

Ski, Cross-Country Skiing or Hiking Boots – Active in Winter in Kleinwalsertal

KWT ACTIVE WINTER – BASE TEXT

In winter, Kleinwalsertal attracts nature lovers, sports enthusiasts and outdoor fans alike. Whether skiing, winter hiking, cross-country skiing, ski touring or snowshoeing – everyone can find their own personal winter escape here.

ALPINE SKIING

The Oberstdorf Kleinwalsertal two-country ski region offers 130 kilometres of snow-sure pistes and a total of 48 lifts and cable cars, with terrain for all levels of ability at altitudes of up to 2,000 metres. The extensive ski area around the Heuberg is ideal for families, while the higher-altitude ski areas such as Ifen and Kanzelwand/Fellhorn offer plenty of challenges for more experienced skiers. Three snowparks – two at Fellhorn and one at the Kanzelwand valley station – provide freestyle fun with boxes, rails and kicker lines.

With the guest card, holidaymakers can use the Walserbus free of charge. It provides convenient and environmentally friendly transport from all three villages and from accommodation throughout the valley to the desired destination.

WINTER HIKING

More than 50 kilometres of groomed winter hiking trails offer spectacular views of snow-covered landscapes surrounded by numerous mountain peaks. One of the special features of Kleinwalsertal is its three different altitude levels, which make winter hiking possible in a variety of settings. The scenery is always diverse: whether in one of the side valleys such as Wildental or Bärgrunntal, at Melköde or at Hörnlepass – every tour has its own unique natural highlights. Along the Breitach River, new natural spectacles can be discovered depending on snow conditions and temperatures. With a little luck, you may even spot a white-throated dipper – the only native songbird capable of diving and swimming.

In addition to panoramic trails at medium altitude, there is a special highlight at the very top: the Gottesacker panoramic circular hiking trail leads through the snow dunes of the Gottesacker Plateau. After taking the Ifen cable car, spectacular views await at an altitude of 2,000 metres. The trail is very well groomed. The longer five-kilometre route takes around 1.5 hours, while a shorter three-kilometre loop is also available.

Whichever winter hike you choose, the Walserbus provides convenient and easy access to the starting point.

A selection of suggested hiking routes can be found at www.kleinwalsertal.com/de/Aktivitaeten/Winter/Winterwandern

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

With the three trails Steinbock Loipe, Schwende Loipe and Küren-Wädele-Egg Loipe, Kleinwalsertal offers a total network of 50 kilometres for both skating and classic cross-country skiing.

The easy to moderately difficult Steinbock trail starts at the entrance to Mittelberg and leads all the way to Baad at the end of the valley. There are several points where you can join or leave the trail. The route offers almost 16 kilometres for classic technique and 10 kilometres for skating, as well as a small practice area at the “Birkenwies” trail entrance in Böldmen.

The moderately difficult Schwende trail is groomed for both classic and skating techniques along its almost 12-kilometre length. Starting in the Außerschwende area of Riezlern, the trail climbs via Straußberg to the Hörnlepass mountain inn before returning via Außerwald. Spacious

practice loops for both classic and skating techniques are located near the Bergblick mountain inn.

The Schwarzwasser trail is the most challenging cross-country skiing route in Kleinwalsertal, with almost 360 metres of elevation gain. It is ideal for anyone looking for a more athletic experience during their winter holiday. The climbs are well worth the effort, with views of snow-covered side valleys as well as the Ifen and Widderstein mountains. The trail starts in Hirschegg Au and initially leads out of the valley before gradually climbing towards Oberwöldele and returning to the starting point. Alternatively, the route can be extended to a total of 17 kilometres.

Further information can be found at

www.kleinwalsertal.com/de/Aktivitaeten/Winter/Langlaufen

SKI TOURING & SNOWSHOEING

How can this sensitive natural environment be protected for the future, and what does a responsible nature experience look like when ski touring or snowshoeing? These are the key questions addressed by Kleinwalsertal's "Natur bewusst erleben" ("Experience Nature Mindfully") project. Its aim is to establish a forward-looking catalogue of measures. Nature-friendly recreational activities, clearly defined protected areas and area-specific visitor management measures are designed to preserve biodiversity and the unique interaction between natural and cultural landscapes in Kleinwalsertal.

In addition to checking the weather and avalanche reports, responsible tour planning also includes obtaining information about protected areas and wildlife resting zones along the route, as well as designated corridors for ascents and descents. It is important to protect and preserve the natural environment and to avoid dawn and dusk due to wildlife protection and resting periods. And the more you know about nature, the more rewarding and intense the experience becomes.

Popular starting points for ski tours in Kleinwalsertal include Baad and the Auenhütte at the Ifen valley station. The end of the valley around Baad and the Schwarzwassertal offer numerous tour options at varying levels of difficulty.

On a guided tour with experienced instructors from the Kleinwalsertal Mountain and Ski School, beginners can learn the techniques of ski touring while gaining their first insights into avalanche awareness and tour planning.

An easy and efficient online tour search tool is available as part of the "Natur bewusst erleben" initiative.