps from St. Stephen's Cathedral and the State Opera. The historic hotel, which first welcomed guests in 1912, has been extensively renovated by VERKEHRBUERO. Now featuring 125 rooms, including one Beletage Suite and seven Junior Suites, the hotel also offers four meeting rooms, a stylish bar and restaurant, and a Grand Salon where guests can enjoy a traditional Viennese breakfast with classics like Kaiserschmarrn and Fiaker goulash.

Website: <https://www.hospitality-interiors.net/news/hilton-opens-first-curio-collection-by-hilton-hotel-in-vienna/>

### **B&B Hotel**

Where: Vienna, Heiligenstadt

When: May 2025

Opened in May 2025, the B&B Hotel Wien-Heiligenstadt offers 120 bright, functionally designed rooms. Double and single rooms measure 16 m<sup>2</sup>, while triple rooms are 19 m<sup>2</sup>. All rooms include air conditioning, soundproof windows, workspaces, and modern bathrooms. In the lobby, guests will find the reception, a lounge, co-working space, breakfast area, and snack machines. The hotel also features an underground car park and e-charging stations. It is fully powered by renewable electricity and uses district heating. Underground and tram stations are just a short walk away.

Website: <https://www.hotel-bb.com/en/hotel/wien-heiligenstadt>

### **Wilde Aparthotel**

Where: Vienna, Fleischmarkt

When: September 2025

Opened in September 2025, Wilde Aparthotel Vienna is set in a 300-year-old former post office building in the heart of the city. The aparthotel offers 136 units, ranging from 27 m<sup>2</sup> rooms and studios (27–43 m<sup>2</sup>) to spacious apartments measuring 50–76 m<sup>2</sup>, some with two bedrooms accommodating up to four guests.

All units are warmly and modernly furnished, featuring parquet flooring, a kitchen, air conditioning, minibar, and bathroom. Communal spaces include a fitness centre, terrace, restaurant, and bar – ideal for both short and extended stays.

Website: <https://www.wilde.com/vienna/fleischmarkt>

### **Hotel Schani Naschmarkt**

Where: Vienna

When: April 2026

Opening in the second quarter of 2026, Hotel Schani am Naschmarkt will be the fifth Schani hotel in Vienna. Fitting for its location, the hotel is designed as a tribute to Art Nouveau. Its 90 rooms – including spacious family rooms – combine the elegance of a bygone era with modern technology.

Additional highlights include a restaurant with an open kitchen, a rooftop bar with panoramic views over Vienna, and a green inner courtyard.

Website: <https://www.schanihotels.com/en/hotels/hotel-schani-naschmarkt/anfrage>

## 1.8. Austria

### Marriott Expansion in Austria

Where: Austria (various locations)

When: April 2026

Marriott International is expanding in Austria with five new hotel agreements alongside Verkehrsbuero Hospitality, adding over 1,100 rooms. The existing Austria Trend Hotels will be rebranded under Marriott's Tribute Portfolio, AC Hotels, and Four Points Flex by Sheraton brands.

Conversions begin in Q3 2025, starting with Austria Trend Hotel beim Theresianum becoming Four Points Flex by Sheraton Vienna Hauptbahnhof and Austria Trend Hotel Salzburg Messe transforming into Four Points Flex by Sheraton Salzburg Messe. Austria Trend Hotel Anatol is set to convert by next year, while Austria Trend Hotel Ananas will reopen as a dual-branded Four Points Flex and AC Hotel in Vienna Naschmarkt. The historic Parkhotel Schönbrunn will join the Tribute Portfolio.

Jerome Briet, Marriott's EMEA chief development officer, highlighted Austria as a key growth market, especially for the midscale Four Points Flex brand. Marriott currently operates 21 hotels with around 4,000 rooms across 14 brands in Austria.

Website: <https://www.hotelmanagement-network.com/news/marriott-to-open-five-hotels-austria/?cf-view&cf-closed&cf-closed>

## 2. Infrastructure & Offer News

### 2.1. Tirol

#### 2.1.1. New Lifts

##### Two New Chairlifts in the Silvretta Arena

Where: Ischgl

When: December 2025 / 2026

The cross-border ski area of Ischgl/Samnaun is upgrading two chairlifts by December 2025 and one by 2026. The Höllbodenbahn (Höllboden C1), a high-speed 8-seater chairlift, will feature a new mountain station relocated roughly 500 metres from its current position, allowing for safer piste crossings. At Sassgalunkopf, an 8-seater chairlift will replace the existing 6-seater lift. Both new systems will be equipped with automated boarding and disembarkation monitoring. Photovoltaic systems will be installed on the roofs of the lift stations to support sustainable energy use. 2026 the third chairlift Höllkar C2 will be opened.

