**Zell am See**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

Summer skiing

Snow reliability

Environmental awareness

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

15

**Intermediate Runs**

27

**Advanced Runs**

13

**Total Runs**

55

**Lifts**

51

**Chairs**

17

**Drags**

21

**Gondola Cable Cars**

13

**Parks**

4

**Pipes**

2

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5m (16.4ft).

**Overview**

Beautifully situated on the edge of Lake Zell and boasting the facilities of a town and the intimacy of a village, Zell am See-Kaprun ski resort – to give its full name – is unsurprisingly a year-round magnet for tourists, who are also attracted by the resort's easy access by road and rail.

Skiing caught on early here and has gathered pace ever since. In fact, downhill descents were recorded as far back as 1893, while the resort's Kitzsteinhorn glacier was the first Austrian glacier to be skied. Zell am See-Kaprun incorporates the nearby and smaller Kaprun village to create a large skiing region with almost 140km (87 miles) of terrain to suit all abilities.

The area is being extended further, with a €70 million investment in three new six-person chairlifts and a gondola connecting Zell am See’s skiing to nearby Schmitten ahead of the 2013/14 season.

**Location**

Zell am See-Kaprun lies in the Central Alps in Austria, south of Salzburg and east of Kitzbühel. The Dientener Berge Mountains are impressive as they rise skywards from across the lake, but larger mountains, including the 3,797m-high (12,457ft) Grossglockner, can be found to the south and east in the Hohe Tauern range.

**Website**

http://www.zellamsee-kaprun.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.zellamsee-kaprun.com/skimap/index.html#/overview/

**Hit The Slopes**

The main ski season in Zell am See-Kaprun runs from late November until mid-April, but the 3,203m (10,509ft) Kitzsteinhorn glacier is skiable year round, except in high summer.

Skiing in Zell am See-Kaprun is good for all abilities but is at its best for intermediates – in particular, its wide-ranging glacier runs are among the resort’s best for mid-level skiers. Many of the runs here are easy to medium and can be found in a relatively smooth area circled by imposing peaks.

The best twisting, expert runs are directly above Zell am See-Kaprun in the Schmittenhöhe sector, where the cable car ascends to 1,965m (6,647ft). The experienced can also find plenty of opportunities on the glacier, but off-piste skiing is discouraged in most places here in the interests of environmental protection.

Beginners here can learn in safety on the slopes of the Maiskogel Mountain, which is a particularly good place for families.

Snowboarders will enjoy the terrain park at the Gipfelbahn, while the Kitzsteinhorn park on the glacier has the biggest superpipe in Austria and a range of other features to explore.

There are also 40km (25 miles) of cross-country trails for Nordic skiers to ski, which include the enjoyable loop around picturesque Lake Plettsaukopf at Schmitten.

**Zell am See**

**Resort**

758

**Base**

758

**Top**

3029

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Other options on the mountains include tobogganing (on Kitzsteinhorn and Schmittenhöhe) and hiking or Nordic walking. It is sometimes possible to skate across the lake to Thumersbach.

The town recently added the excellent Freizeitzentrum (Steinergasse 3-5; tel: (06542) 7850; [www.freizeitzentrum.at](http://www.freizeitzentrum.at)) swimming pool complex; and there’s now another option, the Tauern Spa Zell am See-Kaprun (Tauern Spa Platz 1; tel: (06547) 20400; [www.tauernspakaprun.com/en](http://www.tauernspakaprun.com/en)) at neighbouring Kaprun. Together, these provide plenty of fun for all ages with a range of pools and spa facilities.

Historic buildings in Zell am See-Kaprun include the parish church, which has an elegant interior despite its sturdy exterior. Close by, the medieval Vogtturm houses local crafts that include examples of the scary, horned masks used in the annual Krampus festival on 5 December.

The world-class attractions of Salzburg are also within reach of a day trip by car or train.

**Family Fun**

Several ski schools vie to attract visitors to Zell am See-Kaprun. Among them, Sport-Alpin (tel: (06542) 550 733; [www.sport-alpin.at](http://www.sport-alpin.at)) at the Zeller Bergbahn base station gets good reports. It runs the Mini Club kindergarten for children aged two and up and the Kiddy Club for those aged three to four years.

