

Alternative Ski destinations in Austria

Austria and its various mountain regions has always been an Eldorado for **winter sport fans**. Travelers who are interested in booking a skiing weekend in one of the broadly known ski destinations like St. Anton or Kitzbühel will soon learn that these places are too popular for their own good – it is more than often very difficult to get accommodations here, especially for shorter periods or weekend stays.

This is why we would like to introduce some alternative ski regions around Schladming and Bad Gastein which can be considered **insider tips** as they offer **great skiing possibilities** and **accommodation**, also for popular periods and shorter stays.

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Schladming

Schladming is located in the Western Styria, in close distance to **Salzburg** (about 90 km). Munich airport is about 260 km away. Surrounded by the **Dachstein** mountain chain in the North and the **Niedere Tauern** chain in the South, it is a small town with less than 5.000 residents which has lately gained an **enormous reputation** as a **winter sport location**.

Accommodations in Schladming vary from **simple** to several **first-class hotels** which offer good comfort and wellness possibilities.

Besides **skiing** and **snowboarding**, the town offers many other winter sport activities like **cross country** or **tobogganing**. The **ice palace** on the mountain Dachstein additionally invites for **exploring** – right now the cartoon family “The Simpsons” is residing there ... created out of ice.



Skiing region Schladming-Dachstein

The heart of the **skiing region** around Schladming is the so-called “**4 mountains ski swing**” which includes the mountains Planai (1.906 m), Hochwurzen (1.850 m), Hauser Kaibling (2.015 m) and Reiteralp (1.741 m).

The whole region which also belongs to the ski network **Ski Amadé** has a total of **167 slope kilometers** of various difficulties. **81 modern cable ways** offer safe ways of transportations, even from one ridge to the other (hence the name “swing”).

The **Planai** is not only famous for the many **international ski races** taking place here, but especially known for the **yearly night slalom** which is one of the highlights of the Austrian winter sport season.

Besides Schladming, other interesting towns in the area include **Ramsau am Dachstein** and **Rohrmoos**.



Bad Gastein

Bad Gastein is a **spa town** and **winter sport location** in the federal state of Salzburg, the town of Salzburg being about 100 km away. The distance to the **airport** in **Munich** is 260 km.

The cozy town has been known since the Middle Ages because of its **hot springs**. The water from those springs is supposed to have a **healing effect** which is why it is used both for **spa treatments** and for **mineral water** (“Bad Gasteiner”).

The **many winter sport possibilities** attract a lot of tourists in the winter season, but the area is also a great destination for hiking and biking in the summer time.

Bad Gastein additionally offers a **good choice of tourist and first class hotels** with spa as well as simpler accommodations.



Skiing region Gasteiner valley

4 skiing regions are in direct neighborhood to **Bad Gastein** - Schloßalm–Angertal–Stubnerkogel with tops up to 2.300 m, Sportgastein (2.650 m), Graukogel (2.246 m) and Dorfgastein–Großarl (2.027 m). Those also belong to the large skiing network **Ski Amadé**.

The amazing total of over **200 slope kilometers** with **65 cable ways** provides very varied **skiing experiences** for every taste, like powder snow descents or mogul slopes, but of course also family-suited routes.

The area is not only interesting for skiers – the **Snowboard World Cup** is being held here in January 2011.

Other towns in the Gasteiner valley are **Bad Hofgastein** and **Dachgastein**.



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