

On track for Austria

Rail ski press kit
2024/25



austria.info



Ski Juwel ski area © Ski Juwel Alpbachtal Wildschönau / shootandstyle.com



Photo: Nightjet train © ÖBB

Dear reader,

Growing awareness of flying's environmental impact, combined with a move towards making the journey part of the holiday, means that skiers are increasingly looking to travel to resorts by train.

Fortunately, Austria has one of the most developed rail networks in the world and Austria's ski resorts either have a train station in the village or a short transfer away.

High-speed trains connect travellers from major European cities conveniently: it's simpler than ever to travel by train from London to the Austrian Alps in under 12 hours with daytime travel. For overnight journeys, the Nightjet allows sleeping skiers to dream their way across Europe to Austria's slopes. For many Austrian resorts, the local railway station is in the resort village itself.

As we become more aware of the consequences of climate change and travellers look for rail travel options, we want to make it as easy as possible to choose these eco-friendly journeys.

Austria Tourism has long emphasised its sustainability credentials. Renewable energy powers much of the country's resort infrastructure and resorts have an increasing variety of green initiatives in place. We encourage an increase in rail travel to resorts.

For the benefit of snowsports journalists, we've prepared this press kit, containing a rail-ski map of Austria – the first of its kind; and timetables, itineraries; a booking guide and image libraries.

Train travel is an important part of the future of skiing in Austria.

The Austria Tourism Team

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Photo: © Deutsche Bahn AG _ Andreas Lander



The rail-ski map of Austria

In collaboration with Austria Tourism, SnowCarbon has created a rail-ski map of Austria to show travel options between the UK and the Austrian Alps.

Designed by graphic designer David Cooper, the map is an inspiring planning tool for skiers considering their next winter holiday.

The map highlights daytime and overnight routes using a variety of trains and shows over 50 railway stations and 120 ski resorts..

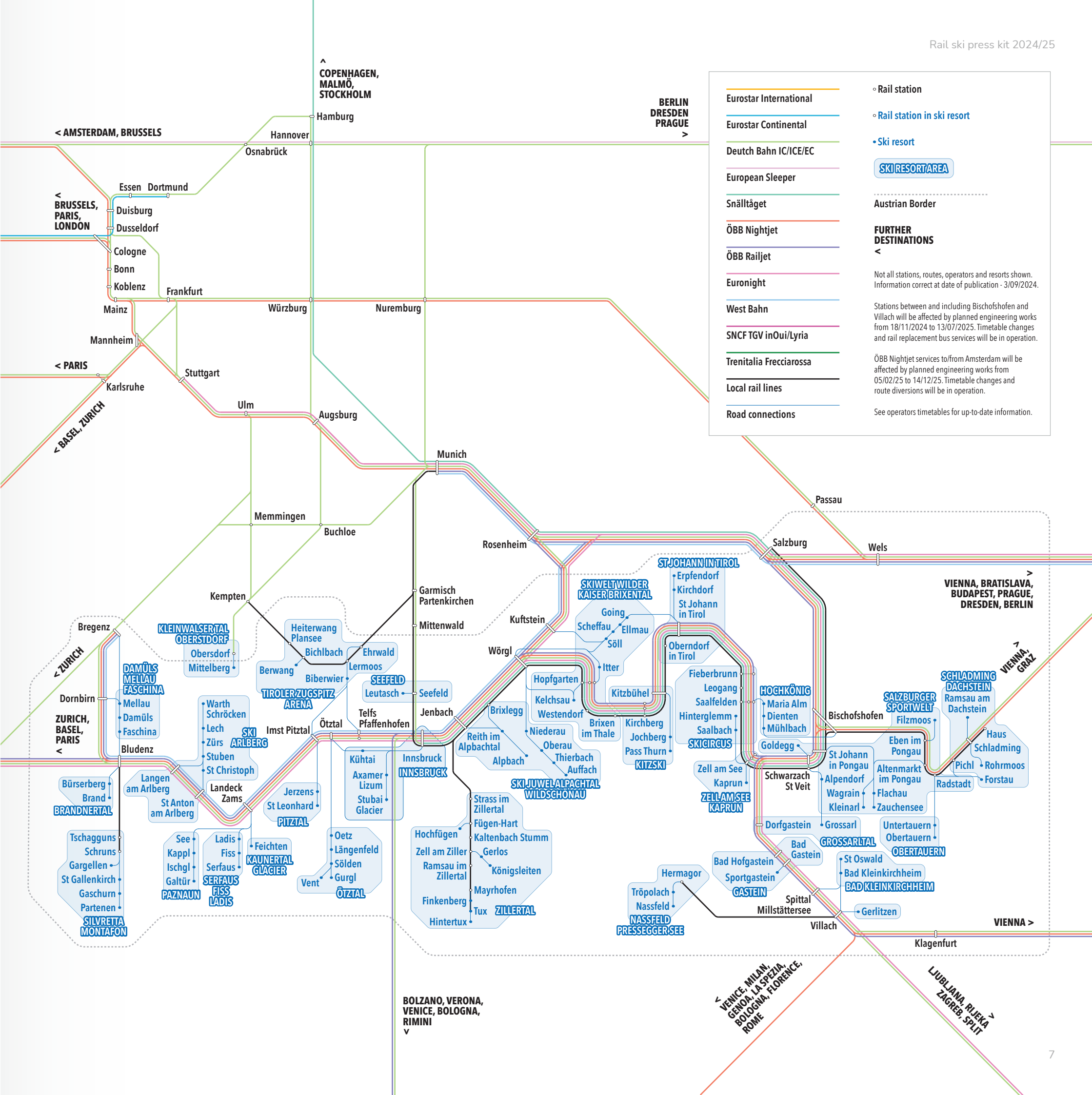
Please note that there are other stations, routes, operators and ski resorts that aren't shown, due to limits on space.

