**Ellmau**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

25

**Intermediate Runs**

16

**Advanced Runs**

1

**Total Runs**

42

**Lifts**

21

**Chairs**

8

**Drags**

12

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

7m (23ft).

**Overview**

Ellmau is a very attractive and traditional ski village set against the splendour of the Wilder Kaiser (Wild Emperor) mountains.

While the resort itself may not boast a huge selection of runs, its connection to the SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser-Brixental, Austria's largest interconnected ski area, means that almost 280km (174 miles) of ski runs are just around the mountain, offering more variety than most resorts in the Alps. The area is further connected to nearby Kitzbühel by the Ki-West gondola, creating one of the largest ski areas in the world.

Unfortunately, as a consequence of both climate change and the resorts low altitude (one of the lowest ski areas in the Alps), snow cover has been a problem in recent years. However, after heavy investment in snowmaking facilities to cover around 90% of the slopes, the dilemma is quickly being resolved and snow cover for most of the season is generally reliable.

The main village itself is a short distance from the ski lifts. The base of the ski area, served by Austria's longest funicular railway (which takes just four minutes to make the ascent), is on the edge of town, so a ski bus is usually needed each morning – unless you opt to stay out of the resort centre, in one of the slopeside hotels.

**Location**

Ellmau is located in Austria's northwestern Tyrol province, very close to the German border. It is part of the SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser-Brixental ski area and is 15km (9 miles) northwest of the large ski town of Kitzbühel.

**Website**

http://www.skiwelt.at

**Piste Map**

http://www.skiwelt.at/en/skiwelt-wilder-kaiser-brixental-1.html

**Hit The Slopes**

Ellmau is located at one end of the giant SkiWelt area that encompasses nine resorts in total – each of them well linked by high-speed lifts.

Ellmau's own skiing has a particularly strong reputation for beginners, with a separate nursery slope in the village centre (snow cover permitting), served by a covered state-of-the-art magic carpet conveyor lift. The resort's three ski schools are highly regarded and can provide expert tuition for everyone from complete novices to those looking to brush up on their technique.

Intermediates will enjoy the ski area the most, with numerous ambling blue runs to refresh their technique and more challenging reds on which they can hone their skills. The day begins on the funicular up to the local Hartkaiser Mountain and skiers could end up as far away as Kitzbühel later in the day if they are prepared to take the bus back to Ellmau. Those who purchase the Kitzbüheler Alpen AllStarCard regional lift pass (and have their own transport) can also ski in the nearby Schneewinkel area and other neighbouring resorts, offering over 1,080km (671 miles) of pistes in total.

Experts have more limited terrain, but the extent of the ski area provides plenty of opportunities for challenging days on the slopes – the Eiberg lift serves Ellmau’s most testing terrain and the Silleralm run on the neighbouring Hohe Salve Mountain is also highly recommended

The ski season in Ellmau generally runs from mid-December to early-April.

**Ellmau**

**Resort**

820

**Base**

650

**Top**

1956

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

The main off-slope facility is the KaiserBad leisure centre (tel: +43 5358 3811; [www.kaiserbad.net](http://www.kaiserbad.net/)), which features indoor and outdoor pools and a wonderful 92m-long (302ft) slide. There is also a sauna, health centre and a traditional bowling alley in the resort, offering plenty of opportunities to unwind in the warmth.

Outdoor alternatives include sleigh rides, a tubing centre in the heart of the village, a toboggan run down from Astberg, and 55km (35 miles) of cleared winter footpaths.

The Ellmau Ski Night that’s staged every Monday through the ski season is great fun, with a ski instructor’s display that’s followed by a torch lit hike. Ask for details at the Tourist office in Ellmau.

Trips to nearby Kitzbühel (by ski or bus) or the city of Salzburg are easily arranged and are worthwhile for visitors with a spare day or two. The former is a bustling medieval ski town, while the latter offers numerous cultural attractions and a UNESCO World Heritage-listed city centre.

**Family Fun**

Ellmau is a good option for families in many respects; primarily it is attractive, relaxed, unintimidating, boasts excellent nursery slopes and has three highly rated ski schools that accept children from the age of three. Additionally, the funicular railway up the mountain and the large leisure pool provide additional entertainment.

There is limited nursery care for the youngest children, but Krabbelstube Max & Moritz in the village school can provide cover from Monday to Friday.

**Retail Therapy**

Ellmau has a larger selection of shops than most of the other SkiWelt resorts, with around 35 outlets from which to choose. These include a good selection of ski shops and traditional local food producers, including several butchers, bakers and grocers. There's also a range of convenience stores, including a supermarket, chemist, hairdressers, post office and tobacconists. Visitors in search of gifts from the region have plenty of souvenir shops to explore, while Kitzbühel has further opportunities.

