



BERGSTEIGER
DÖRFER



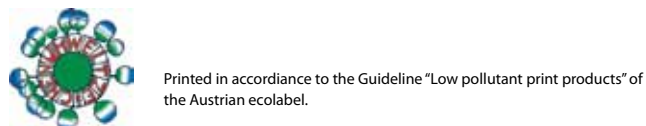
St. Jodok, Schmirntal and Valsertal

Mighty mountains – gentle valleys



Contents

Mountaineering villages and the Alpine Convention	04
St. Jodok, Schmirntal and Valsertal – Mighty mountains – gentle valleys	06
Arrival and getting around	08
Special features	09
Recommended tours for summer	14
Recommended tours for winter	27
Alternative options for bad weather	33
Partners	34
Mountain huts	36
Important addresses	37
Publication details and picture credits	38
Tips on good conduct in the mountains	39



klimateutral gedruckt • CP IKS-Nr.: 53401-1709-1017

"Bergsteigerdörfer" (mountaineering villages) are an initiative of the Austrian Alpine Association in cooperation with neighbouring Alpine Associations. They are supported by funding from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (Ministry for a Liveable Austria) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Mountaineering villages are an official implementation project of the Alpine Convention.



Special edition, Innsbruck 2017

Mountaineering villages.

The Alpine Convention in practice



Scope of Alpine Convention; Source: 2nd Alpine Convention Report on the State of the Alps – Water, 2008;
Author: Environment Agency Austria.

The Alpine Convention is an international treaty between the eight Alpine countries and also the European Community; an agreement that sets ambitious goals for the sustainable development in the Alpine region; a milestone in the history of nature conservation and environmental protection in the Alps. It was a long journey from the 1950s, when the international Alpine Commission, or CIPRA, first had the idea of a Convention on the Protection of the Alps, through its ratification in 1995 and the entry into force of its Protocols in Austria in 2002. And there is a long road still ahead. At a time when political discourse

is dominated by questions of growth and increased competitiveness, the Alpine Convention should be of increasing importance as a sustainable development strategy for the Alpine region. It remains essential, however, that the Alpine Convention Protocols are applied in a legal context at administrative level as well as to promote sustainable economic development at local level.

The Austrian Alpine Association played a significant role in the conclusion of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols. Since then the Association has sought to

make the Convention accessible to the wider public, transposing it from cumbersome German legalese into practical examples. One such example is the Alpine Associations Mountaineering Villages initiative.

Across the Alps, communities were devoting themselves to mechanised winter tourism, levelling their slopes, putting up cable cars, digging reservoirs, constructing huge tourist hotels... all for their visitors. The local population thus became dependent on a development-capital cycle that continues to spin, ever more quickly, and seems unlikely to stop.

The mountaineering villages (germ. "Bergsteigerdörfer") are an attempt by the Sections of the Alpine Associations to strengthen communities that make a conscious decision to pursue different, more independent and sustainable development. With joint support from the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, the Ministry for a Liveable Austria and the European Agricultural Funds, mountaineering villages are a transformative project and one of the jigsaw pieces for making the Alpine Convention a reality.

The project has now taken on a more international flavour. The Alpine Associations are guardians of a commitment to quality and as such place great emphasis on the need for mountaineering villages in Austria, Germany, South Tyrol and in future Slovenia and Italy, to meet the criteria set out. Not every village that attracted mountaineers in the early years of alpine tourism still complies today with the Alpine Association criteria for remaining a mountaineering village. For this reason particular attention is paid to communities' (alpine) history, their past decisions and especially their future development goals when mountain and valley communities are being selected.

Characteristic of all mountaineering villages are an Alpine location, a small size and tranquil

atmosphere, a charming appearance, traditions kept alive, a high altitude landscape, an Alpine history and infrastructure, and strong Alpine competence. With the support of their local section of the Alpine Association, mountaineering villages are developing enjoyable leisure activities that can be undertaken without special equipment. Each mountaineering village offers its guests a unique and largely unspoilt landscape: for hiking, mountaineering, climbing, cycling, ski touring, snowshoeing, cross country skiing or tobogganing. Bad weather is no obstacle to getting out and about, either: from guided geological and ornithological hikes to visits to museums, traditional workshops or old mining tunnels, there is a wide range of options. Often all you need to enjoy a rainy afternoon, though, is a warm, dry place to sit by the wood burner, a cup of mountain herb tea and a good book – for instance about Alpine history.

Mountaineering villages should appeal to visitors looking for a holiday destination where things are still to some extent "unflustered". And a visit to a mountaineering village creates a real symbiotic relationship: while visitors are finally getting to leave behind their day-to-day stresses, jobs are being safeguarded in communities, overnight stays are being booked in mountain huts and valley hostels, little restaurants are making a living and regional specialities are gaining fans. This is what the Alpine Convention "revives". And it enables the Alpine Convention for its part to regenerate mountain regions in a way that maintains a balance between conservation and sustainable economic development. The primary objective is not only to express admiration but also to add value for local people.

Time will tell whether the patience and effort invested will pay off. But we – the Austrian Alpine Association Mountain Villages Project Team – are convinced that mountain villages provide a model of how to implement the Alpine Convention in practice in Alpine regions.

St. Jodok, Schmirntal and Valsertal

Mighty mountains – gentle valleys



LOCATION

The little Tyrolean village of St Jodok lies about 30 km south of Innsbruck and marks the start of Wipptal's eastern side valleys of Schmirntal and Valsertal. One of the distinctive features of St.Jodok is the Brenner railway, which runs in a big loop around the village.

The unspoilt nature and tranquillity of the Valsertal valley make it an almost unrivalled gem, extending over around 12 km from St. Jodok to the Alpeiner Scharte, the mountain pass into Zillertal valley. The c. 12 km long Schmirntal valley stretches from St. Jodok to the Olperer at the edge of Hintertux. The highest and most striking mountain is the Olperer at 3,476 m.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

St. Jodok (1,129 m) is situated at the entrance to the Schmirntal and Valsertal valleys, but is not a municipality in itself. The stream constitutes the border: to the south of it is the Vals municipal district, to the north the Schmirn district. The Schmirn municipality also includes the hamlets of Leite, Lorleswald, Rohrach, Entwasser, Siedlung, Toldern, Hochmark, Glinzen, Wildlahner, Madern, Obern and Kasern (1.625m at the end of the valley) and Hochgenein (1.639 m). As well as Außervals und Innervals, the Vals district includes the hamlet of Padau on an alpine plateau of 1,570 above sea level.

St. Jodok, Schmirntal and Valsertal have about 1,400 inhabitants in total.

IMPORTANT SUMMITS

Olperer (3,476 m)
Fußstein (3,381 m)
Schrammacher (3,411 m)
Kleiner Kaserer (3,093 m)
Sagwand (3,227 m)
Großer Kaserer (3,263 m)
Alpeiner Scharte (2,950 m)
Hohe Warte (2,687 m)
Kraxentrager (2,999 m)
Hohe Kirche (2,634 m)
Geier (2,857 m)
Vennspitze (2,390 m)
Lizumer Reckner (2,886 m)
Jochgrubenkopf (2,453 m)
Schafseitenspitze (2,602 m)
Schoberspitze (2,602 m)
Ottenspitze (2,179 m)
Gammerspitze (2,537 m)
Naviser Kreuzjöchl (2,536 m)
Frauenwand (2,541 m)
Padauner Kogel (2,066 m)

MOUNTAIN RANGES

Tux Alps
Zillertal Alps

MOUNTAIN HUTS

Geraer Hut (2,324 m)
(N 47° 02,606', E 11° 37,702')
DAV [German Alpine Association]
Landshut Section

Landshuter Europa Hut (2.693 m)
(N 46° 59,826', E 11° 34,832')
DAV [German Alpine Association]
Landshut Section

Tuxerjochhaus Hut (2,310 m)
(N 47° 60', E 11° 39')
Österreichischer Touristenklub
(Austrian Tourist Club)

Arrival



(local trains every hour) to St. Jodok. Change there to the bus for Schmirntal and Valsertal valleys (bus and train connections at www.vvt.at).