The map is available as a PDF and as JPG and PNG thumbnails.

Download your free copy at:
<https://bit.ly/rail-ski-map-austria>



Brought to you by:





Photos: Nightjet train © ÖBB

Overnight journeys to Austria

Overnight rail travel is attractive for skiers, making the journey part of the holiday – with the bonus of being able to ski on arrival and departure day.

Austria's ski resorts are connected by overnight journeys from a variety of countries. Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) has a growing fleet of Nightjet sleeper trains. These have led the the renaissance of sleeper trains in Europe, vastly increasing travel options.

For ski resorts in SalzburgerLand, UK-based skiers can take the Eurostar from London to Brussels or Paris, and then the Nightjet to Salzburg. Onward rail, bus or taxi connections deliver skiers to resort villages.

For Tirolean resorts, usually skiers can take the Eurostar to Brussels, followed by the ICE train to Cologne and then the Nightjet to Kufstein, Wörgl, Jenbach and Innsbruck stations.

However, due to track-improvement work near Cologne work for winter 2024-25, skiers switch from Eurostar to Nightjet at Amsterdam instead.

Overnight rail schedules to Austria

Innsbruck

Outbound: London > Innsbruck* (Runs every day)				Inbound: Innsbruck > London* (Runs every day)			
Dep	11:04	London St Pancras	(Eurostar)	Dep	20:46	Innsbruck Hbf	(Nightjet)
Arr	16:15	Amsterdam		Dep	21:06	Jenbach	
Dep	19:03	Amsterdam	(Nightjet)	Dep	21:23	Wörgl Hbf	
Arr	8:26	Kufstein		Dep	21:35	Kufstein	
Arr	8:37	Wörgl Hbf		Arr	9:50	Amsterdam CS	
Arr	8:53	Jenbach		Dep	12:08	Amsterdam CS	(Eurostar)
Arr	9:14	Innsbruck Hbf		Arr	15:57	London St Pancras	

Salzburg via Brussels

Outbound: London > Brussels > Salzburg (Runs Mon, Wed and Fri)				Inbound: Salzburg > Brussels > London (Runs Sun, Tue and Thu)			
Dep	15:04	London St Pancras	(Eurostar)	Dep	22:18	Salzburg	(NightJet)
Arr	18:05	Bruxelles-Midi		Arr	9:56	Bruxelles-Midi	
Dep	19:07	Bruxelles-Midi	(NightJet)	Dep	10:56	Bruxelles-Midi	(Eurostar)
Arr	7:26	Salzburg		Arr	11:57	London St Pancras	

