

The Zillertal in Winter 2026/27: Skiing at Up to 3,250 Metres

From December 4, 2026, through April 11, 2027, families, leisure seekers, and active ski enthusiasts can look forward to carefully groomed slopes, a diverse range of winter activities, and festive events across four large ski resorts. With elevations of up to 3,250 meters on the Hintertux Glacier and over 80 percent of the slopes located above approximately 1,700 meters, the valley is home to Austria's longest ski season. Wide, leisurely runs, challenging slopes, fun parks, funslopes, toboggan runs, and winter hiking trails ensure that every guest finds their own personal winter experience.

The large ski resorts of Hochzillertal-Kaltenbach, Hochfügen, and Spieljoch, the Zillertal Arena, Mountopolis - the Mayrhofner Bergbahnen world of adventure, as well as the Ski- & Glacier World Zillertal 3000 will open for skiing as early as the beginning of December 2026, and in some cases as early as November if snow conditions permit. The Hintertux Glacier will officially kick off the 2026/27 ski season in October.

The Regions in Winter

In the Fügen-Kaltenbach holiday region, the winter of 2026/27 will see the opening of **“The Green”** resort in Uderns, a new lodging option that combines modern architecture with regional materials. In the **Hochzillertal-Kaltenbach** and **Spieljoch** ski areas, the range of slopes for various skill levels will be expanded offering more choices for beginners, recreational skiers, and pros. Around the Marendalm, new runs for the youngest skiers are being created in the snow park, and in the Funslope area near the Kashütte, additional lift capacity will ensure smoother operations. The redesigned **Kristallhütte**, set to open in December 2026, brings a refreshed lifestyle, design, and culinary offering to the Zillertal.

The **Spieljoch** once again positions itself as an ideal family and adventure destination: As a certified Tirol family ski region, the area offers a well-organized, well-supervised range of skiing options for children and adults. Funslopes, a funpark, and guest kindergarten provide children with a safe, playful environment and give parents relaxed winter days. For ambitious ski enthusiasts, the black run “Heiße Kante” (Run No. 3) is a highlight: 2.7 km long, with an 800-meter elevation drop. A 5.5 km-long, fully run leads from the top station of the Spieljochbahn cable car to the middle station. Snow-making facilities make guarantees good snow condition for the tobogganing run.

Hochfügen also has plenty to offer this new season: Be the first to hit the freshly prepared slopes with “First Line Skiing”, a snowcat takes small groups of up to six people, accompanied by a guide, to the summit for their first turns – even before the lifts opens. Those who enjoy a challenge can venture onto the new **Winter via ferrata Pfaffenbichl**: From the top station of the Waidoffen chairlift, the route ascends to 2,431 m via steel cables, footrests, and a 28-meter-long rope bridge all the way to the summit—260 meters long, 115 meters of elevation gain, difficulty level B. Culinary-wise, the **8er Alm** has reinvented itself following its renovation: On the ground floor, a self-service restaurant with open kitchen offers quick meals, while upstairs, the 8er Alm pizzeria impresses with table service and panoramic views of the mountains.

The **Zell-Gerlos region** and the **Zillertal Arena** are kicking off the 2026/27 winter season with a well-rounded overall offering. The expansive, varied slopes and the location at altitudes with good snow reliability make the region ideal for anyone who wants to spend plenty of time on the slopes. Families will find a wide range of family-friendly runs, children's areas, and dining options, while athletic ski enthusiasts can enjoy challenging runs and early-bird deals in the

second half of the winter season. **Ski-in/ski-out accommodations** right on the slopes and public transport connections make it easy to get around the valley without a car.