Arriving by car

From the north: Take the A12 to Innsbruck, then the A13 (Brennerautobahn – toll road) to the Matrei/Steinach exit. Continue for about 10 km on the B182 towards Brenner and bear left at Stafflach towards St. Jodok/Schmirn/Vals.

From the south: Take the A13 (Brennerautobahn) to the Brennersee exit, then continue on the B182 towards Innsbruck for about 7 km as far as Stafflach. Bear right towards St. Jodok/Schmirn/Vals.

Arriving by train or bus

From the north: By train from Innsbruck (local trains every hour) to St. Jodok.

From the south: By train from Brenner

Getting around

Wanderbus [Hiking bus] (by advance reservation up to 8 pm the night before)

May to October

Saturdays and Sundays:

4.30 pm from Vals Touristenrast --> St. Jodok

4.45 pm from St. Jodok --> Schmirn --> Kasern

5.15 pm from Schmirn Kasern --> Toldern --> St. Jodok

Sundays:

7.45 am from St. Jodok --> Schmirn --> Toldern --> Kasern, returning to St. Jodok

Address: Busreisen Eller, **Tel.:** +43/(0)664/2322528, info@busreisen-eller.at

Winter tour transfer (by advance reservation up to 8 pm the night before)

December to April

Daily departures at 8.30am from Gasthof Lamm, St. Jodok:

Mon, Thurs: --> Padaun – Berggasthof Steckholzer

Tues, Fri, Sun: --> Schmirn/Toldern – Gasthaus Olpererblick

Weds, Sat: --> Schmirn/Muchnersiedlung – Schmirner Stadl

Return service at 2pm daily

Passengers with a Gästekarte [visitor's pass] travel free of charge

Passengers without a Gästekarte: € 5.00 per journey for Padaun and Schmirn/Toldern

€ 3.00 per journey for Schmirn/Muchnersiedlung

Address: Taxi/Kleinbus Mader Christoph (Gh. Geraerhof, St. Jodok), **Tel.:** +43/(0)664/7880540

Distinctive features



View from Hohe Kirche

Grauerlenwald in Valsertal –

a "Natura 2000" nature conservation area

Large sections of the Valsertal valley were given nature conservation protection as early as 1942, with the result that time seems to have stood still in this valley. Nature lovers, and especially those with an interest in flowers or alpine animals, really get their money's worth when they come to this most unspoilt of the Wipptal's side valleys. In 2001 the valley became a "Natura 2000" protected site.

The area is drained by the Alpeiner Bach and its glacier drainage basin (Alpeiner Ferner and Olperer Ferner glaciers), and by the Zeischbach, both of which flow together to be-

come the Valserbach. The Valsertal valley nature conservation area covers all vegetation zones from the montane to the nival level. The southern slopes are dry and largely free of trees, and for centuries have been used as meadows.

The northern slopes have trees up to around 1,900 m, with some Swiss stone pines to be found further up. The valley floor is given over to agriculture.

The idyllic Grauerlenwald with its network of shallow brooks and streams and its picturesque scenery is particularly popular with those looking for some peace and quiet – fertile ground for an incredible diversity of

The village of St. Jodok has a direct rail link.



This beautiful alpine herb garden can be found in the Schmirntal valley.

animal and plant species (about 420 documented species). Guided natural history walks and snowshoe tours are run at specific times of year to show visitors our unique and beautiful region whilst simultaneously protecting its ecological balance and taking our flora and fauna into account. This is a wonderful way to learn all about the nature conservation area.

Brenner Railway – St. Jodok loop tunnel

The Brenner Railway was built in extremely challenging conditions between 1864 and 1867 and overseen by engineer Karl von Etzel. The 125-kilometre line through the Wipptal and the Eisacktal valleys necessitated the construction of 13 bridges, 22 tunnels and a large number of open-sided galleries to protect against falling rocks and mudslides. This was the first time curved tunnels, known as loop tunnels, were constructed for a railway – the most impressive of these is near St. Jodok, where the line gains height as it circles the village. St. Jodok has long been popular with railway enthusiasts and train photographers for the outstanding

opportunities it offers to admire and capture the unique Brenner line in its beautiful landscape.

Alpine herb garden and water mill

In Schmirntal valley, between the Gasthof Olpererblick guest house and the Gattererhof farm and farm shop, there is a beautifully designed alpine herb garden. Comfortable benches provide an inviting spot for visitors to sit and admire the site, and a wooden walkway runs from the “Obere Schnattermühle” – the only horizontal wheel watermill in North Tyrol, open to visitors by prior arrangement – to the rocky herb garden, which covers an area of around 1,000 m² and is situated on a gentle, sunny, northwest-facing slope. The scents of over 100 different herbs – small wooden signs show the names of most of them – make this a unique sensory experience. The garden was created with a particular focus on alpine herbs typical of the region, but also has alpine flowers, aromatic and medicinal herbs, and spices, whose beauty and fragrance can be enjoyed here.

N.B.: The herbs grown here are used in the kitchen at Gasthof Olpererblick. The Gattererhof farm shop sells specialities such as herbal teas, herb salt and dried herbs.

Information from Gasthof Olpererblick:

Toldern 11a, 6154 Schmirn

Tel.: +43/(0)5279/20120

info@olpererblick.at

www.olpererblick.at

Gattererhof: Hochmark 22, 6154 Schmirn

Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5440

m.lutz@aon.at

Mountain pilgrimage to the *Kalte Herberge* [Cold Shelter] in Schmirntal

About half an hour from Schmirn above the hamlet of Wildlahner, hidden in a forest clearing, sits the little pilgrimage church of Maria-hilf in der Kalten Herberge.

Legend has it that a shepherd saw a beautiful woman with a little child sitting here under a large spruce tree one stormy autumn day. The shepherd called to her compassionately, “You’ve found yourself a cold shelter [kalte Herberge] there!” Upon which the woman

View of Schmirntal valley.





The little Kalte Herberge church in Schmirntal

and child disappeared. After a while people began to believe that she had been the Virgin Mary and hung up on a tree a copy of Lucas Cranach's venerated picture of Madonna and Child from the Cathedral of St James in Innsbruck in her honour. A few metres away a spring bubbled up from under the tree roots. When the tree fell down in 1972, a roadside shrine was carved from it in honour of the Virgin.

A wooden chapel was constructed for the Cranach picture as early as 1730; this was soon replaced by a little stone church. The church was extended a number of times and survived unscathed through the challenges to the Catholic Church under Josef II (1782–1790) and the Nazi regime of the Second World War.

Every year on 26 July (St. Anne's Day) and on the 13th day of every month from May to October, large numbers of local people take part in pilgrimages to the Kalte Herberge.

Hiking trails to the church:

- from Schmirn parish church over the Schmirn-Bach bridge towards Holzeben
- from Toldern towards the 3-Schächer-Weg (3 Thieves Way)
- from Wildlahnertal
- from Hohe Warte, Schmirnerstraße

"Schmirn-Vals Gourmet Region"

North Tyrolean Grey cattle: a regional speciality at the Almfest

Tyrol currently has 10 different "Gourmet Regions", each celebrating particular agricultural products and specialities, and the Schmirntal and Valsertal valleys are among the regions designated. The regional speciality here is the North Tyrolean Grey, a cattle breed that has a long association with this area. The lush grassland and meadows in the valley and extensive mountain pastures provide the ideal conditions for healthy, robust mountain animals. The Tyrolean Grey is one of the oldest breeds in the Alps and one of Austria's rare cattle breeds. The animals are strong and hardy, making them ideally suited to the mountain terrain of the Tyrol. Although their milk and meat yields are low, the quality of the produce is outstanding. Various Tyrolean Grey beef specialities are on the menu in member establishments (e.g. Alpengasthaus Kasern and Gasthaus Olpererblick in Schmirn).

Special "Almfeste" festivals are held every year to celebrate the "Gourmet Region". They begin with an outdoor church mass at 11.00 am followed by music, a lively atmosphere and a whole array of regional delicacies to try, including speciality Tyrolean Grey meat and dairy products.

