

Winter News 2025/26

#feelaustria #lebensgefühl press.austria.info

Dear readers,

Appearance: fantastic. Ideas: plenty. Ambience: charming. Relaxation value: first-class. Whether in the snow-white mountains, by a tranquil lake, in a wine-growing region or festively lit city: from whispered insider tips to squeals of delight, our winter promises magical moments and fresh surprises. All of this makes Austria more than just a destination. It's a feeling. It's the Austrian "Lebensgefühl".

An increasing number of regions are offering digital ski passes, including Zell am See-Kaprun (Salzburger-Land), Obergurgl-Hochgurgl and Alpbachtal Wildschönau (Tirol). And families can look forward to even more attractions such as additional magic carpets, funslopes and funcross tracks in resorts like SkiWelt Söll (Tirol) and Saalfelden Leogang (SalzburgerLand).

There's plenty to discover away from the slopes too. The singing bowl meditations inside the Spannagel Cave in Zillertal (Tirol) are a great way to unwind within a truly unique setting. Skaters can glide across the ice of the new panoramic ice-skating rink at 1,500 m above sea level on the Dreiländereck in Carinthia, while those who prefer less mountainous terrain can hike through three vineyards on a new circular trail in Southern Burgenland.

The coming year will be no less exciting when it comes to culture. In Vienna, the renovated and extended Sisi Museum will reopen at the end of 2025, and the Albertina and Burgtheater will celebrate their 250th anniversaries in 2026. Vienna will once again be welcoming the world for the Eurovision Song Contest 2026, showcasing the participants' cultural depth, tourism excellence and urban creativity – a strong message for international cultural tourism. Salzburg is celebrating 270 years of Mozart and 70 years of Mozart Week.

We have also included profiles of some incredible personalities, such as Klemens Gold from Upper Austria, who is not just a top chef, but recently opened Austria's first tea garden. Delicious cuisine can also be enjoyed at Theresia Palmetzhofer's restaurant in Neuhofen an der Ybbs in Lower Austria. Theresia is counted among the 100 Best Chefs in Austria.

From Vorarlberg to Styria, new energy-efficient lifts are giving skiers an even faster and more comfortable ride to the slopes. All new constructions replace existing lifts and, in the interest of sustainability, some ski resorts are even reusing components that were in operation at other locations.

The right accommodation makes a winter holiday complete, and numerous hosts have renovated, converted or extended their properties. This year there has been a particular emphasis on creating new play worlds for younger guests, ranging from the ALMI-opolis adventure play area at Almhof Family Resort (Gerlos/Tirol) to the indoor salt box at Post Family Resort (Unken/SalzburgerLand) and the Ninja Warrior courses at Hotel Sonnenhof (Zell am Ziller) and Kinderhotel Kröller (Gerlos).

A great mix, we think. If you would like to experience the fascination of the Austrian winter for yourself, we'd be delighted to help arrange a press trip.

Special editorial tips have once again been highlighted in blue.

Happy reading!
The Austria Tourism Team

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Winter in Austria



Winter openings and season starts

The Austrian ski regions can't wait to launch the upcoming season with winter sports fans. From Vorarlberg to Styria, here are all the winter opening and season start dates. The latest information can be found on the respective ski resort's website.

www.austria.info/en-gb/highlights/winter-openings

Advent and Christmas markets

The weeks leading up to Christmas are a time of romantic markets and Advent magic. Get into the festive spirit whilst browsing, sampling and admiring. Here you will find an overview of Austria's most magical markets. For the latest information, please head to the respective website.

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www.austria.info/en-gb/inspiration/christmas-markets

Winter "Lebensgefühl"

finding ways to discover something new

From relaxed family descents to cool powder runs, and from cross-country flow to magical snow hikes: winter in Austria has something for everyone. Enjoy the nostalgia of Advent in picturesque towns or try something new like fat biking or yoga in the mountains. Welcome to winter "Lebensgefühl", pure and individual!

Happiness on two planks. Ski holidays with the family

Austria's family-friendly ski resorts deliver everything for an unforgettable winter getaway, from wide ski slopes to snowparks for young freestylers and ski schools for the little ones or adults who want to brush up on their skills. Fun and relaxation on and off the slopes await in the Tirolean holiday region of Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis, for example, one of the highest-rated family ski areas. A recommendation for ski beginners and winter romantics is the Skijuwel Alpbachtal Wildschönau. Just beyond the German border, the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena delights with its winter wonderland, whilst Nassfeld, Carinthia's largest ski area, impresses with guaranteed snow, sunshine and family value. Also great for the wallet: the "ski pass included" offers at Aldiana Clubs and JUFA Hotels.

Winter diversity. Mountains of possibilities

Winter in Austria offers so many ideas for those eager to explore. Take the atmospheric Advent in **Salzburg** or **Radstadt** and its surrounding mountains, where cross-country skiers come into their own. Looking for a smaller resort? No problem! The Alpine Pearls destination of **Werfenweng** promises glorious skiing as well as extensive winter hikes. In the Tirolean **holiday region of Hall-Wattens**, nature watch tours lead in search of local wildlife. In addition to fun on the slopes, **Carinthia** scores with its natural ice rinks and relaxing thermal spas. Speaking of wellbeing: yoga on the mountain is practiced in many places even in the snow. Fat bike tours are the latest trend for cycling enthusiasts. When it comes to accommodation, keen hikers are spoilt for choice with the selection of alpine **Wanderhotels**, whilst those opting for **Holidays on the Farm** appreciate tranquil, authentic stays.

Taking it up a notch. Slopes and powder for pros

Skiing, with its graceful lightness, could be seen as the essence of the Austrian "Lebensgefühl". Across the country's most renowned winter sports areas, a variety of slopes and adventurous off-piste routes attract visitors well into spring. Zillertal fascinates young and old with endless slopes for all skill levels, freeride options and speed runs from the heights of the glacier. Montafon in Vorarlberg not only impresses with dream downhill descents, but also with its ski touring options. In the nearby Bregenzerwald, guests experience a ski holiday with delightful extras, such as bookable Culinary Winter Hikes. Real skiing fun awaits in Ski amadé and a thermal spa in Altenmarkt-Zauchensee. Not forgetting the abundance of ski-in, ski-out accommodations, ranging from luxurious to casual and sustainable, such as the Austrian Explorer Hotels.

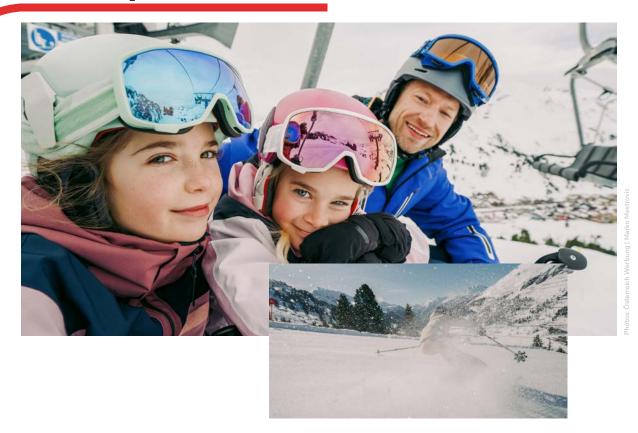
Climate-conscious travel by train

Rail offers are the affordable, comfortable and eco-friendly way to get to Austria's slopes. Tickets are available from 37.99 euros, or even from 19.99 euros for short distances (e.g. Munich-Tirol). Children under 15 years travel free of charge with an accompanying person (from 16 years of age). Shuttles, public and regional transport can be used to get around locally and are usually included in guest cards.

Find further information on Austria's best winter regions and accommodations online. Bring on the winter!

press.austria.info

Lifts, ski & co.



Austria

Six ski resorts included in Epic Pass

The Epic Pass is valid in more than 80 ski resorts around the world, from North America to Japan, Australia and Europe. From winter 2025/26, six Austrian ski resorts will be included. The new partner resorts are Mayrhofen & Hintertux and Sölden in Tirol, Skicircus Saalbach Hinterglemm Leogang Fieberbrunn, Zell am See-Kaprun in SalzburgerLand and the Silvretta Montafon ski area in Vorarlberg. Then there is the Ski Arlberg region, which has been part of the Epic Pass for some time. There are different options to choose from, ranging from the Epic Pass for an entire season to lift passes for a specific number of days.

www.epicpass.com

Carinthia

The Almbahn at Katschberg

A new energy-efficient gondola lift will replace the 3-seater Aineck chairlift in the Katschberg ski area from winter 2025/26. The cabins of the barrier-free accessible Almbahn are equipped with eight heated, ergonomic seats, making it a comfortable and weather-protected ride from the Katschberg valley station up the 2,220 m Aineck.

www.katschi.at (German only)

News from Nassfeld

Carinthia's largest ski area, Nassfeld, will launch the new Gartnerkofel lift in December 2025. A 10-person gondola lift will replace the 4-seater chairlift, with new, covered conveyor belt lifts for children and beginners to embark on their first skiing attempts. A large amount is also being invested in environmentally friendly and energy-efficient technology, including new snow machines and an improved snow-making system.

www.nassfeld.at

Carinthia

Free children's ski pass at Dreiländereck

Dreiländereck, on the border of Carinthia with Italy and Slovenia, is offering free skiing for children and teenagers up to their 16th birthday from 7th February 2026 until the end of the season. To qualify for the free ski pass you have to spend at least one night in an Erlebnisraum Faaker See accommodation establishment. Seven lifts provide access to 15 km of slopes in the family-friendly Dreiländereck ski area.

www.3laendereck.at (German only)

Carinthia/Styria

New ski lockers at Turracher Höhe

The Kornockbahn valley station in the Turracher Höhe ski area, which lies on the border of the provinces of Carinthia and Styria, will enter winter 2025/26 completely revamped. Two floors and a wooden façade have been added to the building, with new facilities including 200 ski lockers and 20 staff rooms.

www.turracherhoehe.at

Upper Austria

Two new lifts in the Dachstein West ski area

The Dachstein West ski area, which lies between Gosau, Russbach and Annaberg, will see two new chairlifts go into operation in December 2025. The 6-seater Angerbahn replaces a drag lift and the 6-seater high-speed Aussichtsberg with weather shields is taking over from the old 4-seater.

www.dachstein.at

SalzburgerLand

Schwarzwandbahn in Zauchensee-Flachauwinkl

In the Zauchensee-Flachauwinkl ski area, the Schwarzwandbahn, a 4-seater gondola lift, has been taking skiers from Zauchensee to the 2,113 m high mountain station for 40 years. The completely updated lift will go into operation from December 2025, with modern cabins offering more comfort and space for up to ten people.

www.zauchensee.at

Snow Space Salzburg lifts to be climate-neutral

The Snow Space Salzburg Cable Car Company has an ambitious goal: to be climate-neutral by the 2025/26 winter season – without financial compensation. The company has founded a scientific advisory board and developed a 3-pillar model for reducing emissions. The model covers ecology in the ski area, technical environmental protection and guest behaviour. Since winter 2023/24, for example, Snow Space Salzburg has switched to HVO fuels (= hydrotreated vegetable oils) for all snow groomers, already reducing total emissions by 42 %. And there are attractive offers aimed primarily at guests, such as free arrival and departure from the province of SalzburgerLand by public transport.

greenmountain.snow-space.com

Smartphone ski pass in Zell am See-Kaprun

The Zell am See-Kaprun app makes getting to the slopes even easier this winter. Winter sports enthusiasts can buy their ski pass online, activate it in the app and pass through the turnstile with their phone. The app also lists huts, restaurants and daily events. In addition, it includes digital regional maps and a weather report.