Website: <https://www.ischgl.com/de/silvrettaseilbahng/winter/neuheiten-winter-25-26>  
(in German only)

##### "Familienglück" Chairlift at the See Ski Resort

Where: See, Paznaun Valley

When: December 2025

In December 2025, the family-friendly 8-seater chairlift "Familienglück" will open at the See ski resort in the Paznaun Valley. Previously known as the Höllbodenbahn and operating in nearby Ischgl, the lift will replace the Rauhkopf and Almlift drag lifts as well as the Rossmoos 4-seater chairlift. The Rossmoos lift will be dismantled to create more space on the slopes. In addition to the new chairlift, a 150-metre covered magic carpet will provide an ideal alternative for beginners. A new "Family Snowpark" is also being developed, featuring jumps, boxes, tubes, and funslope elements.

Website: <https://www.see.at/en/bergbahnen-see>

### **Diasbahn in Kappl**

Where: Kappl, Paznaun Valley

When: December 2025

From December 2025, the 10-seater Diasbahn gondola will replace the existing 4-seater gondola lift in the Kappl ski area, located in the Paznaun Valley. The gondola, which has already seen service in various locations, will operate year-round. In 2022, it transported visitors at the Floriade Expo in the Netherlands, and in 2023, it was installed for the Federal Garden Exhibition (BUGA) in Mannheim, Germany.

Website: <https://www.kappl.com/en/bergbahnen-kappl/facilities/diasbahn-new>

### **Bäreck Chairlift on the Steinplatte**

Where: Winklmoos/Steinplatte

When: December 2025

At the Winklmoos/Steinplatte ski area, the new Bäreck 6-seater chairlift will replace a 4-seater lift that had been in operation for 40 years. Stretching nearly two kilometres, the new lift offers a significant upgrade in comfort, featuring weather protection hoods and heated comfort seats.

Website: <https://www.steinplatte.tirol/en/goodbye-4-sb-baereck-en.html>

### **Rosenalmbahn 1 and 2 in the Zillertal Arena**

Where: Zillertal Arena, Zell am Ziller

When: December 2025

The brand-new Rosenalmbahn will launch in December 2025 in the Zillertal Arena, with the valley station located in Zell am Ziller. The new 8-seater gondolas will offer increased space and enhanced comfort. A key feature is the barrier-free access, ensuring smoother, quicker, and more convenient boarding and disembarkation for all guests.

Website: <https://www.zillertalarena.com/en/winter/ski-area/news/>

### **Two New Chairlifts in Sölden**

Where: Sölden

When: December 2025

From the 2025/26 winter season, two new chairlifts will enhance comfort and safety in the Sölden ski area. The new Silberbrünnl 8-seater chairlift will replace the existing 4-seater lift on the route to the Rotkogljoch. It will feature a conveyor belt for easy boarding, automatic safety bars, and weather protection hoods. The new Einzeiger lift, also an 8-seater chairlift, will provide faster access to the glacier ski area, replacing the current 4-seater lift.

Website: <https://bergbahnen.soelden.com/en/projects-investments/planned-projects>

### **New 10-Seater Gondola in Berwang**

Where: Berwang

When: December 2025

From December 2025, the second section of the 10-seater Obere Karbahn II gondola will replace the former Thanellerkar drag lift in the Berwang ski area. The mountain station will be relocated approximately 140 metres higher, resulting in an extended ski run.

Website: <https://www.berwang.tirol/skiarena-berwang/neuerungen-projekte> (in German only)

### **Modernised Valley Station with Comfort Skidepot**

Where: Ladis (Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis)

When: December 2025

The valley station in Ladis is being transformed into a modern family hub focused on comfort, quality, and accessibility. At its centre is the new Comfort Skidepot, set to open in December 2025. Equipped with heated lockers, beauty stations, and interactive experience walls, it redefines convenience for skiers. The facility also features an indoor and outdoor play area, a ski school office, and a central ticket counter with a souvenir shop. With barrier-free access, a new forecourt with bus stop, expanded walkways, and the planned reconstruction of the Sonnenbahn lift, the valley station is evolving into a multifunctional meeting point for families year-round.