Mountain life in the Valsertal valley

Cheese-maker Helga Hager (Alpine meadow guide, nature and landscape guide and qualified sommelier) gives people a feel for life in the Alps by offering guided tours of the mountain pastures and wine tastings from June to September at the Peters-Kaser Alm farm (Nockeralmen) at the head of the Valsertal valley.

Children in particular will always find something to enjoy here, especially the tasty alpine food that follows a relaxed one-and-a-half-hour walk. Helga demonstrates how goat's cheese is made and explains how hay is brought in from the pastures. She also provides tips on the best places to collect wild herbs and mushrooms.

And Helga Hager auf der Alm has another, completely new, project: the School on the Meadow. Here, guests get an insight into alpine life during their holiday, and the opportunity to help with work in the fields. Bookings for special offers can be made with the TVB-Wipptal (Wipptal Tourist Office) – address on p. 39.

Contact details and further information on Helga's Alm:

*Helga Maria Hager
Peters Kaser im Valsertal valley
6154 St. Jodok
Tel.: +43/(0)664/400 79 66
helga@helgasalm.at
www.helgasalm.at*



Helga's Alm

Recommended tours for summer



Children on the Padauner Kogel

WALKS AND MOUNTAIN HIKES

The walks and hikes described here all start either from the Valsertal or the Schmirntal valleys.

Starting from Vals

Padauner Kogel (2,066 m)

The Padauner Kogel is easily Valsertal valley's most popular route for families and offers wonderful views from the top. There is a choice of paths up the mountain, the first of which starts from the centre of St. Jodok and follows the Valserbach stream (approx. 3 hours). Alternatively, drive to Padaun and set out from Larcherhof (490 m height gain, 1.5 hrs), accessing the summit of the Padauner Kogel via Meinrads Köpfl (a small hut in a clearing). Refreshments are available at the Gasthof Steckholzer close to the starting point.

Vennspitze (2,390 m)

Judging by the number of hikers compared with the large number of ski tourers, the Vennspitze gets most of its visitors before the snow thaws. The path climbs from Padaun, passing through a wooded area before reaching an area of gently sloping open land, the Großsissen. The summit comes into view over the next ridge. The last section of the hike is a relatively easy walk along the ridge to the summit cross (810 m height gain, 2 hours).

Silleskogel (2,418 m)

Starting from the last bend on Padauner Straße, follow the forest track and then climb through the wood to the Sillesalm. The path continues upwards to the col between the Geierschnabel and the Silleskogel and follows the ridge to the summit. The route over Rossgrubenkopf and the Vennspitze is

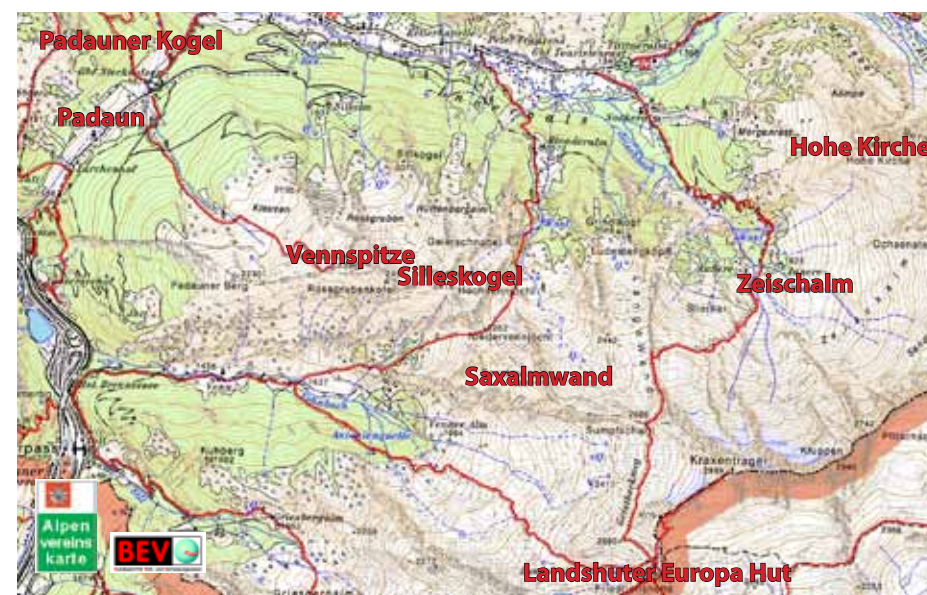
highly recommended (960 m height gain, 2.5 hours).

Saxalmwand (2,635 m)

Near to the chapel in Innervals, just before the last farmhouse, take the track that branches off right towards the stream. Immediately after the bridge follow the path to the Bloaderalm (signposted). From there keep walking up the valley to the Niedervennjöchl. Then take the left fork to get up onto the Saxalmwand (1,300 height gain, 3.5 hours).

Hohe Kirche (2,634 m)

Just before the Gasthaus Touristenrast in Innervals, take the road branching off to the right that leads to the Nockeralm (car park). Passing unspoiled mountain pastures, follow the track on the right into the Zeischtal valley. After a few bends in the path, you will



Extract from Alpine Association map 31/1 – Brenner mountains with an overview of tours from the Valsertal valley. Original scale 01:50,000 (© BEV 2017, reproduced with the permission of the BEV – Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen [Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying], Vienna, N 35062/2017)



The beautiful location of Zeischalm en route to the Hohe Kirche.

reach the well-marked Geistbeckweg trail towards Zeisch and the Landshuter Hut. About 10 metres before the next signpost to the Landshuter Hut, turn off left after the waterfall towards the Innere Zeischalm, climbing upwards on a clearly visible path. From the picturesque meadow the path leads up left onto open pastureland. Follow the steep track and the piles of stones up through the gully. At around 2,300 m the path comes out onto the ridge that leads up to the summit. The route is not marked, but is easy to identify once you have a feel for the terrain (1,300 m height gain, 3.5 hours).

Geraer Hut (2,324 m)

The Geraer Hut is at the head of the Valsertal valley nature reserve, set amid the natural amphitheatre of rock and ice walls formed by the Olperer, Fußstein, Schrammacher and



The DAV [German Alpine Association] Landshut Section's Geraer Hut is a hiking destination and the starting point for ascents of the Olperer.

Sagwand mountains. The hike to the hut begins towards the end of the Valsertal valley at the Gasthaus Touristenrast and follows Long-distance Trail 02. After the freight cable car station, the path becomes somewhat steeper, leading up to the hut in picturesque serpentine bends (1,000 m height gain, 3 hours).

Olperer (3,476 m)

The striking Olperer is a constant presence for all mountaineers and hikers out and about in the Wipptal valley. The ascent, via the Wildlahnerscharte and the adjacent north-east ridge, requires extensive experience of alpine rock- and ice-climbing (grade III-/A0 difficulty). Experience with crampons, secure footing over granite slabs and a good level of fitness are essential prerequisites for the safe ascent and descent of this elegant mountain, which includes a number of climbing sections that are far from straightforward.

The Geraer Hut is an ideal starting point, and the round trip can be completed from here in one day (1,150 m height gain, 4 hours from the hut). From the hut, follow the way-marked path to the Steinernes Lamm. At the junction, bear right and climb up over the moraine. The route leads to the right of the Wildlahner ridge across the Olperer glacier. Below the ice, it crosses over to the Wildlahnerscharte (gap). From the gap the trail ascends over the steep glacier (approx. 35°!) to the right of the craggy north ridge. Find a suitable place (the ice decreases somewhat to the right) and cross left to reach the north ridge. The rock is easy to climb up to the edge of the ridge. Keep following the edge over smooth granite slabs to the summit. The crux is an overhanging ledge equipped with rungs (III-/A0); a head for heights is essential.

Recommended gear: rope, pickaxes, crampons, climbing harness, 6 express quick-draws, various carabiners.



The ascent of the Olperer should only be attempted by experienced climbers with the appropriate gear.