www.zellamsee-kaprun.com

Tannwald descent optimised in Zell am See

The red Tannwald descent in the Schmittenhöhe ski area connects the mountain station of the zellamseeXpress with the middle station. From winter 2025/26, it will be an even smoother and safer run for skiers, thanks to the removal of bottlenecks.

www.schmitten.at

Even more fun on the slopes in Saalfelden Leogang

A new funslope, funcross and the "Fishermans Friend" SkiMovie course will expand ski offerings in Saalfelden Leogang starting this winter. The funslope, an almost 400 m long and 9 m wide slope, is suitable for all skill levels, with elements including waves, turns and "clapping hands" to master along the way. The new funcross at the Schantei lift caters for skiers of every ability too. It combines waves, turns and jumps with elements from ski cross, in which up to four skiers race and jump their way down the slope at the same time. On the "Fishermans Friend" SkiMovie course at the Asitz, winter sports enthusiasts can capture their descent on video and create their own ski film.

www.saalfelden-leogang.com

Styria

Three new lifts in Schladming-Dachstein

The Schladming-Dachstein region is launching the 2025/26 ski season with three new lifts. The new 10-seater Senderbahn gondola lift replaces the previous 4-seater chairlift in the Hauser Kaibling ski area. There is also the new 8-seater Mitterhausalm I chairlift, equipped with heated seats and weather protection hoods, which replaces the 4-seater Sonneck chairlift and provides a quicker connection from the Hauser Kaibling to the Planai ski area, which is located above Schladming. In the Fageralm family ski area, a new 8-seater gondola lift replaces the previous Forstaubahn and Jägerlift double chairlifts, reusing parts of the Grossarl lift to remain sustainable.

www.schladming-dachstein.at www.reiteralm.at

Yooners on the Stuhleck

From winter 2025/26, it will be possible to take yooners on the lifts of the Stuhleck ski resort on the Semmering. Those who would like to give yooners a go can join one of the guided "steirisch wandern" programmes. Options include guided snowshoe tours with yooner descents as well as accompanied yooner tours, each including rental equipment. There are several dates to choose from between 13th December 2025 and 8th March 2026. The yooner is a type of ski bob, which consists of a seat shell mounted about 20 cm high on a short ski. It can be used on the slopes as well as in deep snow and is a good alternative for anyone who cannot or does not want to ski.

www.stuhleck.at

Tirol

Two new chairlifts in the Silvretta Arena

The cross-border ski resort Ischgl/Samnaun is modernising two lifts by December 2025. The Höllboden C1, an 8-seater high-speed chairlift, will also be given a new mountain station, relocated by about 500 m. This will enable skiers to cross the slopes more safely. At Sassgalunkopf, an 8-seater chairlift will replace the previous 6-seater. Both lifts feature automated boarding and alighting systems, with solar panels being installed on the roofs.

www.ischgl.com

Familienglück chairlift in See

The family-friendly 8-seater Familienglück chairlift will begin operation in the See ski area of the Paznaun Valley from December 2025. The lift, which was previously known as the Höllbodenbahn in neighbouring Ischgl, replaces the Rauhkopf and Almlift drag lifts as well as the 4-seater Rossmoos chairlift. The Rossmoos chairlift is being dismantled to provide more space for slopes. In addition to the new Familienglück lift, a new 150 m covered conveyor belt lift will offer an alternative for beginners. There will also be a new family snowpark with jumps, boxes, tubes and funslope elements.

www.see.at

Diasbahn in Kappl

In the ski area of Kappl in the Paznaun Valley, the 10-seater Diasbahn gondola lift will replace the old 4-seater from December 2025. The lift, which has already been used in various operations, will run all year round. In 2022, it transported visitors at the Floriade Expo in the Netherlands, and in 2023 it was used at the Federal Horticultural Show in Mannheim, Germany.

www.kappl.com

Bäreckbahn at Steinplatte

In the Steinplatte Winklmoosalm ski area, the nearly 2 km long 6-seater Bäreckbahn chairlift replaces the 4-seater that was in operation for 40 years. The new lift offers significantly more comfort and is equipped with weather protection hoods and premium heated seats.

www.steinplatte.tirol

New Maiskopf lift in Fieberbrunn

From December 2025, a 6-seater chairlift will replace the existing drag lift on the Maiskopf mountain in Fieberbrunn in the Kitzbühel Alps – Pillerseetal. The new lift will be able to transport twice as many skiers per hour as the drag lift. It was constructed with sustainability in mind, reusing existing components such as the motor, pylons and chairs from the former Sassgalun lift in Ischgl combined with new elements including the controls, cables and resource-efficiently designed station buildings.

www.fieberbrunn.com

Tirol

Rosenalmbahn 1 and 2 in the Zillertal Arena

The new Rosenalmbahn will begin operation in the Zillertal Arena in December 2025. The cable car with its valley station in Zell am Ziller will have new 8-seater cabins, offering more space and comfort. It will also provide barrier-free access, making it smoother and quicker to board and alight.

www.zillertalarena.com

Two new chairlifts in Sölden

Two new chairlifts will be bringing even more comfort and safety to the Sölden ski area from winter 2025/26. The new 8-seater Silberbrünnl chairlift replaces the previous 4-seater on the way to Rotkogljoch. It is equipped with an entry conveyor belt, automatic safety bars and weather protection hoods. With the new 8-seater Einzeiger chairlift, skiers will be able to reach the glacier ski area faster.

bergbahnen.soelden.com

New 10-seater gondola lift in Berwang

In the Berwang ski area, the second section of the 10-seater Obere Karbahn II gondola lift will replace the former Thanellerkar T-bar lift from December 2025. The top station is being moved around 140 m higher up the mountain, which will extend the slopes.

www.berwang.tirol

Greater comfort in Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis

Two new facilities are promising an even more comfortable start to the day on the slopes of Serfaus-Fiss-Ladis. The renovated valley station in Ladis includes a modern ski storage depot, heated lockers, interactive experience stations, indoor and outdoor play areas as well as a central ticket office with a souvenir shop. There is also a large new parking garage at the Waldbahn between Serfaus and Fiss, from which skiers can get straight to the cable car.

www.serfaus-fiss-ladis.at

Expansion of Fun Slope and Family Cross in Fiss

Families can look forward to even more variety in Fiss from winter 2025/26. Lovingly designed elements expand the Fun Slope and Berta's Family Cross, such as Berta Policeman who will ensure order on the slopes, and a snow house that will complete the charming winter setting.

www.serfaus-fiss-ladis.at

Alpbachtal Wildschönau news

From this winter, an additional 30 snow generators will be in operation across Alpbachtal and an additional 14 in Wildschönau. The new machines consume significantly less energy and help increase snow reliability throughout the entire season. The ski area is also introducing new mobile phone ski passes. Starting this season, guests can download their hourly and one-day ski passes for Alpbachtal and Wildschönau to their mobile phones. The mobile tickets are available in the online shop.

www.skijuwel.com

Wildschönau even more family-friendly

In the Schatzberg ski area in Wildschönau, a new blue children's slope will increase offerings from winter 2025/26. The slope runs from the mountain station of the Schatzberg cable car to the Hahnkopf cable car. In addition, an extra conveyor belt is being installed in Schatzberg Zwergenland and there is another new, 110 m covered conveyor belt at the mountain station of the Markbachjochbahn.

www.skijuwel.com

Winter fun for families in SkiWelt Söll

SkiWelt Söll is starting the winter season with new attractions for families. An additional conveyor belt lift and tubing slide enhance the extended "Hexenwiese" at the valley station. While the kids practice their first turns or play in the snow, parents can relax on the newly designed, elevated sun terrace. There is also a new addition at the "Hexerei" farmhouse (red Keatabfahrt slope no. 43): a nostalgic ski-in cinema makes "time travel" complete. From Monday to Thursday you can watch short films for free in the cosy Tenne between 11 am and 3 pm, including popcorn and drinks. Austria's first ski-in cinema is thus located in what is probably the oldest cinema building in Tirol.

www.skiwelt.at

Mobile tickets in Obergurgl-Hochgurgl

Those visiting the Obergurgl-Hochgurgl ski area in the Ötztal will also be able to download their ski pass to their mobile phone from winter 2025/26 and pass through the turnstile with it. What's more, the earlier winter sports enthusiasts book their ski pass online, the cheaper it is.

www.gurgl.com

Vorarlberg

"Hohes Licht" chairlift in Damüls

The Damüls-Mellau ski area is launching the 2025/26 winter season with the updated "Hohes Licht", a 6-seater chairlift which replaces the 2-seater that was in operation for over 50 years. The valley station has also been reconstructed and relocated, making it easier for skiers to get to and accessible from two sides.

www.damuels-mellau.at

Loischkopfbahn Brandnertal

The start of the 2025/26 winter season will see the launch of the new Loischkopfbahn in Brandnertal. The 10-seater gondola lift replaces two chairlifts and will get skiers to the slopes faster and more comfortably. The journey from Tschengla to Loischkopf takes just eight minutes. The lift is to operate year-round and will make it possible to take bikes and buggies on board in the summer. The newly constructed valley station will become the central access point to the ski, hiking and biking area.

www.vorarlberg-alpenregion.at

Greater snow reliability in Schröcken

The Schröcken ski lifts in the Warth-Schröcken ski area are expanding their snowmaking systems, making it possible to fully snow-cover the black Flühli slope on the Saloberkopf from this winter onwards. This will ensure the best skiing conditions, above all at the start and end of the season.

www.warth-schroecken.at

Modernisation of the Kleinwalsertal mountain railways

The mountain railways in the cross-border ski region Kleinwalsertal-Oberstdorf are implementing changes in several steps with an investment amount of around 200 million euros. The modernisation of the Fellhornbahn I in Oberstdorf has thus already been completed since September 2025, boasting new cabins with floor-to-ceiling windows just in time for its 50th anniversary. At the same time, the Möserbahn on the Fellhorn was given a technical upgrade, new seats, safety bars and an improved boarding area. The Walmendingerhornbahn is scheduled to be updated in 2026 and the Kanzelwandbahn in 2029.

www.ok-bergbahnen.com (German only)

Away from the slopes



Burgenland

Three Vineyards Circular Trail in Southern Burgenland

Since September 2025, the new 14 km Three Vineyards Circular Trail has connected the vineyards of Eisenberg, Deutsch Schützen and Csaterberg in Southern Burgenland. Vineyards, idyllic forests, historic cellar lanes and wine taverns line the route, which takes hikers around four hours to complete. The trail is accessible year-round and some taverns are also open on certain dates during the cooler season.

www.burgenland.info

Even more space at St. Martins Spa & Lodge

Since September 2025, there has been even more space for visitors of St. Martins Spa & Lodge in Frauenkirchen to relax. In total, the popular thermal spa with large bathing lake and attached hotel now has a quarter more lounging space. In addition to the expansion of existing relaxation areas, a new place to retreat has been added: the Sunset Terrace, boasting spectacular views of the Neusiedler See – Seewinkel National Park. And since the beginning of 2025, St. Martins Restaurant has been delighting diners with its updated design.

www.stmartins.at

Allegria thermal spa with infinity pool

At the end of September 2025, the new 210 $\rm m^2$ outdoor infinity pool opened at the Allegria-Therme in Stegersbach. The modern stainless steel pool with water loungers and a massage area replaces the two-part cascade pool. Guests can also immerse themselves in 13 other pools filled with warm thermal water. The choice ranges from the 25 m outdoor sports pool to the large indoor pool and wave pool.

www.allegria-resort.at (German only)

Carinthia

Panoramic ice skating rink at 1,500 m above sea level

There will be new developments from the beginning of this season in the winter sports area at Dreiländereck, which lies on the border of Carinthia with Italy and Slovenia. A 300 m² panoramic ice skating rink is being created at an altitude of 1,500 m at the mountain station. Cable car guests can use the rink, which can accommodate around 50 people at a time, free of charge. There is also a new 0.6 km, almost completely flat winter hiking trail that leads around the mountain station of the 3-seater chairlift with a 360-degree view.

