



Winter in Carinthia
2021/2022

Alpine Skiing Enjoy Winter on a Pair of Skis

There's no better place to sense the joy of living than [Carinthia](#). A skiing holiday in Austria's southernmost state means active enjoyment and pure *joie de vivre*; it means broad pistes with guaranteed snow on the one hand, with snow parks and breath-taking freeride areas on the other. There couldn't be a better backdrop: a diverse mountain landscape with lovely views interspersed with frozen lakes and a mild winter climate with an exceptional number of sunny days. These are ideal conditions for moments of winter joy off the pistes as well. Carinthia is located in the tri-border area of Austria, Italy, and Slovenia, which means that the southern joy of living, and the culinary influence of the Alps-Adriatic region are brought to life.

It doesn't matter if you're a beginner, experienced skier or are returning to the sport, anyone who wants to go [skiing in Carinthia](#) will get their money's worth. The roughly 30 skiing areas in Carinthia and East Tyrol with more than 800 kilometres of well-prepared pistes with snow guarantee provide a variety of options. Depending on the visitors' skills and preferences, there are alpine pistes amidst the mighty three-thousanders, broad, comfortable slopes for families, and mogul slopes and half pipes to ensure unforgettable experiences in the snow. Also, not to forget are the pristine slopes for fans of deep powder snow. There's no shortage of snow in Carinthia - if there is too little snowfall, state-of-the-art snow machines will deliver guaranteed snow from November through and into spring. The Mölltaler glacier year-round ski area is also open for more than 300 days per year in any case.

A day of skiing in Carinthia promises not only broad and secure downhill runs but also big and small extras for comfort and enjoyment: convenient lifts with heated seats, infrared saunas right at the ski pistes, piste butlers or horse-drawn carriages as taxis. A tip for true aficionados: sun-skiing under the warming spring sun. Also, what else makes skiing in Carinthia into a real adventure? The opportunity to ski with downhill Olympic champion Franz Klammer in Bad Kleinkirchheim (at selected times).

The Carinthia/East Tyrol Gold Top Ski-Pass, regional ski passes and flat rates with attractive included services are a particularly budget-friendly way to open doors to skiing fun. Depending on the winter sport region there are many different discounts available to help save the family budget.

Freeriding and touring - the new Nockberge Trail

Visitors can also enjoy skiing and snowboarding off the marked and prepared ski pistes. The area around the Grossglockner, where skiers can climb up to nearly 3,000 metres above sea level, Nassfeld, the Ankogel and Goldeck are all among the most attractive freeriding areas in Carinthia.

Tourers can also have their special moments of winter joy in Carinthia. Take a backpack, climbing skins and a pair of touring skis and get going on, for example, the Hohe Tauern, in the Nockberge Mountains or in the Lesachtal Valley. A new lead product here is the ski-tour trekking on the Nockberge Trail, which connects the five ski areas of Katschberg, Innerkrems, Turrach, Falkert and Bad Kleinkirchheim/St. Oswald with one another. It's a good choice for casual ski tourers who have a good knowledge of ski touring and are in good physical condition, but who aren't interested in exploring alpine passages. Plan for up to six hours of walking time for each stage. The available lifts and aerial cableways give skiers the opportunity to save some energy and gain a few metres of altitude at each stage. Another special feature: instead of overnighing on mattresses in dormitories, as you do on other multiple-day ski touring trips, on the Nockberge Trail you can stay in premium (wellness) hotels that serve first-class Alps-Adriatic cuisine. <https://nockberge-trail.com/en/>

More than just skiing

What else is happening [off the pistes](#)? While pleasure skiers bustle about on the mountain, [cross-country skiers](#) can explore the most beautiful panorama routes whilst [ice-skaters](#) can experience the winter landscape on frozen natural open-air ice rinks. Lake Weissensee is the largest natural ice rink in Europe. Those who would like to recharge their batteries and take a break from everyday life can take winter walks through snowy landscapes or ride in horse-drawn carriages. Anyone wanting to try something new can do so at the snowshoe camp at the Klippitztörl Pass, with ice climbing in Heiligenblut or with snowshoe hiking and mountain farm cooking in Bad Kleinkirchheim, for example. [Winter wellness](#) is another big theme in the Carinthian winter with thermal springs, bathhouses, heated lakeside pools and private hotel wellness facilities.

Event tips

The largest ice sport event in the world is taking place every year at Lake Weissensee. Attracting no fewer than 5,000 Dutch competitors to the south of Austria to compete in speed skating at the Alternative Dutch Eleven Cities Tour. The ultimate challenge covers 200 kilometres. The event originally took place on the Dutch canals; however, since the canals no longer freeze over, an alternative was sought and then found with Lake Weißensee, Europe's largest natural ice rink. The experienced team lead by ice-master Norbert Jank, ensures perfect conditions on the ice. Date: 22nd January – 5th February 2022.

Cuisine

The cuisine enjoys a particularly high status: [Carinthian Alps-Adriatic cuisine](#) blends fresh ingredients from the region, ancient cooking traditions and new interpretations into a delicious whole. As is proper for truly authentic cuisine, the interesting spectrum of Alps-Adriatic cuisine illustrates both the various regions and the course of the seasons. You should definitely try Carinthian *Käsnudel* [cheese dumplings], Reindling cake, the Carinthian laxn [brown trout], the Gailtaler Speck and the *Zirbenschnaps* [schnapps made from cones of the Swiss pine]. In addition, in some selected chalets there await samples of Carinthian winter cuisine with Ritschert (a stew of barley, beans and cured meat) or specialities made of Glockner lamb and Nockalm beef.



Winter Kärnten Card

From exploring the snow-covered mountains to a relaxing snowshoe hike through Carinthia's stunning nature, the Kärnten Card is the ideal winter companion. Impressive views from the top of the Pyramidenkogel, a spot of culture at the Carinthian museums, various mountain lifts and more complete the winter experience. Further information: www.kaerntencard.at

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