Salzburg via Paris

Outbound: London > Paris > Salzburg (Runs Mon, Wed and Fri)				Inbound: Salzburg > Paris > London (Runs Sun, Tue and Thu)			
Dep	14:31	London St Pancras	(Eurostar)	Dep	22:18	Salzburg	(NightJet)
Arr	17:48	Paris-Nord		Arr	10:24	Paris-Est	
Dep	19:12	Paris-Est	(NightJet)	Dep	12:12	Paris-Nord	(Eurostar)
Arr	7:26	Salzburg HBF		Arr	13:30	London St Pancras	

*Usually, there's a faster overnight route between London and Innsbruck by taking a NightJet from Cologne. However, for winter 2024-25, track improvements in the Cologne area necessitates the alternative route via Amsterdam.

Onward trains from Salzburg**

Destination	Duration	Frequency (Approx)
Bad Gastein	1 hr 29 mins	Every 2 hours
Bad Hofgastein	1 hr 16 mins	Every 2 hours
Spittal Millstättersee	2 hr 07 mins	Every 2 hours
Villach	2 hr 32 mins	Every 2 hours
Radstadt	1 hr 32 mins	Every hour
Zell am See	1 hr 36 mins	Every hour

Onward trains from Wörgl

Destination	Duration	Frequency (Approx)
Kirchberg in Tirol	21 mins	Every 20 mins
Kitzbühel	30 mins	Every 20 mins
St. Johann in Tirol	38 mins	Every 20 mins
Saalfelden	1 hr 8 mins	Every 20 mins
Zell am See	1 hr 16 mins	Every 20 mins

Onward trains from Innsbruck

Destination	Duration	Frequency (Approx)
Ötztal	30 mins	Every 20 mins
Landeck-Zams	44 mins	Every hour
St. Anton am Arlberg	1 hr 8 mins	12 per day
Langen	1 hr 15 mins	12 per day
Seefeld	36 mins	Every 30 mins

**These journeys will be affected by planned engineering works from 18/11/2024 and 13/07/2025. Timetable changes and rail replacement bus services will be in operation, see operators timetables for up-to-date information.

Please note that all timetables are predicted, not confirmed. Schedules should be checked on train operators' websites before booking or travelling.

Daytime rail travel to Austria

It isn't just sleeper trains that can help you reach Austria's ski resorts.

One might imagine that Austria is too far from the UK to be viable by daytime train travel.

But in fact, travelling by high-speed trains through Belgium and Germany or France and Switzerland, you can reach Austrian ski resorts in 10 – 12 hours from London.

While it's a long journey, it's also a comfortable, relaxing and scenic one. ICE trains and Railjet trains, for example, have restaurant carriages on board, so you can enjoy a meal as you speed through the countryside. There's WiFi on board, too.

Travellers can also break up the journey by stopping over en route.

This allows a visit to a town or city, increases journey options and enables earlier arrival at the ski resort the following day.

Daytime travel summaries to Austria

Destination	Trains	Duration
Bludenz	Eurostar > TGV > Railjet	9 hrs 57 mins
Innsbruck	Eurostar > ICE > ICE > EuroCity	11 hrs 14 mins
Jenbach	Eurostar > ICE > ICE > EuroCity	10 hrs 54 mins
Kitzbühel	Eurostar > ICE > ICE > EuroCity > Regional Express	11 hrs 21 mins
Kufstein	Eurostar > ICE > ICE > EuroCity	10 hrs 33 mins
Landeck-Zams	Eurostar > TGV > Railjet	10 hrs 54 mins
Mayrhofen	Eurostar > ICE > ICE > EuroCity > Regional	11 hrs 57 mins
St. Anton am Arlberg	Eurostar > TGV > Railjet	10 hrs 30 mins
Wörgl	Eurostar > ICE > ICE > EuroCity	10 hrs 40 mins
Zell am See	Eurostar > ICE > ICE > EuroCity > Regional Express	12 hrs 10 mins



Photo: © Deutsche Bahn AG – Andreas Lander



Photo: ICE restaurant © Daniel Elkan



Photo: © Daniele D'Andreti - unsplash.com

Photo: Restaurant © Daniel Elkan



Photo: © Dominik Kuhn - unsplash.com



Photo: © Ulysse Pointcheval - unsplash.com



Photo: © Nikolay Kovalenko - unsplash.com

Stopover journeys to Austria

As well as travelling by daytime trains or sleepertrain, another option is the stopover.