www.3laendereck.at (German only)

Carinthia/Styria

"Nocky's Schneezeit" at Turracher Höhe

A family-friendly adventure area will open this winter at an altitude of 1,800 m by the practice lift on Turracher Höhe, which lies on the border between Styria and Carinthia. "Nocky's Schneezeit" consists of a covered conveyor belt and a toboggan run with steep curves, reaffirming Turracher Höhe's commitment to being "Austria's biggest Fun Mountain". Existing facilities include a snow and funpark, a funcross track, funslope and kids' slope.

www.turracherhoehe.at

Upper Austria

New ice skating path in Linz

Since the winter of 2024/25, a 3 m wide and 0.5 km long ice skating path has been winding its way through the tree-covered grounds of Parkbad Linz. It is open daily between early November and early March. There are also covered curling lanes on site. Skates can be hired from the adjacent Parkbad ice rink and open-air ice arena

www.donauregion.at

SalzburgerLand

Early morning mountain carting in Gastein

There has been a special offer for early birds at Erlebnisberg Fulseck in Dorfgastein since winter 2024/25. "Early Morning Mountaincart" begins at 7:30 am, when participants embark on the descent from the mountain station to the valley, equipped with a helmet, ski goggles, skiwear and sturdy shoes on snow-ready three-wheelers. The experience takes place on set days of the week and lasts around an hour.

www.gastein.com

Kids Indoor Park Areit

From billiards to a slide car track, giant bouncy castle or journey through the history of skiing: since summer 2025, the year-round Kids Indoor Park Areit 1400 has been offering plenty for kids and teens to experience and discover. The huge indoor playground is located at the mountain station of the areitXpress and is perfect for keeping them entertained – whatever the weather.

www.schmitten.at

Tirol

Cross-border winter hiking trail

At the Reschen Pass, where Austria, Italy and Switzerland meet, the approximately 11.4 km Plamort hiking trail will be accessible for the first time during the cold season starting winter 2025/26. The panoramic route leads from the mountain station of the Bergkastel cable car via the Stieralm hut to the striking viewing point at Plamort. With a walking time of about three to four hours, an ascent of 150 vertical metres and a descent of 550 vertical metres, the tour is classified as easy to moderately difficult.

www.nauders.com

Hartkaiser-Tanzbodensee winter circuit

In the Wilder Kaiser region, above Ellmau, there will be a new winter hiking trail for families and nature lovers from winter 2025/26. The 6.6 km long, almost completely flat trail starts at the Hartkaiser mountain station. The circular route leads through the forest towards Scheffau to the Tanzbodensee lake and back to the panoramic restaurant at the mountain station. The walking time is around 2.5 hours.

www.wilderkaiser.info

Digital adventure trails in the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena

Audio guides, videos, mini-games and puzzles that teach you about the region accompany hiking enthusiasts on the six digital, family-friendly adventure trails in the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena. Three of the routes are also accessible in winter: the 5 km Cora trail, the 3 km Mia trail and the 4.5 km Finn trail.

zugspitzarena.com

On your way to a hiking pin

Starting this winter, there will be a hiking pass for those exploring the trails and cross-country tracks of the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena. The pass is available as a printed version or digitally via the Summit-Lynx app. Physical stamps can be collected at various huts and stamping points, but participants can also document their tours and compare their achievements with others via the app. Anyone who has collected four stamps receives a bronze hiking pin. It takes 20 points to get the crystal pin.

www.summitlynx.com

Tirol

Singing bowl meditation in the cave

For those looking to unwind, a special event is being held at the Hintertux Glacier from this winter. Twice a week, a singing bowl meditation with guided relaxation exercises will take place in the Spannagel Cave at 2,521 m above sea level. A maximum of five participants can take part. The cave is about a ten minute walk from the mountain station. It is one of the few marble caves in Austria and thus a geological rarity.

www.spannagelhoehle.at

SkyRide and AlbertAdler Adventure Trail in Mayrhofen

From winter 2025/26, daredevils will be able to soar up the Ahorn in Mayrhofen by SkyRide in the cold months too. This unique experience is an open-air ride on a kind of balcony above the Ahornbahn cable car. Having reached the top, you can head to the slopes or wind you way down again on a winter hike. The new interactive AlbertAdler Adventure Trail, which opened on the Ahorn Plateau in summer 2025, lends itself perfectly for this. In addition to interactive stations, the over 70 m long GreifenBrücke is one of the highlights of the 2.4 km circular trail.

www.mayrhofen.at

Pfaffenbichl winter via ferrata

In Hochfügen in the Zillertal, climbers will be able to tackle the new Pfaffenbichl winter via ferrata from the beginning of the season. It leads from the Waidoffenbahn lift at 2,431 m to the summit. The 260 m long route is equipped with wire ropes, footbridges and a 28 m long rope bridge. With a maximum difficulty level of B, it is only accessible on the ascent. The descent is made via a separate marked winter route.

www.hochfuegenski.com

Short winter hiking trail Hochzillertal

In Hochzillertal, a new winter hiking trail will be accessible from winter 2025/26. The 3 km circular route leads from the mountain station via the Firnhütte to the Hubertuskapelle. Covering an ascent of 99 vertical metres and a descent of 93 vertical metres, there are several places to stop for refreshments along the way.

www.zillertal.at

New cross-country ski trail in Leutasch

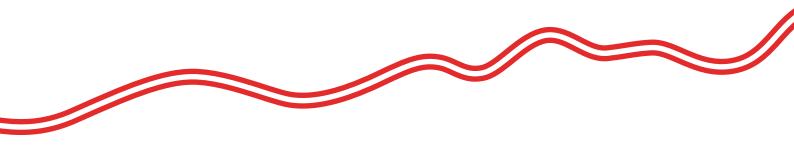
There will be a new 7.5 km trail in the extensive cross-country skiing area of the Seefeld-Leutasch region from the winter of 2025/26. The Leutasch-Wildmoos high-altitude cross-country ski trail that begins at the Katzenkopf mountain station is considered a natural gem and is aimed at experienced cross-country skiers. When the trail is open, cross-country skiers can use the Katzenkopf lift in Leutasch to reach the starting point with their equipment free of charge. The almost 3 km long Waldloipe is also new. Like many more kilometres of trails in the region, it can be efficiently snowed using an innovative central air system.

www.seefeld.com

Digital journey through time at Kufstein Fortress

Since the summer of 2025, Kufstein Fortress visitors have been able to take part in a digital treasure hunt via an app. There are two options to choose from: to either defend the fortress or to seize it. Both versions lead through the entire fortress with puzzles to solve at certain points. Emperor Maximilian and Hans von Pienzenau accompany adventurers via video. Both historical figures played pivotal roles in the history of the fortress. Since the summer of 2025, Kufstein Fortress has also been one of the Austrian Leading Sights. This association represents Austria's top attractions and currently has 55 members (as of September 2025).

www.festung.kufstein.at



Tirol

Digital concierge in the Alpbachtal

Since August 2025, the Alpbachtal tourism region has been testing a pilot project that is the first of its kind in Europe. Around 500 voice-controlled devices have been made available to guests in the rooms of 24 accommodation establishments. In German or English, they can answer standard questions such as "When is breakfast?", assist with restaurant reservations, provide information about excursion destinations, events and bus connections. The answers can be heard and also seen on screen. From autumn 2025, the Alpbachtal will also be testing the first version specifically designed for congress guests. It contains information about programmes, rooms, side events and any possible changes. The pilot phase is scheduled for one year. The aim is to free up staff from routine tasks, leaving them with more time to provide personalised service to guests.

presse.tirol.at (German only)

Vienna

Brand new: Naschpark and market hall

On a former 12,000 m² parking lot at the end of the Naschmarkt, the new "Naschpark" has been welcoming visitors since autumn 2025. With more than 90 trees, shady spots and seating areas, the city of Vienna has transformed one of the largest heat islands in the city into a recreational space with plenty of greenery. There is also a new market hall with a green terrace. The farmers' market is due to be moved here and the area where the flea market takes place every Saturday will also be redesigned by 2027.

www.wien.info

U5: first fully automated underground line

The city of Vienna is currently expanding its underground network. The new U5 line connects Karlsplatz with Hernals and is scheduled to be completed by 2035. The first approximately 900 m long section of the new line – Vienna's first fully automated underground line – runs from Karlsplatz to Frankhplatz near the Old General Hospital. The new underground station will be opened there in early 2026.

www.wienerlinien.at

Cuisine



Austria

Organic breakfast at organic farms

Those who book a holiday on an organic farm in Austria do not just experience how life on such a farm works. The hosts are also passionate about serving their guests culinary delights that are organically certified and homemade. Seeing as not every organic farm can produce all that belongs to a delicious breakfast and some product groups are difficult to obtain in certified organic quality, from autumn 2025 the Holidays on the Farm group will create greater transparency in cooperation with Bio Austria. Gold and silver medals will provide information about the proportion of organically certified breakfast products on the Holidays on the Farm website. Organic farms that hold a silver medal serve at least 60 % organic products at breakfast and farms with a gold medal at least 90 %.

www.farmholidays.com

Upper Austria

Austria's first tea garden in Großraming

Austria's first tea garden opened in Großraming in March 2025. The garden was initiated by top chef Klemens Gold (formerly Klemens Schraml) from Restaurant Rau in Großraming. In his kitchen, which has been awarded four Gault Millau toques as well as a classic and a green MICHELIN star, Klemens focuses on what the region and market have to offer. On around two hectares of land he now cultivates the classic tea plant Camellia sinensis. Klemens has been passionate about tea for a long time and has been running the first tea cellar in Großraming under the name of Combuchont since 2019. There he produces cold-bottled tea with the shelf life of wine and an alcohol content of two to three percent by volume.

www.im-rau.com (German only) www.combuchont.com

SalzburgerLand

Kleine Scharte mountain restaurant

At the beginning of the 2025/26 winter season, the Kleine Scharte will open in the newly built mountain station of the Schlossalmbahn cable car in Bad Hofgastein. It will have 350 indoor and 330 terrace seats, with large glass façades offering views of the surrounding peaks. The building will also house a digital exhibition on regional themes relating to nature and mountains. Environmentally friendly energy is to be provided by photovoltaic systems and heat pumps.

www.kleinescharte.at (German only)

Reopening of Restaurant Gletschermühle

The extensively renovated Restaurant Gletschermühle on the Kitzsteinhorn will be welcoming guests again from winter 2025/26. At 2,450 m above sea level it offers culinary specialties and fantastic views. Guests can choose between seating inside the restaurant or covered outdoor seating.

www.kitzsteinhorn.at

Tirol

8erAlm Hochfügen

The 8erAlm in Hochfügen has been dazzling with a new look and even more comfort since summer 2025. Wood and glass characterise the modern alpine style, with large windows providing views of the mountains. Inside there is a self-service restaurant with a front-cooking area as well as a table service restaurant. Outside the sun terrace now boasts a mobile glass roof, keeping guests protected in every wind and weather.

www.hochfuegenski.com

Vorarlberg

Reopening of Kapellrestaurant 2.0

Kapellrestaurant 2.0 on the Hochjoch in Silvretta Montafon, which was renovated throughout summer 2025, will reopen with the start of the winter season. The gourmet and experience restaurant combines traditional cuisine with modern hospitality at 1,850 m above sea level. There is a new wine bar and fireside lounge. The welcoming parlour and spacious sun terraces have been updated or extended. A contemporary architectural concept with an elevator and extended outdoor areas provides additional comfort. The restaurant can be reached via the Hochjoch and Zamang cable cars.

