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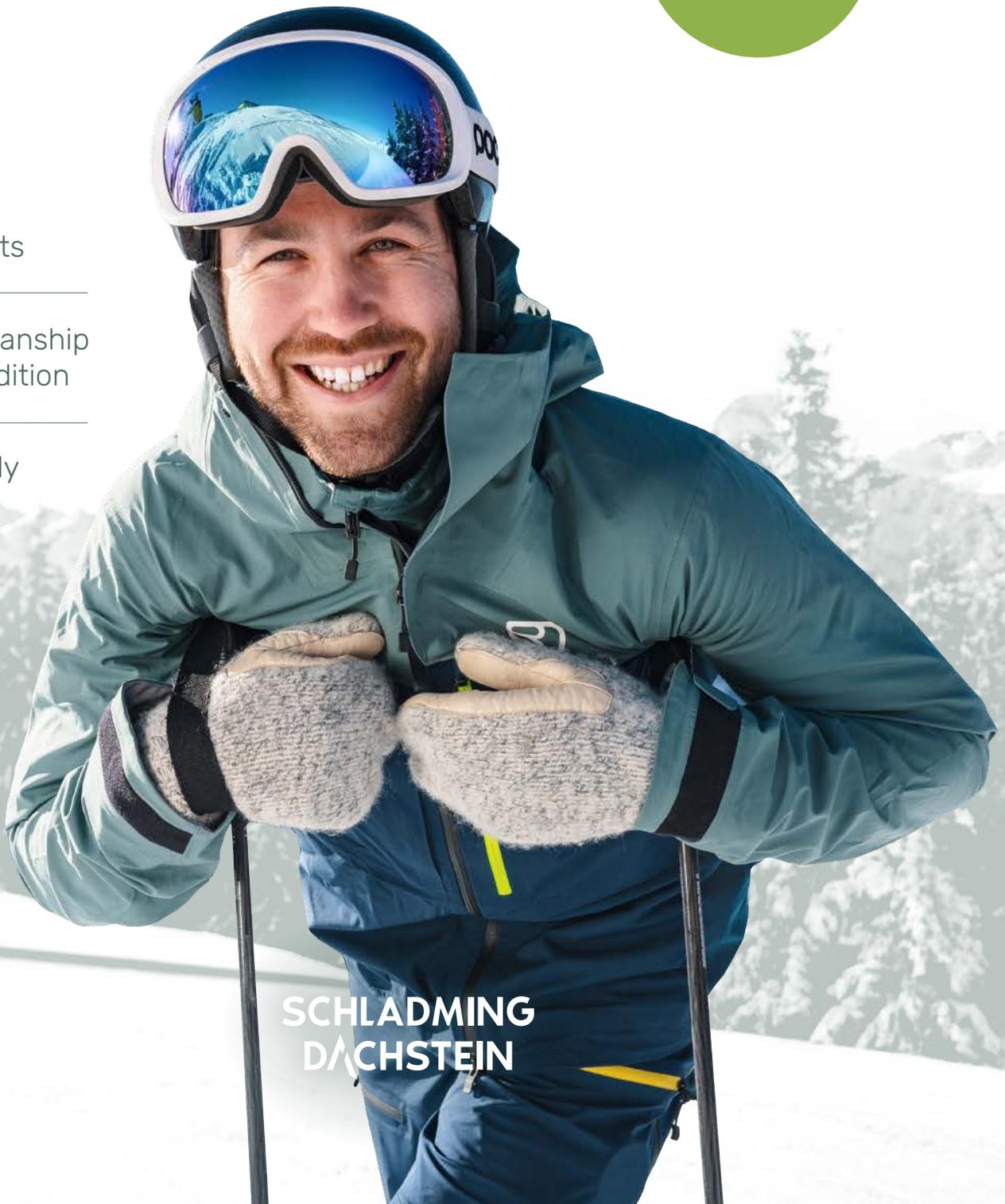
WINTER MAGAZINE 2025/26

ENGLISH  
VERSION

Nordic  
highlights

Craftsmanship  
with tradition

Endlessly  
sporty



SCHLADMING  
DACHSTEIN





*“There’s a dream run waiting for you.”*

FOREWORD



# A warm Welcome

**There are regions that touch our hearts immediately – through their landscape, their people, their stories. Schladming-Dachstein is one such place. Everyone who comes here feels that it’s more than just a holiday – it feels like home.**

In this issue, we will take you on a journey through this exact feeling: from traditional crafts that have been handed down for generations to a nativity scene maker who creates small works of art with passion. We will accompany young alpine skier Eva Schachner on her journey, share in the excitement with Nordic Olympic hopefuls Tamara Steiner, Mika Vermeulen and Franz-Josef Rehrl, and discover how outdoor sports in our region are also accessible for people with disabilities. We will celebrate the special moments – at the legendary Dachsteinlauf cross-country skiing race in Ramsau, and at the

Ski Opening which entertains thousands of guests every year, this season showcasing the Backstreet Boys. And, of course, all the while we will be enjoying our regional cuisine, including the delicious Wagyu-Ennstal beef. This magazine invites you to rediscover winter in Schladming-Dachstein: full of the love of sport, wonderful experiences, a deep connection to nature and new lasting friendships. Be inspired by every page – by clear winter days, by the real-life stories of people who are leaving their mark on their own region – and find your very own favourite moments in the snow. Have fun discovering!



**Managing Director Mag. (FH) Mathias Schattleitner**  
and the entire team of the Schladming-Dachstein Tourist Office



**We’re there  
for you.**

# Content



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## Our stars of tomorrow

Tamara Steiner, Franz-Josef Rehr and Mika Vermeulen are training for the 2026 Olympics – athletic hopefuls and role models from our region.



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## Living inclusion

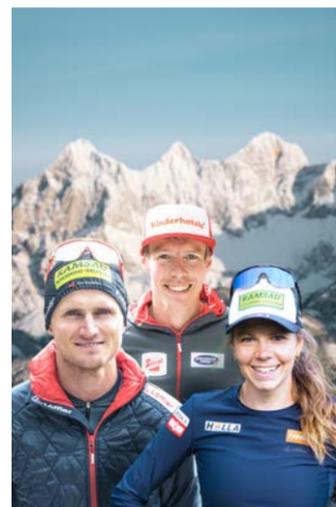
Together with Freizeit-PSO, winter sports become an experience for everyone.



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## Back to the 90s

A legendary comeback at the Ski Opening: the Backstreet Boys bring their hits, good vibes and nostalgia to the mountains.



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## Tradition in good hands

In the workshop of the Krippenverein Stein an der Enns, detailed nativity scenes are made by hand with traditional skills and great care.



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## Living the present, securing the future

Dr. Michaela Hölz shows how nature, regionality and quality of life in Schladming-Dachstein can be safeguarded – for the guests of today and tomorrow.



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## Indulgence at its best

The interview with Gottlieb Stocker shows how tradition and creativity create culinary experiences of the highest calibre.

# Highlights

**9**  
ski mountains

**222** km  
of fun on the slopes

**99**  
ski lifts

MORE THAN **90**  
ski lodges

**Children up to 6 years\* ski for free!**



ON ALL MOUNTAINS OF THE SCHLADMING 4-MOUNTAIN SKI AREA (HAUSER KAIBLING, PLANAI, HOCHWURZEN, REITERALM), ON SKI RITTISBERG, GALSTERBERG AND FAGERALM, CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF 6 CAN SKI FOR FREE IN WINTER 2025/26.

RIDING ON THE DACHSTEIN-GLETSCHERBAHN GONDOLA IS ALSO FREE.

**More than 700**

EMPLOYEES OF THE CABLE CAR OPERATORS WORK HARD EVERY DAY TO OFFER GUESTS THE BEST POSSIBLE CONDITIONS.

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING GOING ON AT THE INFORMATION POINTS OF THE SCHLADMING-DACHSTEIN TOURIST OFFICE: DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, WE RECEIVE UP TO

**500 calls**

PER DAY AND AROUND 400 GUESTS LOOKING FOR PERSONAL TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

\* Born in 2020 or later

**5 Boys**  
**3 concerts**

THE LEGENDARY BACKSTREET BOYS WILL ROCK THE STAGE AT THE SKI OPENING 2025 IN SCHLADMING.

**4-country panorama**

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE FROM THE DACHSTEIN GLACIER ACROSS AUSTRIA ALL THE WAY TO GERMANY, THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA.



**1953**

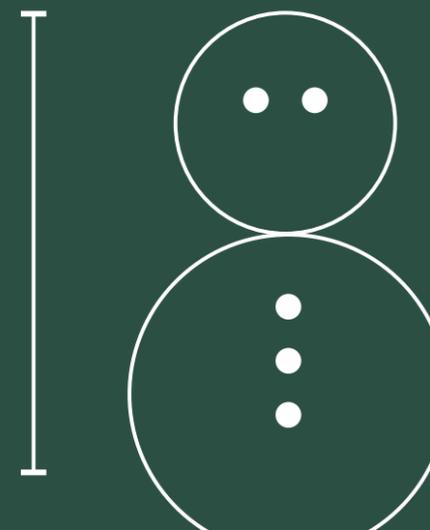
IN THIS YEAR, THE FIRST T-BAR LIFT WAS BUILT ON THE PLANAI SUMMIT.

**1910**

That was when the first ski race of the WSV Schladming club took place. The route led from the Austriahütte lodge to the Schladming railway station.

**38.04 m**  
**tall snowman**

RIESNERALM HOLDS THE WORLD RECORD FOR THE LARGEST SNOWMAN EVER BUILT.



WHEN THE FLOODLIGHTS GO ON FOR THE NIGHTRACE IN SCHLADMING, NIGHT TURNS INTO DAY:

**40,000**  
**fans from**

**39**

**countries**

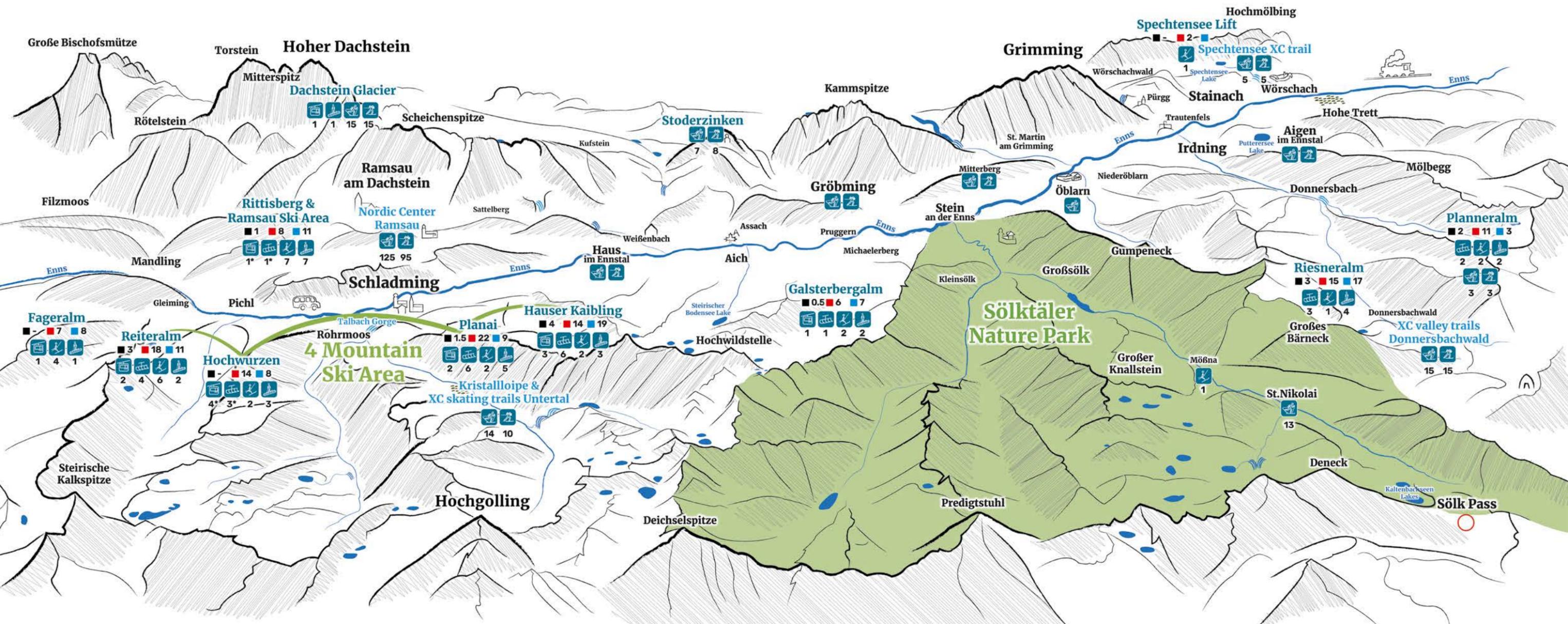
TURN PLANAI INTO A SEA OF FLAGS, CHEERING AND EXCITEMENT.

THEY TAKE YOU TO THE TOP

# Winter Cable cars

### The icons briefly explained

-  Cable car
-  Chairlift
-  T-bar lift/button lift
-  Magic carpet/children's lift
-  Cross-country skiing trail - classic
-  Cross-country skiing trail - skating
-  **Blue piste:** easy
-  **Red piste:** medium-difficult
-  **Black piste:** difficult



# Uplifting News

The Schladming-Dachstein region is always investing in itself. New cable cars not only provide more speed and comfort, but also seamless connections and a noticeably more relaxed winter experience for all guests. With new facilities, the region's cable car operators are sending a positive sign for the future: innovative technology and modern construction methods open up new possibilities on the mountain and make the ascent a pleasure.



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## New 8-passenger cable car "Fageralmbahn"

Sustainable and offering great views: the new "Fageralmbahn" cable car now takes leisure skiers and families comfortably protected from the weather all the way from the valley to the sunny high plateau of Fageralm in next to no time. This future-oriented investment combines technical innovation with sustainability and a regional circular economy.

## Fageralm: Fageralmbahn

- 8-passenger cable car
- Capacity: 1,160 persons/hour
- Travel time: 12 minutes
- Speed: 6 m/s

### Special features:

- Non-stop from the valley to the high plateau
- All slopes accessible from the mountain station
- Upcycled, sustainable gondola lift

## NEW from winter 2025/26: 4 Mountain Ski Super Connection

The Schladming 4 mountain ski circuit will achieve even higher standards in the 2025/26 winter season. Two new, ultra-modern ski lifts – the 8-seater chairlift "Mitterhausalm I" on Planai and the 10-passenger cable car "Senderbahn" on Hauser Kaibling – provide an even faster and more comfortable connection between the ski mountains. This makes changing mountains in this ski circuit easier and more convenient than ever before. The new Super Connection brings two major mountains even closer together and raises the skiing experience in the region to a new level.