Website: <https://www.serfaus-fiss-ladis.at/en/News-Events/News/Ski-Depot-Ladis-Comfort-Experience-Right-at-the-Valley-Station> news 8508938

### **Smartphone Lift Ticket Introduced**

Where: Alpbachtal – Ski Juwel Alpbachtal Wildschönau

When: Winter Season 2025/26

Starting from the 2025/26 winter season, a new digital innovation will make skiing in the Ski Juwel Alpbachtal Wildschönau even more convenient. The new “Smartphone Ticket” allows guests to load their ski passes – initially available for hourly and one-day tickets – directly onto their mobile phone.

The best part: there's no need to take the phone out or scan it manually. The access gate automatically detects the valid ticket stored on the smartphone, allowing skiers to pass through effortlessly – no keycard or deposit required. This seamless entry system not only enhances comfort but also supports sustainability by reducing the need for physical tickets.

Website: <https://www.skijuwel.com/en/winter/tickets-and-prices>

### **Sustainable Lift Upgrade on the Maiskopf**

Where: Fieberbrunn – Kitzbüheler Alpen | Pillerseetal

When: Winter Season 2025/26

The F8 Maiskopf drag lift in Fieberbrunn will be replaced by a modern 6-seater chairlift along the same route in time for the 2025/26 season. This upgrade more than doubles the transport capacity from 800 to approximately 1,800 people per hour. What makes this project stand out is its sustainable approach: key components such as the drive, support towers, and chairs from the former Sassgalun lift in Ischgl are being reused. These are combined with new elements like a modern rope, control system, and contemporary station buildings, resulting in a resource-efficient, environmentally conscious construction.

Website: <https://www.fieberbrunn.com/skiarea>

### **New Bäreckbahn Chairlift at Steinplatte Winklmoosalm**

Where: Steinplatte – Kitzbüheler Alpen | Pillerseetal

When: Winter Season 2025/26

Starting from the 2025/26 season, the brand-new Bäreckbahn will begin operations in the Steinplatte Winklmoosalm ski area. This modern, detachable 6-seater chairlift features weather protection hoods, premium heated seats, and automatic safety bar locking for enhanced comfort and safety.

The new lift also includes a state-of-the-art operations building with a service station and a fully equipped mountain rescue base, ensuring both technical excellence and improved safety infrastructure on the mountain.

Website: <https://www.steinplatte.tirol/en/slope-map-steinplatte-winklmoosalm.html>

## **2.1.2. New Attractions & Offers**

### **New Slope Junction in Sölden**

Where: Sölden

When: Winter 2025/2026

A newly constructed slope junction in the Sölden ski area creates a convenient link between slopes 7 and 22. From the start of the winter season, skiers will be able to comfortably access all four key valley points – Gaislachkogel Valley, Sölden Centre, Postplatz, and Giggijoch Valley – entirely on skis, helping to reduce local traffic. The connecting runs are free of steep sections, forming a cohesive ski area close to the valley. This junction also provides a reliable alternative during storm gusts at higher altitudes, when connecting lifts may be out of operation.

Website: <https://bergbahnen.soelden.com/en/projects-investments/planned-projects/slope-connection>

### **More Comfort in Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis**

Where: Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis

When: Winter 2025/2026

For an even more comfortable start to the ski day, the Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis ski area has introduced two new facilities. A new car park at the Waldbahn, located between Serfaus and Fiss, offers ample space for vehicles, with direct access to the lift from the parking area. Meanwhile, the modernised valley station in Ladis brings together a range of services, including a state-of-the-art ski depot, heated lockers, interactive experience walls, indoor and outdoor play areas, and a central ticket office with a souvenir shop.

Website: <https://www.serfaus-fiss-ladis.at/en>

### **Increased Snow Reliability and Smartphone Ski Tickets in Alpbachtal Wildschönau**

Where: Alpbachtal and Wildschönau

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

From winter 2025/26, Alpbachtal will introduce 30 additional snow cannons, with 14 more machines added in Wildschönau. These new devices are significantly more energy-efficient and will help ensure reliable snow coverage throughout the entire season. Also new this season is the smartphone ski ticket, allowing skiers to load hourly and day passes for Alpbachtal and Wildschönau directly onto their mobile phones. These mobile tickets are available for purchase in the online shop.

Website: <https://www.skijuwel.com/en/winter>

### **Wildschönau Becomes Even More Family-Friendly**

Where: Schatzberg, Wildschönau

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

From winter 2025/26, the Schatzberg ski area in Wildschönau will expand its family offerings with a new blue-marked children's slope. This run stretches from the top station of the Schatzbergbahn to the Hahnkopfbahn. Additionally, an extra conveyor belt will be installed in the Schatzberg Zwergerland children's area. A further new 110-metre covered conveyor belt will also be introduced near the top station of the Markbachjochbahn.