www.silvretta-montafon.at

Grüneck Panorama Restaurant

Grüneck Panorama Restaurant, a family-friendly and modern mountain restaurant, will open on Erlebnisberg Golm in Montafon in December 2025. It includes a year-round à la carte restaurant, a self-service restaurant plus a restaurant area for school groups and ski school courses. Inside the building there is also a ski kindergarten, which can be used as an indoor playground in summer. Other facilities include a ski hire, ski shop and the ski school office.

www.golm.at

Art, culture & events



Österreich

Eurovision Song Contest

Vienna will be hosting the Eurovision Song Contest on 16th May 2026. The semi-finals will take place on 12th and 14th May 2026 at the Wiener Stadthalle. Following 1967 and 2015, this is the third time Vienna has hosted the major music event, and 2026 will be an extra special year as the Eurovision contest will be celebrating its 70th anniversary. The European Broadcasting Union organised the Eurovision Song Contest for the first time in 1956. It took place in Lugano, Switzerland, and had seven participating countries at the time. Since then, the contest has developed into a worldwide sensation, with 37 countries taking part in 2025. Around 116 million people watched the television broadcast of the final in which JJ secured the victory for Austria.

www.wien.info

Burgenland

Winterwonder Burgenland

From winter 2025, Winterwonder Burgenland will serve as the umbrella for the numerous Advent events in Burgenland, including the nativity scene on Seebühne Mörbisch. In the heart of a Christmas village, the "world's largest nativity scene" will be displayed on the lake stage from 22nd November 2025 to 4th January 2026. Other venues for atmospheric Christmas markets and events include the wine town of Rust by Lake Neusiedl, Forchtenstein Castle, Lackenbach Palace, Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt and the picturesque cellar lane of Heiligenbrunn in Southern Burgenland.

winterwunder.at

Cool experience at Lake Neusiedl

The first Ice Swimming Opening will take place at Hafen2 in Weiden on the shores of Lake Neusiedl on 18th and 19th October 2025. Everything will revolve around the fascination with the cold across both days. The programme includes expert discussions, charity swims with celebrities and workshops with winter swimming world champion Josef Köberl.

hafen2.at (German only)

Carinthia

Light Poetry at Lake Millstätter See

From 28th November 2025 to 6th January 2026, Light Poetry in Schillerpark will be enriching the Advent programme at Lake Millstätter See. Every day from 5 pm to 9 pm there will be a unique display of light, music and poetry in the park. The audiovisual work of art with lyrical recordings was created by local artists.

www.lakeandmountain.at

Lower Austria

Lower Austria State Exhibition 2026

For the state exhibition 2026, Lower Austria has not only chosen a super current theme, but also an unusual location. For the first time in the history of the 42 state exhibitions to date, a provincial hospital will be the venue – whilst business continues as usual. "When the World Turns Upside Down" is the theme of the exhibition, which highlights the interplay between humans, mind and health. It will be on display at the Amstetten-Mauer Provincial Hospital from 28th March to 8th November 2026. Since its opening in 1902, the clinic has been a psychiatric and neurological centre. The pavilion complex is considered the most significant Art Nouveau ensemble in Lower Austria. It served as the model for the Klinik am Steinhof in Vienna (today's Otto Wagner Hospital), built according to the plans of architect Otto Wagner, which opened five years later.

www.noe-landesausstellung.at (German only)

Upper Austria

All about beer in Braunau

Since March 2025, the Biersiederhaus in Braunau has provided insights into the world of beer across two floors. Visitors do not just learn interesting facts about beer production, but also about the history of the local breweries. The exhibition combines information and regional history in an engaging way that is aimed at both beer enthusiasts and history buffs.

www.oberoesterreich.at (German only)

Virtual tour of the Lehárvilla

Franz Lehár (1870 – 1948) is one of Austria's most significant operetta composers. His masterpieces, including "The Merry Widow", "The Land of Smiles" and "The Tsarevich", are regularly performed on stages to this day. Some of his compositions were created in Bad Ischl, where Lehár acquired a villa in 1912 and often spent his summer retreats. After his death, Lehár bequeathed the villa to the town of Bad Ischl, on the condition that it be used as a museum. For many years, memorabilia and the exquisite collection of antiques have shown visitors to the Lehárvilla the world-famous operetta composer from his private side. Since May 2025, it has been possible to take a virtual tour of the villa, and thus visit it from home at any time.

www.stadtmuseum.at

SalzburgerLand

Winter open-air festival: GASTEIN SOUNDS

Bad Hofgastein will kick off the winter season with a new open-air festival on 12th and 13th December 2025. Musicians such as Cro, Ski Aggu, Ikkimel and Bella will be taking to the stage of GASTEIN SOUNDS at the valley station of the Schlossalmbahn.

www.gastein.com

Tirol

Ischgl Trophy

From 11th to 13th December 2025, world-class tennis will be meeting snow in Ischgl. The new VIP exhibition tennis tournament is set to be a new highlight of Ischgl's event calendar. Stars such as Dominic Thiem, Tommy Haas, Mischa Zverev and Fabio Fognini will take to the court, alongside a varied supporting programme.

www.ischgl.com

Vorarlberg

Gustav Klimt and Vorarlberg

Arche Noah, entrepreneur Hans Bäumler's private collection of textiles in Hohenems, displays over 100 works by artists such as Spitzweg, Waldmüller, Monet, Renoir, Gauguin and even Picasso. The collection also features special exhibitions. From 27th September 2025 to 6th January 6 2026, the "Gustav Klimt and Vorarlberg" exhibition will, for the first time, highlight the connections of the famous artist to Vorarlberg. A particular emphasis will be placed on Klimt's friendship with Dornbirn textile manufacturer Julius Rhomberg, displaying a selection of Art Nouveau fabrics he produced inspired by designs from Klimt's circle at the time.

www.hohenems.travel

Vienna

Renovated and extended: Sisi Museum

The extensively renovated and extended Sisi Museum will reopen in the Hofburg at the end of 2025. All parquet floors, walls and wood panelling are being restored. The exhibition space is increasing from 1,900 m² to 2,600 m² and twelve rooms are being added, including the magnificent white gold rooms and a newly designed silver chamber. The museum shop is also being given more space and a new glass staircase with an elevator will provide barrier-free access.

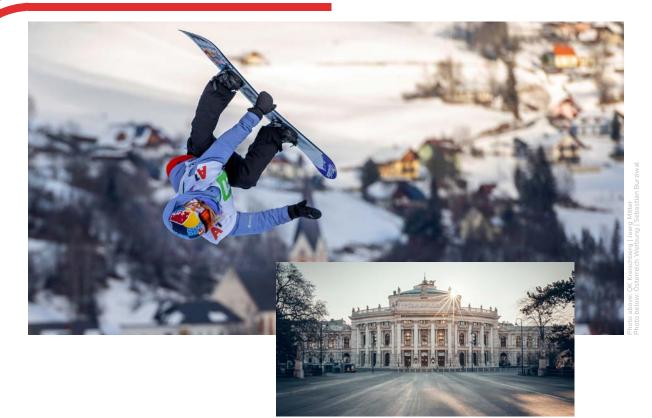
www.sisimuseum-hofburg.at

Villa Beer: icon of Viennese Modernism opens for visitors

The restored Villa Beer in the 13th district of Vienna will be open to visitors from the end of March 2026. The building, which was constructed between 1929 and 1931 and designed by Josef Frank and Oskar Wlach, is considered a masterpiece of Viennese Modernism. In addition to its unique architecture, the villa will feature an exhibition on the history of the building's commissioning family, its later tenants and owners, as well as the ideas of the modern movement. There will also be guided tours and events.

www.villabeer.com

Anniversaries



Burgenland

20 years of Liszt Festival Raiding

Liszt Festival Raiding will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2026. The festival dedicated to the composer Franz Liszt has been taking place in his birthplace Raiding since it was founded in 2006. The organising team is planning an exciting programme with special celebrations to mark the anniversary year. Alongside this, the Liszt Museum is presenting a new exhibition titled "I am the Concert", which refers to the famous Liszt quote "Le concert c'est moi".

www.burgenland.info

Lower Austria

130 years of mountain rescue Reichenau

The 130th anniversary of the Reichenau an der Rax mountain rescue is historically significant. An avalanche disaster on the Rax on 8th March 1896 was the decisive factor for the founding of the world's first organised mountain rescue service. Shortly after the disaster, the then-existing alpine associations established the Alpine Rescue Committee at a meeting in Vienna. One of its first bases was located in Reichenau an der Rax, a popular destination for summer guests who enjoyed hiking and climbing. Today, the Reichenau mountain rescue station has around 100 mountain rescuers, who spend approximately 1,700 hours on duty each year, a voluntary task carried out by men and women all over Austria. According to the Austrian Mountain Rescue Service, there are 12,880 volunteers and 267 mountain rescue dogs deployed in 289 local stations across Austria. In 2024, they were called out to just over 10,000 missions.

reichenau.bergrettung-nw.at (German only)

Lower Austria

100 years of the Rax cable car

When it opened in 1926, the Rax cable car was the first cable car in all of Austria. Thanks to its proximity to Vienna, it was popular right from the start. The cable car has been modernised several times since, now taking hiking enthusiasts from the valley station to the 1,546 m high Rax plateau in just a few minutes all year round. The Rax has also made a name for itself as a climbing area. Viktor Frankl, the founder of logotherapy, often climbed the rock faces of the Rax and regarded the mountain as a teacher of the lessons of life. And Sigmund Freud, who spent several summers in Reichenau, discovered his "case of Katharina" at the Ottohaus on the Rax, which he described in one of his first books on psychoanalysis.

www.raxalpe.com (German only)

100 years of Theater Reichenau

Theater Reichenau will be celebrating its $100^{\rm th}$ anniversary in the summer of 2026. The building was originally a mill from the $16^{\rm th}$ century. In 1926 it was converted into a theatre and concert hall, then used as a cinema and repeatedly renovated and modernised over the years. Today the theatre is the main venue of the renowned Reichenau Festival. The highlight of the anniversary year will be the performance of the operetta "The Bat" by Johann Strauss. With this production, the festival returns to the piece with which the theatre was inaugurated on $1^{\rm st}$ August 1926.

www.festspiele-reichenau.at (German only)

30 years of World Cup races at Semmering

Semmering was the venue for ski races and ski jump competitions as early as the end of the 19^{th} century. It was not until the second half of the 20^{th} century, however, that a ski resort was developed. Today Semmering boasts two lifts and 14 km of slopes equipped with snow guns. The World Cup ski races have significantly contributed to the popularity of the ski resort. Semmering has been hosting the FIS Women's Ski World Cup since 1995, drawing crowds to watch the Giant Slalom and Slalom. In the anniversary year the races will take place on 28^{th} and 29^{th} December 2025.

www.wsv-semmering.at (German only)

20 years of Loisiarte

The Langenlois Loisiarte will take place for the 20th time from 19th to 22nd March 2026. At the centre of the anniversary programme is Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks, who is regarded as one of the most important representatives of contemporary music. His pieces deal mainly with themes of hope, transience and the relationship between humans and nature.

loisiarte.at (German only)

Upper Austria

65 years of the Lehár Festival

The Lehár Festival in Bad Ischl, Europe's largest operetta festival, is celebrating its 65th anniversary from 10th July to 16th August 2026. The programme will feature three operettas: "Countess Maritza" by Emmerich Kálmán, "Boccaccio" by Franz von Suppè and "The Husband of the Gods" by Franz Lehár.

www.leharfestival.at (German only)