## Hauser Kaibling: Senderbahn

- 10-passenger cable car
- Capacity: 2,800 persons/hour
- Travel time: 5 minutes
- Speed: 6 m/s

### Special features:

- Ski rack inside: quick, convenient access
- Wind-protected design
- Shorter travel time due to gondola

## Planai: Mitterhausalm I

- 8-seater chairlift
- Capacity: 2,600 persons/hour
- Travel time: 3 minutes
- Speed: 5.5 m/s

### Special features:

- Heated seats and comfortable upholstery
- Weather protection hoods
- 31 chairs



# Family bliss



# Planai & Hochwurzen

## Winter adventure on two mountains

**Planai and Hochwurzen are real adventure mountains. They are full of variety and great experiences for you and your family. Whether you are looking for challenging descents, special piste highlights, cosy lodges or nighttime skiing and tobogganing fun, there is something for everyone here.**

### Planai: A winter experience for the whole family

Schladming's Planai offers you far more than just classic pistes. Here, sporting challenges combine with fun in the snow. This ski area is perfect for families, children and all those who love a varied winter experience. Away from the classic downhill runs, the funslope and funcross trails with steep turns, waves and small jumps invite you to enjoy action-packed rides. If you are looking for a special thrill, there are permanent racetracks where you can compete with friends or improve your technique. At the Planai Superpark, you will find creative obstacles and lines for every level, from beginner to pro, and have unlimited fun in the snow.



### Hopsi's winter world: Fun, games and first turns

Hopsi Winterkinderland on Planai is perfect for your first experience on skis. Ascent is easy with the Planai Hauptseilbahn cable car. From the mountain station, you can reach Hopsi's winter world directly via the pedestrian tunnel and the barrier-free Hopsi Express. There, our mascot Hopsi will accompany you on an exciting trip around the world with child-friendly runs such as the China slalom, the wave track or the Croco Trophy. More experienced children can reach Hopsiland from the Planai summit via the forest trail with its carved forest animals and further along the Möhrchenweg trail on easy slopes. If you need a break from skiing, explore the winter hiking trail, which takes about an hour, and enjoy a leisurely break at the "North Pole" or in "Australia".



### Winter variety on Hochwurzen

On Hochwurzen, you can have all sorts of winter fun, from sporty downhill runs and the natural toboggan run to the 4-season trail for relaxed winter walks. Here you will find plenty of opportunities to enjoy winter to your heart's content. Whichever adventure you choose, a short stop at the summit is always worthwhile, where an impressive panoramic view of the snow-covered Ennstal Valley awaits. Even without skis, you can easily reach the summit with the Gipfelbahn cable car. A separate ascent track is available for ski tourers.



### Hochwurzen: Tobogganing fun by day and night

The natural toboggan run on Hochwurzen is a real highlight for all ages. Seven kilometres long, it is perfectly groomed and provides plenty of speed and fun. During the day, you can whizz through snow-covered forests and enjoy the clear mountain air. The toboggan run can be reached directly from the Hochwurzen Gipfelbahn cable car and is as exciting for young adventurers as for toboggan fans who are young at heart. And when dusk falls, the adventure continues with night tobogganing under floodlights or night skiing on the atmospherically illuminated piste no. 33, which turns Hochwurzen into a stage for unforgettable winter moments.

### Delicious moments on Planai & Hochwurzen

Treat yourself to a break and enjoy the authentic regional delicacies – whether on sunny terraces with a view or in rustic lodges with a cosy atmosphere. The Genuss-Specht-Wirte gourmet inns on Planai and the lodges on Hochwurzen will spoil you with hearty specialities and creative dishes. Enjoy a culinary experience for the whole family and feel the genuine hospitality that will make your winter day perfect.





## Reiteralm

Where winter comes alive

**It's not just the snow that sparkles here – children's eyes will light up too. On Reiteralm, which is part of the 4-mountain ski area, the spirit of adventure, fun in the snow and family time combine to create a very special experience.**

With its freshly groomed pistes with breathtaking views of the majestic Dachstein massif and surrounded by cosy lodges, Reiteralm is a true winter paradise for the whole family. Reiteralm has been awarded the international gold piste seal of quality six times – a unique distinction throughout the European Alps and a guarantee for fun on the slopes at the highest level.

### Little snow stars on a big discovery tour

Winter becomes a real experience at the kids' land: colourful conveyor belts, crawling tunnels, snowball walls, a merry children's carousel and lovingly designed figures will delight the children and light up their faces. Here they can play, romp and discover their first skiing in a playful way. The sunny location and easy accessibility by cable car also make it particularly attractive to parents. The ski school and rental shop are right on site. So kids can start their snow adventure relaxed and with a smile.

### For brave kids and sporty families

If you want to go a little faster, try Crosspark, Cool Running, Kids Cool Running, Skimovie Reiteralm or the Speed Check. It's all about action, speed and shared adventures: kids can fine-tune their turns, film their own descents or time who is the fastest. Steep curves, jumps and turns provide the excitement, as the family cheers each other on and has lots of fun together in the snow.



## Hauser Kaibling

A mountain full of highlights: family time on Hauser Kaibling

**On Hauser Kaibling, a day's skiing becomes a real family adventure! As the first access point to the Schladming 4-mountain ski area, it impresses everyone with its huge free practice area, generous parking facilities right at the valley station and exciting facilities for kids.**

### For little skiers and beginners

Wollis Kids' Park with 24,000 m<sup>2</sup> full of possibilities awaits you right at the valley station: magic carpets, button lift, wave track and fun play elements create the ideal introduction to the world of skiing. Right next to it, a cosy ski lodge provides well-deserved breaks. And if you need help learning, the Haus im Ennstal ski & snowboard school is the perfect place for you. Whether it's private lessons, the miniclub for the little ones or group courses with lunch at the Kids' Restaurant, a ski school becomes a real experience here. The right equipment is available next door at Sport Shop Hauser Kaibling: ski and snowboard rental, the latest fashion and great service provide a smooth start to a day's skiing.

### NEW from winter 2025/26: Even faster to family bliss!

Two new, ultra-modern ski lifts now make your snow adventure even more comfortable. The 8-seater chairlift "Kaiblinggrat" has individual footrests and convenient access via a riser that automatically raises children smaller than 1.25 m by 15 cm so that they can sit comfortably and safely. The brand-new 10-passenger cable car "Senderbahn Hauser Kaibling" will take you directly to the Sender plateau. This means you are just one lift ride away from the highest point of the Schladming 4-mountain ski area. Thanks to closed cabins with ski racks inside and a wind-protected design, it is particularly family-friendly.



### Plenty of excitement on the mountain too

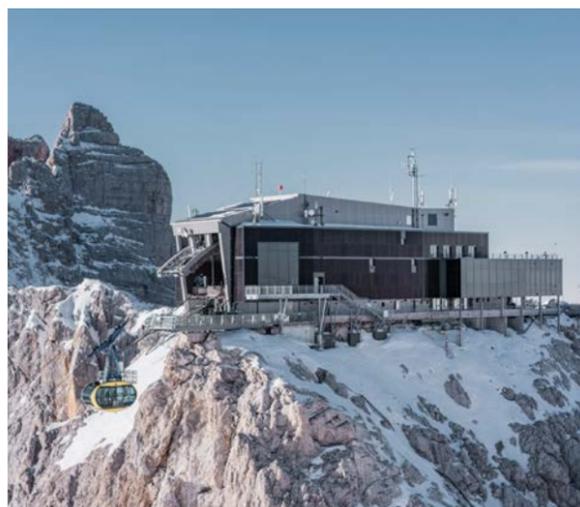
A real highlight for the whole family awaits you on the mountain: the XXL funslope, one of the longest funslopes in the whole of Austria! With a speed booster, snow tunnel, giant spiral and lots of surprises, it will amaze you and put a smile on your face – right in the heart of the fantastic scenery of Kaiblingalm. And those who make it to the top will be rewarded: at the summit, which is the highest point of the Schladming 4-mountain ski area at 2,015 metres above sea level, our mascot Wollli himself is waiting! Take a photo together, make an entry in the summit book and enjoy an unforgettable moment for the whole family.



# Dachstein

The high alpine glacier experience

Dachstein is one of the most impressive peaks in the Alps and can be easily reached in just a few minutes thanks to the Dachstein-Gletscherbahn gondola. At 2,700 metres above sea level, guests are welcomed by a modern mountain station with an innovative photovoltaic glass façade and a panoramic view that is guaranteed to amaze.



## Highlights directly at the mountain station

As soon as you arrive via the Gletscherbahn gondola, you can feel like you're floating weightlessly above the abyss on the Sky Walk viewing platform. If you are looking for a thrill, venture up the Dachstein Sky Ladder: 12 narrow steps lead up to a glass platform with an unobstructed view towards the Dachstein summit. It gets even more exciting on the 100-metre-long Suspension Bridge, which spans impressively over the rock faces. There you'll find the next highlight right at the end of the Suspension Bridge: the Stairway to Nothingness. Here you stand on a glass plateau, 400 metres above the foot of the rock face. Adrenaline rush guaranteed!



## The Ice Palace – magic for all ages

The Ice Palace is a special experience for families: a fascinating world of glittering ice opens up six metres below the glacier. Between sparkling sculptures and artistically designed figures, children and adults can discover a marvelous magical winter world.

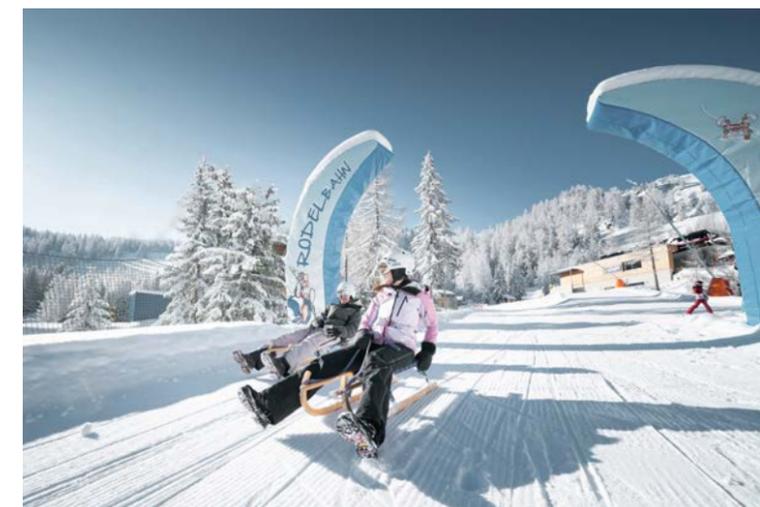
## Food with panoramic views

After so many impressions, taking a break in the glacier restaurant is just the thing. Regional specialities and amazing 280-degree panoramic views make this time out a special treat. If you wish, you can start the day in a relaxed manner with a delicious breakfast. Before taking the Gletscherbahn gondola back down to the valley, we recommend a detour to the stylish Sky Bar – the perfect end to an unforgettable winter day on Dachstein.

# Galsterberg

The family ski mountain

Just 20 minutes from Schladming, a real winter paradise awaits you on Galsterberg, packed with plenty of adventures for the whole family. The modern 10-passenger cable car will take you to the mountain station in just six minutes, where you can plunge straight into a world of snow, fun and adventure.



## A variety of winter enjoyment

On Galsterberg you will find slopes for every ability level – from gentle slopes to sporty descents. There is also plenty of variety: exciting competitions can be held on the permanent racetrack. If you're looking for even more action, the three "Gallic fun runs" are just the thing. They provide lots of fun with creative elements and surprising obstacles.

## Skiing fun in Galstiland

Families can have lots of fun in the Gallic kids' land. The flat area with its clear layout is perfect for learning how to ski in a fun way – and the whole village is easy to explore. Many highlights await you in Galstiland, such as a wild boar hunt in the Little Gaul Park, an 85-metre-long magic carpet, talking Gaulish figures, a model piste basher which sounds like the real thing and a Roman watchtower.

## Tobogganing fun and ski touring experience

Pure thrills await you on the five-kilometre natural toboggan run – during the day or at night, when colourful lights transform the route into an atmospheric backdrop. Ski tourers also get their money's worth here. Marked routes lead you through snow-covered forests or along the piste, with breathtaking views of the winter landscape.

## Enjoy lodge food with a view

Between your adventures, the ski lodges on Galsterberg invite you to treat yourself. You can look forward to regional delicacies, warm hospitality and a cosy atmosphere – perfect for recharging your batteries and enjoying the panoramic views of the snow-covered mountains.



## Fageralm

Action for kids, culinary treats for parents

**Glistening powder snow, sunny views and children with happy sparkling eyes: Fageralm is the ideal destination for families, pleasure skiers and anyone who wants to enjoy a relaxed winter. Here, tranquillity meets vibrancy, and every day ends with beaming faces.**

Everyone can find their own winter happiness on the sunny high plateau of Fageralm: beginners dare to attempt their first descent, advanced skiers cruise leisurely down the sunny slopes. Winter hikers and ski tourers can discover their own personal winter adventure on snow-covered paths and untouched slopes. If you need a break in between, relax with regional delicacies in one of the rustic lodges – simply enjoy pure winter.



### Children's laughter guaranteed

At Fageralm, everything revolves around little explorers and big family moments. The new cable car provides easy access to the varied range of children's activities. On the sunny high plateau, children can play to their heart's content, slide, take their first turns on skis and simply enjoy the wonderful natural snow. Three special ski routes for children inspire with exciting descents and lots of fun. With a wave track, boardercross, timing and speed courses, action, fun and adventure are guaranteed. A ski school and ski rental are directly on site in the valley, so there is everything one could need for enjoyable ski lessons.



### Winter wonderland

## Rittisberg in Ramsau am Dachstein

**Kali, the "Ramsaur", is the best friend of all little winter sports enthusiasts, and there is plenty to discover in his kingdom. On the 4 km long fairy-tale downhill run, you will encounter talking giants, funny dwarves and good fairies. There are also numerous children's and family attractions with 8 dedicated children's slopes, practice lifts and playful elements that make skiing a special experience.**

Families are also well catered for off the slopes: Kaliland is a varied snow playground, the adventure slopes provide excitement, and in the largest children's ski school in the region, beginners learn step by step how to glide elegantly down the slopes.