Skiers can pick a city en route to Austria and stopover there. This breaks up the journey and gives travellers an opportunity to visit attractions or enjoy an evening meal, before heading to the Austrian Alps the next morning.

Suggestions include the following:

Basel	6hr 55 min from London
Brussels-Midi	2hr 18 min from London
Cologne	4hr 11 min from London
Frankfurt	5hr 30 min from London
Paris	2hr 28 min from London

In some cases, travellers can book a through ticket with a stopover included; depending on the route and destination, it may work better to buy separate tickets.

Station-to-resort transfers

For many Austrian ski resorts, the train station is located in the village itself; for others it's a short bus or taxi ride away.

Ski resort		Train station		Transfer time
Alpbach	<—>	Jenbach	—	20 minutes
Bad Gastein	<—>	Bad Gastein	—	Station is in the village
Bad Hofgastein	<—>	Bad Hofgastein	—	Station is in the village
Damüls	<—>	Bludenz	—	35 minutes
Dorfgastein	<—>	Dorfgastein	—	Station is in the village
Ellmau	<—>	Kufstein	—	19 minutes
Ellmau	<—>	Wörgl	—	21 minutes
Hinterglemm	<—>	Zell am See	—	21 minutes
Hopfgarten	<—>	Hopfgarten	—	Station is in the village
Ischgl	<—>	Landeck-Zams	—	31 minutes
Kaprun	<—>	Zell am See	—	9 minutes
Kitzbühel	<—>	Kitzbühel	—	Station is in the village
Lech	<—>	Langen am Arlberg	—	20 minutes
Leogang	<—>	Leogang	—	Station is in the village
Mayrhofen	<—>	Mayrhofen	—	Station is in the village
Niederau	<—>	Wörgl	—	7 minutes
Obergurgl	<—>	Ötztal	—	47 minutes
St. Anton am Arlberg	<—>	St. Anton am Arlberg	—	Station is in the village
St. Johann in Tirol	<—>	St. Johann in Tirol	—	Station is in the village
St. Johann in Salzburg	<—>	St. Johann in Pongau	—	Station is in the village
Saalbach	<—>	Zell am See	—	18 minutes
Saalfelden	<—>	Saalfelden	—	Station is in the village
Scheffau	<—>	Kufstein	—	16 minutes
Scheffau	<—>	St. Johann in Tirol	—	16 minutes
Schladming	<—>	Schladming	—	Station is in the village
Schruns	<—>	Schruns	—	Station is in the village
Seefeld	<—>	Seefeld in Tirol	—	Station is in the village
Sölden	<—>	Ötztal	—	34 minutes
Söll	<—>	Kufstein	—	14 minutes
Zell am See	<—>	Zell am See	—	Station is in the village
Zürs	<—>	Langen am Arlberg	—	20 minutes

Photo: Nightjet passengers © ÖBB



What's on board

ICE

Deutsche Bahn's fleet of smooth, swift trains have excellent catering facilities

Restaurant carriage

ICE trains have a bistro-restaurant with a seated area and a small bar. Food and drinks are served with proper china, metal cutlery and glassware. Rather than reserving, you simply walk down to the restaurant and sit at any free table.

The ICE menu includes items such as both beef and vegan chilli con carne and black-rice salad with edamame.

If you are sitting in First Class, restaurant staff will offer to take your order at your train seat and deliver food from the restaurant to you. As with any train, you can bring your own food and drink on board too.

Family facilities

Most ICE trains have special family compartments and baby-changing facilities. There are significant discounts for children aged 14 and under.

Railjet

Comfort and catering are the hallmarks of Railjet, as skiers speed through Austria.

On-board bistro

With a seasonal menu, Railjet's red-uniformed staff feed passengers in their on-board bistro restaurant car.

The Railjet menu includes Austrian specialties, as well as vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and dairy-free options. A proportion of the dishes on the menu use only organic ingredients, such as the organic nettle soup, organic tomato-fennel lasagna and the organic Styrian cheese platter. In First Class, food from the bistro can be ordered to your seat.