50 years of Waldzeller Winterkirtag

We don't know precisely when Waldzell first began celebrating a winter fair, but we do know that the Groß-Höfing association revived the so-called "Winterkirtag" in 1976. It has taken place on the first Sunday after Epiphany ever since. Gasthaus Schachinger in Waldzell is its venue. From morning until late afternoon, folk dance groups and associations from near and far perform every half hour with their dances and songs. The next Waldzeller Winterkirtag will take place on $11^{\rm th}$ January 2026.

www.innviertel-tourismus.at

Upper Austria

15 years on the UNESCO list: "Lichtbratl" Monday

Every year on the Monday after Michaelmas (29th September), Bad Ischl celebrates "Lichtbratl" Monday. The celebration has its roots in a custom that probably originated around the year 1900 and was added to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2011. The custom saw masters treating their employees to a "Bratl" (roast pork), because on this day they had to begin working by artificial light again. Nowadays "Lichtbratl" Monday is a day of local festivities, including a reunion of those aged 50 and above who were born in Bad Ischl or have their main residence there and are celebrating a "round" birthday (50, 60, 70, etc.) that year.

www.unesco.at

15 years of Klassik am Dom

In 2026, Linz will celebrate the 15th anniversary of Klassik am Dom. Over the years, the open-air festival with a focus on classical music has branched out to include jazz, soul, chanson, theatre and crossover. One of the highlights of the anniversary year is the concert by Reinhard Fendrich on 11th July 2026.

www.linztourismus.at

Looking ahead:

2027: 200 $^{\text{th}}$ anniversary of the Lehár Theatre

2027: 150th anniversary of Villa Paulick

2027: 30 Years of UNESCO World Heritage

Salzkammergut

2027: 15th Woodstock of Brass Music

2028: 110 years since the death of Gustav Klimt

2031: 70 years of the Lehár Festival

SalzburgerLand

270 years of Mozart and 70 years of Mozart Week

2026 is a year with two major Mozart anniversaries: the 270th anniversary of Mozart's birth and the 70th anniversary of Mozart Week. The world's most important Mozart festival, taking place from 22nd January to 1st February 2026 under the artistic direction of Rolando Villazón, will be celebrating with a new production of the popular opera "The Magic Flute". Asides from this unforgettable treat for Mozart fans, around 70 other events will be taking place, including top-notch orchestral and chamber concerts, puppet theatre performances with live music, screenings of early rare films about Mozart, readings, artist talks, a pub quiz, family programme and much more.

mozarteum.at

150 years of the Liechtenstein Gorge

The Liechtenstein Gorge near St. Johann is one of the most visited excursion destinations in SalzburgerLand. The up to 300 m deep gorge has been accessible via a roughly 1 km long path for 150 years now. The development took place in 1876 with financial support from Prince Johann II of Liechtenstein, which also explains the gorge's name. The path and access to it have repeatedly been renovated in recent decades. In 2020, a new attraction was added: the "Helix" spiral staircase, which leads 30 m into the depths. Various events and a special exhibition will focus on the history of the gorge to mark the anniversary year.

www.josalzburg.com

Styria

50 years of the Kreischberg ski area

1975 was the birth year of the Kreischberg, when two chairlifts went into operation. Today the resort with 13 lifts and 42 km of slopes is one of the main winter sports destinations in Styria. Kreischberg's slopes have repeatedly hosted FIS Snowboard World Cup events, and three World Championships have been held there. Ongoing investments in snowmaking and lifts maintain Kreischberg's appeal. In winter 2026/27, an 8-seater chairlift is to replace the existing 2-seater on the Rosenkranz.

www.kreischberg.at

40 years of the Styrian Apple Road

In 1986, 40 farmers came together to establish the Styrian Apple Road. On the one hand they wanted to strengthen the region's economic power, and on the other they wanted to bring visitors closer to local fruit cultivation. Both goals were soon achieved and today the 25 km long Apple Road is a popular holiday and excursion destination. Apples from Styria, and from the Apple Road in particular, are highly esteemed. Events, tours and tastings regularly take place in the five Apple Road communities of Puch bei Weiz, Floing, Anger, St. Ruprecht an der Raab and Albersdorf-Prebuch.

www.steiermark.com

25 years of Mariazell Advent

The Mariazell Advent will take place for the 25th time from 20th November to 21st December 2025 against its unique backdrop. Stalls cover the large square in front of the pilgrimage site's baroque basilica and line the streets. The Advent market is known for its reflective atmosphere and traditional products, and there is also a local gingerbread bakery and liqueur manufactory to visit. Concerts, guided tours and lantern walks complete the festive programme. The market is open from Thursday to Sunday and on 8th December 2025 (a holiday in Austria).

www.mariazeller-advent.at (German only)

Styria

20 years of Graz Winter World

The 3,000 m² ice rink of Graz Winter World has enchanted visitors every winter since 2005. The atmospherically illuminated site is located at the foot of the Schlossberg. Drinks and snacks are available from stalls right by the ice rink, and ice skating courses and ice discos take place throughout the opening period from $14^{\rm th}$ November 2025 to $1^{\rm st}$ February 2026. There are also ice stock lanes and opportunities to play ice hockey.

grazerwinterwelt.at

Looking ahead:

2027: 700 years of Neuberg Abbey 2029: 900 years of Rein Abbey

Vorarlberg

80 years of the Bregenz Festival

The Bregenz Festival will be taking place for the 80th time from 22nd July to 23rd August 2026. The anniversary year will see the opera "La Traviata" by Giuseppe Verdi gracing the lake stage for the first time. The premiere will take place on 22nd July 2026, followed by the opera "The Excursions of Mr. Brouček" by Leoš Janáček on 23rd July 2026. Numerous other concerts, musical performances and theatre productions will round up the programme.

bregenzerfestspiele.com

50 years of the Sonnenkopf skiing area

On 25th December 1975, the Sonnenkopfbahn began operation. In the past 50 years, the cable car and the development of Sonnenkopf as a skiing and hiking area have driven tourism to the Klostertal. A number of events have already taken place to mark the anniversary, with more to follow. Throughout winter 2025/26, an exhibition at the mountain restaurant will commemorate the construction of the cable car and its significance. It will include photos, documents and anecdotes from people connected to the valley and the cable car.

www.sonnenkopf.com

20 years of the White Ring ski race

On 17th January 2026, Lech Zürs am Arlberg will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the White Ring ski race. The 22 km circuit leads from the Rüfikopf near Lech to Zürs and back. During the race, a maximum of 1,000 participants tackle five challenging descents as well as five lift rides. In 2025, the winning time was 52 minutes, whereby only the times of the five descents are counted. Skiers can also complete the White Ring outside of the race. The legendary ski circuit received its name in 1957, since when it has been possible to ski from Lech to Zürs and back, thanks to the lift connections and expansion of the slopes.

www.derweissering.ski

Looking ahead:

2027: FIS World Championships in Montafon 2027: 100 years of the Pfänderbahn

Vienna

250 years of the Albertina

The Albertina is one of Vienna's most visited museums. Its history as a museum dates back to 1776, when Duke Albert of Saxe-Teschen, the namesake of the Albertina, established the world-renowned Graphic Art Collection. It includes masterpieces by Dürer, Rubens, Michelangelo and many others. In 2007 the museum received the works from the Batliner Collection as a permanent loan. Since then its exhibitions have not only been dedicated to graphic works, but also to classical modernist paintings.

www.albertina.at

Vienna

250 years of the Burgtheater

The Burgtheater was already considered one of the most important theatres in the Germanspeaking world not long after its founding. In the 18th century it was still located near the Hofburg at Michaelerplatz. In 1776 Emperor Joseph II declared the building the National Theatre. He also decreed that only plays with a happy ending should be performed there, so as not to put the imperial audiences in a bad mood. In 1888 the theatre moved to the building on the Ringstrasse, where great actors, directors and playwrights have shaped the stage and continued to make theatre history ever since.

www.burgtheater.at (German only)

150 years of Café Central

Café Central inside Palais Ferstel, built in the style of the Italian Renaissance, opened in 1876. High vaulted ceilings, columns and ornate paintwork shape the elegant ambiance. Café Central was a popular meeting place from the start. Famous guests such as Sigmund Freud, Arthur Schnitzler and Leo Trotsky made the coffeehouse a place of exchange and inspiration. Today Vienna's visitors and residents enjoy the beautiful setting, rich coffee culture and the patisserie team's sweet temptations.

cafecentral.wien

110 years of Vienna's Naschmarkt

The Vienna Naschmarkt will celebrate its 110th anniversary on the Wienzeile in 2026. Originally emerging from a milk market in the 18th century, it was relocated around 1900. With the pavilions built in 1902 and the stalls completed in 1916, it acquired its distinctive appearance as we know it today and has since been regarded as one of Vienna's most important markets. The official opening took place in 1916.

www.wien.info

30 years of the Pride Parade

The first Rainbow Parade made its way along Vienna's Ringstrasse in 1996. Today it is one of the largest demonstrations of equality in Europe. Every year tens of thousands of people take part to stand up for diversity, tolerance and human rights. The Rainbow Parade is now embedded within the programme of the Pride Parade, which includes numerous other events during the first two weeks of June. The date of the anniversary Rainbow Parade has not yet been set (as of September 2025).

viennapride.at

25 years of the MuseumsQuartier

Since its opening in 2001, the MuseumsQuartier has become one of the largest cultural complexes in the world. With institutions such as the Leopold Museum, mumok, Kunsthalle Wien, Tanzquartier Wien and the Dschungel Wien theatre for young audiences, it unites different art forms. At the same time its courtyards with iconic "Enzi" seating areas, restaurants and events invite you to simply unwind.

www.mqw.at

Hotel openings



Photo below: Region Seefeld | Ste

Lower Austria

Relaxing: Erlebnis Gasthof Wasserhammer

Erlebnis Gasthof Wasserhammer opened in Randegg in the Mostviertel in December 2024. It is located in a fully refurbished building and includes a tavern as well as inviting rooms. The kitchen in the restaurant with a terrace serves regional specialties and there are 20 rooms and suites for families and nature lovers to stay in. They range from 18 m² to 36 m² in size.

wasserhammer.at (German only)

Charming: Weingenuss.Chalet

The Hauser winegrowing family of the anno1555 winery opened the Weingenuss. Chalet in April 2025 in the historic cellar lane of Poysdorf. Spread across two floors, the modern yet rustically furnished accommodation offers space for up to four people. Facilities include an infrared cabin for two and a lockable bicycle cellar. There are two terraces for sitting outside, one of which is surrounded by a fragrant garden.

weingenuss-chalet.at (German only)

For gourmets: MÖRWALD Gutshof

In Feuersbrunn am Wagram, top chef and restaurateur Toni Mörwald opened the Gutshof in June 2025. The building, which used to be a department store with a barn, houses 23 stylish rooms, including two 180 m² penthouse suites. Rooms range from 30 m² to 50 m² in size, feature comfortable Wittmann beds and some have a balcony. Guests can also enjoy the gentlemen's lounge, library and rooftop bar with views across the vineyards. On the ground floor there is a market hall with a wine shop and traditional delicatessen. The 300 m² barn and seminar rooms for up to 200 people are available for events. Guests enjoy breakfast at the neighbouring Relais & Châteaux Hotel am Wagram, where they can also use the spa.

www.moerwald.at

Romantic: Gut Herzogberg

Gut Herzogberg opened in May 2025 in a former Meierhof of Seitenstetten Abbey in Sonntagberg in the Mostviertel. The beautifully located estate near Sonntagberg Basilica is primarily a venue for weddings and events. Up to 120 people can celebrate in the banquet hall with adjoining garden and terrace. The three hostesses are happy to help with the planning and organisation. There is space for twelve people to stay overnight in 35 m² double rooms and 42 m² suites for up to three guests. All of the beds are made from over 250-year-old wood from the former roof structure.