With 142 kilometres of pistes, 61 lifts, and 89% of the ski area located above 1,700 meters above sea level, **Mountopolis—the Mayrhofner Bergbahnen world of adventure** ranks among the largest and most snow-reliable ski regions in the Zillertal. The Mount Ahorn and Mount Penken ski areas offer the full spectrum: wide, leisurely runs for families, challenging, steep slopes, and snow parks for advanced skiers. For children, there are wide, sunny practice slopes on the AhornPlateau, the FunRide Ahorn with waves and steep turns, the AlbertAdler Tour, and the FunRide Gerent on Mount Penken. Ambitious skiers will find a new challenge on the Harakiri Run No. 34 with a 78% gradient; it's the steepest groomed run in Austria. In winter, the Ahornbahn begins running as early as 7:30 a.m. to the Mount Ahorn Plateau. Those who get there early can make their first turns on the freshly groomed, 5.5 km-long ValleyRun Ahorn.

The **Ski- & Glacier World Zillertal 3000** combines the **Hintertux Glacier** with the Eggalm, Rastkogel, Finkenberger Almbahnen cable cars, and Mount Penken to form one of the most snow-reliable ski regions in the Zillertal. With up to 206 kilometres of pistes and elevations reaching 3,250 meters, there are runs for every skill level: wide, easy runs on the Rastkogel, a gentle introduction with a panoramic gondola ride at Eggalm, and challenging runs on the Finkenberg/Penkenjoch—where you can round out your day of skiing with a culinary treat at one of the many mountain huts. The **Hintertux Park Opening from October 2 to 4** marks the unofficial kickoff to the winter season: In the Ski- und Gletscherwelt 3000, international freestyle stars and ambitious amateurs gather at the Betterpark Hintertux for Europe's first snowpark opening, featuring gear testing, contests, and sessions on the Hintertux Glacier. Thanks to its elevation of up to 3,250 m above sea level, winter lasts longer on the Hintertux Glacier than in the rest of Austria. In addition to wide slopes for athletic carvers and leisure skiers, pros will find untouched deep-snow slopes and off-piste runs, as well as striking panoramic runs like the Glacier Loop, offering up to 15,000 meters of vertical drop and around 60 kilometers of runs in a single day.

Events

A diverse calendar of events - including Advent markets, music and lifestyle events, ski shows, and culinary highlights - makes the Zillertal the perfect setting for memorable moments during the winter of 2026/27.

- Christmas Market "Schloss Weihnacht in Fügen", November 28 through December 20, 2026, every Saturday and Sunday
- Ride on – Shred Fest in Hochfügen, December 4–6, 2026
- Ski Food Festival in Hochzillertal and at Spieljoch, December 12 and 13, 2026
- Zell Christmas Market in Zell am Ziller, December 12 and 13, 2026
- Opening of "Herzleuchten" in Zell am Ziller, December 23, 2026, with weekly highlights every Thursday
- New Year's Eve Fireworks at the Hochzillertal cable car, December 31, 2026
- New Year's Eve Show – "Gerlos Goes 2027" in Gerlos, December 31, 2026
- „Timeless Garden" at Schlossplatz in Fügen, January 1, 2027
- "Hochfügen Nights," every Thursday from January 21 to March 4, 2027
- Dutch Week in the Zillertal Arena, March 9–13, 2027
- Hintertux Glacier Open Air, March 19, 2027

- Cologne Week 2027 at the Hintertux Glacier, March 13–20, 2027
- Alpicon House Music Festival in the Hochzillertal Ski Region, March 18–21, 2027
- 90's Days in the Zillertal Arena, March 19–21, 2027
- Full Metal Mayrhofen, March 29–April 3, 2027
- Lederhosen Wedel Finale in the Zillertal Arena, April 2–4, 2027
- Snowbombing Festival Mayrhofen, April 5–10, 2027

Snowmaking and slope technology

The ski resorts in the Zillertal rely on modern technologies and energy-saving measures: GPS trackers and 3D terrain scanners allow snowmaking to be targeted more precisely. The Zillertal Arena uses a modern LED lighting system on the slopes, along with hydro and solar power.

Zillertal Superskipass

With the Zillertal Superskipass, guests can access all four large ski resorts as well as numerous public transportation options in the valley. The pass is available for periods ranging from one to 21 days and offers special rates for children and teenagers.

