**Kitzbühel**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

22

**Intermediate Runs**

25

**Advanced Runs**

13

**Total Runs**

60

**Lifts**

53

**Chairs**

26

**Drags**

17

**Gondola Cable Cars**

10

**Parks**

2

**Pipes**

4

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

1.8m (6ft).

**Overview**

One of skiing's most famous names, Kitzbühel is an attractive resort with a long-standing reputation as one of Austria’s biggest and best ski areas. Famous mountains such as Hahnenkamm and the Kitzbüheler Horn rise up around the traditional Tyrolean-styled buildings that make up most of the small town.

Although synonymous with skiing (the first downhillers having arrived here in the early 1880s), Kitzbühel's history dates back for millennia before the arrival of snow sports. Today, as one of the lowest major ski areas in the Alps, the resort is often cited as one of the first that may have to cope in an era after winter sports if global warming continues to take hold. However, the resort has produced statistics showing it’s getting as much snow as it ever did, although perhaps a little more concentrated in the middle of the season.

Perhaps with this reputation partly in mind, the resort has been spending heavily on new lifts that make accessing the highest slopes easier than ever, as well as on snowmaking and non-ski facilities such as a sports centre and a casino.

**Location**

Kitzbühel is located in the Tyrolean province of northwestern Austria, within the Kitzbüheler Alps. The resort shares some of its slopes with the smaller town of Kirchberg and neighbours the large SkiWelt ski area.

**Website**

http://www.kitzbuehel.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.skimap.kitzalps.com

**Hit The Slopes**

The season in Kitzbühel generally runs from mid-December until mid-April, although its low altitude can sometimes make it susceptible to a lack of snowfall during the season.

Kitzbühel's extensive ski area can offer much to satisfy all needs, from gentle nursery slopes to some of the most difficult off-piste powder, which requires the help of guides. Most experienced skiers will want to visit the famous Streif run on the Hahnenkamm, scene of famous downhill races each January since the 1930s that attract huge crowds as one of Austria's biggest sporting events – comparable to English football’s FA Cup Final.

Kitzbühel was the first resort to offer a ‘ski safari' more than 50 years ago, with the concept of skiing in a circuit from one mountain to the next, rather than returning over the same slopes. A spectacular gondola installed a few years ago made a final key link in the route. It also set world records for the highest point above the valley floor (400m/1,312ft) and the length of cable between lift towers – these records have, however, since been broken by a new lift at Whistler in Canada.

Kitzbühel is also part of several larger ‘ski regions' that are ideal for those looking for more than its own extensive slopes. The local ski area is linked more or less (there's a short bus transfer) to the neighbouring SkiWelt region, which brings with it a combined skiable area of more than 400km (250 miles) – one of the world's largest. Bigger still is the Kitzbüheler Alpen AllStarCard ticket, which takes in this area plus neighbouring (but not lift-linked) ski areas to offer a total of more than 1,080km (675 miles) of runs.

**Kitzbühel**

**Resort**

800

**Base**

800

**Top**

2000

**Kitzbüheler Alpen**

**Resort**

XXX

**Base**

640

**Top**

3029

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Although a ski centre for more than a century, Kitzbühel offers much more than skiing and boarding, and is a popular year-round destination for non-skiers.

The Aquarena (Klostergasse 3; tel: (05356) 6951 1734) is a major attraction with its spa and indoor pool featuring a cascade, adventure slides, sauna, hamman and a range of treatments and massage options. This is one of several spa and beauty centres in the resort.

Another option is the Mercedes-Benz Sportpark (Sportfeld 1; tel: (05356) 20222; [www.sportpark.kitz.net](http://www.sportpark.kitz.net)), which has an indoor ice rink, curling and climbing wall. Other possibilities include a cinema, casino, bowling alley and three museums.

Back outdoors, there's a long list of alternatives to downhill snow sports, including snowshoeing, tobogganing, Nordic walking, sleigh rides and snowmobiling. Alternatively, take to the air with a memorable hot air balloon or paragliding trip.

**Family Fun**

Kitzbühel is a good choice for families with its expansive ski nursery areas, easy runs, huge choice of places to eat and off-slope activities that all ages can enjoy, including the Aquarena with its various water slides.

Surprisingly for a resort of its size, there’s no organised day care nursery for babies and toddlers, although a list of babysitters is available from the tourist office.

Children aged three and up can join special ski kindergartens run by the handful of ski schools in the resort. The main ski school at Idalp takes children aged five and above.

