**Bad Gastein**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Non-skiers

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

11

**Intermediate Runs**

25

**Advanced Runs**

4

**Total Runs**

40

**Lifts**

25

**Chairs**

10

**Drags**

6

**Gondola Cable Cars**

9

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Despite now being one of Austria’s leading ski destinations, the resort of Bad Gastein has a history that predates the arrival of winter sports in the area.

Initially a hotbed for wellness tourism, records of the healing powers of its 17 natural springs date back at least to the 13th-century. To this day the resort remains a major year-round spa and wellness destination, with a great choice of state-of-the-art health and leisure spa facilities.

Skiers first arrived in the resort in the first half of the last century and the resort’s winter sports offering has gone from strength to strength ever since. There are now more than 200km (125 miles) of pistes locally – one of the biggest ski areas in the country – and the resort is part of the giant Amade lift pass system which includes dozens of neighbouring areas with a combined 800km (500 miles) of pistes on one lift ticket.

Thanks to its status as an all-year resort, Bad Gastein's infrastructure and range of shopping, restaurants and other activities is far better than many seasonal ski towns, making the resort an excellent destination for non-skiers too.

**Location**

Bad Gastein is located in the Gastein Valley, within the westerly Austrian province of Salzburger Land. The local Hohe Tauern Mountains are a part of the Alps.

**Website**

http://www.skigastein.com

**Piste Map**

http://affiliate.skiamade.com/en/winter/skiresorts/slopespanorama?zoom=75

**Hit The Slopes**

While Bad Gastein’s ski area is not one of the highest in altitude in the Alps, it is actually much higher at its peak than many other famous Austrian ski areas. With north-facing slopes and the ability to cover around half of the key runs with machine-made snow from some 600 cannons, it has a good snow record.

The large ski area, one of the country’s – and indeed the world’s – biggest, extends over four sectors, incorporating the skiing above the nearby resorts of Bad Hofgastein and Dorfgastein as well as the local slopes, with the largest single sector on the Stubnerkogel mountain.

Bad Gastein also has a second ski area, on the Graukogel, that is smaller and not linked by pistes to the rest of the network. Here, the 2km-long (1.2-mile) Toni Sailer piste (named after the famous local ski racer) is regarded as the toughest in the whole region.

There are pistes for all standards, although the greatest proportion by far (more than 65%) is graded intermediate; so skiing holidaymakers of normal ability can be assured of large volumes of lovely cruising slopes to enjoy. The longest intermediate run offers an enjoyable 10.4km-long (6.5-mile) descent.

The regional Ski Amadé pass incorporates the world’s largest area on a single lift pass, covering more than 800km (500 miles) of runs – including all those in the Gastein Valley and the majority of nearby ski areas. The pass also entitles holders to the use of public transport between the areas during the daytime.

In addition to the vast selection of downhill skiing, there’s also an excellent terrain park and well-groomed cross-country tracks to explore.

The typical ski season in Bad Gastein runs from the end of December to early April.

**Bad Gastein**

**Resort**

1080

**Base**

1017

**Top**

2650

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There’s plenty to do beyond skiing and boarding in Bad Gastein. The spa culture is, of course, a major tourist draw, and visitors have a choice of 28 indoor swimming pools and wellness facilities fed by the town's numerous springs. In addition, there are indoor tennis courts, an indoor riding school, ice rink, several museums and a shooting range. Excursions to Salzburg, about 75 minutes away, are another possibility.

Outdoors, about 32km (20 miles) of hiking paths are kept clear of excess snow, while there are also opportunities to take a sleigh ride, go tobogganing, or try paragliding above the slopes.

**Family Fun**

Many of the facilities in Bad Gastein are also good family attractions, particularly for those who enjoy swimming. A good kids-only option at the top station of the Stubnerkogel lift is a sprawling Fun Centre with everything from a ball pool and climbing wall to table football, games consoles and free internet access – all of which is free of charge to lift pass holders.

There’s no non-ski nursery facility in Bad Gastein, but children aged three and older are welcome in the ski school, where there’s a special ski kindergarten and a separate fun area for first lessons.

**Retail Therapy**

Bad Gastein has a good selection of shops with some very nice elegant boutiques and stylish jewellers alongside the usual purveyors of resort essentials. The majority of the shops are concentrated in the heart of the resort, making browsing easy.