Website: <https://www.skijuwel.com/de/winter>

### Digital Winter Hiking in the Zugspitz Arena

Where: Tiroler Zugspitz Arena

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

Hiking enthusiasts in the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena can now enjoy six family-friendly digital trails, featuring audio guides, videos, minigames, and puzzles centred on local highlights. Three of these routes remain accessible in winter: the five-kilometre “The Hunt for Cora,” the three-kilometre “Meditation with Mia,” and the 4.5-kilometre “Search for Finn.”

Website: <https://zugspitzarena.com/en/adventure-tza/summer-in-the-mountains/digital-adventure-trails>

### On the Way to the Hiking Badge

Where: Tiroler Zugspitz Arena

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

Starting this winter, the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena introduces a stamp pass for those exploring trails and cross-country ski routes. The pass is available in print or digitally via the SummitLynx app. Physical stamps can be collected at numerous mountain huts and designated stamping points. Through the app, users can also track their tours and compare achievements with others. Collecting four stamps earns a Bronze Hiking Badge, while 20 points are needed to receive the Crystal Badge.

Website: <https://www.summitlynx.com/en/region/tiroler-zugspitz-arena/#all-locations>

### New Winter Hiking Trail in Hochzillertal

Where: Hochzillertal, Fügen-Kaltenbach Region

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

Guests visiting the Fügen-Kaltenbach region will have access to a new winter hiking trail in the Hochzillertal ski area for the 2025/26 season. Approximately three kilometres long, with a walking time of around one hour, this trail offers an attractive alternative away from the slopes.

Website: <https://www.best-of-zillertal.at/en/winter/winter-activities/winter-hiking/>

### **Winter Via Ferrata Pfaffenbichl**

Where: Hochfügen, Zillertal

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

From winter 2025/26, the new Winter Via Ferrata Pfaffenbichl will be accessible in Hochfügen, Zillertal. The 260-metre route starts at the Waidoffenbahn at 2,431 metres altitude and leads to the summit. Equipped with steel cables, footholds, and a 28-metre suspension bridge, the route has a maximum difficulty rating of B. Climbers ascend via the via ferrata, while the descent follows a marked winter trail.

Website: <https://www.hochfuegenski.com/en/discover-experience/the-ski-resort/slopes-highlights/via-ferrata/>

### **SkyRide and Adventure Trail in Mayrhofen**

Where: Mayrhofen

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

From winter 2025/26, the SkyRide Ahorn rides with the Mayrhofen Bergbahnen will also be available during winter. This open-air ride features a balcony-style gondola above the Ahorn cable car. Upon arrival, guests can head to the slopes or enjoy winter hiking. The new interactive AlbertAdler Adventure Trail on the Ahorn Plateau is ideal for this, boasting play stations and the impressive 70-metre-long GreifenBrücke suspension bridge along the 2.4-kilometre circular route.

Website: <https://www.mayrhofen.at/en/stories/winter-walking>

### **Spieli Kinderland with Magic Carpet**

Where: Bergwelt Hahnenkamm, Reutte

When: Winter 2025/26

Now entering its second season, Spieli Kinderland with its gentle Magic Carpet lift offers a fun and accessible winter experience for children and families. Located in the heart of the Nature Park Region Reutte, this attraction introduces young visitors to the joy of snow sports in a safe and playful setting.

Website: <https://bergwelt-hahnenkamm.at/spieli-kinderland/> (in German only)

### **100,000 Lights Trail**

Where: Seefeld

When: Winter 2025/26

The 100,000 Lights Trail in Seefeld transforms a snowy winter walk into a glowing experience. Softly illuminated installations line this circular trail, offering a blend of nature and quiet reflection. Especially in the evening hours, the walk becomes a magical moment of light and serenity in the heart of Tyrol.

Website: <https://www.seefeld.com/en/tours/100000-lights-path.html>

## **2.2. Salzburger Land**

### **2.2.1. New Lifts**

#### **Two New Lifts in the Dachstein West Ski Area**

Where: Dachstein West (border region between SalzburgerLand and Upper Austria)

When: December 2025

The Dachstein West ski area is upgrading its facilities with the introduction of two new lifts from December 2025. The six-seater Angerbahn chairlift will replace an existing drag lift. Additionally, the four-seater chairlift will be succeeded by a six-seater high-speed chairlift with protective covers at Aussichtsberg.