### Fun into the evening

A special highlight is night tobogganing: twice a week the gondola lift will take you in comfort up to 1,500 m above sea level. From there, the 3.5 km long, floodlit run takes you down into the valley. This special experience will bring a smile to snow fans of all ages.



### Family benefits on Rittisberg

- 9 family-friendly ski lifts directly on site
- Night toboggan run on Rittisberg
- Kaliland and adventure slopes for children
- Austria's longest fairy-tale descent
- Largest children's ski school in the region
- Well-groomed, snow-covered slopes for the best conditions
- Winter welcome parties and mini bob run



# Riesneralm

Home of big and small turns

Shhhhh! ... We are about to reveal a secret that is no longer a secret: Riesneralm in Donnersbachwald is a real paradise for all those who love "more skiing – less time on the lift". Four continuous valley runs with a length of up to 7 kilometres ensure endless turns, from the summit to the valley.



## Children's ski circuit 2.0 – a special experience on Riesneralm for the little ones

Austria's first children's ski circuit is now even bigger, more varied and more exciting:

- New slopes for little snow heroes
- The brand-new KISI-Jet (conveyor belt) for an even easier ascent
- Access north and access south for flexible ski circuits
- Extended parking spaces directly at the access points
- A modern ski school centre in the middle of the children's ski circuit – every skiing adventure begins here!

## Winter delight in all its facets

While kids practice their first turns, adults can choose from 32 varied kilometres of slopes: from the black European Cup slope to sporty mogul slopes and cruising runs such as "Die Schneidige" or "Die Sonnige". And those who like to experience something special can carve down the "5\*\*\*\*\*" slope. After a day's skiing, the most original viewing platform in the Alps beckons, alongside culinary delicacies that enhance every refreshment stop. Riesneralm – where skiing is awesome for all generations.

# Planneralm

The highest ski village in Styria



Planneralm has stood for guaranteed snow and nature experiences for over 110 years. Here, winter sports enthusiasts can enjoy 16 km of perfectly groomed pistes, fantastic deep snow slopes and idyllic winter hiking trails, offering perfect conditions until Easter.

A special highlight for children is the witches' forest. Between snow-covered mountain pines and high trees, they can hurtle through deep snow, take shortcuts and discover a mysterious winter world. Like on a treasure hunt, witches and figures peer curiously from the branches and enchant visitors. It is especially magical after a fresh snowfall, when the first tracks lead into the pristine white. Parents can stay relaxed because thanks to the location of the witches' forest, children can get back to the piste safely.



## RENT THE MAGIC at BRÜNDL SPORTS

Bründl Sports – the main address for all sports enthusiasts in the Schladming–Dachstein region. With over 15,000 pairs of skis and ski boots, the family business founded in 1956 is now the largest ski rental shop in the Alps. The three shops in Schladming are not only impressive because of their fantastic location directly at Planet Planai and right opposite, but also their wide range of products: whether hiking gear, winter sports equipment, outdoor clothing, fashion clothing or everything to do with mountain biking.

You can always reserve the season's latest ski models from the comfort of your own home at [bruendl.at/rent](http://bruendl.at/rent). An exceptional service package awaits you on site, from ski depots directly at the valley station, professional ski service and ski boot fitting to the option of exchanging, servicing and returning equipment at any time.

With the BRÜNDL +CARD you will benefit from many attractive advantages. Find out more here.



**Bründl**  
SPORTS

## BRÜNDL SPORTS: 3 x IN SCHLADMING

Planet Planai – Coburgstraße 52 | 8970 Schladming

Charly Kahr – Coburgstraße 51 | 8970 Schladming

Bikeworld – Coburgstraße 52 | 8970 Schladming

(open from the beginning of March to the beginning of November)

T: +43 50 83 88 3180 | [planaishop@bruendl.at](mailto:planaishop@bruendl.at)

[www.bruendl.at/en](http://www.bruendl.at/en)



# Winter dream





***"I'm just happy on skis. For me, there is no better feeling."***

**EVA SCHACHNER**

# Star of the Future



**All that glitters is not gold. Some stars also shine. Just like a talented young alpine skier named Eva Schachner. This cheerful character talks about her everyday school and training life, the Schladming-Dachstein ski region and her exciting dreams for the future on the international ski scene.**

Gold jewellery. Yellow fingernails. A sporty and elegant outfit. And lots of self-confidence! When Eva Schachner walks into the room, no one would suspect she's only 19 years old due to her presence. The likeable young woman is currently the young alpine skiing starlet of the Schladming-Dachstein region. This fact doesn't stress Eva out at all. "It doesn't put any pressure on me. I'm rather proud of it," says the Styrian, who competes for the Gröbming Ski Club and is currently flitting back and forth between the Schladming Ski Academy and training runs in Tyrol. Actually, she's always whizzing to somewhere, at least when it comes to the alpine speed disciplines of downhill and super-G, which Eva loves. Before the first races start again at the beginning of December, she still has a lot of schoolwork to get through. The C-squad skier is looking forward to the coming season and is in good spirits after her serious injuries. "My motivation was to ski again in autumn. For me, there is no better feeling. I'm just happy on skis," she tells us. The Öblarn native had to get through a difficult time, as she says that last winter was a personal low point for her and her mental state with two injuries. "Injuries are always bad. Nevertheless, I was lucky despite the bad crash during training." Three large muscles on the back of her thigh were seriously injured, which was a com-

plicated matter that ultimately had to be operated on by an expert surgeon. "For classic ligament tears, the entire recovery process is now well known and also well-established among coaches and physiotherapists. But nobody really knew what to expect from me," she explains. However, Eva was able to recharge her batteries over the summer months and is looking forward to the coming racing season. "I want to consistently collect points in the European Cup this year and improve from year to year." A good, short-term goal, because the racing season will start again soon in St. Moritz, before heading to Italy and Austrian ski resorts.

## **Rituals and racing start**

A personal ritual at the start gives Eva a sense of security. "It's always exactly the same procedure for 5 years now. I fasten my ski boots and helmet. I stomp my skis into the ground a few times and bang my ski poles together. It's probably a way of signalling to my body and my subconscious that it's about to start," jokes the passionate skier and she laughs heartily, raising the bridge of her nose slightly and her eyes light up. "Yes, and I like the adrenaline rush before the start. This kick pushes me. I think it's cool, and I need that. Otherwise, I can't throw myself down there like a madwoman," she adds and has to laugh again.





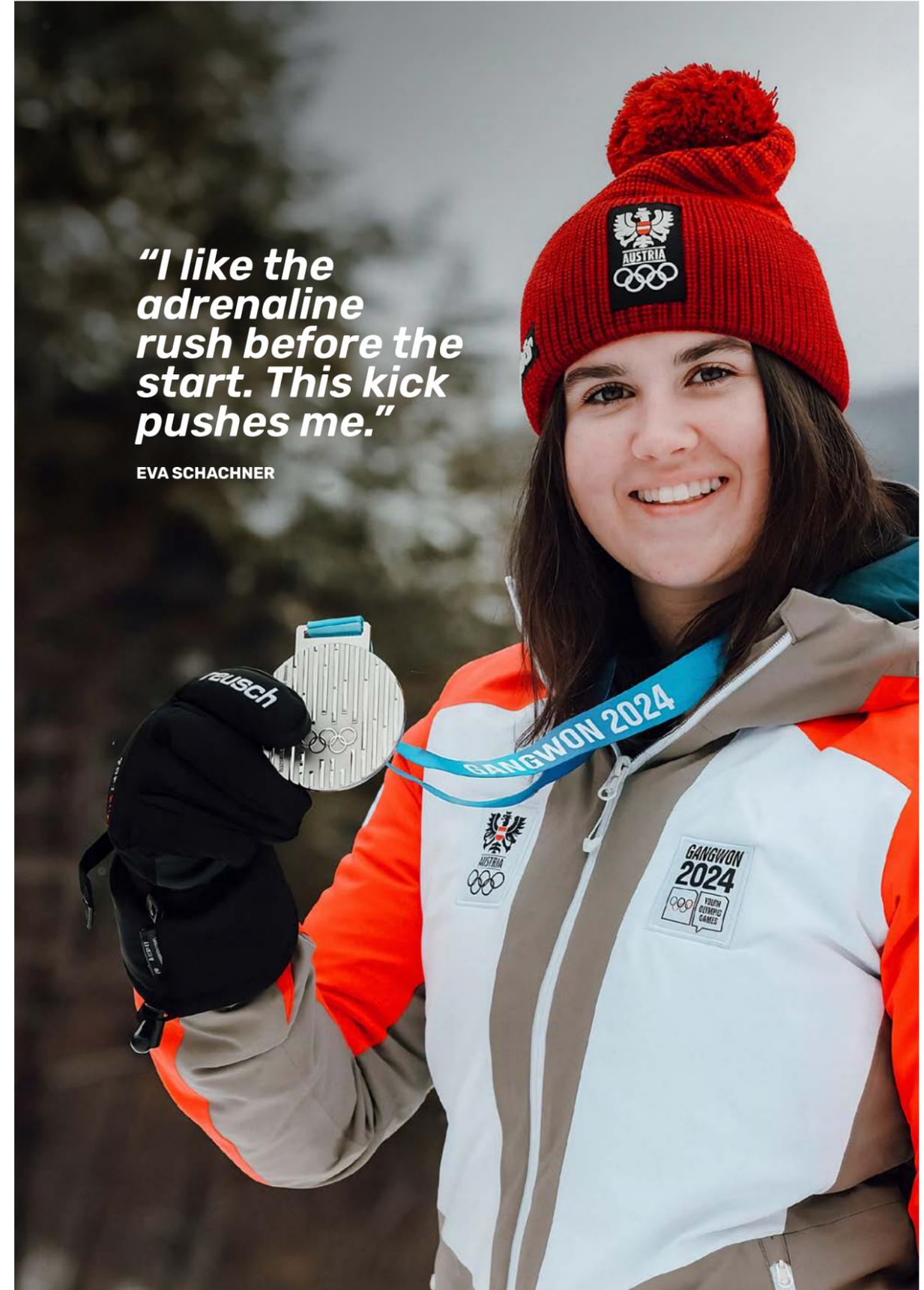
Her enthusiasm cannot be overlooked. Her love for skiing is infectious. But above all, her determination is overwhelming. "I already decided in primary school to go to secondary school with a focus on skiing and then to the Ski Academy. My parents never pushed me in any direction, but they always supported me. However, the decision to pursue skiing professionally was my own," she explains. That's why it's easy for her to say that she doesn't have to prove anything to anyone. In fact, Eva would be disappointing herself if her personal plan A didn't work out. "I don't have a plan B. Next year I'll graduate from high school and then I'll study at university alongside skiing. That much is certain."

**Highlights and power generator**

Her personal highlight was the Youth Olympics in South Korea last year, where Eva secured second place. When you consider that athletes from all over the world are taking part in that age category, you can understand her pride. "It felt like the Olympics for us young ones. The long-haul flight, reporters everywhere, my first interviews in English, a doping test and TV broadcasts back home – it was an incredible experience for me, and a taste of what it's like in the international ski scene. And then I knew that's where I want to go!" the Styrian reminisces. Speaking of memories: Eva also likes to think back to her carefree childhood in the Schladming-Dachstein region. Her grandparents ran the Steinerhaus mountain inn on Stoderzinken, where Eva loved to whizz down the mountain on her skis. Of course, a little later she also took part in all the other races on the ski mountains in the area and still enjoys skiing at home today – if there is time, of course! Eva also likes to spend her free time doing other sports. "I like

hiking, playing volleyball, tennis or swimming in our beautiful lakes. I recharge my batteries best when I spend time with my family or friends. Or when I enjoy a sunrise or sunset on Mount Stoder," she says. According to Eva, she has strong ties to the region and always enjoys returning to her home after spending time abroad. "This is where my roots are. And I also have a lot to thank my family for in terms of my skiing career. After all, I've been through a lot with two older brothers," she jokes again and laughs, "Joking aside. I like to think back to my childhood. We are not a classic skiing family, but I am supported wherever possible. And my parents sometimes travel with me to watch races live. Mom can't always look – but at least she can keep her fingers crossed!" Understandable, when your daughter is racing down icy slopes at 100 km/h! What Eva would like to add in conclusion: "I would like to thank everyone who believes in me and pushes me mentally. And I would like to thank the Schladming-Dachstein region for its support. When we travel around the world and compare ourselves with other countries it becomes clear that we Austrians are really well supported in our national sport."

**We wish Eva all the best for the coming winter season and keep our fingers crossed!**



***"I like the adrenaline rush before the start. This kick pushes me."***

**EVA SCHACHNER**

*“I want to consistently collect points in the European Cup this year and improve from year to year.”*

EVA SCHACHNER



## Alpine skiing facts and figures



### 9 ski mountains

Four of which around Schladming are seamlessly connected with 123 km of slopes. The nine mountains also include Planneralm, the highest ski area in Styria.



### 222 km of slopes

Highlight: The FIS, Primps and valley runs on the Hochwurzen are connected, creating the longest valley run with 8 km of continuous skiing pleasure.



### 98 ski lifts

The entire ski region includes the 4-mountain ski circuit in Schladming as well as 5 other ski mountains.



### 7 kids' lands

The largest kids' ski world in Styria awaits on Rittisberg, while Riesneralm scores points with the largest children's ski circuit in Styria.



### 12 funslopes

These include the Reiteralm Crosspark, with its spectacular routes and the "Almhüttensprung" jump, or the Planai Superpark with jumps and rails for all abilities.



### 17 ski and snowboard schools

These promote young talent and beginners and serve to keep the enthusiasm for skiing alive.



### 30 ski and snowboard rentals

Here you will find state-of-the-art equipment for all ages and skill levels. There are also special offers for freeriding, freestyle and much more.



### Highest ski lift station: 2,015 m altitude

The Gipfelbahn chairlift on Hauser Kaibling leads to the highest point of the Schladming 4-mountain ski circuit with magnificent 360° views.



### 92 ski lodges

92 ski lodges, including 16 "Almkulinarik" partners, invite you to spend a little more time and enjoy Schladming-Dachstein.



### Nighttime skiing

On Hochwurzen (piste no. 33) with a view of Schladming at night – an atmospheric highlight.

ORTOVOX

natural insulation  
by ORTOVOX.  
HIM.

Nature created the function.  
We shaped it for a new era of mountainwear.