gutherzogberg.at (German only)

New dimensions: Vienna House Easy

At Vienna Airport, which is located in Lower Austria, the Vienna House Easy by Wyndham Hotels & Resorts will open at the end of 2025. The hotel is setting standards in several ways. It will be the largest hotel built from wood in Europe and, with 510 rooms, one of the five largest hotels in Austria. The concept combines lifestyle with excellent value for money and a focus on sustainability. The building has an autonomous, CO2-free heating and cooling system. Solar and wind energy generated on-site will cover part of the electricity demand.

www.noe.gv.at (German only)

Upper Austria

Traditional: Sein Boutique Suites

Sein Boutique Suites opened in Gosau am Dachstein in January 2025. The building, constructed in traditional wooden architectural style, houses twelve adults-only suites. The comfortably furnished units range from 50 m² to 86 m² in size and all have a balcony. Guests can either self-cater or make use of the breakfast service. A raclette set is also available upon request, even including the ingredients if desired.

www.sein-salzkammergut.at

Exclusive: Schloss Sunzing

Those who want to be king or queen of the castle for a while have been able to stay at Schloss Sunzing in the Innviertel since March 2025. The castle in the countryside has been lovingly renovated in recent years and is now available for events with up to 36 people. Up to ten guests can stay in the five individually furnished rooms, with spaces to relax and a small swimming pool in the garden.

schloss-sunzing.at (German only)

Open space: Baumgartner Camping

Just outside of Schärding, close to the Inn river, Baumgartner Camping opened in April 2025. There are 37 pitches of various sizes across a space of around 6,700 m². The facilities of the year-round campsite include sanitary rooms, a laundry room, shop and charging stations for cars and bicycles.

www.camping-baumgartner.at (German only)

SalzburgerLand

Versatile: Dips & Drops

The Dips & Drops hotel in Flachau, which opened in May 2025, offers 92 contemporary rooms and suites ranging from 16 m² to 65 m² in size, each with a balcony or terrace. Some rooms can be made into family units through connecting doors. When it comes to relaxation, there is an 800 m² spa area with saunas, indoor and outdoor pools as well as access to the Enns river for ice bathing. Sporty guests love the fully equipped loft gym, bike and ski hubs with hire and workshop. The KidZone is the place for kids to meet, with a ball pool, climbing wall and children's cinema. Dining options include a bistro, the Forks & Friends restaurant, a juicery and Schusterhäusl steakhouse.

www.dips-drops.com

SalzburgerLand

Rebuilt: Hotel Neubergerhof

In 2024, the Neubergerhof in Filzmoos was almost completely destroyed by a fire. The rebuilt and redesigned hotel will reopen in December 2025. It has 55 rooms and suites, ranging from 20 $\rm m^2$ double rooms to 38 $\rm m^2$ to 70 $\rm m^2$ family rooms with a separate sleeping area for the children and 60 $\rm m^2$ suites with a sauna. The wellness area with a 52 $\rm m^2$ indoor pool, the restaurants and kids' club with plenty of opportunities to play are also brand new.

www.neubergerhof.at

Styria

Welcoming: Haus Zirngast

After a fire broke out at Haus Zirngast in Schladming in late autumn 2024, the host family is delighted to be welcoming guests back to the rebuilt establishment from November 2025. There are 43 rooms to choose from, ranging from 20 $\rm m^2$ double rooms to 41 $\rm m^2$ family rooms. There is also a wellness area. The à la carte restaurant has been open since summer 2025. It focuses on traditional Styrian cuisine with modern touches.

www.haus-zirngast.at

Revitalised: Boutiquehotel Mikeli

Spring 2026 will see the opening of Boutiquehotel Mikeli in Hartberg, built by natural cosmetics company RINGANA, which is based nearby. The hotel with 40 stylishly furnished rooms is located in a historic building from the 19th century. New components complement the refurbished structure, which was once a bakery. Facilities include a restaurant and bar as well as an inviting courtyard.

www.ringana.com

Tirol

Uncomplicated: Boutiquehotel ZOMM

With Boutiquehotel ZOMM, a delightful little holiday hideaway opened in January 2025. The host family refurbished an existing building in the town centre and converted it in country style. It now has 15 rooms ranging from 18 m^2 to 33 m^2 in size as well as six apartments with a living area of 31 m^2 to 62 m^2 . Where possible, the restaurant kitchen uses fresh, organic produce from local farms.

www.zomm.at

Retreat: Lynett Suites

The Lynett Suites opened in Fließ near Landeck in spring 2025. The newly constructed building houses three suites that range from 95 m^2 to 146 m^2 and can accommodate up to four people each. The large terraces with a barbecue are a real highlight of the stylishly furnished suites, and the penthouse even has an outdoor sauna.

www.lynett.at

Comfy: Stay Here Living

The Stay Here Living apartment building opened in Thiersee near Kufstein in May 2025. It has nine bright, modern apartments that range in size from 33 m² to 105 m². All of the apartments have a balcony and the high-speed Wi-Fi makes them ideal for workations.

www.apartment-thiersee.com (German only)

On the alpine pasture: Weidenchalets

The Weidenchalets comprise of six spacious apartments for two to ten people and two double rooms. The apartments are between $35 \, \text{m}^2$ and $125 \, \text{m}^2$ and the rooms are around $20 \, \text{m}^2$. All accommodation units are located in interconnected wooden buildings in a quiet setting at the edge of a forest. Light, untreated natural wood sets the tone of the decor. Guests can meet in the rustic Weidenalm, which can also be hired for parties and weddings. There is even a chapel on the premises.

www.weidenchalets.at (German only)

Tirol

Slow down: Lärchenlodge Apartments

In Fulpmes in the Stubai Valley, 13 new apartments made from regional and family-owned larch and spruce wood have been inviting guests to relax since July 2025. The choice ranges from the 55 m² apartment for up to four people to apartments of around 100 m² for up to six guests. All of the apartments have a balcony or terrace. At the very top there is the 122 m² penthouse apartment and the spa with a whirlpool, sauna and relaxation nooks – breathtaking views of the Stubai Alps included.

www.laerchenlodge.at

Dignified: Schlosshotel Mitterhart

In June 2025 the host family of Schlosshotel Mitterhart in Vomp reopened the carefully renovated Gwercher Hof on the castle grounds. Once a residence, stable and barn, it now features 28 contemporary single and double rooms as well as suites. All of the rooms have a loggia, French balcony or garden access. Guests enjoy a hearty breakfast in the traditional 17th-century castle next door.

www.schlosshotel-mitterhart.com

Vorarlberg

With flair: Boutiquehotel Lustenau

In an Art Nouveau villa built by textile industrialist Robert Bösch, a small, refined boutique hotel opened in March 2025. The elaborately renovated villa houses twelve stylishly furnished guest rooms, ranging from $14\ m^2$ single rooms to $22\ m^2$ double rooms and up to $25\ m^2$ deluxe double rooms. Guests can make use of the 24-hour self-check-in.

boutique-hotel-maier.at (German only)

Individual: Studio 17

Studio 17 opened at Montfortstraße 17 in the centre of Bregenz in June 2025. The refurbished, approximately 100-year-old building houses 13 individually furnished studios ranging in size from 22 m² to 44 m². Each studio has its own colour scheme and is equipped with stylish furniture, wooden flooring and a kitchenette. Access to the building and studios is granted by code. Guests can prepare their own breakfast or choose one of the nearby cafés. A special feature of the establishment is its publicly accessible gallery that displays illustration works in changing exhibitions. The idea came from the host couple, who are passionate about art and design.

studio17bregenz.com

Unconventional: OXA in Hittisau

In Hittisau, Anna and Eva Metzler have revived the former Gasthof Ochsen and transformed it into an "active hotel with living room ambiance". Since August 2025 they have been welcoming guests to OXA (= Bregenzerwald dialect for oxen). From the self-check-in to the soul food restaurant, which is open for breakfast and in the evening, many elements of OXA are a bit unconventional and relaxed, in the spirit of modern simplicity. There are 15 rooms to choose from, ranging from the 15 m² single room to double rooms with a living space of 14 m² to 28 m². Refreshments and snacks for in between are available from the 24-hour honesty bar.

www.bregenzerwald-urlaub.at (German only)

Vienna

Functional: B&B Hotel

The B&B Hotel opened in Wien-Heiligenstadt in May 2025 with 120 bright, functionally furnished rooms. The double and single rooms are 16 m² in size, whilst the triples are 19 m². All of the rooms have air conditioning, soundproofed windows, a desk and modern bathroom. In the lobby there is the reception, a lounge, co-working space, the breakfast room and a snack vending machine. The building also has an underground car park and electric charging stations. The hotel gets 100 % of its electricity from renewable energy and uses district heating. Underground and tram stations are just a few minutes' walk away.

www.hotel-bb.com

Wien

Former post office: Wilde Aparthotel

A Wilde Aparthotel opened at Fleischmarkt in downtown Vienna in September 2025. It is located in an over 300-year-old building, which was used as a post office for many years. The aparthotel has 136 accommodation units. Options include 27 $\rm m^2$ rooms, studios with a living space of 27 $\rm m^2$ to 43 $\rm m^2$ and apartments ranging from 50 $\rm m^2$ to 76 $\rm m^2$ in size. The larger apartments have two bedrooms and can accommodate up to four guests. All units provide modern comfort with parquet floors, a kitchen, air conditioning, a minibar and bathroom. Guests can meet up in the fitness room, on the terrace or in the restaurant and bar.

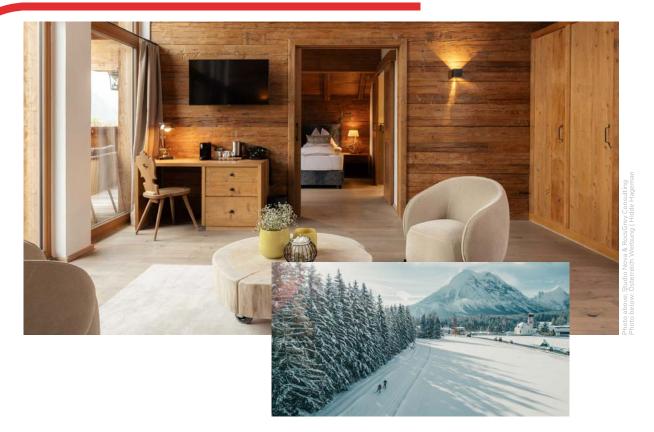
www.wilde.com

Casual elegance: Hotel Schani Naschmarkt

With Hotel Schani Naschmarkt, Vienna's fifth Schani Hotel will open in the second quarter of 2026. The Schani Hotels are smart boutique hotels that place a special emphasis on sustainability. "Schani" is an old Viennese word that can be translated as "service personnel". In keeping with the new location, the hotel will be a tribute to Art Nouveau. The 90 rooms, including spacious family rooms, combine the elegance of days gone by with modern technology. Other facilities include a restaurant with an open kitchen, a rooftop bar with views over Vienna and a green courtyard.

www.schanihotels.com

Hotel renovations



Burgenland

Ladies only spa: Larimar

Since May 2025, the Larimar wellness hotel in Stegersbach has had a new 250 m² Ladies Spa. It includes a steam bath, a sanarium with a view, a massage pool, spacious relaxation areas with infrared heating loungers and a sunbathing lawn. The 250 m² roof garden with panoramic views completes the offer and provides additional opportunities to retreat.

www.larimarhotel.at

Carinthia

By the lake: Lakeside Petzen Glamping Resort

Lakeside Petzen Glamping Resort in Feistritz ob Bleiburg has been offering even more space for holidays at Lake Pirkdorfer See since June 2025. New additions include five Tiny Houses with 32 m² of space, five 43 m² Glamping Chalets Family and two 63 m² Glamping Chalets Deluxe. The glamping site is also open in winter, with the small ski resort of Petzen just 4 km away.