Starting from Schmirn

Hochgeneinerjöchl (1,960m)

From St. Jodok the route follows the Schmirntalstraße into the valley. At the first hamlet – Aue – the trail turns off left and leads out of the valley for a short distance, before joining a small road on the right leading up to the Hochgeneinerhof. Take the path behind the farm leading between the fields. The trail then passes through the forest and across meadows to reach the Hochgeneinerjöchl ridge, from which the summit cross can already be seen. The summit itself offers mar-

vellous views stretching all around from the Zugspitze via the Habicht and Zuckerhütl to the Olperer (320 m height gain, 1 hour).

Kalte Herberge (1,569 m)

Near the first houses in Toldern, just before the fire station and the turn-off for the Wildlahnertal valley, a road branches off right towards a group of houses known as the “Holzebensiedlung” (starting point). Follow the tarmacked road out of the valley for approximately ten minutes before turning left onto the forest path. You will soon reach the clearing where the Kalte Herberge is located. The little church is in a picturesque setting at the edge of the forest. To return, head back to the forest track and follow the easy, level path back to the Wildlahnertal valley. Immediately after the final fields there is a bridge over the Wildlahnerbach stream. Walk back along the stream to the starting point (110 m height gain, 1 hour).

Gammerspitze (2,537 m)

The ascent of the Gammerspitze starts at the “Hohe Warte” car park just before the hamlet of Aue on the Schmirntal main road. Follow the forest road to the right, and the

signs for Trail No. 67 (there are also markers pointing to the left – but these entail a lengthy detour!). The waymarked climb starts about 500 m further on, ascending through forest to the Lorenzalm. From the alpine hut, the path now leads through a broad depression, climbing slightly into the valley towards the ridge. The ridge marks the border with the Valsertal valley. From here, follow the broad shoulder of land, climbing gently. Cross the first domed summit on the ridge – the Riepenspitze (2,460 m). After a short descent, climb back up to reach the Gammerspitze at an altitude of 2,537 m (1,150 m height gain, 3 hours).

Tuxerjochhaus hut (2,313 m)

Starting at the Gasthof Kasern, follow the path for an enjoyable climb up to the Kaserer Winkl. Some distance before the head of the valley, the wide path gives way to the trail up to the Tuxer Joch, initially sloping upward through alpine shrubs, and then passing through depressions in the terrain as it gains height. Once the ridge has been reached, the hard work is done. A cross commemorates the time when Hintertux belonged to Schmirn, and from here the path descends

slightly as it follows the man-made reservoir towards the Tuxerjochhaus (2,313 m). If you would like to round off your hike with a quick summit, the Pfannköpfl (2,388 m) can be climbed in just a few minutes from behind the hut (720 m height gain, 2.5 hours).

Kleiner Kaserer (3,093 m)

The Kleiner Kaserer could be described as the lowly northern cousin of the stars that are the Olperer and Fußstein. But the Kaserer – this term always refers to the Kleiner Kaserer – nonetheless makes for an imposing sight at the end of the Kaserer Winkl. The starting point is once again Kasern. Follow the broad mountain path gently upwards to the end of the valley (ignoring the path to the Tuxerjochhaus). Where the path forks at 2,180 m, bear left towards the Kaserer Scharthl col, to cross

the Kaserer from left to right. From the col, climb the ridge shoulder to the right up to the summit. The summit of the Kaserer provides a close-up view of the veritable fortress of rock all the way from the Olperer across to the Sagwand. The descent is via the western ridge to the Kleegrubenscharte. The ridge is not very wide initially but it soon broadens out. There is no single defined path to the Kleegrubenscharte, but the descent is unproblematic with various tracks showing the way (1,475 m altitude difference, 6.5 hours).

Jochgrubenkopf (2,453 m)

The path up to the Jochgrubenkopf starts at the last houses in Toldern (Glinzen), shortly before the tunnel. Follow the signs, crossing a bridge over the Schmirnbach after just a few metres. Then follow the forest track by the



The Kaserer Winkl valley – starting point for numerous hiking tours.



Extract from Alpine Association map 31/5 – Innsbruck and the surrounding area with an overview of tours from the end of the Schmirntal valley; original scale 1:50,000. (© BEV 20167 reproduced with the permission of the BEV – Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen [Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying], Vienna, N 35062/2017)



The Schoberspitz with the Ramsgrubner Lake, which lies at its foot.

stream, which soon leads up the mountain. At the first junction, take the right-hand path (ascending out of the valley), from which Trail No. 33, "Seealm/Jochgrubenkopf", branches off after around 100 m. From the Seealm, a steep-sided basin covered with rhododendrons, the path climbs up to a ridge from which there is an unimpeded view down the valley to Toldern. Fences to protect against avalanches have been put up on the next escarpment, through which the path continues upwards to the Jochgrubenkopf summit cross. This is the perfect place to enjoy the unique view of the Schmirntal and the picturesque sight of the glaciated Olperer/Fußstein duo (980 m height gain, 3 hours).

Schoberspitz (2,602 m)

The starting point for the two Schoberspitz mountains, which tower up like a pair of huge

haystacks, is the Wildlahnertal at the far end of the Schmirntal valley. From the bridge, follow the agricultural road on the east side of the valley (on the left) across the meadows to reach the well-marked and signposted Trail No. 72 "Ramsgrubner See" at the upper edge of the fields. Above the meadows, cross open ground and enter the forest. The path leads up through the forest until it meets open meadow slopes at a height of around 2,000 m. Now aim for the saddle between the Schönlahnerspitze and the Schoberspitz. From the saddle (2,300 m), the ridge leading to the Kaserer Winkl, follow the path to the right, climbing to the Ramsgrubner Lake (2,380 m). From here you can access the crevice between the Schoberspitz. Climb the western peak, the one with the summit cross. The Wildlahnertal route is recommended for the descent (1,100 m height gain, 4.5 hours).



View from the Hohe Riffler over the Olperer and the Friesenbergscharte

LONG-DISTANCE TRAILS

Wipptal High-Altitude Trail – a section of the Europa High-Altitude Trail 2

Divided into 22 stages, the Europa High-Altitude Trail starts in Austria, running from Innsbruck to the Brenner, then continues on through Italy to Brixen (South Tyrol) before reaching Feltre (Veneto). It is around 340 km long and comprises a total walking time of around 130 hours. The third and fourth stages take in the mountaineering villages of Schmirn and Vals. Here, the route follows the Wipptal High-Altitude Trail from Navis across the Kreuzjöchl (2,536 m) on Trail No. 25A, down into the Kluppental valley to the "Hagler" mountain huts, before following the Kluppental valley to Obern and Kasern in the Schmirntal valley, where the Alpengasthaus Kasern provides gourmet cuisine in rustic surroundings.

The route continues out of the valley on the quiet valley road, reaching Toldern, a hamlet with idyllic mountain farms and where overnight accommodation (e.g. Gasthof Olpererblick) is available, after around one hour's walk.

The next stage leads from Toldern through the Wildlahner valley up to the Steinernes Lamm (2,528 m), where it crosses into the Valsertal valley. The Geraer Hut (2,324m) has a sun terrace from which to enjoy the mountain scenery, and offers overnight accommodation if desired.

From the hut the fifth stage continues on to the Landshuter Europa Hut.

Information brochure available from TVB Wipptal, Town Hall, A-6150 Steinach.

The Olperer Randonnée –

a circular hut tour around the Olperer massif

The Olperer Randonnée – a mountain tour lasting about 4–5 days – is a unique experience that connects the mountaineering villages of St. Jodok and Ginzling im Zillertal. The climb to the hut at the starting point of the tour (i.e. the Geraer Hut from St. Jodok/Schmirn/Vals) takes about 2–3 hours, while the stages between the huts require between 4–8 hours' walking. High-alpine hiking gear and sure-footedness are essential for this tour.

