

11 Reasons Why You Should Ski in Austria

The freshly groomed pistes, the snow-covered mountains, the cool mountain air, and the pit stops at the traditional huts along the way... There are tons of reasons why skiing is a highly addictive sport – and just as many why you should hit the slopes in Austria!

From high-altitude pistes in many resorts to money-saving deals, charming huts and villages, and the unique “Lebensgefühl”, read our eleven reasons below!

1. There are plenty of snow-sure pistes

Snow-guarantee is a crucial factor when choosing a winter destination. And, luckily, the Austrian Alps are blessed with it. Widely recognised as one of the world’s most reliable skiing destinations, Austria’s top resorts ensure perfectly groomed pistes throughout the classic winter season – and beyond.

Tirol alone has a whopping five glaciers, including [Zillertal](#)’s Hintertux, where you can ski 365 days a year. In [Zell am See-Kaprun](#) skiing is on from October to June thanks to the Kitzsteinhorn glacier. And if everything goes wrong, Austria’s resorts also feature top-notch snow-making facilities. In resorts such as [SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser Brixental](#) the snowcats use a GPS-controlled slope management system for more efficiency.

2. It’s good value for money

Austria is well known for winning on the value-for-money stakes, with everything from lift passes, ski schools, eating out, and partying still affordable.

Savvy travellers can also find great deals in Austria’s ski resorts and save even more – an important factor in the current global economic crisis. A region especially well-known for its great value for money is – according to the British “Where to Ski and Snowboard Guide” – [Ski Juwel Alpbachtal Wildschönau](#).

3. Austria’s mountains are easy to reach

No matter where in the world you’re based, Austria’s slopes are easy to reach. Book a flight to Innsbruck, Salzburg, München, Linz, or Klagenfurt, and hop on a train to your ski resort upon arrival. Or make your journey even greener by travelling across Europe on a night train and wake up in Austria’s winter wonderland. Once at the destination, ski buses are widely available, allowing a worry- and car-free winter holiday.

4. The villages are charming and authentic

Ski-in/ski-out from your doorstep! In many Austrian resorts, the lifts are in the heart of the village, within walking distance from your hotel and right where the locals go about their daily lives. The picturesque villages have grown organically over the centuries and still boast their original Old-World charm – the perfect setting for a winter fairy-tale like back in the day.

5. The Austrian “Lebensgefühl” is legendary

The Austrian “Lebensgefühl” is hard to explain. It’s something that can only be comprehended through the feelings of joy that you experience in the moments you share with your friends, family, and, most importantly, the locals. Austrians have a unique attitude to life. They do not take themselves or life too seriously, they enjoy each moment as it arrives, and are infused with a love of life that is infectious. The “Lebensgefühl” can be felt in all the small moments: The friendly greeting as you enter a hut or the pride with which you will be served your schnitzel. The cold win in your face as you step out of the lift or the joy of hurtling down a mountain.

It’s a lust for life, for the natural world, and for the community and culture which cannot be replicated. The more time you spend in Austria, the more you will come to understand this feeling.

6. The resorts are extensive – and modern

Sometimes size does matter. [Arlberg](#) (305 km of slopes), [SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser-Brixental](#) (275 km) and [Skicircus Saalbach Hinterglemm Leogang Fieberbrunn](#) (270 km) are the largest ski resorts in Austria - and they are widely considered to be some of the most modern in Europe, too. Austria invests millions every year to improve and upgrade its lift and gondola network – make the most of it!

7. Austria is perfect for a family winter holiday

Skiing with little ones in tow is a memorable experience - but it also presents some challenges. That being said, things get a lot smoother if you book yourself into the right resort.

Smaller resorts such as [St. Johann in Tirol](#) and [St. Johann in Salzburg](#) are especially popular thanks to their extensive family-friendly offers, think kids clubs, ski schools, and childcare. Other family resorts include cosy [Radstadt-Altenmarkt](#) (part of the Altenmarkt-Zauchensee region) and the larger [Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis](#). And all of them await guests with attractive family deals.

8. The ski schools are top-notch

No matter if beginner or advanced skier, there's always something new to learn on the slopes. Thanks to its long skiing tradition, Austria has an extensive network of excellent ski schools, employing around 18,000 professional instructors. Usually, there's at least one English-speaking pro on-site, so you don't need to speak German to attend a course.

Austria's instructor training is renowned worldwide. Unsurprisingly therefore, people from all over come to Austria to master their skills – or train as ski instructors.

9. We invented Kaiserschmarren – try it at a mountain hut

Skiing is a proper workout, so you certainly deserve sampling all the hearty Austrian food everyone talks about! Kaiserschmarren, a fluffy chopped-pancake dish, is a classic for sharing. Other popular dishes worth trying include Kaspressknödel (cheese dumplings), Tiroler Gröstl (bacon, onion, and potato fry-up) and Käsespätzle (cheese spaetzle).

The traditional food is typically enjoyed together with Skiwasser (water with raspberry and lemon sirup) and – if you are done with skiing for the day – followed by a proper home-made schnapps.

10. You can go skiing and sightseeing in one day

Even the most dedicated skier needs a break. So why not use it for some sightseeing? In Austria, holidaymakers can combine wintersports with city activities, enjoying the best of both worlds. Head to [Innsbruck](#) (surrounded by 13 ski areas!) and stroll its imperial streets, then have a coffee in a classic coffeehouse before taking a cable car from the centre and be at 2,000 m in just 20 minutes!

11. The next spa is never far away

Most of Austria's ski hotels have their own spas – or partner up with nearby ones to offer their guests attractive deals. What better way to recharge your batteries after a day of skiing than in a heated outdoor tub or a sauna? Or, if travelling with friends or a significant other that aren't too keen on skiing, chances are they won't mind spending a few hours relaxing at the pool while you are free to continue whisking down your favourite slopes.

[Gurgl](#) and [Sölden](#) in Tirol's Ötztal are especially known for their attractive spa offers.