Website: <https://www.dachstein.at/en/winter>

#### **Schwarzwandbahn in Zauchensee/Flachauwinkl**

Where: Zauchensee/Flachauwinkl

When: December 2025

The Schwarzwandbahn, a four-seater gondola, has transported skiers from Zauchensee to the 2,113-metre-high top station for 40 years. From December 2025, the fully renewed lift will be operational. The modern cabins offer greater comfort and space for up to ten passengers.

Website: <https://www.zauchensee.at/en/>

## 2.2.2. New Attractions & Offers

### Early Morning Mountaincart in Gastein

Where: Dorfgastein

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

Visitors to Erlebnisberg Fulseck in Dorfgastein can enjoy a special morning experience with the Early Morning Mountaincart. Starting at 7:30 am, participants – equipped with a helmet, ski goggles, ski clothing, and sturdy shoes – descend from the top station to the valley on snow-ready three-wheeled carts.

Website: <https://www.gastein.com/en/service/gastein-from-a-z/detail/infrastruktur/mountaincart-on-the-fulseck-dorfgastein/>

### Restaurant Gletschermühle

Where: Kitzsteinhorn

When: Winter 2025

From winter 2025/26, the completely renovated Gletschermühle restaurant on the Kitzsteinhorn will welcome guests once again. Located at 2,450 metres above sea level, it offers culinary specialities and fantastic views. Guests can choose between seating inside the restaurant or covered outdoor seating.

Website: <https://www.kitzsteinhorn.at/en/winter/huts-restaurants/restaurant-gletschermuhle-r70>

### Smartphone Ski Ticket in Zell am See-Kaprun

Where: Zell am See-Kaprun

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

The Zell am See-Kaprun app makes getting on the slopes easier than ever this winter. Winter sports enthusiasts can purchase their tickets online, activate them in the app, and pass through the turnstiles using their mobile phones. The app also provides information on mountain huts, restaurants, and daily events. Additionally, it includes digital regional maps and a weather forecast.

Website: <https://www.zellamsee-kaprun.com/en/app>

### **Tannwald Run in Zell am See Optimised**

Where: Zell am See

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

The red-marked Tannwald run in the Schmitten ski area connects the top station of the “zellamseeXpress” with the mid-station. From this winter, an optimised route will enhance safety and skiing enjoyment.

Website: <https://www.schmitten.at/>

### **Bergrestaurant „Kleine Scharte“**

Where: Bad Hofgastein

When: Winter 2025

At the start of the 2025/26 winter season, the new mountain restaurant Kleine Scharte will open in the recently built summit station of the Schlossalmbahn in Bad Hofgastein. It offers 350 indoor and 330 terrace seats, with large glass fronts providing panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. The timber-clad building will also host a digital exhibition focused on nature and mountain themes. Photovoltaic panels and heat pumps supply eco-friendly energy.

Website: <https://www.kleinescharte.at/> (in German only)

### **More Ski Fun in Saalfelden-Leogang**

Where: Saalfelden-Leogang

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

This winter, Saalfelden-Leogang expands its ski offerings with a new fun slope, a funcross course, and the Fisherman’s Friend SkiMovie run. The fun slope is just under 400 metres long and nine metres wide, suitable for all skill levels, featuring waves, curves, and “high-five” sections to navigate. The new funcross near the Schantelift also caters to all abilities, where up to four skiers race side by side down the hill. On the Fisherman’s Friend SkiMovie run at Asitz, winter sports enthusiasts can record their descent on video and create a personalised ski film.

Website: <https://www.saalfelden-leogang.com/funslopes-en>

### **Kids Indoor Park Areit**

Where: AreitXpress Top Station, Zell am See

When: Summer 2025

Since summer 2025, the year-round Kids Indoor Park Areit 1400 offers plenty for children and teenagers to discover and enjoy. Attractions include billiards, a slide car track, a giant bouncy castle, and a journey through ski history. Located at the top station of the areitXpress, this large playground is perfect for fun-filled hours regardless of the weather.

Website: <https://www.schmitten.at/en/Winter-on-the-mountain/Off-the-slopes/Areit-1400>

### **Kitzsteinhorn: Two New Winter Hiking Trails**

Where: Kitzsteinhorn Glacier / Zell am See Kaprun

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

Off the slopes, the glacier is now even more accessible on foot. Two new winter hiking trails – one starting from Langwied, the other from the Gletscherjet 4 top station – lead to stunning viewpoints beneath the majestic peaks of the Hohe Tauern.