**Splashing Out**

Take a day off the slopes and immerse yourself in luxury at the Hotel der Bär's (tel: +43 5358 2395; [www.hotelbaer.com](http://www.hotelbaer.com/)) beauty and wellness centre. Trained beauticians can provide a tailor-made spa package to suit most needs, from one-off treatments to week-long programmes.

**Apres Ski**

Après-ski in Ellmau is not as lively as the neighbouring resorts of Söll, Westendorf and Kitzbühel, but it does have several popular local bars and some more sophisticated options too.

Usual suspects that can be relied on for a lively drink or two include Ötzi (tel: +43 5358 44554), which hosts karaoke evenings, and Café Pub Memory (tel: +43 5358 2243), which gets busy as soon as the lifts close.

In terms of more sophisticated choices, fine local wines, and perhaps the best espressos in town, are on offer at the Weinatelier Agnes wine bar (tel: +43 5358 43398; [www.weinatelier-agnes.at](http://www.weinatelier-agnes.at)).

Tenne nightclub (Dorf 50) and Heldenbar (Dorf 7) are the places for partying into the early hours, with the latter offering live music some evenings.

**Eating Out**

Ellmau has more than two dozen restaurants to choose from – mostly either hotel dining rooms open to the public or smaller privately run establishments.

Most serve traditional Austrian Tyrolean cuisine such as fondue and strudel. The slopeside Ellmauer Alm (tel: +43 5358 3755 509; [www.ellmauer-alm.at](http://www.ellmauer-alm.at/)) is a first-rate example of this homely style of cooking served in a cosy dining area.

If you’re looking for something other than local favourites, Cantina Bar Mexican (tel: +43 5358 3019; [www.mexican.at](http://www.mexican.at)) serves Mexican cuisine, whilst Pizzeria Sterndl (tel: +43 5358 43002) is one of the best Italian choices.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Salzburg Airport (SZG); Innsbruck Airport (INN); Munich Airport (MUC).

Distances to resort: 75km (47 miles); 87km (54 miles); 150km (93 miles).

Driving times: 1 hour; 1 hour 10 minutes; 1 hour 30 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Kufstein.

Distance to resort: 25km (16 miles).

Driving time: 30 minutes.

**Getting Around**

A generally reliable free bus service (to those with a hotel guest card) connects the base of the main ski area to the resort and some accommodation, as the resort is relatively spread out. It is also possible to reach the base of the main ski area by drag lift if snow conditions are good, provided you are confident enough to use the lift.

Travel to neighbouring resorts is possible on the Postbus. This service is not included in lift passes, so an additional fee is required.

**Hotels**

The quiet village is made up of traditional chalet-style buildings, as well as a number of hotels and apartments catering to all budgets. As well as numerous options within the central village area, a number of slopeside establishments are also available.

**Pension Maria Theresia**

A cheap and cheerful guest house with clean rooms and a good breakfast, Pension Maria Theresia is in a convenient position close to the village centre. Facilities here include a sauna, fitness room and solarium.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Kirchbichl 54

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ellmau

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 6352

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 5358 2691.

**Website**

http://maria-theresia.members.1012.at

**Hotel der Bär**

A high-calibre hotel located above the resort, Hotel der Bär has a reputation for excellent service standards and boasts a fantastic wellness centre.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Kirchbichl 9

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ellmau

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 6352

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 5358 2395.

**Website**

http://www.hotelbaer.com

**Kaiserblick**

This slopeside family-run 4-star hotel has a restaurant that serves a nightly six-course dinner complemented by wine from its own cellar, and a heated outdoor pool that’s open all year round.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Kirchbichl 5

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ellmau

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 6352

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 5358 2230.

**Website**

http://www.kaiserblick.at

**Sporthotel Ellmau**

An excellent hotel located a little way from the main slopes – although conveniently situated opposite one of the ski bus stops, Sporthotel Ellmau’s half board rate includes a welcome cocktail, buffet breakfast, evening meals, gym, spa and Wi-Fi, amongst other amenities.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Dorf 50

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ellmau

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 6352

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 5358 3755.

**Website**

http:// www.sporthotel-ellmau.com

**AktivHotel Hochfilzer**

The AktivHotel Hochfilzer is located in the centre of the resort, a short shuttle ride or moderate walk from the slopes. The on-site restaurant has a large terraced area and hosts live music some evenings.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Dorf 33,

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ellmau

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 6352

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 5358 2501.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-hochfilzer.com

**Pension Apartment Steiner**

A traditional family-run pension, the Pension Apartment Steiner is well located with a reputation for excellent hospitality and personal service.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Wochenbrunnweg 8/9,

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ellmau

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 6352

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 5358 2550.

**Website**

http://www.pensionsteiner-ellmau.at/