Family zones

Railjet's Family Zones have a children's cinema and table games, with the required game pieces available from train attendants. The toilets are also designed in a child-friendly Timi Taurus look, with nappy-changing facilities. There are also special Quiet Zones.

Business class

In Business Class, there are leather seat covers, individually adjustable seats, reading lamps, generous work surfaces and a welcome drink.

NightJet

ÖBB's sleeper service comes with a range of accommodation types.

Evening meals and on-board breakfast

A Nightjet ticket comes with a complimentary Continental breakfast, brought to cabins by train staff shortly before arrival. Travellers can choose from a range of juices, jams, hot drinks, yoghurts, breads and cheeses.

There's also an evening menu that includes items such as goulash soup, organic lentil curry with basmati rice, and a couscous-and-vegetable wrap.

Facilities

Two-person and some three-person cabins come with their own private shower and toilet, with towels and toiletries provided, including soap, slippers and earplugs.

On the new fleet of Nightjets, mini cabins offer more privacy for solo travellers or couples, with a compact layout and features that include luggage shelf space, a storage pouch for personal items, coat hooks, reading lamp, sliding folding table for breakfast, mirror and a control display with various convenience functions such as light controls and attendant calls.

The newly designed comfort couchette compartment, for four or six travellers, has features such as a retractable table, free Wi-Fi and adjustable ambient lighting.



Photo: ICE restaurant carriage © Daniel Elkan



Photo: Railjet food © Daniel Elkan



Photo: European Sleeper corridor © European Sleeper

New European Sleeper service

A new winter European Sleeper night train will travel from Belgium and the Netherlands through Germany to Austria (and onward to Bolzano, Italy), creating a new overnight-rail option for skiers to reach resorts.

The twice-weekly service will run from 5th February 2025 through into mid-March.

Skiers from the UK can depart London on the 15:04 Eurostat to Brussels; from where the European Sleeper departs Brussels at 19:00 to arrive at Innsbruck at 09:00.

The train has a dining carriage with a bar. On-board accommodation includes two and three-person sleeper cars, five and six-person couchettes and sit-up seats. There's a breakfast menu too.

Tickets are open for sale, with couchettes from €99 per person and sleepers from €179 per person.

European Sleeper is one of the few privately owned international train operators in Europe, connecting four countries and four capitals with a single night train since May 2023.

The introduction of the new night train service to Austria adds capacity for skiers who want comfortable overnight journeys to the slopes.

The website is:
europeansleeper.eu/night-train-to-winter-sports

Carbon-emissions comparison

Analysis by Protect Our Winters (POW) UK in August 2024 compares carbon emissions for different travel methods from London to three popular ski resorts in Austria.



Photo: Railjet train © Daniel Elkan

London to Kitzbühel

Journey	KG CO2e per person, return
Plane (via Innsbruck) & coach	370
Eurostar + ICE + ÖBB trains	6
Car + Eurotunnel 3 people	138
EV car + Eurotunnel 3 people	50
Coach + ferry	79

London to Zell am See

Journey	KG CO2e per person, return
Plane (via Salzburg) & coach	396
Eurostar + Nightjet + ÖBB trains	14
Car + Eurotunnel 3 people	143
EV car + Eurotunnel 3 people	47
Coach + ferry	81

London to St. Anton am Arlberg

Journey	KG CO2e per person, return
Plane (via Innsbruck) & coach	370
Eurostar + TGV + ÖBB trains	12
Car + Eurotunnel 3 people	134
EV car + Eurotunnel 3 people	48
Coach + ferry	77



Photo: Railjet carriage © Daniel Elkan



Photo: Skier in St Anton © TVBSt. Anton am Arlberg/Sepp Mallaun



Photo: ICE train © Deutsche Bahn AG/Wolfgang Klee

How to book rail travel to Austria

While booking rail travel to Austrian ski resorts isn't quite as simple as booking a flight, here are some tips on how to book journeys online or with the help of a rail-booking agent. In general, Eurostar trains can be booked up to 6 - 8 months in advance; ICE and Railjet trains about 180 days in advance; and Nightjet trains go on sale around mid-September for the upcoming winter season.