The family-friendly leisure centre, Freizeitzentrum (Steinergasse 3-5; tel: (06542) 7850; [www.freizeitzentrum.at](http://www.freizeitzentrum.at)), has a swimming pool with water slides, saunas, bowling and an ice stadium.

**Retail Therapy**

With a resident population of 10,000, there is no shortage of shops in Zell am See. There are plenty of outlets for sports and crafts, as well as flashy boutiques and stores selling more pragmatic items. Hierner (Stadtplatz 6) is good for crafts and decorative glass items that are perfect as more unique gifts than those offered in the various souvenir shops.

**Splashing Out**

While off-piste skiing is restricted, it’s possible to hire a guide and ski off the back end of the glacier down to the Niedernsill Valley, an exhilarating ride for even the most experienced off-piste powder hounds. Contact Offpiste Adventures (tel: (0676) 444 5185; [www.offpiste.at](http://www.offpiste.at)) or Mont Alpin (tel: (06547) 8681: [www.mont-alpin.at](http://www.mont-alpin.at)) to make the arrangements.

**Apres Ski**

As with many other Austrian ski resorts, Zell am See-Kaprun offers lively après-ski entertainment. There are bars dotted on the mountains surrounding the town and many more in the resort itself, from character-filled Alpine huts to rowdy, larger venues.

Crazy Daisy (Salzmannstrasse 8; tel: (06542) 725 260; [villa-crazydaisy.at](http://villa-crazydaisy.at)) is one of the mainstays of the vigorous après-ski scene in Zell am See-Kaprun and attracts young skiers and boarders. A more mature clientele frequents Greens XL (Seegasse 1; tel: (06542) 771; [www.greens.at](http://www.greens.at)), which serves cocktails. Late at night, try K1 nightclub (Kirchengasse 1; tel: (0664) 511 6881) for full-on let-your-hair-down fun.

**Eating Out**

There are a range of restaurants in Zell am See-Kaprun, from those serving local fare to eateries offering a smattering of cuisines from around the world.

Among the more affordable options, Kupferkessel (Brucker Bundesstrasse 18; tel: (06542) 72768; [www.kupferkessel.at](http://www.kupferkessel.at)) – which housed in a former petrol station – is good for pizzas and more. For good-quality Austrian food at low prices, head to Hotel Steinerwirt (Dreifaltigkeitsgasse 2; tel: (06542) 72502; [www.steinerwirt.com](http://www.steinerwirt.com)).

Next door to Hotel Steinerwirt is the wood-panelled restaurant in the Hotel Zum Hirschen (Dreifaltigkeitsstrasse 1; tel: (06542) 7740; [www.hotel-zum-hirschen.at](http://www.hotel-zum-hirschen.at)). This eatery is a good mid-price choice and it serves fish from the lake.

For top quality dining in refined surroundings, there's Salzburger Stuben in Salzburgerhof Hotel (Auerspergstrasse 11 (tel: (06542) 765; [www.salzburgerhof.at](http://www.salzburgerhof.at)).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Salzburg Airport (SZG).

Distance to resort: 100km (62 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 20 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Zell am See.

Distance to resort: Within the resort.

**Getting Around**

A free ski bus links Zell am See and Kaprun to all the main lift hubs. There's a small pedestrian-only area in the centre of Zell am See; otherwise the main resort town is open to cars.

**Hotels**

Many of the hotels in Zell am See-Kaprun are a fair way from the lifts in the attractive medieval centre, where apartments and chalets can also be found. The highest rated hotel here is four stars.

**Hotel Tirolerhof**

This attractive 4-star hotel has bright, clean and well-equipped rooms, with friendly staff and good meals offered on half-board deals. The picture-book hotel also boasts a swimming pool and sauna complex.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Auerspergstrasse 5

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Zell am See-Kaprun

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06542) 7720.

**Website**

http://www.tirolerhof.co.at

**Hotel Krone**

Located in the southern suburb of Schüttdorf – but still convenient for the resort centre and ski lifts – Hotel Krone offers relatively simple rooms or apartments, a garden and sauna.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Kitzsteinhornstrasse 16

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Zell am See-Kaprun

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06542) 574 210.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-krone.at

**Pension Hubertus**

This good-value pension is housed in a chalet near the Zeller Bergbahn and provides amenable staff, fine breakfasts and rooms in varying styles.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Gartenstrasse 4

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Zell am See-Kaprun

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06542) 72427.

**Website**

http://www.hubertus-pension.at