# Natural Insulation



**Nothing beats nature – ORTOVOX is convinced of this. Since its first clothing line in 1988, the Bavarian mountain sports brand has been utilising the natural superiority of wool, to an extent and with a consistency that is unique in the industry: ORTOVOX relies on natural materials across all layers and even for backpacks.**

ORTOVOX was also a pioneer in the field of insulation with the introduction of the regionally sourced, high-quality SWISSWOOL sheep's wool. Now ORTOVOX is opening a new chapter: with METAWOOL and DownWool® by Grüezi bag, the brand presents the next generation of natural mountain sports products. Responsibly manufactured from local resources, produced in Europe – and naturally superior.

### Special blend – maximum warmth

It is a unique and technically outstanding combination: 70% down and 30% wool from the Alpine region result in sensational thermal performance with low weight and high climate comfort. The new DOWNWOOL 270 JACKET is the warmest insulation layer in the ORTOVOX collection – thanks to the unique filling material DownWool® by Grüezi bag. It combines the unbeatable insulation-to-weight ratio of down with the climate-regulating and moisture-binding properties of wool. The advantages of down are retained, even when damp.

ORTOVOX has also been working on perfecting merino wool for decades. Now the fine fibre is finding its way into the insulation layer with METAWOOL: the wool comes from sheep from southern Germany and is combined with a bio-based polymer. The technical RAVINE METAWOOL 90 JACKET demonstrates the performance of regional natural materials and offers sensational climate comfort, rapid moisture management and odour reduction.



*Three top athletes on the way to the 2026 Olympic Games: Tamara Steiner, Mika Vermeulen and Franz-Josef Rehrl.*



# Local Olympic hopefuls

**They're at home in the snow. They work in winter sports. And they are pursuing the same dream: to take part in the 2026 Winter Olympic Games. What else do Tamara Steiner, Mika Vermeulen and Franz-Josef Rehrl have in common? Right! They all come from the Schladming-Dachstein region. A place that has everything required to support their sporting talents. A place that will support them for a long time to come. A place that will forever be their home. We'll get up close and personal with the 3 of our top local athletes!**

Five interlocking rings, which stand for the unity of the five continents and the gathering of athletes from all over the world. Of course, we are talking about the Olympic symbol in the colours blue, yellow, black, green and red. The origin of the participants is just as colourful as the symbol. From 6 until 22 February 2026, the Winter Olympic Games in Milano Cortina will mean the world to more than 3,500 athletes from 93 countries. How do our domestic Olympic hopefuls feel? We asked biathlete Tamara Steiner, cross-country skier Mika Vermeulen and Nordic combined athlete Franz-Josef Rehrl for a few answers.

## **What are the last few weeks of training before the Olympic Games like?**

**Tamara:** At the beginning of my last few weeks before the Olympics, I will still be competing in "normal" competitions. So there are still races until the middle/end of January, then the special training preparation for the Olympics begins. In this training phase, I will be taking shorter, high-intensity units. This means that the main focus is on the quality of the training. It is also important to build up a good feeling during shooting training.

**Mika:** I will probably be preparing for the Olympics at home, in Ramsau am Dachstein. We have the best trails and the best infrastructure there. I have everything I need there to perform well at the Olympic Games.

**Franz-Josef:** The last few weeks of training are all about fine-tuning. We will once again work intensively on our ski jumping and not over-do the cross-country skiing so that we are in top form in time for the Games.



**“It’s a privilege to call this region my home.”**

TAMARA STEINER



**What is your attitude and goal when you travel to Cortina?**

**Tamara:** The goal in Antholz is to compete in as many competitions as possible. If I manage to qualify for the mass start (the last race with only 30 participants), it will mean that I had very good results in the races before that. A relay medal would be sensational for me.

**Mika:** The goal is clearly a medal – and preferably gold.

**Franz-Josef:** For me, the first big hurdle is to be there at all. If I achieve this, I have a clear goal: to win a medal. I’ve already experienced “just” being there twice – this time I want to take the next step.

**Do you pay particular attention to your diet? Do you do any mental training?**

**Tamara:** I don’t have a strict diet plan, but I do make sure I eat a healthy and balanced diet. Especially in winter after races, it is very important to give the body enough to regenerate quickly and be fit for the next competition. I’m not currently doing any mental training. I’ve tried it before, but it didn’t feel quite right for me. It’s important to be mentally strong in the biathlon. But at the moment it suits me the way it is.

**Mika:** I pay very close attention to my diet. I work closely with a nutritionist with whom I communicate almost daily. I weigh myself every day to make sure I’m on the right track. I do mental training in the form of visualising and manifesting – that’s more something I do by myself.

**Franz-Josef:** Yes, I pay a lot of attention to my diet. For me, the focus is on a balanced and healthy diet. As an athlete, it is also important to eat in a training-oriented way, such as ensuring sufficient protein intake during strength training. In my case, I have an intolerance to cereals containing gluten, such as wheat or spelt, as well as hazelnuts and almonds. I don’t do any guided mental training, but I try to prepare myself mentally for all situations in the best possible way.

**Will you completely isolate yourself like some of your colleagues do, to avoid getting sick?**

**Tamara:** Completely isolating sounds a bit harsh. But, of course, I will make sure that I minimise the risk of infection as much as possible, because getting sick just before the Games would be very bad.

**Mika:** Yes, that’s the plan. I have my own apartment in Ramsau, nobody can get in there. Hopefully my parents will go shopping for me so that I don’t have to. Because wherever there are people, there are also diseases, especially in winter. This may not be super exciting, but it is very effective.

**Franz-Josef:** The time before the Games is always a hot phase. With three children, complete isolation is not so easy for me, but of course I will take great care and do everything I can to stay healthy. Unfortunately, this risk can never be completely ruled out.



### Tamara Steiner

Date of birth:	25 May 1997
Education:	Schladming Ski Academy
Club:	WSV Ramsau am Dachstein
Discipline:	Biathlon
Hobbies:	Friends, music

**Career & successes:**

- Debut in the Biathlon World Cup in Oberhof in January 2020
- Winner of the individual race at the 2018 European Junior Championships in Slovenia
- 4th place with the Austrian women’s relay team at the Biathlon World Championships in Lenzerheide, Switzerland, in 2025



**Do you have a ritual before the start?**

**Tamara:** I don't have a ritual before competitions. Of course, I do warm-up exercises and I visualise the competition the day before. But I don't have any typical rituals.

**Mika:** I don't have a real ritual, but the procedure before every race is pretty similar. An hour and a half before the start the skis are tested, I warm up about 50 minutes beforehand, ten minutes before the start I'm at the starting area and getting ready.

**Franz-Josef:** I don't have a set ritual, as there is a risk that even small deviations could throw me off track. Nevertheless, there is of course a certain routine: in ski jumping, we often play football or something else together before the start, followed by a specific warm-up programme with strengthening and coordination exercises. In cross-country skiing, it's much simpler – I run for 30 to 45 minutes, get changed about ten minutes before the start and then off I go.

**Do you have strong roots in the Schladming-Dachstein region?**

**Tamara:** I have very strong roots in the region. I am really happy and feel privileged to call this region my home. I am someone who appreciates nature very much and that is one of the most beautiful things here. Of course, I only got into top-class sport because of the region, as I have everything on my doorstep. And that means I have countless options when training.

**Mika:** Yes, absolutely. I think that applies to every Ramsau native. Nowhere is it as beautiful as here and I really appreciate that.

**Franz-Josef:** Of course, I was born and grew up here. I learned to ski, ski jump and cross-country ski in the region and still live here with my family.

**“The goal is clearly a medal – and preferably gold.”**

MIKA VERMEULEN



**Do you have a favourite place in the region?**

**Tamara:** My favourite place is the Neustattalmen area. There you have unique views of Dachstein, Mitterspitz and Torstein. It is very beautiful and popular photo scenery. And it is completely different and unique at every time of day. It's particularly beautiful at sunset, when it's quiet and the light is special.

**Mika:** There are several. In winter, I love to go cross-country skiing at the Märchenwiese area on Vorberg, where I also learned to cross-country ski. In summer, I like to run over Kulmburg or by the old mountain hotel – there the view of Ramsau is simply fabulous. I find it difficult to name a single place as the most beautiful.

**Franz-Josef:** I have to admit that there are countless beautiful places in the region. But my favourite is standing somewhere on the mountain and looking out over the Tauern massif – the view is breathtaking for me every time.



**Mika Vermeulen**

Date of birth: 26 June 1999  
 Education: Schladming ski secondary school  
 Club: WSV Ramsau am Dachstein  
 Discipline: Cross-country skiing  
 Hobbies: Cycling, dog sledding, travelling, running

**Career & successes:**

- Debut in the World Cup in December 2020
- 7th place overall in the World Cup in the 2023/24 season
- 2nd place at the Tour de Ski in Val di Fiemme, Italy, in 2024/25





*"I've already experienced 'just' being there twice – this time I want to take the next step."*

franz-josef-rehrl.at

FRANZ-JOSEF REHRL



### Was there ever a personal low point?

**Tamara:** I had to get over a very difficult family loss. That was certainly a personal low point. And it is still difficult for me today. Sport has helped me a lot.

**Mika:** Yes, after the Olympic season, when I really made my mark for the first time. In the 2022/23 season, I wasn't able to reach my potential and was often ill. It was a difficult time mentally, having to re-motivate myself every day. But without low points, there would be no high points.

**Franz-Josef:** The cruciate ligament rupture in my right knee in December 2020 was a major low point for me. At that moment, you know immediately that you won't be able to take part in any competitions for around twelve months. The most difficult thing during rehab was not to lose focus on coming back. As rehab is never a linear process, but a constant up and down, that was the biggest sporting challenge for me.

### What was your greatest success?

**Tamara:** At the moment, my hobby is my job – not many people can say that about themselves. Taking that decision and making it come true are certainly great personal successes.

**Mika:** Clearly my second place in the Tour de Ski last year. The Tour de Ski is the biggest annual event in the Cross-Country Skiing World Cup, and standing on the podium alongside Johannes Høsflot Klæbo was a career highlight.

**Franz-Josef:** My greatest successes include the individual medals at the World Championships. I am particularly proud of my third place in the overall World Cup, as that reflects my consistency and stability over an entire season.

### How do you deal with setbacks?

**Tamara:** Setbacks are part of the life of a top athlete. It is important to realise that there are many more tragic things and that it is "only" sport. And within a short space of time, many things can change, and seemingly unsolvable issues can quickly take a turn for the better.

**Mika:** I have had few setbacks so far. As long as there are more highlights than setbacks, it doesn't bother me much. My sport gives me more than it costs me.

**Franz-Josef:** Since my injury in 2020, I've been a bit more relaxed about setbacks. I have learned that they are simply part of the sport. The best way to deal with them is to stay calm and work on them step by step.

### What is your wish for the future?

**Tamara:** A very simple one: to start a family.

**Mika:** First and foremost, I want to get the most out of myself in sport, celebrate many successes, stand on the podium as often as possible and hopefully win a few things.

**Franz-Josef:** I hope to remain active for a few more years. Apart from that, I'm happy the way things are. My family and I are doing well, and my greatest wish is that it stays that way.

## Franz-Josef Rehrl

Date of birth:	15 March 1993
Education:	Ski high school in Stams, trained police officer
Club:	WSV Ramsau am Dachstein
Discipline:	Nordic combined
Hobbies:	Swimming, paragliding

### Career & successes:

- World Cup debut in Ramsau am Dachstein in 2011
- First victories in the 2018/19 World Cup season
- Several medals at World Championships in individual and team competitions
- World Cup third overall in the 2018/19 season
- Olympic Games in 2018 and 2022



*An enthusiastic opening  
to your winter adventure  
– the starting signal for  
the Dachsteinlauf.*

# Ski trails for everybody

In 2026 it's time to strap on your cross-country skis and start skating again: on the Ramsau high plateau, the Dachsteinlauf race enters its third year from 9 to 11 January. The special thing about the event is that everyone can take part in the cross-country skiing race, whether amateur athlete, nature lover or professional.



On this day, hundreds of cross-country skiers line up at the starting line of the Ramsau World Cup stadium. They wait anxiously for it to finally start. Some people quickly adjust their hats and sunglasses. Others talk animatedly with each other. Others marvel at the view of the imposing Dachstein, which is particularly stunning at this time of year. Then suddenly everything springs into action: the starting gun goes off with a loud bang and the spectators all around erupt into cheers. And the cross-country skiers? They dash out into the snowy winter landscape, as another Dachsteinlauf race begins.

### **Third time around in the cross-country skiing paradise**

This popular event will take place for the third time in Ramsau am Dachstein from 9 to 11 January 2026. This means that the village at the foot of the highest Styrian mountain will once again be the meeting point for the cross-country skiing scene. This is hardly surprising, as the international cross-country skiing elite have been regular guests on the Ramsau high plateau for decades. However, the Dachsteinlauf race is not just for professionals, but for anyone who enjoys cross-country skiing. Whether old or young, beginner or competitive athlete. Thanks to the various competitions and distances, there is the right challenge for everyone.





### Enthusiasm times a thousand!

Cross-country skiing for everyone has a long tradition in Ramsau am Dachstein. These events developed in the last century alongside the other cross-country skiing competitions, which had been held regularly in the area since the late 1950s. The sport received a boost shortly after the 1999 Nordic World Ski Championships. The starting signal for the first Dachstein "Volkslanglauf" cross-country skiing race for the general public was given at the beginning of 2000, and from then on it was held every year in mid-January. In 2010, the event was expanded to include the Tour de Ramsau. This attracted more and more international cross-country skiers to the Schladming-Dachstein region in the years that followed and soon became one of the most popular events for cross-country skiers, both amateur and professional, throughout Austria. After several variations of the Dachstein Volkslanglauf and Tour de Ramsau, the time had finally come for a revamping in 2024. With a new route, several competitions for different target groups and its renaming to "Dachsteinlauf" race, the organisers primarily wanted to revive the basic idea of the cross-country skiing race for the general public and encourage as many sports enthusiasts as possible to go cross-country skiing. The first two versions of the "new" Dachsteinlauf have proven that "back to the roots" works. At the opening event in 2024, more than 1,000 athletes competed on both days, more than ever before. This success was confirmed again the following year.

### Always an experience – whether shorter or longer

In 2026, participants and visitors from far and wide can once again look forward to another great cross-country skiing event. For classic cross-country skiing or skating competitions, two different distances lead across the most beautiful trails of the Ramsau high plateau. While the short distance of ten kilometres follows the course of the main Ramsau trail and offers moderate climbs as well as wonderful gliding passages, the long distance is much more challenging: there are 40 kilometres to tackle here, where you struggle through the snow-covered forest and across the wide open spaces of the entire Ramsau high plateau. There are also separate team competitions.

