

## **Holiday enjoyment for all: Tirol's Kaunertal paves the way to the mountains**

**A high alpine mountain valley, barrier-free up to 3,108 metres above sea level! The Kaunertal Nature Park and Glacier Region offers families, senior citizens, wheelchair users and people with limited mobility a unique and award-winning infrastructure. Extensive brochure material and detailed booklets provide information about possible activities and excursion destinations.**

What began in the 1970s with the construction of a high mountain road is now a showcase model throughout Europe: the Kaunertal valley is considered beyond the country's borders to be the perfect holiday destination for people whose mobility is impaired. True to the motto: the mountains belong not only to the sporty types, but to everyone. Complete accessibility, from the accommodation in the valley to the glacier restaurant, from shops and pubs to the Kaltenbrunn pilgrimage church, from hiking trails suitable for prams to wheelchair-accessible toilets, is close to the hearts of the Kaunertal hosts, which has made the region the most progressive in Austria in this respect.

### **Enjoy hiking with ease**

Families with prams, wheelchair users and older people can comfortably explore the intact (cultural) landscape around the nature park house on marked hiking trails. The Piller Moor natural monument with its informative moor nature trail is also easily accessible thanks to numerous footbridges. Especially for children, the leisurely walk (or ride) to the nature playground "Bach am Moos" near the Fendels cable car mountain station is recommended. Many paths around the Sattelklause mountain restaurant (chairlift mountain station) are also suitable for wheelchairs and prams, for example the exciting animal trail to the Fendler Alm. You can get all the way up to the "Eternal Ice" either with the Karlesjochbahn cable car, where a barrier-free accessible viewing platform at 3,108 m opens up a spectacular three-country view. Or you can drive comfortably by car up the Kaunertal Glacier Road to the edge of the glacier and then indulge yourself in the barrier-free glacier restaurant.

### **Attractive for wheelchair users, hand cyclists and more**

Wheelchair users can also ride on steeper forest paths with Swiss Tracs and even reach some alpine pastures or the "Adlerblick" (Eagle View) viewing platform high above the village Feichten without any problems. The special traction devices can be transported in the cable cars just like prams. Passionate hand bikers also appreciate the Kaunertal for its infrastructure and sporting challenges. At the HandbikeBattle, held annually in June, around 100 participants compete over a remarkable 850 m of altitude on the Kaunertal Glacier Road. But no matter which way you go, well-deserved relaxation is promised by the Kaunertal indoor swimming pool Quellalpin, a completely barrier-free leisure and wellness facility for the whole family. Awarded several times with the highest distinctions at national and EU level, the offer for people with limited mobility in the Kaunertal valley continues to grow.

### **Adaptation to climate change**

The Kaunertal Nature Park and Glacier Region stands for a "different" kind of tourism - without mass tourism, focusing on nature and its conservation. It is a model region that wants to understand the climate changes and faces the changed conditions with sustainable projects for locals and corresponding offers for the region's guests. This includes a new climate guide, which offers the best tips for hikes in the Kaunertal valley - under the premises of season, temperature and slope. It is no coincidence that the climate guide and the corresponding online version were developed in the Kaunertal. It is a region that has always focused on the appreciation, care and preservation of nature and knows its most valuable resource particularly well.

Being one of the 39 KLAR! destinations throughout Austria, the Kaunertal is a model region for climate change adaptation. The goal is to adapt to climate change, to live as sustainably as possible and to preserve the quality of life even under different climate conditions. Measures that are already being implemented include, for example, rainwater harvesting, near-natural forestry, climate-resistant orcharding, the restoration of old irrigation ponds, but also, of course, raising awareness among the population and guests. Trends and effects of climate change are already becoming apparent: In summer, this means that it is getting warmer in the region, the days with pleasant temperatures during the day and slight cooling at night are increasing. After the extremely hot summers in major German cities in recent years, it is becoming apparent that there is a trend among guests towards summer retreats in the mountains. The Kaunertal offers this form of holiday in a particularly responsible and sustainable way.

**Contact:**

Kaunertal Tourismus  
Severin Wegener  
Feichten 134  
A-6524 Kaunertal  
Phone +4350225200  
s.wegener@kaunertal.com  
www.kaunertal.com