Website: <https://www.kitzsteinhorn.at/en/service/backstage/press/winter-2025-26-pr15634>

## **2.3. Styria**

### **2.3.1. New Lifts**

#### **Three New Lifts in Schladming-Dachstein**

Where: Schladming-Dachstein

When: December 2025

The Schladming-Dachstein region kicks off the 2025/26 ski season with three state-of-the-art lifts. At Hauser Kaibling, the new 10-seater Senderbahn gondola replaces the former four-seater chairlift. Also new is the 8-seater Mitterhausalm 1 chairlift, equipped with heated seats and protective covers, which replaces the four-seater Sonneck lift and provides a faster connection from Hauser Kaibling to the Planai ski area above Schladming. In the family-friendly Fageralm ski area, a new 8-seater gondola replaces the former double chairlifts Forstaubahn and Jägerlift. In line with sustainability efforts, this lift was previously used in Großarl.

Website:

[https://www.planai.at/en/planai-aktuell/news/Spatenstich-fuer-zwei-neue-Seilbahnen\\_n15895](https://www.planai.at/en/planai-aktuell/news/Spatenstich-fuer-zwei-neue-Seilbahnen_n15895) (in German only)

## 2.3.2. New Attractions & Offers

### Yooners at Stuhleck

Where: Stuhleck Ski Area, Semmering

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

A relatively new winter sport, Yooners are a type of ski bob featuring a seat mounted about 20 centimetres above a short ski. Suitable for both groomed slopes and off-piste powder, Yoonering is a great alternative for those who don't ski or prefer something different. From winter 2025/26, Yooners can be transported on the lifts at Stuhleck and enjoyed on the downhill runs. Numerous events for Yooner enthusiasts are planned, including an Advent Yooner session on 19 December 2025, and snowshoe hikes with Yooner descents on 25<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Website: <https://www.stuhleck.at/en/skiregion>

### Nocky's Schneezeit at Turracher Höhe

Where: Turracher Höhe (border of Styria and Carinthia)

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

At 1,800 metres elevation, Turracher Höhe will open a family-friendly adventure area near the practice slope in winter 2025/26. Nocky's Schneezeit features a covered conveyor belt and a toboggan run with banked curves and barriers. This new offering reinforces Turracher Höhe's promise to be Austria's largest Fun Mountain. Existing facilities include a snow and fun park, a snowcross course, a fun slope, and a kids' slope.

Website: <https://www.turracherhoehe.at/en/winter/fun-mountain>

## 2.4. Carinthia

### 2.4.1. New Lifts

#### Almbahn at Katschberg

Where: Katschberg Ski Area

When: December 2025

From the 2025/26 winter season, a new gondola with an energy-efficient drive will replace the 3-seater Aineck chairlift at Katschberg. The barrier-free Almbahn gondolas feature eight heated, ergonomic seats, offering skiers a comfortable and weather-protected journey from the valley station at Katschberg to the 2,220-metre-high Aineck summit.

Website: <https://www.katschi.at/die-almbahn.html> (in German only)

## 2.4.2. New Attractions & Offers

### Learn to Ski in Three Days

Where: Various ski areas in Carinthia  
(incl. Bad Kleinkirchheim, Nassfeld, Turracher Höhe)  
When: Winter Season 2025/2026

From winter 2025/26, several ski schools in Carinthia will offer a new course format for beginners aged 14 and over: “Learn to ski in three days – guaranteed.” The promise is simple: if participants can’t confidently ski after three days, they’ll get their course fee refunded. As of late August 2025, ten ski schools have joined the initiative, including locations in Bad Kleinkirchheim, Nassfeld, and Turracher Höhe.

Website: <https://www.visitcarinthia.at>

### Winter Fun at the Dreiländereck

Where: Dreiländereck (border of Carinthia, Italy, and Slovenia)  
When: Winter Season 2025/2026

Starting in winter 2025/26, the Dreiländereck winter sports area will feature new attractions at 1,500 metres above sea level, right on the border between Carinthia, Italy, and Slovenia. A panoramic ice-skating rink is being created near the top station, offering scenic views while gliding across the ice. Also new is a gently sloping 0.5-kilometre winter hiking trail that circles the top station of the three-seater chairlift.

Website: <https://www.3laendereck.at/de> (in German only)

### Free Skiing for Kids at the Dreiländereck

Where: Dreiländereck (Carinthia–Italy–Slovenia border)  
When: 7 February 2026 until end of season

From 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026 until the end of the season, children and teenagers up to the age of 15.99 can ski for free at the Dreiländereck ski area—provided they stay at least one night in accommodation within the Faaker See experience region. Known for its family-friendly atmosphere, the Dreiländereck ski area features seven lifts and 15 kilometres of slopes.