### Cross-country skiing with refreshments

New this year is the Dachstein Business Run, a team event for companies over a distance of five kilometres that focuses on having fun together and sporting togetherness. Those who prefer a more leisurely approach have the opportunity to do so at the Culinaric Run: there are also numerous refreshment stations along the five-kilometre route, where local innkeepers invite you to sample a range of culinary delicacies. Even the youngest cross-country skiing fans won't miss out, since they can compete against each other in different age groups in the Kids' Race on Friday. It is never a dull moment even away from the trail: events such as the starting number distribution or a cosy evening in the Ramsauer Waldschenke inn and a varied supporting and entertainment programme throughout the weekend guarantee a good atmosphere for both participants and visitors.

Regardless of whether you are a competitive athlete or a hobby cross-country skier, whether you're on the starting line or spectating: if you love cross-country skiing, you shouldn't miss the Dachsteinlauf race this winter!

### Dachsteinlauf 2026 at a glance

#### Friday, 9 January 2026

- Kids' Race

#### Saturday, 10 January 2026

- Skating (40 km)
- Skating (10 km) incl. team competition
- Dachstein Business Run (5 km)
- Dachstein Culinaric Run (5 km)

#### Sunday, 11 January 2026

- Classic (40 km)
- Classic (10 km)

Further information about the event is available here.



**Need a pick-me-up?  
Along the way, numerous  
inns from the region  
invite you to enjoy hearty  
and delicious treats.**





# Traditional



# Crafts *from the region*

**In the Schladming-Dachstein region, traditional craftsmanship has been cultivated and preserved for generations. Many family businesses and workshops have existed for centuries and have passed on their knowledge from one generation to the next. This is not just about producing practical or artistic objects, but also about preserving cultural heritage and identity.**

A true craft is closely linked to nature and the region's resources – wood from the forests, wool from the mountain pastures and many other valuable raw materials from the area. This results in products that have always accompanied people in their everyday lives and still stand for quality, consistency and regional character today.

This diversity is particularly evident in the 13 regions: from artistic blacksmithing and the processing of sheep's wool to handmade furniture. Whether at regional exhibitions or Advent markets, that's where you'll meet people who are passionate about their skills and keep the regional heritage alive. Especially in an age of mass production, traditional craftsmanship provides a conscious counterpoint and conveys values such as consistency, individuality and sustainability. In this way, craftsmanship is not only preserved, but actively practised, appreciated and developed – a living piece of regional culture for guests and locals alike.

**More information about the crafts and artists can be obtained from the Schladming-Dachstein Tourist Office or the municipalities in the region.**



***You can feel if a place is "right" – when you feel a sense of belonging and inner harmony.***

## Proven craftsmanship in the 13 regions



### Schladming: straw braiding

Ingrid and Manfred Tritscher use raw hemp to braid straw slippers. With a warm wool inner shoe, sturdy leather sole and artfully decorated hemp braids, these are handmade one-of-a-kind pieces.



### Ramsau am Dachstein: sculpting

Matthias Winkler, a passionate sculptor, continues the craft with dedication. In his workshop, he creates living art from raw materials – authentic, down-to-earth and deeply connected to nature and the region.



### Haus im Ennstal: fulled slipper production

Comfortably warm feet in breathable fulled sheep's wool slippers – the small family-run Plakolm business has been practising the ancient craft of knitting and fulling for four generations.



### Aich im Ennstal: restoration

For 40 years, Walter Fischer has dedicated himself to the professional restoration of furniture of all kinds, from loving decorative rural paintings to exquisite shellac polishing. There are also selected pieces in the salesroom.



### Pruggern: knitting and fulling

Now in its third generation, Huberwalk stands for regional quality, timeless design and sustainable craftsmanship. From socks to jackets – here you'll find high-quality fulling products made from pure new wool.



### Gröbming: shoe making

Thomas Haberl is a master orthopaedic shoemaker in Gröbming. He preserves the old craftsmanship, produces custom-made shoes and insoles for better walking comfort and passes on his knowledge to his employees.



### Mitterberg-Sankt Martin: beekeeping

Imkereibedarf Sonja Plank offers advice on rearing, caring for and handling bees. Information, equipment and showcases complete her range. Her award-winning honey has received gold and silver awards.



### Sölk: joinery & turnery

Tischlerei Gamsjäger has been making furniture and traditional curling equipment since 1907. Created with traditional craftsmanship and a passion for furniture, each piece is unique, combining quality and regionality.



### Öblarn: sheep's wool processing

Christine Schmiedhofer processes sheep's wool into felt for blankets and slippers. Anita Zach continues the tradition, making socks to wear with traditional costumes and teaching the craft in courses.



### Irdning-Donnersbachtal: blacksmithing

Ornamental blacksmith Michael Schweiger uses traditional techniques to produce individual artistic pieces such as fences and gates. His bell clappers are particularly well-known, and he has made over 3,600 of them.



### Aigen im Ennstal: scythe peening

Stefan Grünwald sharpens and straightens scythes with great skill so that they are ready for mowing again. This traditional work not only demands high craftsmanship but also encourages continuing sustainability.



### Stainach-Pürgg: floristry

Florist Heidi Leitner creates fine workpieces from flowers and natural materials. She presents her festive and traditional creations at weddings and at the Advent market in Pürgg.



### Wörschach: joinery

Achim Kühr devotes himself entirely to working with solid wood furniture. With flair, he creates objects from local woods such as Swiss stone pine, which have a soothing, relaxing effect.





# Artistic *nativity scenes*

**Making nativity scenes is much more than an old craft. It means meditation. Letting go. And healing. Chairman Gerald Gerhardtter explains why the Krippenbauverein Stein an der Enns (Nativity Scene Association) and the manger scene making courses are not just about upholding folk culture, they are where you can find a piece of home and the spirit of Christmas.**



Wooden shingles the size of a fingernail. Windows reminiscent of a gingerbread house. Roots, stones and other natural materials symbolise the down-to-earthness of rural folk culture. Dimmed lights, Christmas music and the smell of incense do the rest. When you enter the premises of the Stein an der Enns Nativity Scene Association, you are immediately immersed in another world. A world where creativity and imagination are given free rein. A world where the work created often tells us a lot about its creator. A world where there is room for interpersonal exchange. A world that invites you to relax and let go. And a world where healing happens. The

latter mainly affects children's souls and the nerves of stressed businesspeople. "Making nativity scenes is an old craft that invites you to simply let yourself drift, to sink into doing, let your thoughts flow and forget all stress. It's incredible what positive energy floods the room," says Gerald Gerhardtter, Chairman of the Stein an der Enns Nativity Scene Association, about this world, which has also sparked his fascination since 1997. Anyone who talks to this family man about the children's and adult nativity scene making courses can see immediately that he puts his heart and soul into it. And perhaps that he missed his calling as a teacher?



***"Craftsmanship touches people's hearts. It is like a key to the soul."***

**GERALD GERHARDTER**





For Gerald, this is much more than just the preservation of an old custom of our local or rural folk culture. "When the participants leave all comparison and perfectionism at the door and simply manage to immerse themselves in this world, wonderful things happen. Not only are extraordinary nativity scenes created, but there is also room for profound conversations. Craftsmanship touches people's hearts. It is like a key to the soul. It's hard to put into words what exactly happens. However, it is not without reason that crib scene making is also used for therapeutic purposes," reports the Styrian enthusiastically on the event and adds, "Which objects each individual person builds into a nativity scene, which animals and scenarios are chosen, tells you a lot about the person themselves. Each element has a meaning. I would say that the crib is, to a certain extent, a kind of mirror of the inner life of the creator."

**Scenarios from history and the subconscious**

Palm trees. Desert dunes. An elephant carrying heavy provisions. In the background are the Three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The star of Bethlehem on the roof symbolises the Orient and points the way for the biblical astrologers. At another nativity scene, a completely different scenario is presented: a young farmer with a turban taps a horseshoe on a donkey's bent leg. A few centimetres away, a male figure with a pipe in his mouth and a rustic hat on his head is chopping a root. If you switch to the other side of the room, an ibex laughs at you from a dangerous rock face in an alpine setting. In summary, the crib scenes in the exhibition room of the Nativity Scene Association are hard to beat in terms of attention to detail and are definitely worth

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a visit! "At the centre of most nativity scenes is the Holy Family, consisting of Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus, as they represent the birth of Jesus Christ. However, course participants are not told what their nativity scene should look like. Everyone is free to decide. It is precisely this ability – to make decisions – that is an important virtue for children to learn," explains the prudent Chairman, who is happy to help his young and old protégés build their manger scenes. "The participants are shown how to best implement certain work steps. You don't leave them to get on with it alone, that's very important, because they can lose motivation," he says. After Gerald once promised a nativity scene to the son of a work colleague and was unable to find a course instructor, he took it upon himself in 2000. Together with the deputy chairman, Adi Barazzutti, they consulted crafts teachers and other course instructors to inform themselves on what children can be expected to do in such a craft. "There was very little information available about this, so we put together our own concept. Since then, Adi has been doing the adult courses and I take care of the little crib scene makers," says Gerald, who describes himself as a believer and adds at the same time that "the idea of the nativity scene naturally has to do with Christian values, which doesn't mean that you have to be a Christian to take part in a course. There are also people who have left the church. This basically has nothing to do with the faith a person has or doesn't have. Everyone is welcome here."

**Heart and soul, intuition and creative power**

On a tour of the well-equipped workshop, the many unfinished nativity scenes made by the children immediately catch the eye. Various tools hang on the wall in the background. Other materials, such as roots, stones and plaster, are neatly arranged in boxes in the next room. "I collect these roots in the summer months. Don't they remind you of a bonsai and other plants?" says Gerald as he holds up a root about 15 centimetres long. His eyes sparkle. Wonder and passion are in the air. You can tell that Gerald is a man of the heart who, like the entire team at the Nativity Scene Association, is 100% behind the cause. For Gerald, the focus is definitely on the children. "It's so incredibly important that a child's parent or guardian comes to the final ceremony. The children are very proud of their creations and praise is really good for their self-esteem. If no one comes, the children's hearts literally break," he explains. When looking at the individual works, it is easy for anyone to see how much passion the children put into their work. The incredible attention to detail is also noticeable in the little nativity scene makers. "Anyone can make a nativity scene. All it takes is a certain amount of skill, a little dexterity, creativity and a





large portion of patience – although some children still don't want to go home even after four hours of the course," reports the instructor. The children's courses are a great way to get children away from the screen and back into their own imagination, to teach them a trade and strengthen their social skills as part of a course with other participants. "Another wonderful aspect is that you have a tangible result in your hands at the end. Designing and creating something is also particularly important for many adults who don't do any manual work," he says.

**A piece of home for Christmas scrooges**

The Stein an der Enns Nativity Scene Association was founded on 13 May 1999 with 13 members, and the courses have now been running for 25 years. It all began with Saint Francis of Assisi, who in Greccio, Italy, in 1223 staged a living nativity scene with real animals to depict the birth of Jesus in humility and poverty. This first nativity scene was followed by many others and its worldwide spread and fascination was unstoppable. As a result, you can even marvel at an African nativity scene in the nativity scene exhibition in Stein an der Enns. "An original Ennstal nativity scene used to be made of wooden sticks, a jute sack and broken glass that was supposed to sparkle like stars. Every region has its own peculiarities. The stronghold in Austria is definitely Tyrol. There is no community there without a nativity scene association," explains Gerald. This is why it can be stated with confidence that nativity scene making preserves rural and local cultural heritage, and a piece of home. The Stein an der Enns Nativity Scene Association is now home to 100 members. 572 adults and 465 children have already taken part in nativity scene making courses. With course instructors like Adi and Gerald and helpers like Doris

Gerhardter, Marisa Fric and Gerhard Mitter, there are sure to be many more! What's more, there are crib scenes of all sizes, and fascinating details in the work. There are more than 80 nativity scenes in the current nativity scene exhibition that will definitely give you something to contemplate. If you want to get into the Christmas spirit, the Stein an der Enns primary school is the right place for you! The nativity scene exhibition, including exquisite monastery works, carvings and sculptures, as well as a special exhibition of box nativity scenes, will be open from 29 November to 8 December 2025 on Saturday (1pm to 6pm) and Sunday (11am to 6pm) as well as on Monday, 8 December 2025 (11am to 6pm). The nativity scene showroom and workshop can also be visited all year round by prior arrangement, for groups of six or more adults. So, it seems like it's Christmas all year round here at the Nativity Scene Association. "Personally, I feel the spirit of Christmas particularly strongly on

***"Making nativity scenes is an old craft that invites you to simply let yourself float ..."***

**GERALD GERHARDTER**

Christmas Eve. And I can only recommend all Christmas scrooges to visit the mountain church in Stein an der Enns, because that is a place where everyone should be able to feel the magic of Christmas," he says.



# Connected



*“No matter what disability, barrier-free skiing is possible for everyone.”*

SABINE ZACH



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# Humanity without barriers

**A non-profit association makes it possible for people with disabilities to enjoy a barrier-free winter and summer holiday including outdoor sports in the Schladming-Dachstein region. Sabine Zach tells us more about the Freizeit-PSO association and its unique offering.**

Powder snow. Perfect slopes. Children's happy laughter. And there are ski instructors to help the little ones into their ski boots and skis. Or in Sarah's\* case: in the monoski, the version of skiing for wheelchair users. The 9-year-old is given special crutch skis that are fitted with small skis at the lower end. These crutch skis are used for stabilisation when skiing and for pushing on flat terrain. "And you don't need ski poles. Isn't that right, Sarah?" The little athlete beams at her ski instructor Sepp with big eyes and says, "Can we finally get going?" Sepp nods. The 65-year-old has been retired for a few years, but he's as fit as a fiddle. He has a strong social streak and loves spending his free time as a volunteer at Freizeit-PSO, an association for Para-Special Outdoor Sports, which offers the best conditions for barrier-free summer and winter holidays in the Schladming-Dachstein holiday region. In addition to Sepp, there are other volunteers who even take leave time for this, or nurses who come on their days off and offer their help voluntarily. However, most of the ski instructors who work for Freizeit-PSO are permanently employed. "The work itself is very varied and involves a wide range of tasks. My best reward is seeing the children's eyes light up at the end of a day's skiing," says Sepp.