www.pirkdorfersee.at

Lower Austria

Nostalgic style: Apartments Haushammer

For several years, Forst Kienberg have been developing apartments and revitalising historic buildings. Since May 2025 they have been offering two large holiday apartments in the former Hammerherrenhaus in Kienberg. "Hammerherren" were the mostly wealthy owners of hammer mills. Inside the apartments, centuries-old elements are combined with stylish modern comfort. Guests can choose between a $110 \, \mathrm{m}^2$ apartment for up to six people on the ground floor and a two-story, $130 \, \mathrm{m}^2$ apartment with three bedrooms and a large rooftop terrace. Both apartments also have a sauna.

www.forst-kienberg.at

Upper Austria

Together time: Karlingerhaus

Since June 2025, the Karlingerhaus in Königswiesen in the Mühlviertel, popular with families and seminar guests, has had 14 additional, modernly furnished rooms. The rooms have three or four beds. A terrace in front of the indoor pool and two seminar rooms have also been added.

karlingerhaus.at (German only)

Upper Austria

Beer culture: Brauhotel Vitzthum

The Brauhotel Vitzthum in Uttendorf renovated six of its eight rooms in July 2025. The newly designed rooms, which bear the names of popular beer varieties such as Märzen, Export, Pils, Falstaff, Premium and Weißbier, impress with their modern, comfortable and high-quality furnishings. Worth noting are the accessible room "Export", the "Premium" room with an additional sofa bed for three people and the "Weißbier" family suite with two separate rooms, ideal for families or friends.

www.braugasthof-vitzthum.at (German only)

Active: Aldiana Club Ampflwang

The Aldiana Club Ampflwang in Upper Austria reopened in July 2025 after extensive renovation. All 183 rooms and suites have been modernised. New additions include the 39 m² junior suites, 34 m² family suites with an attic as well as accessible rooms. There are also rooms for guests with dogs. A new padel court and pickleball court expand the already large choice of activities and "Flosse-Abenteuerland", popular with the kids, has been redesigned. There are now twelve electric charging stations for e-cars.

www.aldiana.com (German only)

By the river: Hotel Gugerbauer

Since mid-September 2025, the health hotel Gugerbauer in Schärding on the Inn river, specialised in fasting cures, has been shining in new splendour. Family Gugerbauer has redesigned and extended all 46 rooms and suites. Most of the rooms are equipped with air conditioning. Wooden furniture and warm colours shape the ambiance, whilst the modernised bathrooms also offer more space. In some rooms, floor-to-ceiling windows provide views of the river. Additional retreat areas and bright exercise rooms expand the spa area. The therapy rooms around the new ice fountain have a brighter and more modern look.

www.hotel-gugerbauer.at (German only)

SalzburgerLand

Indoor salt box: Post Family Resort

Since April 2025, a salt box has added to the family-friendly offerings at Post Family Resort in Unken. The indoor salt box is a salt-containing play area similar to a sandpit, in which children can dig, build and hang out. The salt air has a beneficial effect on the respiratory system. The nature-inspired design according to Montessori principles makes the salt box a healthy and fun experience for children from three months old.

www.post-familyresort.com

A welcome retreat: Naturhotel Fischerwirt

Since June 2025, Naturhotel Fischerwirt in Faistenau has been an even more exclusive retreat. A year-round heated 12 m long outdoor infinity pool with a pool house expands the WaldSPA, which is located in the midst of nature. In the newly redesigned restaurant, the greened ceiling establishes a connection to nature. Warm brown and green tones create a welcoming atmosphere in the lobby and at the reception.

www.fischerwirt.net

Lightness of life: Genussdorf Gmachl

The traditional Genussdorf Gmachl in Bergheim near Salzburg kicked off the summer in July 2025 delightfully refreshed. Five 75 $\rm m^2$ rooftop suites, all with a balcony, sauna and whirlpool, expand the room selection. The 16 Salzach rooms with a balcony, garden view and living space of 36 $\rm m^2$ are also brand new. An additional space for guests to spend time over breakfast or throughout the day is the wonderfully landscaped tea garden.

www.gmachl.at

Chic: Jufenalm

Since September 2025, the boho hotel Jufenalm in Maria Alm has been promising even more comfortable stays. Eight new rooms and suites furnished in modern alpine style provide further accommodation options, from the 60 m² Sky Suites to the 25 m² Pool Suites. The highlight of the extended wellness area is the 42 m long infinity pool "Blue Heaven". Cold bathing fans can refresh themselves in the new natural swimming pond "The Golden Lake" throughout winter. And with "The Nightwood", the host family has created an additional restaurant area for quiet conversations and lasting moments.

jufenalm.at

SalzburgerLand

New spas: Hotel Oberforsthof

Hotel Oberforsthof in St. Johann (Alpendorf) will reopen in autumn 2025 with a number of new features. The newly constructed annex houses the $800 \, \text{m}^2$ adults-only spa, the $700 \, \text{m}^2$ family spa and six new treatment rooms. A separate family area has been created in the extended restaurant and the host family has refreshed some of the $69 \, \text{rooms}$ and suites.

www.oberforsthof.at

Family-friendly: Hotel Wenger Alpenhof

Fully refurbished and with a newly designed façade, Hotel Wenger Alpenhof in Werfenweng will reopen in December 2025. All 19 rooms have been refurnished and have a balcony. New additions include four family rooms with a living space of 32 m² to 34 m². In addition, the wellness area, restaurant and entrance area have also been updated.

www.werfenweng-hotel.com (German only)

Warm family environment: Zauchenseehof

The Zauchenseehof family hotel will launch the winter season in December 2025 with plenty of new features. 64 of the 79 rooms are being completely redesigned and there will be new family rooms with two bedrooms. The restaurant is being transformed into four inviting areas with the buffet and its front-cooking station in the centre. The newly designed wooden façade and its gable create a connection to the alpine surroundings.

www.walchhofer.at (German only)

Seriously bright: Family Hotel EdeR FriDA

From December 2025, Family Hotel EdeR FriDA in Maria Alm will be even more colourful und fun. Five new room types will expand the selection, including the 50 m² Attic suite with a sauna igloo on the terrace and separate children's sleeping area, the 33 m² Circus rooms and the 36 m² Space rooms with galactic sleeping capsules for kids. The new jumping area will also have you feeling like you're in outer space, or "lift off" to the new rooftop terrace and spacey Frida-Bar.

www.ederfrida.com

Spacious: Revier Boutique Hotel Kaprun

After extensive renovation, the former Active Hotel by Leitner's in Kaprun is reopening as Revier Boutique Hotel Kaprun. There is a new extension with 32 rooms, giving the establishment a total of 91 rooms. All other areas – from the spa to the restaurants – have been redesigned.

kaprun.revierhotels.com

Relaxing: aja Bergresort Werfenweng

Amidst the mountain landscape of Werfenweng, the new Family DAY SPA will open at aja Bergresort in spring 2026. This haven of relaxation includes a 120 m² outdoor pool, an indoor and outdoor children's pool, a relaxation pool and sauna world for adults with a steam bath plus bio, Finnish and textile saunas. The facilities also include playgrounds, indoor and outdoor retreat areas and a bistro.

aja-hotels.com

Styria

Homely: Weizerhütte

The completely renovated Weizerhütte reopened at the end of June 2025. The establishment with a wooden façade and large sun terrace is located at an altitude of 1,400 m near St. Kathrein am Offenegg. The pretty retreat was created by twins Christoph and Alexander. They both trained as chefs at the Steirereck in Vienna, before gaining experience in various countries. At the Weizerhütte they combine tradition with innovation, which is reflected in the furnishings of the twelve rooms and apartments. They range between 16 m² and 79 m² in size and all have either a balcony or terrace. The menu is dominated by specialities made from local ingredients, from Wiener Schnitzel to trout, veggie burgers and elderflower parfait.

www.weizerhuette.at (German only)

Styria

Steeped in history: Gasthof Elisabeth

Gasthof Elisabeth in Bad Aussee has had nine newly renovated rooms furnished with wood since July 2025. In total there are 32 rooms, most of them with shared shower and toilet. The restaurant in the bright conservatory is new as well and now also caters for external guests. The history of the building dates back to the 19th century. It was built as a sanatorium and later served as a convalescent home and hostel for school groups. It has been a hotel since 2020 and is distinguished by its excellent location and value for money.

www.gasthofelisabeth.at (German only)

Octagonal: RoHo Murau

Since July 2025, the RoHo Rosenhof Murau has had six new suites in three octagonally designed Pond Lodges. They are positioned around the new $500 \ m^2$ natural swimming pond. The water is purified by a natural filtration system with plants and minerals. The $56 \ m^2$ suites with a terrace are made of wood and have a sauna and direct access to the pond. The RoHo Bar has become the new meeting point for guests and locals.

www.roho-murau.at

Extension: Therme Nova Köflach

In November 2025, Kurhotel Therme Nova in Köflach will expand its range of therapies with the opening of its new extension. The building, which has carefully been integrated into the surroundings, contains modern rooms for gymnastics, strength and endurance training as well as an outdoor terrace for yoga and exercise sessions across 500 m².

www.novakoeflach.at (German only)

Tirol

Luxurious: Hotel Quellenhof

Since April 2025, the Quellenhof Leutasch has had a new 156 m² Panorama Suite. It features three bedrooms and can accommodate up to six guests. There is an infrared cabin to relax in and both balconies offer fabulous views.

www.quellenhof.at

Historical: Das 1494

Since March 2025, there has been a unique holiday accommodation in Mieming. The carefully renovated, heritage-protected building from 1494 houses six stylishly furnished apartments with space for up to six guests. There is also one double room. All accommodation units offer a charming blend of tradition and modern lifestyle.

www.das1494.at

Event location: Das Steinberg

In April 2025, the renovated Das Steinberg reopened in Steinberg am Rofan. It can now be hired for special occasions and celebrations for up to 120 people. The new event location has 23 double rooms and two suites. Facilities include a fitness room, yoga room, wellness area with steam bath and sauna as well as a natural swimming pond. Various multifunctional rooms are available for seminars, lectures and celebrations.

das-steinberg.at

Family-friendly: Boutiquehotel Acherl

Since June 2025, the family-run Hotel Acherl at Lake Achensee has been completely redesigned. All 29 rooms and suites have been given a new modern alpine look. They range from 16 m² to 90 m² in size. Over 900 m² of indoor and outdoor play areas make the establishment ideal for families, with an additional 2,500 m² of gardens and a spacious wellness area. In winter the crosscountry ski trails are close by and in summer the lakeside beach.

www.acherl.at

A living legacy: Hotel Traube

After five years of renovation, the boutique hotel Traube opened in Rattenberg in June 2025. It is located in one of the most distinctive houses in the picturesque little town. The history of the building with a magnificent bay window dates back to the 14th century. Once the townhouse of Bavarian dukes, the charming Traube now has 14 modernly furnished double rooms and four suites spread across five floors. Wooden ceilings and floors and partially exposed stone walls create a connection to the past. The highlight, in the truest sense of the word, is the 77 m² Traube Loft on the top floor, offering the best views. The breakfast room in the former stable is also charmingly presented.

www.hoteltraube-rattenberg.at

Tirol

New look: Hotel Sonnenhof

Since July 2025, the family-run Hotel Sonnenhof in Zell am Ziller has been delighting guests with an extension and some new features. The redesigned lobby, extended restaurant and bar area create a welcoming ambiance. For kids and teens there is a new indoor play area with a Ninja Warrior course.

