**Saalbach-Hinterglemm**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

34

**Intermediate Runs**

28

**Advanced Runs**

6

**Total Runs**

68

**Lifts**

56

**Chairs**

19

**Drags**

19

**Gondola Cable Cars**

18

**Parks**

2

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

9m (29ft).

**Overview**

Saalbach-Hinterglemm ski resort has one of Austria's biggest ski areas on its doorstep with some of the finest intermediate pistes anywhere in the Alps. These ski slopes are located on both sides of the Glemm Valley, which enables skiers to easily complete a circuit of what the resort calls its ‘Ski Circus’ in a single day.

Following investment totalling more than €300 million since the year 2000, Saalbach-Hinterglemm is now considered one of the best equipped ski resorts in terms of snowmaking and lift facilities. The resort operates more high capacity gondola and chairlifts than any other on the planet, together capable of lifting a staggering 100,000 guests per hour.

But all this modernisation hasn’t killed the resort’s soul, and visitors can still witness a slice of picturesque rural Austria when strolling around the village bases. At one end is Saalbach, a classic Austrian village with an onion-domed church, cobbled streets and a lively night-time scene; while at the other, about 4km (2.5 miles) away, is the smaller and more relaxed village of Hinterglemm.

Together, the settlements make an upmarket (but surprisingly youthful) spot that successfully mixes heritage and beauty with modern infrastructure and challenging terrain.

**Location**

Saalbach-Hinterglemm is located in the Glemm Valley, which is within the Zell am See region in the Austrian Kitzbühel Alps. The ski resort is within 90 minutes' drive of Salzburg.

**Website**

http://www.saalbach.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.saalbach.com/fileadmin/user\_storage/saalbach\_com/Downloads/Winterpanorama2012\_13.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

More than 90% of the ski area in Saalbach-Hinterglemm ski resort is rated intermediate or easy, so this is a place for letting the skis run through delightful tree-lined scenery on mainly south-facing slopes.

Taking on the Ski Circus circuit makes for a great day’s skiing, with lunch taken at one of the 44 mountain restaurants, including many delightful old huts.

Otherwise, it’s possible to concentrate on just one area – better skiers use Schattberg Ost, where the 4km (2.5 miles) Nordabfahrt is a fast, steep black with constantly changing conditions. The World Cup downhill on Zwölferkogel is enjoyable too, and it's here that good skiers can make their own fun on copious off-piste terrain.

There are also three terrain parks here, and the ski resort as a whole works well for snowboarders with the easy-to-ride lift network and a variety of runs for all levels.

Saalbach-Hinterglemm is also a resort where skiers and boarders can get back up the slopes quickly. In fact, there are more comfortable, high-capacity gondolas and high-speed chairlifts here than any other single resort on the planet.

Although Saalbach-Hinterglemm ski resort is not high, an ever-increasing amount of snowmaking (now covering 90% of the slopes) keeps everything going so long as it’s cold enough for the guns to operate. Saalbach's south-facing nursery areas can get slushy at the start and end of the season, but Hinterglemm's slopes are north facing, ensuring greater reliability in snow cover.

The ski season in Saalbach-Hinterglemm runs from early December until early April.

**Saalbach-Hinterglemm**

**Resort**

1000

**Base**

930

**Top**

2095

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Saalbach-Hinterglemm is not really a place to visit for those who either don't ski, or those who like to fill the time between ski days with lots of other activities.

There are, however, the usual ski town options of tobogganing, bowling and sleigh rides to keep all ages entertained; while many of the bigger hotels have pools and spas.

The resort does, however, host an annual calendar of events ranging from winter sports competitions to live music. Among the most famous of these is Rave on the Snow, a yearly electronic music festival every December featuring DJs and live bands.

**Family Fun**

Nine ski schools operate here, with lessons offered to children aged four and above. Crèches are limited to hotels, but can be excellent – such as the one at the Hotel Theresia (tel: +43 6541 74140; [www.hotel-theresia.com](http://www.hotel-theresia.com)). Many of the larger hotels have pools and playrooms.

**Retail Therapy**

This is not a place for all-out shopping. There are a handful of boutiques and ski shops in Saalbach along its pedestrianised high street, but prices tend to be keener in less-busy Hinterglemm. Those looking for local products will find purveyors of handmade chocolates, knitwear and wood carvings in both villages.