\* Name changed by the editors





### Skiing with a disability? No problem!

It's thanks to people like Sepp that an association like Freizeit-PSO is even possible. "It's so wonderful to see how much love, empathy and passion the ski instructors and outdoor supervisors put into their work. All disabilities, impairments or handicaps – no matter what you call them – are irrelevant. The focus is on people," emphasises Sabine Zach, Executive Chairwoman. Like the rest of the team, Sabine has a high level of social competence and special empathy. There is no room for pity here. All these people want is the opportunity to enjoy outdoor sports in the beautiful region at the foot of Dachstein. "Our range is quite unique on this scale. For example, there is the time-out week, during which Freizeit-PSO takes over the complete day care of children. This is 1:1 care. Of course, there are also ski courses for adults. Skiing is possible for all people, regardless of whether they have a physical and/or mental disability. We offer the right equipment – such as monoskis, bi-skis, crutch skis or ski links – and have well-trained ski instructors for people with disabilities," explains Sabine. Demand is correspondingly high: Freizeit-PSO is well booked and could offer far more than its resources allow. Families must reserve their holiday times well in advance. "That's why we have around 17 people in our team in winter. In the main season, work is carried out in units, with one unit lasting two hours and three units a day. Each unit can accommodate a maximum of nine guests. There are also nine ski instructors with 1:1 care. It varies in summer: between seven and ten supervisors are on duty each week," says the Chairwoman, explaining the concept in detail. It quickly becomes clear that very extensive and good organisation in the background is required to bring all of this under one roof. And a great deal of stamina when it comes to maintaining and financing an association such as Freizeit-PSO.

### Partners and sponsors in the background

This is why Freizeit-PSO relies on partners, sponsors and supporters. Major supporters include Planai-Hochwurzten-Bahnen, Schwaigerhof, Ski Lenz and the Hoppl ski school. In addition, donations to Freizeit-PSO are essential and welcome (see info box and QR code). "Financing is generally becoming increasingly difficult. We hope that the association will never have to be downsized. It would be even worse if our services could only be offered at 'normal price' and were no longer affordable for some people," says Sabine. The difficulty in setting up a ski school for people with





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disabilities is that you need socially acceptable rates, because it is unfair for those affected to have to pay more because of the special equipment and 1:1 care they need. This is exactly what Sabine Zach and her team want to compensate for and their prices are based on group lessons for people without disabilities. "Plus lift ticket and equipment, i.e. what someone without a disability pays, and the rest is financed by subsidies. Because our ultimate goal is to offer something for everyone. We would therefore like to thank all our partners and sponsors, as well as the many guests and locals who support us with donations." Even though the association will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in October 2026, Austria is still lagging behind the major pioneers in disability sport – the USA, New Zealand and Scotland. Sabine Zach actually comes from a business administration background and first came into contact with disabled skiing during a break in New Zealand. She immediately agreed to volunteer, "I found it so rewarding that I wanted to add another year and work in a specialised ski school in Austria. But such a ski school didn't exist in Austria, and so I ended up in Scotland. I worked there for two winters and completed my basic training. My head ski instructor there was very experienced in disabled sports and shared his knowledge

with us. In the end, this gave me the idea of building something like this myself." A great story. A great association. And a great woman with a vision. With the corresponding entrepreneurial spirit. With a business management background. With a talent for organisation. But above all with a big heart.

### Any amount helps!

**In Austria and Germany, donations to Freizeit-PSO are tax-deductible.**

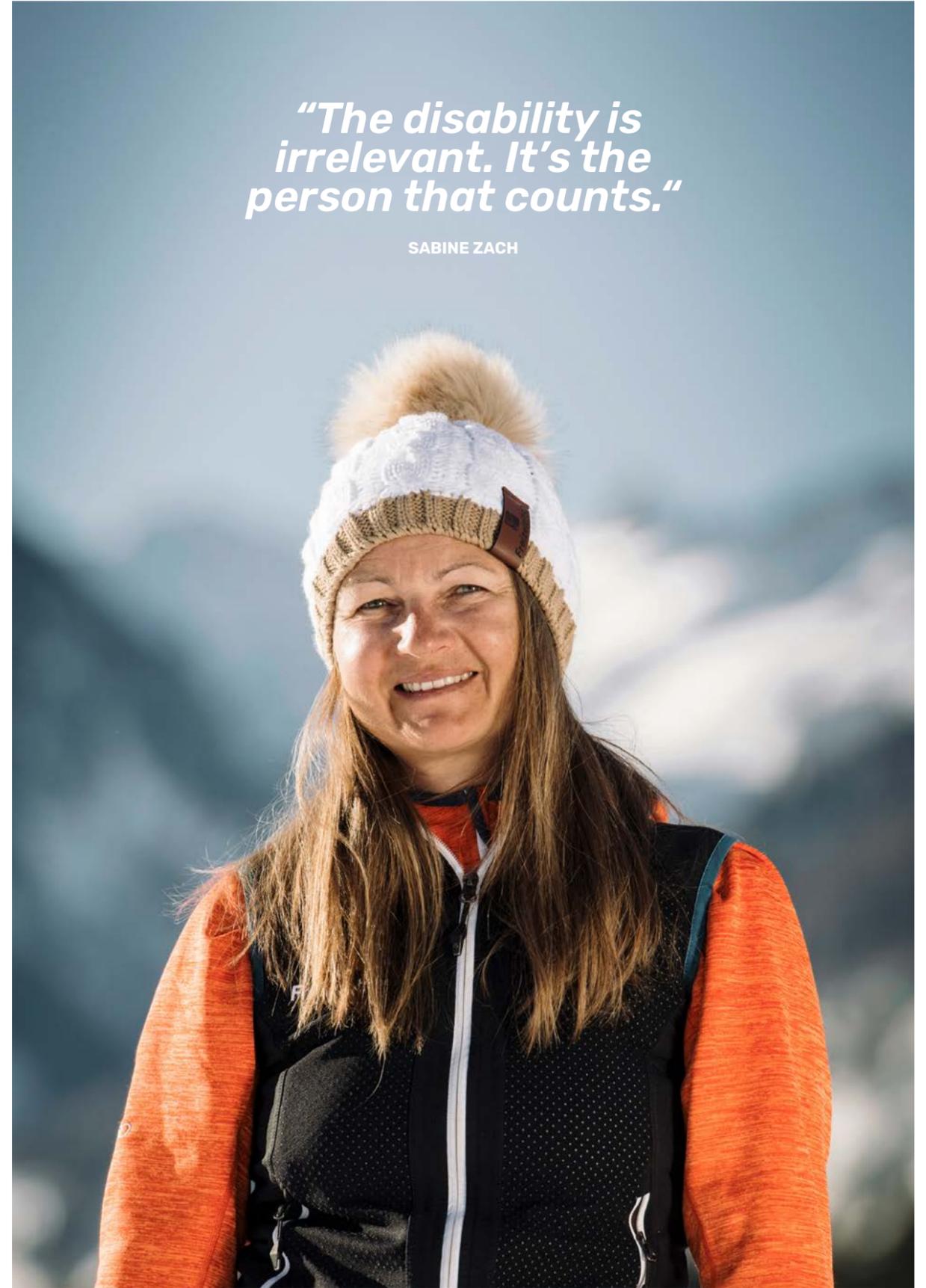
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DE: IBAN: DE32 7116 0000 0007 4381 17

You can find all information here.



*"The disability is irrelevant. It's the person that counts."*

SABINE ZACH



# Shaping Tomorrow

A holiday in Schladming-Dachstein means enjoying nature, trying regional specialities, being active and relaxing. But how do we ensure that this quality is maintained in the future? This is exactly what our Roadmap 2035 is all about: a plan for the future that takes responsibility and focuses on the natural, economic, living and recreational space for guests and locals alike.

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### Roadmap 2035 – our plan for the future

The diagram shows our 12 topics of focus – from our regional self-image to making sustainability tangible in our region and adapting to climate change.

### Interview with Dr. Michaela Hölz, international expert for sustainability in tourism

#### Why is it so important to shape the future together?

It is about creating conditions in the present that invite a good future. This in turn happens through successful relationships in the here and now with everyone who connects with the region: guests, locals, business owners and the natural environment.

#### How does the Roadmap 2035 help?

By setting priorities. It prevents isolated solutions and focuses on integration: mobility is not only planned technically, but also developed together with businesses and guests. The landscape is not only protected, but also brought to life through quality offers.

#### So, sustainability is about more than “just” the environment?

Of course, it’s about protecting nature and the landscape. Economic stability and the quality of life of the local population are also taken into account. This balance is the challenge of sustainability.

#### What role does dialogue play?

A big one. The Roadmap was not created at a desk, but in dialogue with those who shape and support the region.

#### A look into the future

In ten years’ time, I see a region where you can do sports and recharge your batteries in a beautiful natural setting, where the focus is on high-quality regional products and where guests consciously enjoy what the locals are passionate about creating.

### This is what the Roadmap 2035 is all about

-  Preserving nature
-  Strengthening the regional economy
-  Ensuring quality of life
-  Designing sustainable guest experiences

#### What’s in it for you as a guest?

- Free use of buses and trains on site with the Sommercard
- Genuine regional cuisine with a short supply chain
- Experiencing nature in an intact landscape
- Meeting hosts who enjoy their profession

Further information is available here.



**“A goal without a plan is just a wish. With the Roadmap 2035, there is now a concrete plan for sustainable cooperation.”**

DR. MICHAELA HÖLZ, HOELZ CONSULTING



# Railway to happiness

Whether for skiing, snowshoeing or wellness: with ÖBB trains you can travel to the Schladming-Dachstein region in a relaxed, congestion-free and environmentally friendly way. Simply sit back and enjoy the views of the passing winter landscape.



## Into the winter fun by train

Simply start the ÖBB App, select Schladming as your destination station and make your way to your holiday in an environmentally friendly way. With the "Sparschiene" fares, you can discover the region at an extraordinarily low price: you can travel from Vienna to Schladming for as little as €19.90\*!



## Ensure a seat for yourself

ÖBB is doing everything it can to make rail travel as comfortable and stress-free as possible. On busy travel days, however, demand may exceed capacity. We therefore advise you to reserve a seat on your selected train.

## Taking the train to your winter holiday

### From Vienna to Schladming

- It takes just under 4 hours to get to Schladming, departing every 2 hours with a change in Bruck an der Mur.
- There is also a direct Intercity service from Vienna (Wien Westbahnhof) every Friday – with a return journey on Sunday.
- From 20.12.2025 to 12.04.2026 there will be an additional Intercity connection from Wien Westbahnhof on Saturdays and Sundays.

### Train connections from other cities

- Direct Interregio trains run every 2 hours from Graz or Innsbruck.
- Direct Eurocity train with panoramic coaches (1st class) from Graz and Zurich via Innsbruck.
- When departing from Linz, it is best to change trains in Selzthal.

Information & booking at [www.oebb.at/en](http://www.oebb.at/en)

\*Starting price per person and direction in the specified travel category, limited number and train-bound offer, can only be booked online and via the ÖBB App max. 180 days before departure. No cancellation, refunds or discounts. The tariff regulations of ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG apply.



## ForYou Club GreenRail offer

**Are you travelling by train?** Great! For your commitment to sustainability, we'll give you **30 bonus points** in the Schladming-Dachstein ForYou Club. You can also take part in our "GreenRail competition" and have the chance to win two day ski passes in Schladming-Dachstein or a summer holiday in 2026 in a bike hotel! Upload your return ticket (from 2 nights in the region) via the QR code and collect points.

Scan here for the GreenRail offer.



## Tip for you

Arrange to have bulky suitcases or ski bags conveniently collected and delivered! For a carefree start to your holiday, book the ÖBB luggage service and travel light.

You can find all information here.





# Spectacular

SCHLADMING DACHSTEIN SCHLADMING-DACHSTEIN & LEUTGEB ENTERTAINMENT PRÄSENTIEREN LEUTGEB ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

# BACKSTREET BOYS

**SKI-OPENING 2025**  
SCHLADMING-DACHSTEIN  
HAUSER KAIBLING • PLANAI • HOCHWURZEN • REITERALM

**5./6./7. DEZEMBER • SCHLADMING**

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Logos for sponsors: Hauser Kaibling, Planai, Hochwurzen, Reiteralp, Coca-Cola, amade

# Backstreets *back in Schladming*

The Schladming-Dachstein 2025 Ski Opening will take you on a journey back to the heyday of boy bands – with none other than the legendary Backstreet Boys. On 5, 6 and 7 December 2025, Schladming will once again become a winter hotspot for music fans. Five Boys, three spectacular shows at Planai Stadium, an experience at its best in the middle of the Styrian snow.



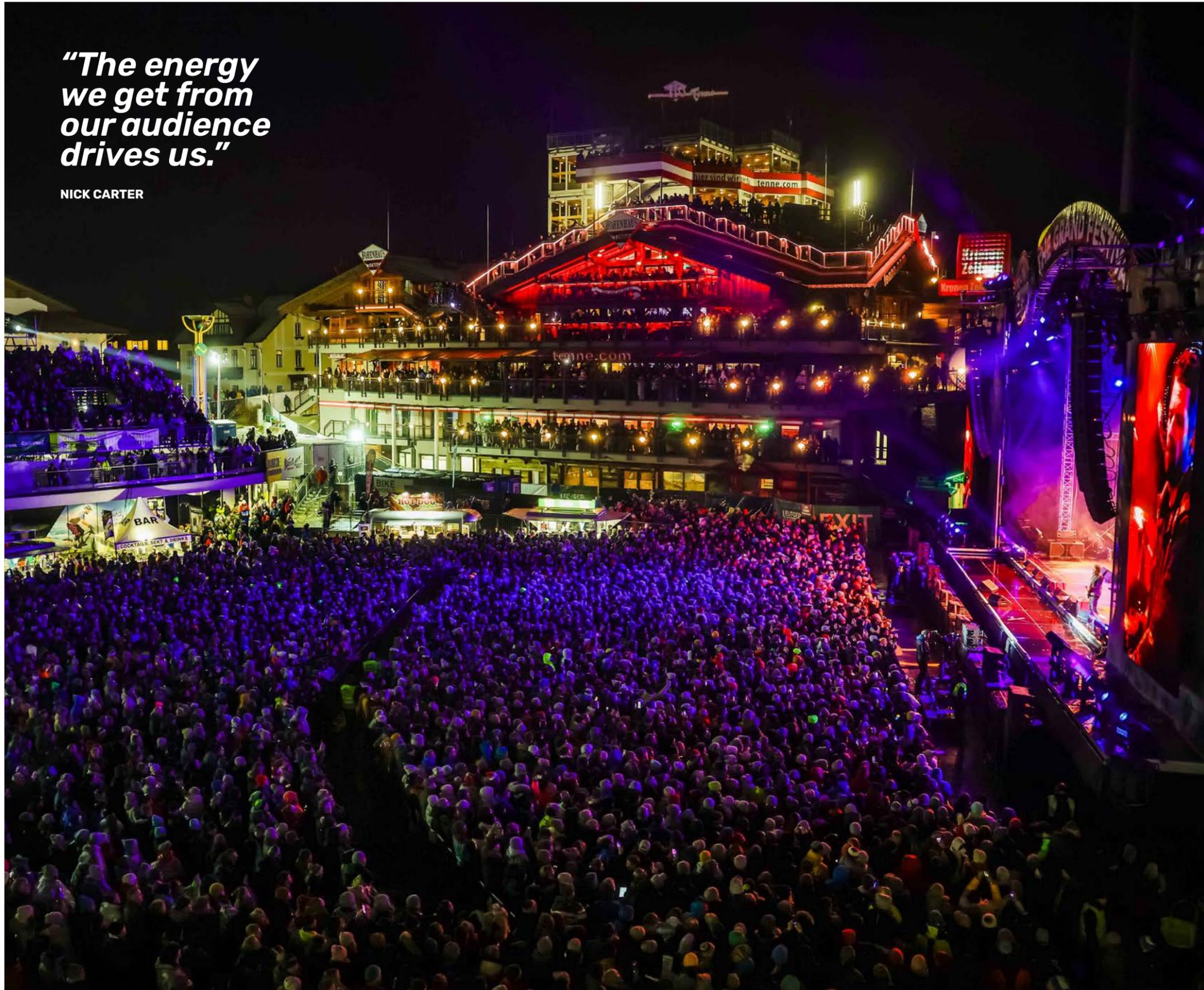
### From the “Sphere” in Las Vegas to Planai Stadium in Schladming