Daytime journeys

Many daytime journeys to Austria can be booked online, on the Trainline (thetrainline.com), Rail Europe (raileurope.com) and Deutsche Bahn (bahn.com) websites.

The ÖBB (oebb.at) can also be used for booking journeys (not including the Eurostar section) and sometimes has special 'Sparschiene' deals on tickets.

As with all journeys that involve multiple trains, it's important to note that the journeys shown online are a selection of what is possible. Different rail options can be tailor-made, such as choosing different routes or breaking the journey inbound or outbound; doing this is often more easily achieved by using a rail-booking expert agency, such as The Travel Bureau (rail-travel.co.uk) or Trainseurope (trainseurope.co.uk). This is also true for stopover journeys, where the break of travel can be more difficult to arrange online in one booking.

Overnight journeys

To book an overnight journey between the UK and Austria in one booking, the easiest option is to use a rail-booking agent, such as those mentioned above. Travellers can also try booking online with the Trainline (thetrainline.com), Rail Europe (raileurope.com), Deutsche Bahn (bahn.com) or ÖBB (oebb.at) websites.

It's worth noting that rail-booking websites sometimes fail to aggregate Eurostar, ICE and Nightjet train options into one multi-leg booking and so there may be available overnight rail options that don't show up online. These instead can be booked via an agent, such as those mentioned above.

Independent fares

Booked independently, daytime fares between London and Austrian ski resorts start from £125 return per adult in standard class and £257 return in first class.

Overnight fares between London and Austrian ski resorts start from £164 return per adult in standard class with a place in a six-berth couchette on the Nightjet.

Rail-inclusive ski packages

Some ski tour operators, such as Inghams, have rail-inclusive ski packages to a limited number of destinations in Austria.

Useful resources

Photos of rail travel to the mountains of Austria are available from these image libraries with free media access for usage.

Austria Tourism

Information about holidays in Austria

austria.info
press.austria.info/uk

ÖBB

Austria's national railway company

oebb.at

ShowMeTheJourney

Travel writer Simon Harper's website is a useful rail guide

showmethejourney.com

The Travel Bureau

An experienced rail-booking agent for European journeys, established in 1984

rail-travel.co.uk

SnowCarbon

An Independent guide to how to travel to ski resorts by train

snowcarbon.co.uk

Trainline

A website and app for booking rail travel within the UK and Europe

thetrainline.com

Nightjet

The official website of Nightjet trains from Austria's national railway company, ÖBB

nightjet.com

Seat 61

Detailed travel advice from rail-expert Mark Smith

seat61.com

Rail map of Europe

An inspiring planning guide for rail journeys in Europe

europeanrailtimetable.eu

Trainseurope

An experienced rail-booking agent for European journeys, established in 1986

trainseurope.co.uk

Protect Our Winters UK

An Alpine sustainability charity delivering education programmes, climate action support and policy solutions

trainseurope.co.uk

Rail Europe

Another popular website for booking rail tickets to and within Europe

raileurope.com



Photo: © Austria Tourism/Marko-Mestrovic

Image libraries for rail travel to Austria

For pictures of Austrian ski resorts and rail journeys to them, the following photo libraries give free access to a wide range of images.

Austria Tourism

views.austria.info/en/media

ÖBB

presse.oebb.at/en/image-gallery

Rail Europe

raileurope.photoshelter.com/galleries

Contact: press@raileurope.com

Eurostar

creative.eurostar.com

Contact: press.office@eurostar.com

Deutsche Bahn

mediathek.deutschebahn.com



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Austria Tourism
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Note as of September 2024
Austria Tourism, in collaboration with SnowCarbon, has developed this publication with the utmost care. However, despite our best efforts, errors may still occur. All information is provided without any guarantee or claim to correctness, topicality, or completeness. The figures and data contained in this publication were accurate at the time of publication and may change in the future.

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Inset: Ischgl Culinary at Alpenhaus © TVB Paznaun-Ischgl

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St. Johann in Salzburg Alpendorf © Tourismusverband St. Johann in Salzburg / Simon Hutter



Lebens- gefühl

['le:bŋsgəfy:l]

Fall for skiing
in Austria.



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