**Splashing Out**

Relax those aching post-ski muscles by spending some time in one of the resort’s many luxury spas. The Felsentherme (tel: +43 6434 22230; [www.felsentherme.com](http://www.felsentherme.com)) is the main public spa facility in Bad Gastein, running all manner of relaxing procedures both traditional and modern, which most visitors would consider worthy of a day off the slopes.

**Apres Ski**

Bad Gastein has a good selection of après-ski activities, with several bars and nightclubs spread around the resort, as well as a casino within the century-old Grand Hotel de l'Europe.

Popular bars include Revolution (tel: +43 6502 600 215) which comes alive each evening and draws in crowds of both locals and tourists, and The Silver Bullet (tel: +43 6434 225 360; [www.silverbulletbar.com](http://www.silverbulletbar.com)), which operates under the ethos of “wildest and best”. It’s open until 0200 with live music five evenings a week and a DJ set daily.

**Eating Out**

There are about 50 different places to eat in Bad Gastein, many offering traditional Austrian cuisine, but with a selection of establishments offering international specialities too.

For high calibre Austrian dining, visitors can’t do much better than The Kaiserhof Bistro (tel: +43 6434 30020), which has a reputation for quality traditional cuisine at reasonable prices and good service too. The peaceful Gruener Baum (tel: +43 6434 25160) is another of the better Austrian specialists.

There are variants on traditional heavy meat and cheese options, such as the highly regarded Evas Fischerstuberl (tel: +43 6434 4505; [www.evas-fischerstueberl.at](http://www.evas-fischerstueberl.at)), an excellent fish restaurant serving delicious trout and salmon dishes.

There’s not just good Austrian fare here, however, as diners can also find Chinese, Italian and Mexican dining options, among others. One such eatery worth mention is Ginger 'n' Gin (tel: +43 676 750 2626; [www.gingerandgin.at](http://www.gingerandgin.at)), located within the casino, which has hit success with an Austrian – Asian cuisine fusion that includes tasty sushi specialities.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Salzburg Airport (SZG).

Distance to resort: 90km (60 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 15 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Bad Gastein.

Distance to resort: Within the resort.

**Getting Around**

Due to the relatively large size of Bad Gastein ski resort, a comprehensive ski bus service operates on 10 separate routes around the Gastein Valley. These typically run between 0700 and 1800 daily and are free to ski pass holders.

**Hotels**

Accommodation in Bad Gastein is largely comprised of 3- and 4-star hotels, including some grand old spa establishments; but there are also plenty of apartments and less highly acclaimed hotel options for those on a budget.

**Villa Excelsior**

Villa Excelsior is a traditional 3-star known for its dedicated management team and spa treatments. The hotel is a 10 minute walk from the resort centre with a free shuttle service to the slopes.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Reitlstraße 20

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bad Gastein

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5640

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6434 21350.

**Website**

Http://www.villa-excelsior.at

**Haus Hirt**

Combining luxurious services and personal attention in a beautiful building with spa, the Haus Hirt is one of the best accommodation options in town.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Kaiserhofstrasse 14

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bad Gastein

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5640

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6434 27970.

**Website**

http://www.haus-hirt.com

**Hoteldorf Gruner Baum**

A family-run and family-friendly 4-star option, Hoteldorf Gruner Baum is situated in a tranquil, natural location at the end of the bus line, roughly a 10 minute drive from the resort centre. Facilities include an on-site restaurant, spa facilities and a great play room for children.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Koetschachtal 25

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bad Gastein

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5640

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6434 25160.

**Website**

http://www.hoteldorf.com

**Hotel Elisabethpark**

One of the grand 4-star hotels of Bad Gastein, the elegant Hotel Elisabethpark operates a handy shuttle bus service to the ski slopes. Its high-class facilities include a gourmet restaurant, traditional coffee bar and wellness area.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Kaiser Franz Josef-Strasse 4

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bad Gastein

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5640

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6434 255 1118.

**Website**

http://www.elisabethpark.at

**Hotel Münchnerhof**

A family-friendly 2-star hotel close to lifts and the village centre, Hotel Münchnerhof features thermal baths and a car park for use by guests.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Schareckstrasse 2A

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bad Gastein

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5640

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6434 2351.

**Website**

XXX

**Euro Youth Hotel & Krone**

A very affordable but basic option just 100m (330ft) from the nearest lift, Euro Youth Hotel & Krone offers hostel-style rooms.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Bahnhofplatz 8

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bad Gastein

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5640

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6434 23300.

**Website**

http://www.euro-youth-hotel.at