In the summer of 2025, the five megastars thrilled their fans in the state-of-the-art event location “Sphere” in Las Vegas. This winter they will be on stage for another spectacular concert – in the middle of the Alps, at Planai Stadium in Schladming. Together with the Schladming-Dachstein tourism region/our tourism region and the Schladming 4-mountain ski circuit, organiser Klaus Leutgeb has made

this highlight possible, and it is already raising goosebumps for all those who can hardly wait for winter. Carving turns on the Hauser Kaibling, Planai, Hochwurzen and Reiteralp ski mountains during the day and a world-class mega-event in the evening: that is the unique experience of this season’s Ski Opening in Schladming, which is creating excitement far beyond just the region itself.

***"The energy we get from our audience drives us."***

NICK CARTER



### Millions celebrate their music

"Everybody", "I Want It That Way", "As Long As You Love Me" – hardly any other band shaped the nineties and noughties as much as the Backstreet Boys. Over 130 million records sold, the new LP "Millennium 2.0" and numerous generations who can sing along to their songs.

### Big names on stage and a new record

After Robbie Williams in 2023 and Bryan Adams, Simply Red and Sting last year, the Backstreet Boys have now joined the list of stars who have turned Schladming-Dachstein into a stage. But this time it's more than just a concert – it's a celebration of the boyband era, a throwback to the soundtrack of the youth of so many people and at the same time the start of a new energy-packed winter season. No wonder the first two shows sold out so quickly that a third gig had to be added. Almost 50,000 people at a Winter Opening – that's unheard of in Austria.

### More information for you

The Backstreet Boys play live in the mountains! Experience the spectacular season opening in Schladming with the megastars and an unforgettable atmosphere.

All information about the 2025 Ski Opening.



# An atmospheric Wintertime

Whether it's thrilling sporting events, living traditions or festive highlights, unforgettable experiences await you all year round in Schladming-Dachstein. From atmospheric Advent and Easter traditions to the mystical Glöcklerlauf and spectacular World Cup races, the region offers a varied programme.



## Impressive: "Krampus" parades in the region

When it gets dark and cold from the end of November to the beginning of December and the bells ring out, it's "Krampus" time again. Large figures in fur costumes with elaborately carved masks, bells, rods and soot accompany St Nicholas as his scary helpers. This tradition has its roots in the Alpine region and is still alive today. The Schladming Krampus Parade kicks off on 22 November 2025, with hundreds of "Krampusse", witches and traditional figures parading through the town. On 28 November 2025, the Haus Krampus Parade will take place on Schlossplatz square. The next day, the Gröbming Krampus Parade will transform the main street into an impressive stage on 29 November 2025.



## Contemplative: Schladming's "Mountain Christmas"

From 28 November to 21 December 2025, the "Schladminger Bergweihnacht" will wrap the town in festive splendour. Tradition and a good dose of Christmas magic make this time special: the scents of gingerbread and punch fill the air, music accompanies the visitors, and handicrafts from the region delight the heart and soul. One highlight is the "Advent am Talbach" event, where stalls with punch, culinary delicacies and artistic products invite you to spend a little time over four weekends. The "Adventzauber in der Klamm", the Advent magic in the Talbach gorge, which takes place on 29 November and 13 December is magical, when lights, music and stories transform the gorge into a unique experience.



## Exciting: FIS World Cup in Ramsau am Dachstein

The world's best Nordic athletes will once again meet in Ramsau am Dachstein in winter 2025. On 19 and 20 December 2025, the Nordic athletes will duke it out on the challenging trails of the 1999 World Championship venue – an annual highlight in the FIS Nordic Combined World Cup calendar. Every year, the steep courses push the Nordic combined stars to their limits and ensure thrilling duels right up to the finish line. Meanwhile, the ladies' events have also become an integral part of the programme inspiring all with their exciting competitions. A total of over 100 athletes will venture onto the cross-country skiing trails – all events are free of charge for spectators.



## Traditional: "Stainacher Glöcklerlauf"

On 5 January 2026, the "Glöcklerlauf", a bell ringers' procession, will take place on the eve of Twelfth Night. In the evening, small groups and individual bell ringers from Niederhofen or Stainach/Unterbürg, from Sonnhof and other places set off and walk through the village with their bright caps. The custom has its roots in the 19th century around Ebensee. The handmade bell ringers' caps are works of art, often passed down through generations. They are decorated with motifs from the region, nature, symbols or coats of arms. Later, everyone gathers on the main square, where the spectators are welcomed with music. When the bell ringers draw their circles of light, good wishes accompany you into the new year.



## Spectacular: THE NIGHTRACE Schladming

On 27 and 28 January 2026, night becomes day in Schladming: the world's best ski racers will compete under floodlights for hundredths of a second on the technically demanding Planai slope at the legendary THE NIGHTRACE. On 27 January, the giant slalom is on the programme, followed by the thrilling slalom on 28 January. The atmosphere created by the thousands of winter sports fans from all over the world will give you goosepimples, with peak athletic performances and the night pulsating along to this thrilling sporting occasion. But THE NIGHTRACE is much more than just a competition. Brilliant music, a festival mood and the incredible atmosphere at the finish stadium transform Schladming into one big party.



## Family-style: Easter in the region

At Easter, guests in Schladming-Dachstein can expect a colourful programme for the whole family, with traditional events, customs and many offerings especially for the young ones. Whether it's an Easter egg and Easter nest hunt, creative painting competitions or fun Easter games, children's eyes and hearts will fill with excitement. Of course, a visit from the popular Hopsi is also a must. One of the highlights is the Easter family game on Schladming's main square, where children look for the Easter bunny, solve puzzles and find little surprises. The programme is all about community and the anticipation of spring, making for an unforgettable Easter in Schladming-Dachstein.

# Moving Variety

**Powder snow under your feet, clear mountain air in your nose and countless possibilities ahead of you: in Schladming-Dachstein, your winter adventure awaits you on more than just the slopes.**



Why limit yourself to one activity when your winter can offer everything? Here you can combine skiing fun with winter hiking, cross-country skiing, tobogganing and much more. Enjoy quiet moments in the snow-covered forest, feel the speed on the toboggan run or experience the magic of a full moon cross-country skiing trail in Ramsau am Dachstein. Winter shows itself at its most beautiful here – versatile, varied and always a little out of the ordinary.



## **Through nature with momentum: Cross-country skiing is increasingly popular**

Schladming-Dachstein is a real epicentre for cross-country skiers. With up to 430 kilometres of perfectly groomed trails, you can enjoy Nordic sports to the fullest – whether classic or skating style. From leisurely laps in the Ennstal Valley to panoramic high-altitude trails on Rittisberg to sporty routes in the Untertal or Donnersbachtal valleys, the region offers variety for every skill level. And if you want to head up high, glide along the glacier trail on Dachstein at 2,700 metres above sea level through one of the most spectacular winter landscapes in the Alps. Whether you're a beginner, connoisseur or pro, you'll find your perfect trail here. Four cross-country skiing schools will help you improve your technique or start from scratch.

## **Tracks in the snow: Snowshoeing and ski tours**

Snowshoeing and ski tours can take you to places that would otherwise remain hidden. Whether you're looking for easy beginner routes or challenging climbs in alpine terrain, you'll find your winter adventure here. Guided tours offer additional safety and allow you to experience the mountain world even more keenly. There are numerous marked routes to choose from in the region, from shorter tours to extended summit experiences. The on-piste ski tours are perfect for beginners, as you ascend on designated routes and descend on groomed pistes.



## **Sitting comfortably: Tobogganing, a winter classic**

Whether with family or friends – tobogganing is simply part of winter. Several natural toboggan runs await you in Schladming-Dachstein, including the 7 km long run on Hochwurzen, which is even floodlit at night. A speedy descent on either Galsterberg or Rittisberg is also tremendous fun. And the best thing about it is that you can reach the start in comfort thanks to the gondola lifts – for pure winter fun as often as you like.





**Always a better way:  
Winter hiking**

Around 300 kilometres of groomed winter hiking trails invite you to discover the snow-covered landscape in peace. Whether short or long, easy or challenging – the routes are as varied as our guests. Many of them are family-friendly and even suitable for prams. Winter hiking becomes a soothing break here. It is ideal for recharging your batteries and enjoying the snow-covered nature to the fullest. Tip for you: With the Winter Hiking Ticket, you can use up to three cable cars per day as well as all ski buses in the region – perfect for an excursion without skis.

**Even more winter fun**

Skiing and cross-country skiing are just the beginning; many other winter experiences await you in Schladming-Dachstein. Go ice skating, try your hand at traditional curling or enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride through the snow-covered landscape. If you like it sportier, hop on a Fatbike and explore the winter world on two wheels. Your holiday is guaranteed to be varied – and every day a special experience.

**Winter Hiking Ticket\***

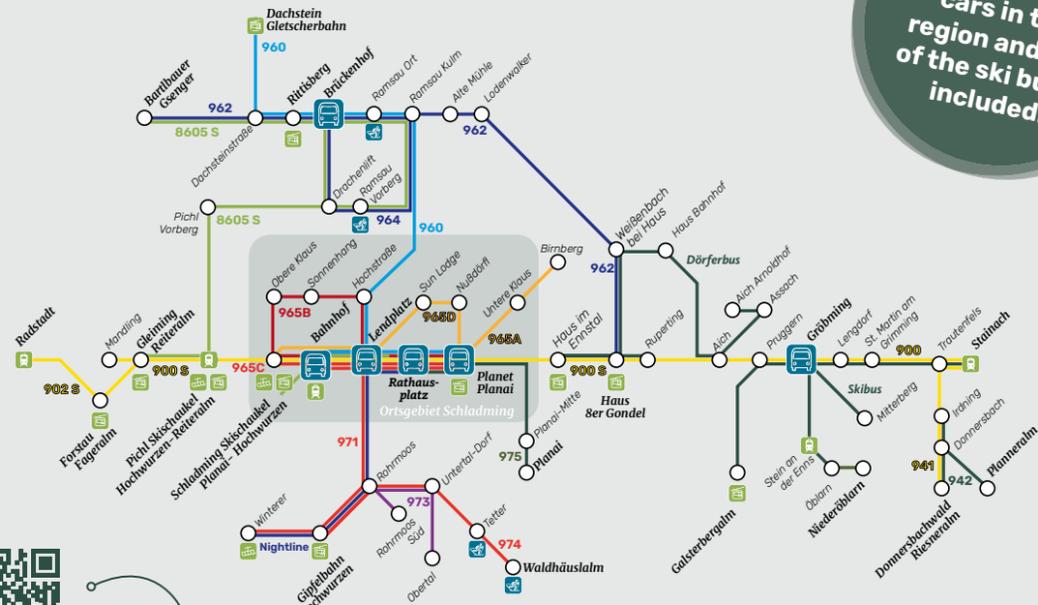
**Valid on the following cable cars:**

- Planai: Planai Seilbahn, Planai West
- Hochwurzen: Rohrmoos I and II, Gipfelbahn, Obertalbahn, Hochwurzen I and II
- Hauser Kaibling: 8er-Gondel, Kaiblinggrat, Schladminger Tauernseilbahn, Höfi-Express I
- Reiteralm: Silver Jet, Preunegg Jet, DSL, Reiteralm I (Pichl), Sepp'n Jet, Gasselhöhebahn II
- Fageralm: Fageralmbahn
- Galsterberg: Cable car
- Dachstein: Südwandbahn (1 x in 7 days)

**Valid on the following buses:**

- Scheduled buses of the Planai-Hochwurzen-Bahnen company in the local area of Schladming and Rohrmoos-Untertal (except night bus)
- Citybus Schladming
- Ski buses in the Schladming-Dachstein region

**Everything in the green zone: The Winter Hiking Ticket\* is valid here**



You can find more information here.

\* For pedestrians WITHOUT sports equipment. Max. 3 cable cars per day. 971N not included in the Winter Hiking Ticket.



*Beauty  
scents & delight*

**Hufschmiede in Schladming is your feel-good place for cosmetics, nail care, perfumery & café – all in a relaxed atmosphere.**

Whether from head to toe or somewhere in between, our treatments will get you in top form. Here you will find everything that makes you feel beautiful. You can simply enjoy a treatment or after your beauty session treat yourself even further in our café. Coffee, cake, good conversation – with or without an appointment, always in style. Hufschmiede is not just about beautiful skin, well-groomed hands, special fragrances or perfect coffee, it's about the whole thing. A feeling. Time for you. We combine beauty, wellness and food to create a place that relaxes, inspires and pampers you. With heart, with style and with a team that knows what they are doing and love what they do.

**By the way, we are open until 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and don't miss our Espresso Martini Special in the café on Fridays.**



You can find more information here.

**Our locations:**

**SCHLADMING**

Martin-Luther-Straße 32, 8970 Schladming

**RAMSAU**

Ramsau 299, 8972 Ramsau am Dachstein

**HUFSCHMIEDE**  
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www.hufschmiede-cosmetic.at

# Alpine Longevity

Natur- & Wellnesshotel Höflehner offers you various health care packages along the themes of biohacking, better ageing and alpine balance. They combine modern technologies, gentle treatments, exercise in nature, conscious nutrition and restful sleep. The packages are individually tailored to focus on regeneration, strengthening the immune system and inner balance, and are accompanied by experts.