Olperer Randonnée:Route:

Day 1: Geraer Hut, 2,324m

Tel. +43/(0)676/9610303

info@geraerhuetten.at

Day 2: Olperer Hut, 2,388 m

Tel. +43/(0)664/4176566

info@olpererhuetten.de

Day 3: Friesenberghaus 2,498 m

Tel. + 43/(0)676/7497550

friesenberghaus@sbg.at

Day 4: Spannagelhaus, 2,531 m

Tel. +43/(0)664/5158273

info@spannagelhaus.at

Day 5: Geraer Hut

Peter Habeler Circuit

Peter Habeler is an extreme mountaineer from Austria, who became famous among other things for climbing Mount Everest

without additional oxygen in 1978. He is also credited with numerous first ascents in the Rocky Mountains and undertook expeditions with Reinhold Messner amongst others.

Peter Habeler is a native of Zillertal (he was born in 1942 in Mayrhofen). This 6-day high-altitude trail was dedicated to him to celebrate his 70th birthday. The Peter Habeler Circuit runs from the Geraer Hut via the Tuxerjoch Haus, the Friesenberghaus, the Olperer Hut, the Pfitscherjochhaus and the Landshuter Europa Hut back to the Geraer Hut.

You can join the circuit both from the mountaineering villages of St. Jodok, Schmirn and Vals (from the Touristenrast at Vals via Trail 502 to the Geraer Hut or via Trail 529 to the Landshuter Europa Hut; from Schmirn-Toldern via Trail 525 over the Steinernes Lamm to the Geraer Hut or from Schmirn-Kasern via Trail 324 over the Klee grubenscharte to the Geraer Hut) and from the mountaineering village of Ginzling directly at the Friesenberghaus, the Gasthof Breitlahner or from Schlegeissstausee to the Friesenberghaus or the Pfitscherjochhaus.

Peter Habeler Circuit Route:

Stage 1: Geraer Hut – Tuxerjoch Haus

4.5 – 5 hours

Stage 2: Tuxerjoch Haus – Friesenberghaus

4.5 – 5 hours

Stage 3: Friesenberghaus - Olperer Hut

2.5 hours

Stage 4: Olperer Hut - Pfitscherjochhaus

4 hours

Stage 5: Pfitscherjochhaus - Landshuter Europa

Hut; 4 hours

Stage 6: Landshuter Europa Hut - Geraer Hut;

6.5 - 7 hours

Information brochures available from
TVB Wipptal, Rathaus, A-6150 Steinach.



On the Sagwand North Pillar – a tour for the experts.

CLIMBING

There has been climbing in the Valsertal valley ever since the heroic exploits of the early mountaineers. Famous names such as the north face of the Fußstein, the north pillar of the Sagwand and the northeast face of the Schrammacher can all be found in the so-called Valsertal "cauldron" that towers over the Geraer Hut. Those who enjoy scaling the heights will find much to enjoy in St. Jodok, Schmirn and Vals in addition to the classic Alpine tours. Whether you like sport climbing, bouldering, via ferrata tours or ice climbing, there's something to suit every taste.

Classic Alpine Tours

The starting point for all Alpine tours in the Valsertal valley is the Geraer Hut. Mountain guide and hut warden Arthur Lanthaler is happy to provide information about the conditions on each of the tours. All tours are challenging alpine expeditions, in some cases with a very high risk of falling rocks, a low level of protection and difficult descents that should only be attempted by highly experienced mountaineers.

Fußstein North Face

Access: From the Geraer Hut via the Olpererweg to the glacier. Cross the glacier (beware of crevasses!) to the lower left of the face. At a suitable point, climb onto the large ledge and from there traverse right to the drilled belay station.

Route: The climb to the summit is of grade 5-

difficulty, and requires around 12 pitches, at bolted belay stations, with few normal pitons to provide intermediate protection.

Descent: Either via the south gully (grade 2 difficulty; risk of falling rocks) or via the abseil route back to the glacier and down the ascent route from there back to the Geraer Hut.





The Fußstein North Face, a grade 5 Alpine challenge.



Climbing the Fußstein.

Sagwand North Pillar

Access: From the Geraer Hut across scree fields to the lower right of the pillar.
Route: Three pitches upwards to the right of the waterfall, then to the left. Cross the gully quickly (risk of falling rocks). Continue along the pillar, sometimes deviating to the right, reaching the summit in just under 20 pitches (grade 6- difficulty). This climb is significantly more demanding and serious, and has much more fragile terrain, than the Fußstein north face. There are only 20 normal pitons on the entire climb, some

of which are in poor condition.
Descent: From the summit, follow the ridge a short distance and then climb/walk down towards the Zeischalm and Gasthaus Touristenrast (grade 2 difficulty; risk of falling rocks).

Bouldering

The countless boulders in the Alterertal make it ideal for literally getting to grips with the granite.

Access: Enter the Alterertal valley (at the end of the Valsertal valley) and then go up to the boulders, some of which are visible from the forest path (and some of which are not).
The boulders: Where else can you still do this? Instead of traipsing along to the rock face behind hordes of other people, get to know an area for yourself: bouldering, exploring, enjoying an adventure. We have deliberately not described the individual boulders here – instead we invite our guests on an exciting journey of discovery. We guarantee that there will be something for bouldering beginners and experts alike.

Recommended Reading: Orgler, Andreas: Klettern in den Stubai Alpen und im Valsertalkessel [Climbing in the Stubai Alps and the Valsertal Cauldron], ISBN 3-926801-21-0

Sport Climbing

In recent years, the Valsertal valley has developed into a great sport climbing area, with well-secured climbs graded between 4 and 10.. In contrast with many other climbing areas it is still possible to spend solitary days on the mountain, away from the hustle and bustle. Thanks to the tireless work of Werner Gürtler and Andreas Stolz, new routes are opening all the time. The Rossstall Climbing Garden is described here as an example of the many options available. For further information see Recommended Reading, page 24.

Routes:

No.	UIAA difficulty grade	No.	UIAA difficulty grade
1.	6-	7.	8+/9-
2.	6	8.	proj.
3.	5	9.	9-
4.	4	10.	8-(exit no6: 8)
5.	7+	11.	6+
6.	proj.(c 11-)		

Rossstall Climbing Garden

Access: In the Alterertal valley (at the end of the Valsertal valley): 15 minutes to the rocks.

The Rossstall Climbing Garden provides a total of 11 routes over two sectors.



Peter Kofler via ferrata – Stafflacher Wand

The Peter Kofler via ferrata on the Stafflacher Wand in St. Jodok was set up in summer 2012. It was designed to be in harmony with the natural world and to comply with the latest via ferrata construction guidelines.

The 650-metre route has many advantages: it is close to the village (15 minutes' walk), has a moderate level of difficulty (C, suitable for sporty children aged 12 and over with via ferrata experience), is easily accessible by public transport and has guidance on the best routes.

At the end of the via ferrata there is a summit cross and stunning views of the Schmirntal and the Valsertal valleys and across to the

Brenner mountains. SALEWA safety equipment can be hired from Textil Eller (Mondays to Fridays) and from the Gasthof Lamm (Saturdays and Sundays) in St. Jodok.

Further information

www.wipptal.at
www.bergsteigen.at
www.tourentipp.de
www.klettersteig.com
www.almenrausch.at
www.alpintouren.com



Recommended tours for winter



SKI TOURS

The Tux Alps offer a whole range of options for ski tours. The ski tour season kicks off as early as the first snowfalls in November or December – and even in early summer there are still slopes and gullies that are ideal for “firn and figl” touring (on old snow with special short skis). Ski tours range from short, easy, relatively low-risk routes with height gains of 700 to 900 metres through to challenging high-alpine expeditions.

The region's proximity to the Brenner meteorological divide means that snow conditions are often highly varied even within a small area. Snow can fall both from the north and the south, and as a result the valleys have very reliable snow.

*Please keep yourself up to date with the current avalanche situation at www.lawine.tirol.gv.at.
 NEW: Winter tour transfer – see page 34 for information*

Vennspitze (2,390 m)

The Vennspitze is a straightforward, relatively safe and very popular ski tour.

The starting point is on the Padauner Saddle, which can be reached by car from the Valsertal valley (snow chains are often mandatory). The route is almost always groomed, and starts at the car park in Padaun, heading

south-eastwards across a meadow to the edge of the forest. A corridor has been thinned out through the trees especially for skiers and should be used for the ascent to avoid disturbing animals in the denser forest. The pyramid-shaped summit can be seen from the edge of the forest (800 m height gain, 2 hrs).





