



Press information Obertauern

Winter 2017/18

On top with high levels of snow safety

Obertauern scores with diverse offerings for the entire family

Legendary Bavarian politician Franz Josef Strauß supposedly once quipped: "Up is where I'm at. If I happen to be down, then down is up." In Obertauern there is no such thing as down. Here, everything is somehow "on top": The name, the ski resort, the après ski.

The renowned ski resort near Salzburg loves to brag about its location: 90 kilometres from Mozart's birth town, located between Vienna and Munich and easily accessible from both cities. Thanks to quick and affordable flights to Salzburg and Klagenfurt and the convenient airport shuttle from and to Obertauern – also known as Austria's snow bowl – is a popular destination which basically allows you to "fly right in... to the snow." From the centre of town located at 1,740 m, pistes radiate out like the spokes of a gigantic wheel, covering mountain slopes up to an altitude of 2,313 m.

Thanks to the unique weather conditions in the Tauern mountains, snow clouds coming from the north as well as from the south bring their fluffy white splendour to Obertauern. Often, the first snow falls in October and stays until May, lasting as long as seven months. The guarantee of snow in Obertauern has been proven in a study published by ski tourism researcher Günther Aigner in 2016. With an average maximum snow depth of 264 centimetres, Obertauern is number one on the list for guaranteed snow of the seven leading Austrian winter sports destinations.

The legendary Tauern round: You say you want a ski revolution?

The walls of many homes and hotels are still lined with photographs depicting the Beatles wildly racing down the slopes of Obertauern. The Fab Four are partly responsible for Obertauern's international fame which has been steadily growing over the past decades. But what probably contributed even more to Obertauern's mythical reputation as true ski haven is the near perfect layout and network of lifts.

You can "ski in or ski out" from any location in the village. Strap on your skis and a couple of turns later, you will find yourself swooshing down a slope. The lifts are set up in a way that enables skiers to explore all the pistes in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction, ultimately returning them to their starting point. The "Tauern round" is the name of this unique skiing circuit which includes 26 modern cable cars and ski lifts that connect approximately 100 kilometres of slopes.

In the upcoming winter season, this unique skiing circuit called "Tauern round" will be complemented by two brand new "Tauern rounds for kids" tailored to the ability and stamina of children and teens. As counterparts to the tried and tested Tauern round for grown-ups, smaller children can frolic on the "Bobby round", named after local mascot Bobby, while more advanced kids and teens will be hitting "My Track". On both rounds, a fun park, a time-measuring track, a ghost train and a wave-track encourage the young guests to share their Obertauern experiences under the Hashtag #LOVEOBERTAUERN.



Tip-top adventure even for the kids

Obertauern is more than just a playground for young urban people – the special Obertauern feeling attracts all age groups. New arrivals are usually amazed to see how many families with children can be found on the slopes and in the hotels. There are seven skiing and snowboarding schools in town that all tend especially to younger, novice skiers. At the Bibo Bear family ski park, children are playfully introduced to snow and skis. There are three slopes available for different aptitude levels. More advanced kids who are already comfortable on skis can look forward to approximately 60 kilometres of easy slopes and an extraordinary surprise: At the foot of the Schaidbergbahn in Fairytale Park, a spooky haunted ski house awaits to be explored. For non-skiing children, there is a kindergarten – the Kinderland Obertauern – with trained personnel. Parents are guaranteed a quiet and carefree holiday, whether they enjoy winter sports or wellness.

Smooth or bumpy but always truly adventurous

Once skiers and snowboarders have retired to the après ski spots in town, a completely different spectacle begins. Countless snowcats start whirring up and down the slopes, smoothing and roughing up the surfaces so that winter sports lovers may find perfectly prepped slopes the very next morning. In contrast to the smoothly groomed slopes, the Gamsleiten 2, one of the steepest mogul slopes in all of Europe, offers a defiant challenge and adventure for the best of the best amongst skiers and snowboarders.

“The Spot” is a popular snowpark skiers and snowboarders love to hang out at. From beginner lines to rails, all the way to boxes and jumps, it offers everything the shredder’s heart desires. Snow-kiters have also discovered the amazing characteristics of Obertauern. For people just getting into this trending sport, there is even a snow-kite school.

Many top-notch attractions

The après ski and nightlife scene in Obertauern is also vibrant. DJs from major European cities pump up the crowds in the clubs. More laid back guests and true connoisseurs can indulge themselves at the many alpine restaurants offering hearty fare. Obertauern traditionally celebrates its season kick-off in grand style – this year the festivities will take place over the course of three weeks: During the [International Ski Countdown](#) from November 22nd 2017, it is one event after another. The celebrations are kicked off on November 25th with the Obertauern Beats Festival, featuring renowned German DJs such as Felix Jaehn and Alle Farben. Then there is the legendary Ski-Opening concert on December 2nd, followed by the traditional Krampus Parade with hundreds of Krampuses, as well as the Ö3-Party on December 9th. Music and party lovers of all kinds will definitely find something to their liking. The season starts winding down in April with the biggest treasure hunt in the Alps – the Gamsleiten Kriterium – until even the last locations finally close for the year by May 1st. The great thing about all this is: There is a huge variety of offers and activities to choose from, but you can also just relax and do nothing. For guests who are exhausted after a long day on the slopes, the hotel sauna or a cosy spot next to the fireplace may just be the most perfect place on earth. Being on top of the world can also be quite strenuous.

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