Overview of the Zillertal cable cars' operating hours*

Hochzillertal, Hochfügen und Spieljoch

- Hochzillertal-Kaltenbach – Dec. 5, 2026–Apr. 11, 2027, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.; weekend service starting in November, weather permitting
- Spieljochbahn cable car – Dec. 11, 2026–Mar. 29, 2027, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Hochfügen – December 4, 2026–April 11, 2027, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Zillertal Arena

- Rosenalmbahn cable car Zell am Ziller – December 4, 2026–December 24, 2026: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 2026–Apr. 11, 2027: 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (last ascent at 4:00 p.m.)
- Karspitzbahn cable car Zell am Ziller, Section 1 – Dec. 18, 2026–Mar. 29, 2027, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Karspitzbahn cable car, Section 2 – December 18, 2026–March 29, 2027
- Gerlossteinbahn cable car – December 18, 2026–April 11, 2027, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (every 15 minutes, continuous service as needed) • Isskogelbahn cable car Gerlos – December 4, 2026–April 11, 2027, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Dorfbahn Gerlos cable car – December 4, 2026–April 11, 2027, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Dorfbahn Königsleiten cable car – December 4, 2026–April 11, 2027, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Hochkrimml Cable Cars – Dec. 4, 2026–Apr. 11, 2027, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Mayrhofner Bergbahnen

- Horbergbahn and Penkenbahn – December 4, 2026–December 24, 2026: 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; December 25, 2026–April 11, 2027: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Ahornbahn – December 11, 2026–April 11, 2027, 7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Möslbahn – Dec. 12, 2026–Dec. 24, 2026: 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Dec. 25, 2026–Apr. 4, April 2027: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Ski- & Gletscherwelt Zillertal 3000

- Finkenberger Almbahnen cable cars – Dec. 4, 2026–Dec. 24, 2026: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 2026–Apr. 11, 2027: 8:15 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Rastkogel Bahnen – Dec. 4, 2026–Dec. 24, 12, 2026: 8:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 2026–Apr. 11, 2027: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Eggalm Bahnen cable cars – Dec. 4, 2026–April 11, 2027, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Hintertux Glacier – open year-round, 8:15 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

*Information subject to change. Operating hours may vary due to weather conditions and operational circumstances

Über das Zillertal

A valley of three-thousand-meter peaks, glaciers, culinary highlights, and music. Perfectly groomed slopes, fantastic cross-country skiing trails, and toboggan runs in winter; hundreds of kilometers of hiking and biking trails, as well as refreshing outdoor pools and idyllic mountain lakes in summer—all surrounded by striking mountain panoramas: You'll only experience this here. Stretching 47 km downstream along the Ziller River from the Hochfeiler—at 3,509 m, the highest peak in the Zillertal—the valley extends outward. You can experience the famous Zillertal hospitality of its more than 35,000 residents firsthand in the 25 municipalities of the Zillertal. In both summer and winter, well-being, regional authenticity, and enjoyment are top priorities. Whether you're seeking unique mountain adventures or simply want to enjoy nature, opportunities abound in one of the world's most active and musical valleys—as plentiful as the pine needles in a Swiss stone pine forest. Add to that the ultimate in culinary delights: from regional cuisine and authentic Zillertal home-style cooking to exquisite gourmet menus. Welcome to the Zillertal—you only feel it here.

Zillertal Tourismus GmbH in Schlitters was founded in 2005 to market the Zillertal internationally. Its main tasks include marketing and campaign planning for specific international markets, as well as developing the valley's image and thematic strategies in coordination with local tourism associations and infrastructure providers. Furthermore, Zillertal Tourismus GmbH is responsible for the joint development and management of the e-commerce platform "myZillertal." The platform enables the booking of tourist experiences and is considered a pioneer in digital tourism solutions throughout the Alpine region. Together with the tourism associations First holiday region, Zell-Gerlos, Mayrhofen-Hippach, and Tux-Finkenberg, as well as the local cable cars, Zillertal Tourismus GmbH informs its guests about the wide range of year-round offerings and products both in the valley and on the mountain. With nearly 7.7 million overnight stays in the 24/25 tourism year and over 1.6 million guest arrivals, the Zillertal is one of the largest tourism destinations in the entire DACH region.

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