Ski tour on the Vennspitze.

Silleskogel (2,418 m)

The Silleskogel is the quieter peak adjacent to the Vennspitze. Park at the fifth and last bend (a right-hand bend) on the road to Padaun. The route first follows a forest track eastwards. At the Sillalm meadows, bear left and climb the dry-weather track through a steep hollow to a corridor through the trees. The steep-sided valley now rises up into a lovely, slightly flatter skiing area. At the top, cross to the left and then climb up to the gully to the left of the summit, which can then itself be reached on foot in just a few minutes (900 m height gain, 2.5 hrs). A close eye should be kept out for avalanches during the ascent of the north-facing summit slope (where snow is often blown about).

Sumpfschartl (2,666m)

The tour starts one kilometre before the end of the Valsertal valley (at the Touristenrast for refreshments), climbing north across open meadows up to the Bloaderalm. Behind it is a waterfall, which should be crossed leftwards

– after the escarpment continue on more towards the right. From Hochbloaden bear left and climb up to a wide basin – the gully will soon become visible to the left of a very distinctive rock (1,300 m height gain, 3.5 hrs). There is the option of a further climb up to the Kraxentrager (2,999 m) via the ridge (climbing sections of grade 2 difficulty) or to the basin behind it.

Ottenspitze (2,179 m) Leiten (2,079 m)

The Ottenspitze is the most popular ski tour in the Schmirntal valley and starts at the shady side of the valley entrance. The car park is at the highest point of the front of the valley directly below the “Schmirner Stadl” Gasthaus. After climbing a meadow, the route follows a relatively steep corridor through the trees, bearing slightly to the left. It crosses a forest road several times, reaching a clearing at a height of around 1,800 m. To climb the Ottenspitze, follow a level corridor southeast. For the lower peak of the Leiten, cross the clearing and climb a further



The ridge between Gammerspitze and Gampesspitze.

300m to the summit. The Ottenspitze comes into view after the corridor and is soon reached after climbing up through a sparse forest followed by a steeper summit slope. The Gammerspitze can be reached via the Windbichl and the Riepenspitze (2,460m) by crossing beneath the summit slope, continuing southeast and climbing up to the ridge from a small hut.

Skiers should schedule about two hours for this tour (750 m of ascent). The Leiten tour is slightly shorter (650 m ascent), relatively steep and worth the climb even in poor or less stable weather conditions.

Fischersnapf (2,493 m)

This is a relatively straightforward ski tour with virtually no forest sections, which can often be undertaken in early winter. The tour starts in Schmirn, at the car park near the last farm before the entrance to the Kluppental valley.

From there the route climbs a short, steep slope behind the farm before crossing the

dry-weather track to the right. There is a gully a short distance away; cross the stream there and pass a mountain hut with a freight cable car. After a flat section, bear left, and then right after a second flatter section. The last steep section and the ridge (Gamskar) will now be visible and the summit can be reached on foot in a few minutes (850m ascent, 2.5 hrs).

Gammerspitze (2,537 m)

This ski tour is steep and fast – the 1,200-metre height gain (approx. 3.5 hours) follows a gully (Jeneweinrinne) right up to the summit. Below the Gasthaus Jenewein in Schmirn (car parking), cross the stream before climbing up through a sparse forest, bearing right. You will soon come to a widening corridor through the trees that is not too steep. Follow it and then climb a last, very steep slope to reach the ridge slightly to the east of the summit.

Kleiner Kaserer (3,090m)

From the car park in the Wildlahnertal valley in Schmirn, cross the stream and then follow a forest track up to an alpine hut at almost 1,900m. To the right of the stream there is flatter terrain followed by the first escarpment, with another escarpment leading up to the weather cross. Crossing small ridges and hollows, head towards the Höllscharte to the right of the Kleiner Kaserer.

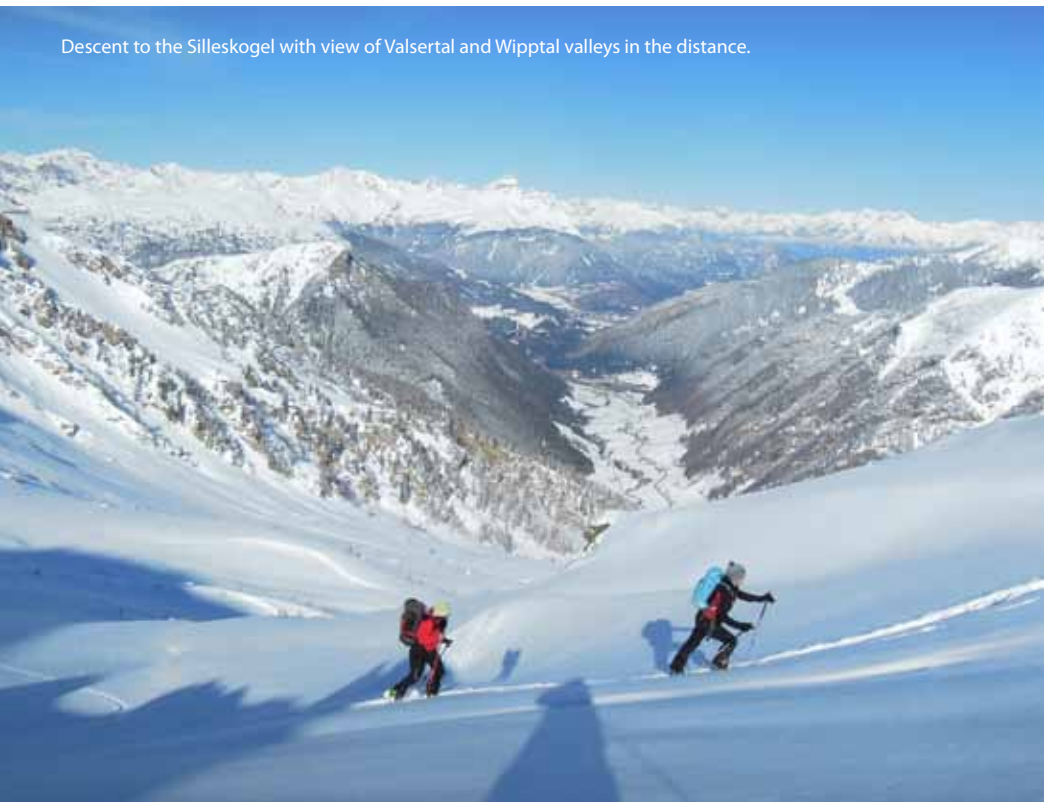
A steel rope leads up to the summit via a boulder ridge that is extremely narrow in places. The last 100 metres should be climbed on foot. This tour has a height gain of 1,600 m and takes around four hours.

Olperer (3,476 m)

The Olperer has almost 2,000 m of height gain and is a challenging high-alpine tour with climbing sections. Bear right from the weather cross (see Kleiner Kaserer) and climb up to the clearly visible icefall. Head eastwards up across the crevasses in the glacier until you can bear left up onto a ridge. The upper station of one of the Zillertal valley glacier ski lifts is located on the Wildlahnerscharte.

After a steep edge, the summit ascent up the northern ridge is a grade 2–3 climb over slabs with a few metal pins and pitons. Crampons, ice axes and, depending on the conditions, ropes and harnesses are essential. You should factor in an estimated 6 hours of climbing time for this demanding ski tour.

Descent to the Silleskogel with view of Valsertal and Wipptal valleys in the distance.



WINTER HIKING AND SNOWSHOEING

The Schmirntal and the Valsertal valleys have many groomed winter hiking trails (e.g. the Unterer Waldweg [Lower Forest Trail] that runs past the Kalte Herberge and the Winter Hiking Trail from Padaun to Klammergrat.

Two especially picturesque snowshoe routes are the tour to the Kalte Herberge, continuing towards the Zirna-Alm, and the slightly more challenging ascent to the Rauher Kopf. The Valsertal has beautiful walks, some on flat terrain, in the nature conservation area at the head of the valley, to the Bloaderalm or from Padaun to the Vennspitze.