Website: <https://www.3laendereck.at/de/winter> (in German only)

### **Koralmbahn: Fast Connection Between Styria and Carinthia**

Where: Between Graz (Styria) and Klagenfurt (Carinthia)

When: From 14 December 2025

From 14 December 2025, the new Koralmbahn will offer a significantly faster and more convenient rail link between Styria and Carinthia – cutting directly through the Koralpe mountain range. Stretching 130 kilometres from Graz to Klagenfurt, it is one of Europe’s most important infrastructure projects and forms part of the new Southern Line as well as the Baltic–Adriatic Corridor. At its core lies the 33-kilometre-long Koralmtunnel. With the upcoming timetable change, train journey times between Graz and Carinthia will be greatly reduced, making many Carinthian destinations more quickly and easily accessible.

Website: <https://www.kaernten.at/nachhaltiges-kaernten/informationen/koralmbahn/> (in German only)

### **Nassfeld: Major Investment in Energy Efficiency and Modernisation**

Where: Nassfeld

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

Nassfeld is investing approximately €23 million in energy efficiency and modernisation of its ski area. A key highlight is the brand-new, AI-controlled Gartnerkofel 10-seater gondola, which offers faster, more comfortable, and more sustainable transport across the mountain. These upgrades underline Nassfeld’s commitment to environmentally friendly operations while enhancing the guest experience.

Website: <https://www.skiresort.info/ski-resort/nassfeld-hermagor/ski-lifts/1113053/>

### **Gerlitze: New Snowmaking Systems**

Where: Gerlitzten

When: Winter Season 2025/2026

Gerlitze is upgrading its snowmaking facilities with new, energy-efficient systems that consume significantly less power while delivering 30% more snow production capacity.

Website: <https://gerlitzten.at/en/winter/>

## **2.5. Vienna**

### **U5 Station Frankplatz: Vienna’s New Fully Automated Metro Line**

Where: Vienna

When: Opening Early 2026

Vienna is expanding its underground network with the new U5 line, connecting Karlsplatz to Hernals and expected to be completed by 2035. The first section, running from Karlsplatz to Frankhplatz near the Old AKH hospital, will be Vienna’s first fully automated metro line. The new U5 station at Frankhplatz is scheduled for a grand opening in early 2026, marking a major milestone in the city’s public transport development.

Website: <https://www.wienerlinien.at/web/wl-en>

## 2.6. EPIC Pass

### Six Austrian Ski Resorts Join the Epic Pass Network

Where: Austria

When: Winter 2025/26

From winter 2025/26, six Austrian ski resorts will join the international Epic Pass family. New partners include Mayrhofen and Hintertux as well as Sölden in Tyrol, the Ski Circus Saalbach Hinterglemm Leogang Fieberbrunn, Zell am See-Kaprun in Salzburg, and the Silvretta Montafon region in Vorarlberg. They join Ski Arlberg, which has been part of the Epic Pass for some time. The Epic Pass offers worldwide access to over 80 ski areas, spanning North America, Japan, Australia, and Europe, with options ranging from full-season passes to limited-day tickets.

Website: <https://www.epicpass.com/>

### 3. Event News & Anniversaries

#### 3.1. Tirol

##### **Full Metal Mayrhofen**

Where: Mayrhofen-Hippach, Zillertal

When: 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026

You're hot – time for something cool: Full Metal Mayrhofen is coming back! The Alps' loudest metal festival returns with even more intensity, energy, and unforgettable moments. For one wild week in March 2026, the Mayrhofen-Hippach holiday region will once again transform into a thundering mosh pit mecca in the heart of the Zillertal mountains. Expect snow, sun, e(i)scalation, and pure endorphin-fuelled madness. The countdown is on.

Website: <https://www.mayrhofen.at/en/pages/full-metal-mayrhofen>

##### **Snowbombing 2026 – The Home of the Ski Festival**

Where: Mayrhofen, Austria

When: 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Welcome to Snowbombing – the original alpine festival experience. Established in 1999, Snowbombing kick-started the ski festival revolution and continues to set the standard for snow, music and mountain magic. From 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026, enjoy a luxury ski holiday fused with world-class live music in Europe's finest ski resort: Mayrhofen. This is more than just a festival – it's a lifestyle at an altitude.

Website: <https://snowbombing.com>

##### **Altitude Comedy Festival 2026**

Where: Mayrhofen, Austria

When: 30<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

Get ready to laugh at an altitude! The Altitude Comedy Festival offers the perfect blend of mountain adventure and top-tier stand-up. Spend your days skiing, snowshoeing, ice-skating, or simply relaxing in Mayrhofen's luxurious spas – and your evenings with world-class comedians who'll have you laughing until your sides hurt.

