

Hidden Gem in Osttirol, Austria Winter Wonderland in the Winkeltal Valley



In the Winkeltal Valley of Außervillgraten, visitors experience winter like back in the day – tranquil, untouched, yet full of adventure.
© TVB Osttirol/Peter Maier

Amid snow-covered forests, traditional alpine pastures, and striking three-thousand-metre peaks, the Winkeltal unfolds as a winter world that blends romance, indulgence, and sporting challenges in a unique way. This twelve-kilometres side valley in Außervillgraten is a true retreat for those who wish to embrace the cold season in its purest form. Families will find a haven where shared moments in nature matter more than hustle and bustle.

Snow Kingdom in the Heart of the Alps



From Winkeltal in Osttirol, Austria, outdoor enthusiasts embark on countless ski tours and winter hikes.
© TVB Osttirol/Peter Maier

Strolling through Winkeltal, framed by the Hohe Tauern National Park, the Lienz Dolomites, and the Carnic Ridge, winter hikers hear nothing but the crunch of their own footsteps. This meditative silence is best savoured along the three-kilometre Moosalm Loop. Starting at the Reiterstube snack station, the groomed trail leads deeper into the valley, past Mooshof Alm, to the secluded Leiter Alm, and back again.

Ambitious ski tourers will find challenging routes to Gölbner (2,943 m), Regenstein (2,891 m), Hochalm Spitze (2,797 m), and Hochgrabe (2,951 m). These tours demand experience and stamina but reward adventurers with pristine powder descents and breathtaking panoramic views of surrounding peaks. Ideal conditions can typically be found from late winter into spring.

For a more leisurely pace, wrap yourself in warm blankets and enjoy a romantic horse-drawn sleigh ride with Ingo Fürhapter – a beloved Winkeltal tradition for years.

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Sledging Fun in the High Valley



On the perfectly groomed toboggan run in East Tyrol's Winkeltal Valley, young and old alike race swiftly through snow-covered forests. © TVB Osttirol/Peter Maier

The 1.6-kilometre natural toboggan run Tilliachalmweg, located south of the Alpine main ridge, proudly bears the Tyrolean Natural Toboggan Run Seal of Quality and is free to use. This moderately difficult track climbs 400 vertical metres from the starting hut below the Reiterstube snack station to the ridge. Evening lighting from 5:00 to 10:30 p.m. ensures safe descents. Children can enjoy a dedicated area with sledding and sliding tracks.

A special highlight: the ice sculpture on the adjacent reservoir, shaped like the iconic Three Peaks and illuminated in vibrant colours at night.

About Osttirol

"Osttirol is naturally different. Naturally, in the sense of nature." This is the credo of the holiday region south of the Alpine main ridge. Framed by the Hohe Tauern National Park, the Lienz Dolomites, and the Carnic Ridge, Osttirol is defined by authenticity, tradition, and untouched landscapes.

With 265 peaks over 3,000 meters and the Großglockner – Austria's highest mountain – for good reason Osttirol calls itself "the Alpine Tyrol." Nature lovers find vast open spaces and pristine beauty, while outdoor enthusiasts appreciate ideal conditions for mountain sports. Among climbers and mountaineers, East Tyrol enjoys cult status.

Gourmets cherish the region for its culinary diversity, ranging from rustic alpine huts to award-winning fine dining. Centuries-old farming traditions, genuine craftsmanship, and a deeply rooted cultural heritage shape life here – as they always have.

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