There are also weekly guided snowshoe walks for those who like walking in company. *For information on tours and equipment hire contact the Wipptal Tourist Office on +43/(0)5272/6270.*

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Cross-country skiing in the sunshine– an excellently-maintained circular trail of about 8 km starts at the Schmirn parish church and ascends gently to Toldern before curving round into the Wildlahnertal valley.

There is another circular, albeit shorter (approx. 4 km), trail at the head of the Valsertal valley, which nonetheless has very reliable snowfall.

There is also a groomed circular trail of about 3 km in Kasern (1,600 m).

ICE CLIMBING

The Schmirntal and the Valsertal valleys have been popular with ice climbers since as early as 1980. In Schmirn the Kluppental valley is an attractive destination with around 10 ice-

falls. In Vals both the Zeischkessel and the Alterertal valley offer a wealth of ice columns that are ideal for climbing. Important: There is a very high risk of avalanches at all icefalls. Please study the avalanche bulletins before you set off, and take avalanche safety gear with you!



Please study the avalanche bulletins carefully before setting off to go ice climbing.



TOBOGGANING

In the Schmirntal valley the toboggan run at the Kalte Herberge (1.8 km in length) is especially family-friendly and has reliable snowfall. The climb takes around 30 minutes and starts in Toldern, close to the Gasthaus Olpererblick, where toboggans can be hired for a small charge. The toboggan run passes the picturesque Kalte Herberge pilgrimage church and finishes at a height of 1,750 m above sea level.

The toboggan run in Padaun is also well worth a visit. It is approx. 1.5 km long and starts at the car park above Gasthaus Steckholzer.



Schmirn in Winter

The toboggan run at the end of the Valsertal valley at the Schwarzer Brunnen is one of the region's less demanding runs. It starts at the "Unterm Nock" meadow and is around 1 km in length. Because of their elevation, these three toboggan runs usually have guaranteed snow and are often in good condition, even if there is not much snow in the valley.

ICE SKATING AND ICE HOCKEY

Every winter, the ice rink in St. Jodok is maintained to an exemplary standard by the St. Jodok Ice Hockey Club. As a result, you can ice skate in St. Jodok free of charge.

During the Christmas holidays (27 December to 10 January) and every weekend there is a heated wooden chalet adjacent to the floodlit rink where skaters can get warm and enjoy some refreshment (5.30 pm – 10.00 pm). After doing a few circuits of the ice to great music, skaters can warm themselves up with a mulled wine or cup of tea in the tent. Tasty post-skating snacks are also provided.

Public library in Schmirn

The library in the Schirm council offices has a wide selection of books and games. During opening hours you can browse to your heart's content and search out the perfect books and games over a leisurely cup of coffee.

Council Offices, 6154 Schmirn

Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5203

gemeinde@schmirn.tirol.gv.at

Opening hours:

Every Friday from 3pm – 5pm and the 1st Monday of every month from 7pm – 9pm

Basecamp

Heaven on earth – a new kind of fitness centre; state-of-the-art climbing tower with separate bouldering area.

Basecamp Mühlbachl

Statz 49, 6143 Mühlbachl

Tel.: +43/(0)5273/77066

info@basecamp-tirol.at

www.basecamp-tirol.at

Opening hours:

Mon – Fri: 9am–12pm/4pm–9.30pm

Sat: 9am–12pm/4pm–8pm

Sun: 2pm–6pm

Closed on public holidays.

Indoor climbing walls and bouldering walls at the JUFA Hotel

Alfons-Graber-Weg 1, 6150 Steinach

Tel.: + 43/(0)57083/510

wipptal@jufa.at

www.jufa.eu

St. Jodok

model railway

This remarkable layout with 630 metres of track and precise scale models of villages, towns, stations and countryside

Alternative options for bad weather

is a whole fascinating world in miniature. 56 computer-controlled trains run from one high-tech station to the next over a surface area of around 30 m² with 5.2 km of underground cabling. Hanns Jenewein designed and painted the beautiful scenery by hand.

Hanns Jenewein

Leite 90 b, 6154 St. Jodok

Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5251

Innsbruck, the regional capital

Good train connections (hourly trains from St. Jodok to Innsbruck– journey time 25 min.) mean that visitors can make the most of the regional capital's wide range of cultural and sporting activities in bad weather. As well as any number of tourist attractions (e.g. the Goldenes Dachl (Golden Roof) in the Old Town (the Alpine Convention headquarters), the City Tower, the Hofburg Palace and Hofkirche church, Ambras Castle, the Bergisel hill with views of the Tyrol, the Kaiserjäger-museum, etc.), the city has extensive sports facilities (indoor and outdoor swimming pools, large climbing centre, ice rink, etc.) The Alpenzoo is also well worth a visit.

Further information on the regional capital of Innsbruck at www.innsbruck.info

BBT Information Centre

This 800 m² exhibition tells you all about the construction of the world's longest railway tunnel, the Brenner Base Tunnel.

Opening hours:

Tues – Sun: 10am–5pm

JUFA Hotel

Alfons-Graber-Weg 1, 6150 Steinach

Tel.: +43/(0)512/4030400

tunnelwelten@bbt-se.com

www.tunnelwelten.com



Winter Hiking Trail to the Kalte Herberge

Partners

Mountaineering villages partner companies take special care of the needs of hikers, mountaineers and ski tourers. An early breakfast, information on equipment hire, and the provision of a mountain guide or recommendations for tours are just as much a part of the service as the use of regional products in the kitchen.

As a member of ÖAV DAV you receive a 10 % discount on standard rates (bed & breakfast, holiday apartment, etc.) . Please present your membership card upon arrival and when paying your bill.

Detailed information on all participating businesses is available from:

www.bergsteigerdoerfer.at/705

Bergsteigerhotel "Das Lamm"

Petra and Patrick Zwölfer
6154 St. Jodok 7
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5201
Fax: +43/(0)5279/5201
hotel@das-lamm.at
www.das-lamm.at

Berggasthof Steckholzer

Wolf Family
Padaun 19, 6154 Vals
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5390
steckholzer@aon.at
www.gasthof-steckholzer.at

Gasthaus Olpererblick

Katrin Früh
Toldern 11a, 6154 Schmirn
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/20120
or +43/(0)664/33 84 44
info@olpererblick.at
www.olpererblick.at

Saxerhof holiday apartments

Eller Herta
Rohrach 12, 6154 Schmirn
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5358
Mobile: +43/(0)664/43 68 721
saxerhof@aon.at
www.saxerhof.at

Holidays at Gattererhof Farm

Lutz Family
Hochmark 22, 6154 Schmirn
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5440
Fax: +43/(0)5279/5440
m.lutz@aon.at
www.urlaubambauernhof.at/gattererhof

Holidays at Jörglerhof Farm

Gatt Family
Vals 42, 6154 St. Jodok
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5341
Fax: +43/(0)5279/5341
joerglerhof@hotmail.com
www.urlaubambauernhof.at/joerglerhof

Haus Gertraud

Salchner Family
Toldern 12a, 6154 Schmirn
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5484
Fax: +43/(0)5279/5484
g.salchner@aon.at
www.ferienwohnung-wipptal.at

Haus Carola

Fleckinger Family
Stafflach 67, 6154 St. Jodok
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5206
khfleckinger@aon.at
www.wipptal.net/fleckinger

Gästehaus Fischer guesthouse

Spieß Family
Rohrach 11, 6154 Schmirn
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5578
gaestehausfischer@aon.at
www.members.aon.at/gaestehausfischer

Haus Staud

Christoph Staud (Agnes Staud)
Hochmark 20 a, 6154 Schmirn
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5249 or
+43/(0)664/18 20 487
gottlieb.staud@aon.at
www.wipptal.at
www.hausstaud.schmirn.at

Alpengasthaus Kasern

(no overnight accommodation)
Gabriela Eller
Kasern 43
6154 Schmirn
Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5415
or +43/(0)664/94 57 226
ga.eller@hotmail.com
www.gasthof-kasern.at



Mountain Huts

Geraer Hut (2,324 m)

