

## 11 Reasons Why You Should Ski in Austria

The freshly groomed pistes, the snow-covered mountains, the cool mountain air, and the pit stops at the traditional huts along the way... There are tons of reasons why skiing is a highly addictive sport – and just as many why you should hit the slopes in Austria this winter!

From 100% snow-guarantee to excellent value for money, the charming authentic huts and villages, and modern sustainability concepts, read our top 10 below.

### 1. There are plenty of snow-sure pistes

Snow-guarantee is a crucial factor when choosing a winter destination. And, luckily, the Austrian Alps are blessed with it. Widely recognized as one of the world's most reliable skiing destinations, Austria's top resorts ensure perfectly groomed pistes throughout the classic winter season – and way beyond.

Tirol alone has a whopping five glaciers, including [Zillertal's](#) Hintertux, where you can ski 365 days a year. In [Zell am See-Kaprun](#) skiing is on from October to June thanks to the Kitzsteinhorn glacier. And if everything goes wrong, Austria's resorts also feature top-notch snow-making facilities, with 90% of them using green energy only. In resorts such as [SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser Brixental](#) even the snowcats use a GPS-controlled slope management system to help save energy.

### 2. It's great value for money

Austria is well known for winning on the value-for-money stakes, with everything from lift passes, ski schools, eating out, and partying still affordable.

Not only will your stay cost less, but savvy travellers can also find great deals in Austria's ski resorts and save even more – an important factor in the current global economic crisis. A region especially well-known for its great value for money is – according to the British "Where to Ski and Snowboard Guide" – [Ski Juwel Alpbachtal Wildschönau](#).

### 3. Austria's mountains are easy to reach

No matter where you are based in the UK, Austria's slopes are always just a few hours away. Non-stop flights to Innsbruck, Salzburg, München, and Klagenfurt take off from all major British airports throughout the winter. And upon arrival, it's about one more hour to your ski resort, with public transport options widely available.

Want to make your journey greener? Hop on the train at night (TUI's new Ski Express takes skiers from Amsterdam and Utrecht directly to the Austrian Alps), cross Europe while you are sleeping and wake up in Austria's winter wonderland.

### 4. The villages are charming and authentic

Ski-in/ski-out from your doorstep! In many Austrian resorts, the lifts are in the heart of the village, within easy walking distance from your hotel and right where the locals go about their daily lives. The picturesque villages have grown organically over the centuries and still boast their original Old-World charm – the perfect setting for a winter fairy-tale like back in the day.

Experience the authentic Austrian lifestyle, mingle with the locals in the traditional huts and restaurants after your day on the slopes and embrace everything winter in Austria has to offer.

## 5. Austria's Gemütlichkeit is legendary

The Austrian notion of Gemütlichkeit is hard to explain. Unique to the country, it embodies cosiness, comfort, and homeliness. Cozy rustic huts invite you to while away the hours, nursing mulled wine or schnapps in front of a crackling log fire, surrounded by friendly locals.

The service and hospitality is guaranteed to leave you with a warm glow even in cold winter weather. Most of Austria's hotels and guest houses are family-run, further adding to the homely atmosphere.

## 6. The resorts are modern – and sustainable

Sometimes size does matter. [Ski Arlberg](#) (305 km of slopes), [SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser-Brixental](#) (284 km) and [Skicircus Saalbach Hinterglemm Leogang Fieberbrunn](#) (270 km) are the largest ski resorts in Austria - and they are widely considered to be some of the most modern in Europe, too. Austria invests millions every year to improve and upgrade its lift and gondola network – make the most of it!

What's more, you can whisk down the slopes with a clear conscience. SkiWelt has received multiple awards for being [one of the most ecological resorts worldwide](#) and many others are closely following, using green energy to run their lifts and hotels, hence keeping the carbon footprint to a minimum.

## 7. Austria is perfect for a family winter holiday

Skiing with little ones in tow for the first time is certainly a memorable experience but also poses some challenges. However, things get a lot smoother if you book yourself into a winter resort especially catering for young guests. While Austria's huge resorts are stunning, there's also plenty of beautiful smaller ones perfect for families who are looking for a more intimate winter experience.

[St. Johann in Tirol](#) and [St. Johann in Salzburg](#) are especially popular thanks to their extensive family-friendly offers, think kids clubs, ski schools, childcare, and tons of activities away from the slopes. Add the attractive family deals and you might have just found the perfect holiday destination that doesn't break the bank.

## 8. The ski schools are top-notch

No matter if complete beginner or advanced skier, there's always something new to learn on the slopes. Thanks to the country's long skiing tradition, Austria has an extensive network of excellent ski schools, employing around 18,000 professional instructors. Usually, there's at least one English-speaking pro on-site, so you don't need to speak German to attend a course.

Austria's instructor training is considered to be the best worldwide, with newbies undergoing more training days than anywhere else. Unsurprisingly, people from all over come to Austria to master their skills – or [train as instructors](#).

## 9. We invented Kaiserschmarren – try it at a mountain hut

Skiing is a proper workout, so you certainly deserve sampling all the hearty Austrian food everyone talks about! Kaiserschmarren, a fluffy chopped-pancake dish, is a classic for sharing. Other popular dishes worth trying include Kaspressknödel (cheese dumplings), Tiroler Gröstl (bacon, onion, and potato fry-up) and Käsespätzle (cheese spaetzle).

The traditional food is typically enjoyed together with Skiwasser (water with raspberry and lemon sirup) and – if you are done with skiing for the day – followed by a proper home-made schnapps.

## **10. You can go skiing and sightseeing in one day**

Even the most dedicated skier needs a break. So why not use it for some sightseeing? In Austria, you can combine skiing and city trip, enjoying the best of both worlds. Head to [Innsbruck](#) (surrounded by 13 ski areas!) and stroll its imperial streets, then have a coffee in a classic coffeehouse before taking a cable car from the centre and be at 2,000 m in just 20 minutes!

Think of it as a skiing holiday with city amenities from shopping streets to museums, and day spas as a bonus!

## **11. The next spa is never far away**

Most of Austria's ski hotels have their own spas – or partner up with nearby ones to offer their guests attractive deals. What better way to recharge your batteries after a day of skiing than in a heated outdoor tub or a sauna?

Or, if your significant other isn't in the mood for skiing, he or she certainly won't mind spending a few hours relaxing at the pool while you are free to continue whisking down your favourite slopes.

For further information, please contact [pressuk@austria.info](mailto:pressuk@austria.info).

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