www.sonnenhof.tirol

Water worlds: Verwöhnhotel Kristall

Since August 2025, the adults-only Verwöhnhotel Kristall in Pertisau by Lake Achensee has been offering even more for water lovers. The new 1,400 m² Sky Spa features a 20 m indoor pool as well as a 15 m outdoor infinity pool. The Sky Sauna, which is surrounded by glass, and 70 m² yoga room are also new. The extension increases the wellness area to a total of 3,500 m². In summer, guests can cool down in the new 160 m² natural swimming pond in the garden.

www.kristall-pertisau.at

Imaginative: Almhof Family Resort

Almhof Family Resort in Gerlos opened its new ALMI-opolis adventure play area in August 2025. The large room, kitted out with wood, hay, climbing and swinging elements, resembles a barn. Here children can playfully explore the magic of alpine life. A new attraction for the whole family is the Family Entertainment Centre, where you can take each other on at darts, pinball and billiard. There is also a virtual reality area and "Swiftie style" karaoke bar.

www.familyresort.at

Children's paradise: Kinderhotel Kröller

Kinderhotel Kröller in Gerlos has had even more on offer for children and teenagers since September 2025. The new 500 m² "Captain K Playworld" promises adventure and challenges, including mixed reality play areas with interactive stations, a trampoline park, Ninja Warrior course and go-kart track.

www.kroeller.at

Modern comfort: Kristall Apartments

In Neustift im Stubaital, the former Pension Kristall will reopen in October 2025. It houses nine apartments featuring wood and natural materials from the region to create a cosy atmosphere. The apartments range from 35 m² to 85 m² in size. Guests can add breakfast on request and enjoy it in the new breakfast room.

www.pension-kristall.com (German only)

Great perspectives: Kirchenwirt Kaunertal

From December 2025, the Kirchenwirt in Kaunertal will have a new spa area with an indoor-outdoor infinity pool offering views across the church tower and mountains. Additional facilities will include two panoramic saunas, a steam bath, large relaxation area and terraces. Host family Larcher is also giving some of the older rooms a makeover and adding new comfort rooms.

www.kirchenwirt.com

Vorarlberg

More space: Montfort – das Hotel

There have been new rooms to stay in at Montfort – das Hotel in Feldkirch since June 2025. 14 of the "Business Light" rooms, measuring up to 27 m², were updated over the course of several months. There are eight brand new rooms, including two suites of 60 m² and 75 m² in size. The suites boast a kitchen, balcony and large desks. The establishment is now also up to date in terms of energy technology. The new façade with optimised thermal insulation helps save energy and improve the indoor climate.

www.montfort-dashotel.at

Classy: KWT Lodge and Chalet

The KWT Lodge in Baad in the Kleinwalsertal opened in 2017. Following extensive renovations which were completed in July 2025, it now offers five new, individually designed holiday apartments. They range between 40 m^2 and 50 m^2 in size and all have two balconies. The establishment combines retro chic with alpine elements. There is also a new 100 m^2 chalet with space for up to nine guests, ideal for small groups.

www.kleinwalsertallodge.com (German only)

Vorarlberg

Extraordinary: Hotel Kristberg

The fully renovated Hotel Kristberg will open in Lech am Arlberg in December 2025. The former 37 rooms are being converted into 27 luxurious suites. They range between 40 m² and 100 m² in size, most have a balcony or a terrace and some can be connected to form even larger units. Panoramic windows open up views of the mountain landscape. The design combines alpine style with colourful elements, inspired by the mountains of Chile, a country that Egon Zimmermann, founder of the hotel and Olympic champion and world champion in alpine skiing, loved. The new place to relax will be the MonteKristo Spa with sauna, steam bath, cold pool, outdoor whirlpool, 12 m outdoor pool, outdoor terrace, yoga room and fitness area. Fine food and drinks can be enjoyed at Salon Lech and the legendary Scotch Club.

www.hotel-kristberg.at

Poetic: HUGO & PEPI Apartments

From October 2025, Tanja Bantel and her family will expand accommodation offerings at their establishment in Mittelberg in the Kleinwalsertal with three 70 m² holiday apartments. The newly furnished apartments have two bedrooms, a sauna and loggia. There are three other recently renovated apartments to choose from. The property is named after Tanja Bantel's grandparents: Hugo, who loved wood, and Josefa, lovingly called "Pepi", who already hosted guests back in the day.

hugo-pepi.at (German only)

Refreshed: Hotel Krone in Au

After several months of renovation, planned and carried out by craftspeople from the Bregenzerwald, the Krone in Au reopened in July 2025. 18 rooms have been redesigned and 4 new rooms have been added. The spa area with a view of the forest has been increased by 150 m² and now includes a 30 m² gym and outdoor sauna with the option of ice bathing in winter. The newly designed outdoor lounge area offers more space and the hotel kitchen has been modernised as well. Host family Lingg also built an additional staff house with 21 rooms, a lounge area and kitchen. Environmentally friendly energy is provided by photovoltaic systems on the roofs.

www.krone-au.at

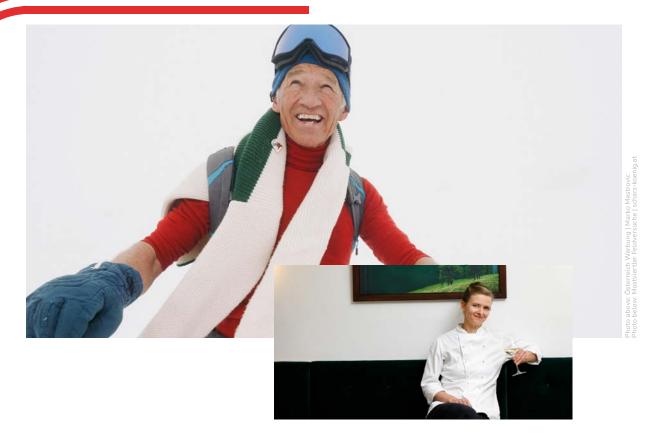
Vienna

Elegant: Palais Coburg

Palais Coburg in the 1st district of Vienna will open in spring 2026 with newly renovated suites and rooms. New additions will include a 700 m² suite and fitness area. The staterooms, such as the Yellow and Blue Salons or Mirror Hall, mainly used for events to date, are being transformed into luxurious lounges for hotel quests. Palais Coburg is named after Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg, who had the magnificent building constructed in late Neoclassical style in the mid-19th century. It owes its nickname "Asparagus Castle" to the freestanding pillars and was owned by the Coburg dynasty until 1978. In 2003 it opened as a luxury hotel with 34 suites, equipped with kitchens, for long-term stays. The kitchens are now being extended, in line with the as spacious living areas preferred by today's guests. In addition, Palais Coburg has two outstanding restaurants. One of them, Silvio Nickol, has been awarded two MICHELIN stars and five Gault Millau toques.

palais-coburg.com

Personalities



Lower Austria

Dry stone builder Rainer Vogler

When visiting the Wachau region you see them everywhere: the dry stone walls that support the partially steep vineyards. Row by row they wind their way up the slopes, shaping the landscape and providing a habitat for animals and plants. They are put together like a jigsaw puzzle, matching stones with soil. The craft has been passed down in the Wachau since the 12th century and has been part of Austria's intangible cultural heritage since 2021. Anyone who wants to learn the art should turn to Rainer Vogler. Over 20 years ago, the teacher at the viticulture school in Krems noticed there was hardly anyone left who could build dry stone walls. So he decided to revive the craft, acquiring the expertise and giving courses ever since.

www.bluehendesoesterreich.at (German only)

Blacksmith artist Josef Eybl

In his book published in 2022, Josef Eybl writes: "I was a whitewater paddler, paraglider and I have a private pilot's license. But I came into the world to be a blacksmith." The Mostviertler fulfilled this dream in 1990, when he bought and renovated what is now the Eyblhammer in Ybbsitz on the Iron Road. Sepp, as everyone calls him, has devoted himself to forging and creating artistic pieces from iron ever since. He regularly offers blacksmithing courses and demonstrations, making a significant contribution to keeping the region's blacksmithing tradition alive.

www.eyblhammer.at (German only)

Lower Austria

Master chef Theresia Palmetzhofer

Theresia Palmetzhofer knew she wanted to be a chef from a young age. Her mother inspired her to do so. Before Theresia opened the "Zur Palme" restaurant in her family home in Neuhofen an der Ybbs in 2016, she gained kitchen experience in Italy, Spain, Denmark and Vienna. Today she skilfully combines international and regional cuisine. From alpine fish to certified organic vegetables, fruits and berries, mushrooms and fine oils, everything comes from the local area. The young woman's talent has not gone unnoticed, and Theresia has boasted three Gault Millau toques for several years. In 2023 the Austrian trade magazine Rolling Pin named her "Chef of the Year", and in 2024 she was counted among the 100 Best Chefs in Austria. Theresia's restaurant is also recommended by the MICHELIN Guide, which returned to Austria in 2025.

www.zur-palme.at (German only)

Upper Austria

Tea-loving top chef Klemens Gold

"At that time, yeast was practically my pet," says Klemens Gold (formerly Klemens Schraml) on his website. As a trained chef he travelled the world at a young age and especially loved delving into microbiological processes. In 2018 he took over his family's Restaurant Rau in Großraming and has been dedicated to nature-based cuisine ever since. With great success: his kitchen has been awarded four Gault Millau toques as well as a classic and a green MICHELIN star. In 2019 Klemens had the idea of creating a low-alcohol beverage and founded the first tea cellar in Großraming. With Combuchont he produces cold-bottled tea with the shelf life of wine and an alcohol content of two to three percent by volume. In March 2025 he opened Austria's first tea garden and now cultivates the classic tea plant Camellia sinensis on around two hectares of land.

www.combuchont.com

Ski boot master Herwig Patzl

Herwig Patzl is immediately recognisable at Spitaler Sportstadl: for the past few years, the senior director has been wheelchair-bound. But that does not prevent him from finding the perfect solution for those who want custom-fitted ski boots. In cooperation with the company Strolz in Langen am Arlberg, he manufactures ski boots that fit, using a special process. They consist of a foamed inner shoe, a custom-made insole and the outer shell. What was just a single pair of ski boots in 1980 has become 250 pairs that Herwig Patzl custom-makes each winter.

www.bergethermestadt.at

Operetta director Thomas Enzinger

Thomas Enzinger once described operetta as "glossy" and a "place of longing" – a place where the native Viennese feels particularly comfortable. After completing his acting training and contracts at various theatres, he is now considered one of the leading directors in musical entertainment theatre. Since 2017 he has been artistic and managing director of the Lehár Festival in Bad Ischl, which celebrates its 65th anniversary in 2026. With modern, dynamic productions, Enzinger keeps the genre popular and alive – both with audiences and in the media. In addition to his festival work, he also works on TV productions, conducts workshops and writes theatre as well as cabaret pieces. Enzinger is staging three operattas at the 65th Lehár Festival (10th July to 16th August 2026): "Countess Maritza" by Emmerich Kálmán, "Boccaccio" by Franz von Suppè and "The Husband of the Gods" by Franz Lehár.

www.leharfestival.at (German only)

Styria

Josef Zotter is handing over to his daughter

Zotter chocolate and Josef Zotter, its founder, are known to almost everyone in Austria and probably beyond. In March 2026, Josef will be handing the chocolate manufactory over to his daughter Julia. Having previously worked as a chef and running his own coffee houses, Josef came to chocolate in the 1990s. In 1999 he founded the manufactory in Riegersburg, which he runs together with his wife Ulrike. Zotter is known for its unusual creations and a range of around 700 varieties, which have long included vegan and sugar-alternative chocolates. The ingredients are, of course, organic, fair trade and made with pure cocoa butter. Daughter Julia has been working for the company since 2014. She will not only be supported by her parents in her new role running the business, but also by her two siblings.

www.zotter.at

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