Biohacking is the art of consciously listening to your body and using targeted methods to stay healthy, efficient and vital in the long term. Better ageing describes a modern, holistic health philosophy, which aims to make life as healthy and vital as possible at every stage. "For me, biohacking means communicating with the body on a new level. We use modern techniques to reduce stress and develop potential, always in connection with alpine nature," explains Conny Stiegler, the hotel's biohacking coach.

The hotel's included activity programme comprises up to 12 daily sessions. The light-flooded 300 m² yoga house provides the ideal setting for yoga, Pilates and meditation with a view of the Schladminger Tauern. In winter, you can take advantage of the location directly on the ski slopes, while in summer hiking and running routes start right at the doorstep. At Natur- und Wellnesshotel Höflehner, health is not a goal, but a lifestyle – for lasting well-being and new body awareness.

## To get to know: Longevity Escape

- 3 nights including Höflehner's gourmet half board
- Microbiome-strengthening welcome shot
- Including a 30-minute telephone consultation before arrival
- Coaching on your desired topic: biohacking, sleep coaching, physical fitness, 50 min.
- Invigorating cold treatment, 30 min.
- Massage individually tailored to your needs, 50 min.
- Höflehner detox tea as a gift for at home

from 876.00 € p. P. (bookable all year round)

82-83



You can find more information here.



## NATUR- & WELLNESSHOTEL HÖFLEHNER\*\*\*\*\*

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# Cordial Active. Spa.

Where alpine charm meets modern architecture, space is created for making new friends, conscious relaxation and quiet moments. At Falkensteiner Hotel Schladming you will feel genuine cordiality, in rhythm with the mountains and in harmony with yourself.

Are you looking for more than just a holiday? Then you have come to the right place. At the Acquapura SPA, you can experience Schladming's Alpine wellness at its most beautiful – with soothing treatments, relaxing water worlds and a mountain view that lets you breathe deeply. Pool, saunas and relaxation rooms invite you to switch off. Styrian classics and international highlights await you at the Steirer restaurant, from breakfast with live cooking to a multi-course dinner menu accompanied by selected exquisite wines and refined culinary delights.

At the genieBBAR, you can enjoy creative cocktails, fine spirits and live music with a view of the Planai finish slope. Whether it's summit bliss, fine food and drink or simply doing nothing: our friendly and enthusiastic Experience Concierge team will accompany you and ensure that every day is special – genuine, personal and at your own pace.



## This is the right place for you.

Welcome – no matter how you choose to spend your time with us! Whether as a holiday guest in search of relaxation and happiness, as a day spa visitor to recharge your batteries in the wellness area, or as a culinary connoisseur in the bar and restaurant: you'll experience your own personal feel-good moments with us.

You can find more information here.



**FALKENSTEINER**  
HOTEL SCHLADMING  
*Premium Collection*

## FALKENSTEINER HOTEL SCHLADMING\*\*\*\*\*

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# Delicious

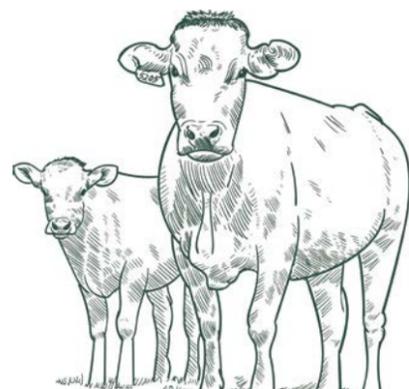
# Cattle of a special breed

With “Wagyu-Ennstal”, Rita Kapp and Andreas Wieser have turned their passion for this special breed of cattle into a joint brand. In this interview, the two talk about their beginnings, their fascination with Wagyu cattle and the values that characterise their work.

## How did the idea of breeding high-quality Wagyu cattle come about?

**Rita:** My passion began in 2009 with a trip to Japan. I was fascinated by this breed of cattle from the very beginning. In 2015, with the support of a university lecturer and the Austrian Embassy, I was able to spend two labour-intensive and instructive months at a university and on a family farm in Japan. Today I put what I have learned into practice on our Hollingerhof farm in Aigen im Ennstal.

**Andi:** On our over 800-year-old farm in Gröbming/Winkl, we stopped keeping animals in 2007. Even as a child I had a great interest in farming, and over the years my enthusiasm for special breeds grew. I then reactivated the farm in 2020 and specialised in breeding Wagyu cattle. What convinced me about the Wagyu breed was the calm, trusting nature of the animals and the incredibly tender and juicy quality of the meat, which is unrivalled anywhere else in the world. We are very proud to bring this unique meat culture from Japan to our region with “Wagyu-Ennstal”.



## What is behind the “Wagyu-Ennstal” brand?

**Andi:** There are only a few farmers in Austria who specialise in Wagyu cattle. Rita and I met at a Wagyu breeder course and have been working together ever since. With traditional know-how and modern methods, we are taking off together with the “Wagyu-Ennstal” brand.

**Rita:** Our philosophy is based on sustainable agriculture and species-appropriate animal husbandry. The animals grow up in the best conditions and produce meat of the highest quality. In addition to the food service industry, we also supply private customers and you can make purchases via our website. We are also delighted when our customers come to our farm to see for themselves how we keep our animals.

## What makes Wagyu beef so special?

**Andi:** Wagyus are known for their very even-tempered, calm and robust nature. Due to their slow development, they need almost twice as much time to reach slaughter maturity as conventional meat breeds. It takes 36 to 42 months for the breed’s genetic characteristics to develop.

**Rita:** Wagyus are able to store much more fat between the muscle fibres. This fat has a very high omega-3 content and up to 50 percent more unsaturated fatty acids than conventional types of meat. Our Wagyu beef is so tasty that it doesn’t need any additional spices or marinades.



## How do you live “regionally” and “sustainably”?

**Rita:** I like being at home and I also like being out and about. When it comes to food, I want to strengthen our local agriculture. You don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone. There is so much more to it than just the food at the table – the cultural landscape, the existential supply in times of crisis, the upstream and downstream economy, tourism and much more.

**Andi:** At home, we focus on regional and sustainable products, pay attention to seasonal and balanced nutrition, and support restaurants that value transparent and sustainable sources of supply. We buy as much as possible directly from our farmers.

## How and where do you see your future?

**Rita:** With my family in Aigen – with the aim of creating more free time to enjoy life.

**Andi:** I also see my future with my family and our animals on the farm. Our region is wonderful to live in. I hope for even more great collaborations with regional partners. I really appreciate the harmonious way we work together.

## More information for you

Wagyu is one of the most sought-after cattle breeds in the world. The name means “Japanese cattle” and includes four traditional breeds. “Kobe” refers exclusively to Wagyu from Hyogo Prefecture in Japan. Characteristic is the fine marbling of the meat, which ensures an incomparable taste.

**“We attach great importance to regional products.”**

GOTTLIEB STOCKER



# Culinary Heights



In this interview, lodge owner Gottlieb Stocker from Rohrmoos talks about his experiences with the “Almkulinarik by Richard Rauch” project – from his first impressions and initial challenges to his very personal favourite dish.

**What was your first reaction when you heard about the “Almkulinarik by Richard Rauch” project?**

That appealed to me right from the start. Although, to be honest, I was a little sceptical as to whether it would work. Even today, it is still something special for us to take part in.

**What challenges did you face at the start of the project?**

A key point was the integration and implementation of the dishes in the kitchen process. We have to be able to serve our usual food quality without long waiting times, even when there is a huge rush. At just the first meeting with Richard, all our concerns were dispelled. The suggestions are discussed, tried out and adapted during “test cooking”. Richard always has an open ear and is very patient, a true professional.

**“Almkulinarik by Richard Rauch” combines tradition with modern accents. How important are regional ingredients?**

We attach great importance to regional products. Our collaboration with the Schweiger family in Aigen im Ennstal resulted in a delicious potato dish. Since then, the Schwoagahof farm, which is also a Schladming-Dachstein Genusspartner, has been supplying us with their excellent Ennstal potatoes. It's nice to know your suppliers personally.

**Did your team also enjoy the project?**

Yes, absolutely. Our kitchen and service staff prepare and serve the Almkulinarik dishes with enthusiasm and a certain pride.

**What is your favourite Almkulinarik dish of the past few years?**

We've cooked several dishes over the years – pork roulades, hash browns with Chinese cabbage and potato soup. Everything is really, really good. But even Richard can't compete with my dear Aunt Vevi's bacon dumpling soup.

**More information for you**

Innkeeper Gottlieb “Gottl” Stocker runs the rustic Hochwurzenalm lodge at 1,830 metres above sea level with passion and dedication. His business has been a partner of “Almkulinarik by Richard Rauch” since the very beginning. Situated right next to the slope and toboggan run, the lodge attracts guests with its rustic flair and traditional home cooking.





# Dumplings with a twist

This delicacy has arrived fresh from the mountain pastures: beetroot and curd cheese dumplings with Steirerkas (sour milk cheese) and honey cream sauce.

### Dumplings

- 100 g cooked beetroot
- 2 eggs
- 1 diced onion
- 1 tbsp butter
- 120 g bread cubes
- 50 g curd cheese
- 1/8 l beetroot juice
- Salt & pepper

### Preparation method of dumplings, recipe serves 2:

Finely blend the beetroot with the eggs in a food processor. Fry the onion in foaming butter and mix with the bread cubes, curd cheese and beetroot, season with salt. Cover the mixture and leave to stand for approx. 1 hour. Then form small dumplings and simmer in hot, salted water and the beetroot juice for about 10 minutes.

### Steirerkas (sour milk cheese) and honey cream sauce

- 1/4 l whipping cream
- 100 g Ennstal Steirerkas
- some honey

### Preparation method of the sauce:

Bring the whipping cream to the boil in a pan, add the Steirerkas and whisk until creamy or blend with a hand blender. Season to taste with honey.

### Garnish

- Cooked beetroot
- Steirerkas, fresh horseradish



# Stay among Friends

In the heart of the breathtaking Schladming-Dachstein region, directly opposite the local mountain Planai, you will find the TUI BLUE Schladming – a place that offers a home not only to holiday guests, but also to locals. Here, warm hospitality meets modern design and a relaxed atmosphere that makes every stay a true experience.

Imagine opening the window of your room in the morning and gazing out at the majestic mountains. The scent of fresh mountain air awakens your anticipation for the day. Our dedicated team knows the area inside and out and can give you individual tips for excursions and tours. Whether snow-covered slopes or blossoming hiking trails, we are the ideal starting point for your discoveries. After a day full of adventure, you can relax in the SkySauna or enjoy the panoramic roof terrace. Local guests are also particularly welcome. Have breakfast with us or spend a cosy evening with friends at our "The Restaurant" and finish off at "The Bar". We also offer smaller team events for companies from the region. TUI BLUE is more than a hotel – it is a meeting place where guests become friends.



### Our tip: Enjoy & Exchange

- Buffet breakfast and dinner with live cooking station for external guests. Booking is requested.
- Use our premises for small but effective meetings and team-building activities.



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You can find more information here.



# Collecting points pays off

The ForYou Club makes your time in Schladming-Dachstein even more special: collect points and secure benefits, chances to win and rewards – for unforgettable moments in the region.

## Collect points



**Bus campaign – “Your journey scores”:**  
Environmentally conscious travel in the region on selected buses will easily collect points in the ForYou Club using a QR code.



**Almkulinarik – “Your delight counts”:**  
After enjoying a meal in a participating Almkulinarik establishment, scan the bill and collect points.



Your accommodation booking will earn you valuable points.



Invite up to three of your friends and collect points together.



Write a rating and get additional points.



Arrive sustainably and score more points.



Earn even more points, e.g. by buying tickets under ForYou Club conditions.

## Redeem points and enjoy benefits



**Competitions:**  
Win tickets, holidays in the region, entry to events, ski passes and high-quality sports equipment – exciting prizes await you!



**Unforgettable experiences:**  
Take part in special events and enjoy unforgettable moments that are only available at the ForYou Club.



**Bonus world with rewards:**  
Collect valuable points that you can redeem for first-class rewards and vouchers.



**ForYou Club promotions:**  
Look forward to discounts in the ticket shop and exclusive offers.



**Insider tips & much more:**  
Discover additional benefits such as free shipping in the web shop and other highlights that will enrich your stay.

## ForYou Club

More for you: Many rewards await you in our bonus world! Exchange your collected points for special highlights, from small delights to real favourites.



For club members only  
**8 points**  
+ 5.00 €

Bag with a history



For club members only  
**15 points**  
+ 9.50 €

Mountain rescuer enamel mug



For club members only  
**40 points**

Löffler headband



For club members only  
**25 points**

Glass bottle



For club members only  
**15 points**

Schladming-Dachstein socks



For club members only  
**85 points**  
+ 10.00 €

Ortovox backpack

**“Collect points in the ForYou Club and earn great rewards and benefits!”**

HANS KNAUSS, FORMER SKI RACER, TESTIMONIAL OF THE FORYOU CLUB

All information about the ForYou Club.

# Summer breeze



Next summer is already just around the corner and has a lot to offer again. In summer, the region's ski mountains are transformed into a mountain world with a multitude of hiking trails, exciting mountain biking trails and adventure playgrounds for young and old.



## Eventful mountain moments

The Schladming-Dachstein region offers you an impressive variety of opportunities to actively experience summer in the mountains. More than 1,500 km of signposted hiking trails, over 300 mountain lakes and around 100 serviced mountain lodges invite you to discover and enjoy. Those looking for a great adventure will find their way through the mountains on 6 long-distance hiking trails.

Climbing enthusiasts are also catered to: over 1,000 alpine climbing routes and more than 300 sport climbing routes make the region a true paradise for all those who want to climb high. There are also 67 kilometres of biking trails, an extensive network of 600 km of mountain bike routes and the popular Enns Cycle Path, which runs right through the region.

## Sommercard

The new summer season starts on 14 May 2026 and with it the validity of the Schladming-Dachstein Sommercard. From just one overnight stay, you can take advantage of numerous offers such as cable car rides, admission to swimming lakes, public transport and much more.

Are you ready for your next mountain adventure? Exciting highlights and experiences await you in the Schladming-Dachstein region. We look forward to welcoming you back in the warmer months of the year!

Find out more  
about your summer  
holiday in Schladming-  
Dachstein here.



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