Website: <https://www.altitudefestival.com>

### 3.2. Salzburger Land

#### Winter Open-Air Festival: GASTEIN SOUNDS

Where: Bad Hofgastein

When: 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Bad Hofgastein kicks off the winter season with the brand-new open-air festival GASTEIN SOUNDS. The stage at the base station of the Schlossalmbahn will feature performances by artists including CRO, SKI AGGU, IKKIMEL, and Bella, promising a vibrant start to winter.

Website: <https://www.gastein.com/en/events/winter/gastein-winterstart/>

#### Expansion of Tauern Advent Market

Where: Obertauern

When: December 2025

The Tauern Advent market in Obertauern will be expanded and enhanced this year, becoming even more festive and inviting. Known as the highest-altitude Christmas market in Salzburg, it offers a unique alpine holiday experience.

Website: <https://www.obertauern.com/en/events/christkindl-market-tauernadvent.html>

#### 270 Years of Mozart & 70 Years of Mozart Week

Where: Salzburg

When: 22<sup>nd</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

2026 marks two major Mozart anniversaries: Mozart's 270th birthday and the 70th anniversary of the Mozart Week festival. The world-famous Mozart Week takes place in Salzburg and is led by artistic director Rolando Villazón. The highlight will be a new production of The Magic Flute.

Around 70 other events will celebrate the occasion, including orchestral and chamber concerts, marionette theatre with live music, performances, film screenings, readings, artist talks, a pub quiz, family programmes, and more.

Website: <https://mozarteum.at/en/mozart-week#info>

### 150 Years of Liechtensteinklamm

Where: St. Johann, SalzburgerLand

When: Throughout 2026

The Liechtensteinklamm near St. Johann is one of the most popular natural attractions in SalzburgerLand. The gorge, reaching depths of up to 300 metres and accessible via a roughly one-kilometre trail, has been open to visitors for 150 years. Its development began in 1876 with financial support from Prince Johann II of Liechtenstein, which is why the gorge bears the name of the noble family. The anniversary year will be celebrated with special events and an exhibition highlighting the gorge's history.

Website: <https://www.josalzburg.com/en/activities/liechtenstein-gorge.html>

## 3.3. Styria

### Backstreet Boys to open Schladming's 2025/26 ski season

Where: Planai Stadium, Schladming

When: 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

After six years, the Backstreet Boys – the most successful boy band of all time – return to Austria to open the 2025/26 winter season in the Planai Stadium. Together with thousands of fans and a rousing stage show, they will kick off the ski season in style.

Website: <https://www.schladming-dachstein.at/en/winter/ski-opening>

## 3.4. Carinthia

### 1<sup>st</sup> International Pond Hockey Tournament at Weissensee

Where: Weissensee, Austria

When: 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

In 2026, Austria will host its first-ever international pond hockey tournament – on the natural ice of Lake Weissensee. With 96 teams, 20 rinks, and a focus on fun over pressure, it promises to be a one-of-a-kind winter sports experience.

Website: <https://glocknerhof.at/en/events/ice-skating-alternative-11-cities-tour/>  
<https://www.pondhockey.at/en/>

### **Alternative Dutch 11-Cities Tour 2026**

Where: Weissensee, Austria

When: 19<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The world's largest ice sports event takes place at Weissensee. The Alternative Dutch 11-Cities-Tour brings no fewer than 5,000 Dutch participants to southern Austria to compete in speed skating's ultimate challenge – covering 200 kilometres. Originally held on the canals of the Netherlands, this iconic race now finds its home on the stunning natural ice of Weissensee.

Website: <https://www.weissensee.nl>

### **United Winter Games 2026 – More Than Just a Ski Race!**

Where: Villach Region, Dreiländereck & Ferlach, Austria

When: Expected March 2026

Race, play, and celebrate! The United Winter Games is a winter sports event for children and young people, combining competition, tournaments, and festive celebrations. This year's cross-border youth event takes place in the Villach region, Dreiländereck, and Ferlach – bringing young athletes together through sport and fun

Website: <https://unitedwintergames.com> (in German only)

## **3.5. Vienna**

### **70th Eurovision Song Contest**

Where: Vienna

When: 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Vienna will host the Eurovision Song Contest for the third time on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026, with the semifinals taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Wiener Stadthalle. This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> edition of the contest, which has only been cancelled once in its history – in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Website: <https://eurovision.tv/story/eurovision-2026-vienna-host-city-70th>