**Splashing Out**

Spend an evening on the mountain. One option involves being taken on a snowcat, which growls through the forest to the Spielberghaus (tel: +43 6541 7253; [www.spielberghaus.at](http://www.spielberghaus.at)). Another is a relaxed sleigh ride through the wilderness up to the Lindlingalm (tel: +43 6541 7190; [www.lindlingalm.at](http://www.lindlingalm.at)). Both restaurants serve up hearty, traditional Austrian specialities in cosy settings. Afterwards, sated snowcat customers toboggan down the slopes, while those who arrived on sleighs will return back to the resort by the same means.

**Apres Ski**

Classic Austrian après-ski hedonism is on offer in Saalbach-Hinterglemm with beer, schnapps and dancing in ski boots common themes within the variety of bars and nightclubs.

As the lifts shut, The Goasstall (tel: +43 6541 8705; [www.goasstall.com](http://www.goasstall.com)) above Hinterglemm is one of the most popular on-slope spots with live music and plenty of special offers on drinks. Alternatives include the bustling Hinterhagalm (tel: +43 6541 7212; [www.hinterhag.at](http://www.hinterhag.at)) or Bauer's Schialm (tel: +43 6541 621 3405; [www.bauers-schialm.at](http://www.bauers-schialm.at)) at the bottom of the slopes.

At night, there are plenty of options for those seeking to stay out until late. In Saalbach village, there's the Kuhstall bar (Dorfstrasse 212) with its live music, while over in Hinterglemm, there's the Harley Davidson-themed Road King (tel: +43 6541 7408) and the lively Tanzhimmel in Hotel Knappenhof (tel: +43 6541 6497; [www.apresworld.at](http://www.apresworld.at)).

**Eating Out**

There are about 50 restaurants in Saalbach-Hinterglemm, many with excellent Austrian specialities involving dumplings, noodles and game.

One of the most atmospheric is Pfefferalm (tel: +43 6645 040 647), which serves up sublime traditional cuisine on piste 32A. The Maisalm (tel: +43 6541 7409; [www.maisalm.com](http://www.maisalm.com)) on blue run number 52 is another popular choice with fresh oven cooked pizza and amazing strudel.

The culinary star is the Hotel Theresia with its modern take on cuisine in an eclectic setting – although many other restaurants in Saalbach-Hinterglemm are also of high quality. Peter's Restaurant (tel: +43 6541 6236; [www.hotel-peter.at](http://www.hotel-peter.at)) on Saalbach's main street, for example, is famed for its steak cooked on hot stones.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Salzburg Airport (SZG).

Distance to resort: 90km (56 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Zell am See.

Distance to resort: 18km (11 miles).

Driving time: 20 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Buses, which operate between the two villages, are free with a lift pass.

**Hotels**

There are a number of upmarket hotels in Saalbach-Hinterglemm with great facilities and peaceful surroundings, the majority of which are located in Saalbach itself. Hinterglemm has a broader collection of hotels and apartments, which tend to be more moderately priced.

**Alpenhotel**

Typically stylish for this part of the world, this Saalbach hotel is almost a village in itself with its piano and music bars, disco and several restaurants serving everything from Italian to Mexican food.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Unterdorf 212

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saalbach-Hinterglemm

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5753

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6541 66660.

**Website**

http://www.alpenhotel.at

**Hotel Haider**

Inviting and friendly, Hotel Haider is perfectly placed across from the lifts in Saalbach and offers accommodation in flats for two to six people.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Oberdorf 211

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saalbach

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5753

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6541 6228.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-haider.at

**Alpine Palace Hotel**

Located by the Reiterkogel cable car in Hinterglemm, the 5-star Alpine Palace Hotel offers a wealth of dining options and a wellness area with funky interiors.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Reiterkogelweg 169

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Hinterglemm

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5753

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6541 6346.

**Website**

http://www.wolf-hotels.at

**Theresia Gartenhotel**

A popular option in Hinterglemm with friendly service and spacious rooms, the Theresia Gartenhotel boasts a spa and on-site restaurant that serves dishes using organically sourced ingredients.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Glemmtaler Landesstrasse 208

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Hinterglemm

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5753

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6541 74140.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-theresia.com

**Ederbauer**

A traditional property containing affordable four-person apartments, facilities at the Ederbauer include a ski room.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Bergerkreuzweg 51

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saalbach

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5753

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 664 7340 4892.

**Website**

http://www.ederalm.at/ederbauer/index.htm

**Pinzgauerhof**

This affordable British-run, 3-star hotel has a good reputation for service and is conveniently located close to the slopes.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Reiterkogelweg 223

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Saalbach-Hinterglemm

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A 5753

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 6541 6346.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-pinzgauerhof.com