(N 47° 02,606', E 11° 37,702')

DAV [German Alpine Association] Landshut Section

Hut telephone: +43/(0)676/96 10 303

or +43/(0)664/51 06 830

info@geraerhuetten.at

www.geraerhuetten.at



Landshuter Europa Hut (2,693 m)

(N 46° 59,826', E 11° 34,832')

DAV [German Alpine Association] Landshut Section

Tel.: +39/0472/64 60 76

or +39/338/21 24 738

info@europahuetten.at

Tuxerjochhaus hut (2,310 m)

(N 47° 60', E 11° 39')

Austrian Tourist Club

Tel.: +43/(0)5287 / 87 216

or +43/(0)5285 / 64 555

tuxerjochhaus@gmx.at



Useful addresses

Wipptal Tourist Office

Town Hall, 6150 Steinach

Tel.: +43/(0)5272/6270

Fax: +43/(0)5272/2110

tourismus@wipptal.at

www.wipptal.at

Schmirn Council Offices

6154 Schmirn

Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5203

Fax: +43/(0)5279/5533

gemeinde@schmirn.tirol.gv.at

Vals Council Offices

6154 St. Jodok

Tel.: +43/(0)5279/5209

Fax: +43/(0)5279 / 5209 4

gemeinde@vals.tirol.gv.at

Österreichischer Alpenverein

[Austrian Alpine Association]

Steinach/Brenner Section

Chairman: Johann Pittracher

Trinserstraße 26

6150 Steinach am Brenner

Tel.: +43/(0)664/73 03 00 83

hans.pittracher@btv.at

www.alpenverein.at/steinach-brenner

Mountain rescue

St. Jodok/Schmirn/Vals base

Emergency numbers 140 and 112

bergrettung-jodok@aon.at

Deutscher Alpenverein

[German Alpine Association]

Landshut Section

Ländgasse 144 /Ländtor

84028 Landshut

Tel.: +49/(0)871/27 36 64

Fax: +49/(0)871/96 64 082

www.alpenverein-landshut.de

Mountain and ski guides

Mountain hiking guides and nature guides

Wipptal Alpine Mountain Guide Office

Statz 49, 6143 Matrei am Brenner

Tel.: +43/(0)664/45 27 094

office@wipptal-alpin.com

www.wipptal-alpin.com

Hubert Gogl – Mountain and ski guide

Tel.: +43/(0)664/81 78 698

hubert.gogl@a1.net

Thomas Senfter – Mountain and ski guide

Tel: +43/(0)664/47 33 231

mail@thomassenfter.at

www.thomassenfter.at

Arthur Lanthaler – Mountain and ski guide

Geraer Hut landlord

Tel.: +43/(0)664/51 06 830

info@geraerhuetten.at

www.geraerhuetten.at

Gisela Ungerank – Mountain guide

Tel.: +43/(0)664/16 41 592

gisela.ungerank@gmail.com

Helga Maria Hager– Mountain guide

Tel.: +43/(0)664/40 07 966

helga@helgasalm.at

www.helgasalm.at

Taxi services in Wipptal

- Busreisen Eller +43/(0)664/23 22 528
- Christoph Mader +43/(0)664/7880540



Publication / Picture Credits

Published by: Austrian Alpine Association, Olympiastr. 37, 6020 Innsbruck

Text: Helga Beermeister, Hubert Gogl (from the Wipptaler Wanderbuch [Wipptal Hiking Book])

Translation: www.allesprachen.at (from German)

Design: SuessDesign.de

Layout and editing: Bergsteigerdörfer Project Team, Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV)

Printed by: Gutenberg Druck, Linz

Picture credits:

Cover picture: Kelderkappelle in Autumn, Joakim Strickner

Back cover: Vennspitze panorama, Christina Schwann (ÖAV)

Amor, Roland: 31 (below)

DAV Landshut Section archive (Willi Scheithauer): 8

Ganzer, Daniel: 26 (l.)

Gogl, Hubert: 9, 10 (above), 12, 14, 16 (above), 18, 20, 30

Gürtler, Werner: 25 (r.)

Hager, Helga: p. 13

Lanthaler, Arthur: 37

Schwaiger, Markus: 25 (l.)

ÖAV Bergsteigerdörfer (Schwann Christina): 6-7, 16 (below), 17, 24, 21, 22, 26 (r.), 35, 36, 38, 41

Senfter, Thomas: 23, 24, 29, 31 (above)

Strickner Joakim: 28

Strobl, Petra: 11, 32 (above)

TVB-Wipptal: 10 (below), 27, 32 (below)

Good conduct in the mountains

Mountain hiking is a great outdoor experience that is good both for your health and for meeting new people. The following recommendations from the Alpine Associations are intended to help ensure you hike as safely and enjoyably as possible.

1. Be healthy in the mountains: mountain hiking is an endurance sport. A good level of health and realistic assessment of your abilities are prerequisites for ensuring that this exercise has a positive effect on your heart and circulation. Avoid putting yourself under time pressure and walk at a speed that ensures no-one in your group is out of breath.
2. Careful planning: Hiking maps, guidebooks, the internet and experts can all provide information about distances, ascent, difficulty and current conditions. Always agree your route with the whole group! Pay particular attention to the weather report, since rain, wind and cold all increase the risk of accident.
3. Be fully equipped: Ensure you have the appropriate gear for your expedition and make sure your rucksack is not too heavy. You should always carry protection against rain, cold and the sun, along with a first aid kit and a mobile phone (European emergency number 112). Maps and GPS help you find your way.
4. Appropriate footwear: Good hiking boots protect your feet, relieve pressure and make you surer-footed! Make sure your boots are the right fit, have non-slip treaded soles, and are waterproof and lightweight.
5. A secure footing is key: Falls as a consequence of slipping or stumbling are the most common accidents! Be aware that walking too fast or when you are tired will significantly impair your steadiness and concentration. Beware of falling rocks: Walking with awareness will help ensure you do not dislodge rocks.
6. Stay on waymarked paths: The risk of becoming disorientated, falling or experiencing rockfalls is higher when you leave marked routes. Avoid short cuts and if you lose your way, retrace your steps to the last point you recognise. Often underestimated and very dangerous: old and steep snowfields!
7. Take regular breaks: Resting properly will help you to recover and to enjoy both the scenery and each other's company. Eating and drinking are vital for maintaining performance and concentration. Isotonic drinks make ideal thirst-quenchers. Muesli bars, dried fruit and biscuits help with hunger pangs on the trail.
8. Be responsible with children: Remember that variety and learning through play are paramount for children. In sections where there is a risk of falling, an adult can only look after one child at a time. Very exposed routes requiring sustained concentration are not suitable for children.
9. Small groups: Small groups allow flexibility and enable group members to help each other. Inform people who know the terrain of your destination, route and return route. Stay in your group. Solo hikers beware: Severe emergencies can be caused by the smallest of incidents.
10. Respect for nature and the environment: To protect the mountains: Take all rubbish with you, avoid making noise, stay on the trail, do not disturb wild or grazing animals, leave plants where they are and respect conservation areas. Use public transport or shared transport to get to your hike.

Source: "Sicher Bergwandern" [Safe mountain hiking]
10 recommendations from the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV)/ CAA

Alpine emergency number: 140

International Emergency number: 112



St. Jodok, Schmirntal and Valsertal

Ginzling im Zillertal
 Großes Walsertal
 Grünau im Almtal
 Hüttschlag im Großarlal
 Johnsbach im Gesäuse
 Lesachtal
 Lunz am See
 Mallnitz
 Malta
 Matsch (South Tyrol)
 Mauthen
 Reichenau an der Rax

Ramsau bei Berchtesgaden (Germany)
 Region Sellraintal
 Sachrang - Schleching (Germany)
 Steinbach am Attersee
 Steirische Krakau
 Tiroler Gailtal
 Vent im Ötztal
 Villgratental
 Weißbach bei Lofer
 Zell-Sele

Jezersko (SI) and Kreuth (G) from 2018

October 2017



BERGSTEIGER
 DÖRFER

www.bergsteigerdoerfer.org