**Retail Therapy**

Kitzbühel is a good choice for shoppers with more than 40 retailers of most varieties; the majority of these are concentrated in the resort centre. Along with a wide selection of sports and fashion boutiques such as Beluna (Vorderstadt 20; tel: (05356) 71345), there are a number of outlets for regional crafts. For gastronomes, a wide variety of wines are available at Vinothek Klosterhof (Malinggasse 6; tel: (05356) 63907).

**Splashing Out**

For reinvigoration after a day or two on the slopes, spend a day in the wellness spa at the Hotel Tiefenbrunner (tel: (05356) 66680; [www.hotel-tiefenbrunner.at](http://www.hotel-tiefenbrunner.at)), which is equipped with all the latest facilities. Swim in the pool, which uses Kitzbühel's celebrated Grander water, or unwind in the Finnish and bio saunas or the steam room whilst looking up at the imposing peak of the Kitzbüheler Horn.

**Apres Ski**

As well as plenty of activities to do off the slopes, Kitzbühel has a far wider range of après-ski options than most ski resorts. For party people, the choice includes more than 40 bars and four nightclubs. There is also a casino that stays open until late.

Kitzbühel is not quite a 24-hour resort, but it comes close. Among the bar choices are Jimmy’s (Hinterstadt 22; tel: (05356) 64409), nearby Beluna Bar (Hinterstadt 17; tel: (0664) 532 5688) and stylish Bergsinn (Vorderstadt 21; tel: (0 53560 66818; [www.bergsinn.at](http://www.bergsinn.at)). The lively Fünferl (Franz-Reisch Strasse 1; tel: (05356) 713 005; [www.club-takefive.com](http://www.club-takefive.com)) and close neighbour The Londoner pub (Franz-Reisch Strasse 4; tel: (05356) 71427; [www.thelondoner.at](http://www.thelondoner.at)), which has live music, are also popular venues and can be found on Franz-Reisch Strasse.

**Eating Out**

There are more than 80 restaurants in Kitzbühel, many of which are located in the pedestrianised resort centre. Gourmet standard cuisine is a particular strength with eight top restaurants sharing 12 Gault Millau Guide hats between them.

There's a far more cosmopolitan mix of dining styles available than in most ski resorts. For example, Shang Hai (Kirchplatz 5; tel: (05356) 62178) serves Chinese cuisine; Il Gusto (Obere Gänsbachgasse 5; tel: (05356) 72790) makes fantastic thin-based pizza; while La Fonda (Hinterstadt 13; tel: (05356) 64464) dishes up Mexican food.

There are plenty of places to try Tyrolean and other Austrian specialities. Among the best is Rasmushof (Hermann Reisch Weg 15; tel: (05356) 652 520; [www.rasmushof.at](http://www.rasmushof.at)), an old-style *stube* (traditional Tyrolean bar) with an open fire. Alternatively, Hagstein (Hagsteinweg 95; tel: (05356) 65216; [www.gasthof-hagstein.at](http://www.gasthof-hagstein.at)) uses home-grown ingredients and will cook duck dishes to order.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

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

Distance to resort: 80km (50 miles); 90km (56 miles); 160km (100 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour; 1 hour 30 minutes; 2 hours.

Nearest railway station: Kitzbühel.

Distance to the resort: Within the town.

**Getting Around**

A free ski bus for lift pass holders operates around the resort and to neighbouring ski areas, including: Aschau, Aurach, Jochberg, Pass Thurn and Mittersill. The service is less frequent in low season.

**Hotels**

Accommodation in Kitzbühel is primarily in the form of hotels, with an enormous choice of upscale accommodation amidst the charming cobbled streets and lovely medieval buildings. There is also a great range of inexpensive accommodation for the budget conscious visitor, as well as some chalets and apartments for those looking for self-catering options.

**Goldener Greif Hotel**

This 4-star hotel in the centre of Kitzbühel has its own sauna, Turkish bath and solarium. After a meal in the on-site restaurant, try a tipple in the atmospheric wine cellar.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Schulgasse 3

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Kitzbühel 6370

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(05356) 64311.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-goldener-greif.at

**Harisch Hotel Weisses Rössl**

This centrally located, luxurious 5-star hotel is built in a traditional chalet design and features modern interiors. Among the hotel's facilities are an opulent spa and a fine dining restaurant, which serves seven-course meals as an option.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Bichlstrasse 5

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Kitzbühel 6370

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(05356) 71900.

**Website**

http://www.roesslkitz.at

**Hinterbräu Hotel**

A small resort hotel with generous-sized rooms, Hinterbräu Hotel is close to the major commercial and entertainment areas in the centre of town.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Hinterstadt 22

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Kitzbühel 6370

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(05356) 62166.

**Website**

http://www.hinterbraeu.at