**Obertauern**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

61

**Intermediate Runs**

35

**Advanced Runs**

4

**Total Runs**

100

**Lifts**

26

**Chairs**

19

**Drags**

6

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

7m (23 ft).

**Overview**

Many people of a certain age will have seen Obertauern’s ski slopes before, even if they don’t know it, as the ski scenes in The Beatles’ movie *Help!* were filmed here almost 50 years ago when the ski area was only a few decades old.

Obertauern also stands out in other respects, in that its base is far higher than most of Austria’s traditional village centres and most of the building here is quite modern and purpose-built for skiers – whilst most of the neighbouring ski destinations in Austria are essentially old farming villages that have evolved into ski resorts over the past century.

Obertauern’s success comes down to a number of distinct factors. Firstly, its high altitude slopes make it a much more guaranteed bet for snow cover, allowing the resort to stay open from late November until the start of May (the season in many Austrian resorts runs from mid-December to early April). A second attraction is the resort’s abundance of largely slopeside accommodation (again, unusual for Austrian ski areas). Finally, the quality is high throughout, with numerous good hotels and a comfortable and efficient chairlift-based network.

**Location**

Obertauern ski resort is located on the Tauern Pass through the Alps, within the northwestern Austrian province of Salzburgerland. The resort is around 90km (56 miles) from Salzburg.

**Website**

http://www.obertauern.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.obertauern.com/en/winter/ski-snowboard/trail-map.html

**Hit The Slopes**

Thanks to its high altitude and extensive snowmaking facilities covering 80% of the ski slopes, the ski season here is one of the longest in Austria, typically lasting from late November to the first weekend in May. This wealth of snow has lead to Obertauern being hailed as ‘Austria's snow bowl’.

Obertauern is best known as a destination for beginner and intermediate skiers, although there are also plenty of challenges for the more accomplished.

Novices will find wonderful, wide and convenient nursery slopes close to their accommodation and, once they have grown in confidence, well laid-out routes they can follow for very easy runs.

Numerous choices exist for intermediate skiers, who have more than 100km (62 miles) of easy to intermediate, beautifully groomed cruising runs to enjoy on each side of the valley. One particularly popular route is the ‘Super Seven’ tour which comprises seven of the highest reachable points in the region by lift and on skis.

One feature Obertauern does lack, however, is the kilometre or more vertical that’s present at most resorts of its status – the maximum here being just over half of that at 570m (1,870ft). There is also limited expert-level skiing, with only four black runs, including the challenging Gamsleiten 2 piste.

Freeriding is very popular here, with 16km (10 miles) of ungroomed routes, while freestyle skiers and boarders will enjoy the Longplaypark, which is accessed via the Kehrkopf quad chairlift. The fully equipped park typically has six kickers and a big choice of rails and lines suitable for all ability levels. Obertauern also provides 31km (19 miles) of tracks for cross-country skiers, as well as night-time skiing.

**Obertauern**

**Resort**

1740

**Base**

570

**Top**

2313

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There’s a lot to do in Obertauern besides ski and board. Alternative on-snow activities include horse-drawn sleigh rides, ski-biking (descending the slopes on a bike-like device fitted with skis), or tobogganing on one of the resort's long, winding runs.

More adventurous options include learning the art of ski-kiting at the snow-kite school (tel: (0660) 161 0001; [www.hangon-kiteboarding.com](http://www.hangon-kiteboarding.com/)), or trying biathlon (tel: (06456) 20085; [www.gnadenalm.com/langlauf-obertauern/biathlon](http://www.gnadenalm.com/langlauf-obertauern/biathlon)), which combines cross-country skiing with target shooting.

The village’s sports centre (tel: (06456) 7656; Ringstrasse 37) has a range of facilities, including two tennis courts, a hall for football and basketball, badminton courts and a weight and fitness centre. Other pursuits, such as bowling, billiards, table tennis and darts, are also available.

**Family Fun**

The resort is popular with families as there is plenty of child-friendly accommodation in Obertauern, much of which is conveniently located slopeside.

There are lots of short, easy trails on which to learn and a choice of five different ski schools for instruction. Young ones can play at the Bibo Bart Skipark (tel (06456) 7252; [www.bibobaer.at](http://www.bibobaer.at/)), while the CSA ski school (tel: (06456) 7462; [www.skischule.co.at](http://www.skischule.co.at/)) also operates small classes for children. Non-skiing kids aged two and older can be cared for at the nursery in Hotel Alpina (tel: (06456) 7462).

For older children, there are plenty of off-slope activities, particularly at the sports hall, in addition to tobogganing.

**Retail Therapy**

Obertauern’s 40 or so shops consist of the standard ski resort mix of approximately half ski shops, a quarter food shops and a further quarter of souvenir outlets and ‘essentials’ stores, including a post office, hairdressers and chemist. For a wider choice, head to one of the nearby towns of Radstadt or Schladming.

**Splashing Out**

For those who are in Obertauern at the end of the season, it’s worth signing up for the Gamsleiten Criterion, ‘Austria’s largest treasure hunt’, in late April. Around 30 treasure chests are buried in the snow, each containing a prize. The 1,000 competitors ride up on the lift and descend on skis in search of ‘treasure’.

**Apres Ski**

Après-ski is big at Obertauern with 30 or so bars, most of which line the long base of the slopes on each side of the valley. Expect a lively early-evening atmosphere, while there’s also five late-night dance venues open until the small hours.

Among the options is the bustling Latsch’n Alm (tel: (06456) 7288), a wood-clad hut open until 0200, which has regular DJ slots.

**Eating Out**

There are numerous places to eat out in Obertauern, ranging from snacks in cafeterias and ski huts offering small, simple dishes to hotels and restaurants dishing up traditional Austrian cuisine. There are also several Italian options, including the popular Pizzeria da Giorgio (tel: (06456) 7654; [www.da-giorgio.at](http://www.da-giorgio.at/)), while Asian cuisine can be found at Fritz & Friedrich (tel: (06456) 7354).

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Salzburg Airport (SZG).

Distance to resort: 90km (56 miles).

Driving time: 90 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Ski buses and cars are generally not needed within Obertauern as the ski pistes and all other facilities and attractions in the village can be reached in just a few minutes. Postbus does, however, run bus services from Obertauern to the neighbouring towns of Radstadt, Tweng and Mauterndorf. There are also several taxi companies located in the resort.

**Hotels**

There are about 70 different hotels in Obertauern, as well as pensions, guesthouses, holiday apartments and youth hostels. More than half of the accommodation choices are 3- and 4-star hotels, with 45 establishments rated 4-star alone. Most of these hotels have excellent facilities, including wellness centres and indoor pools.

**Hotel Rigele Royal**

One of the biggest and best of Obertauern’s 4-star hotels, this spacious, family-run hotel houses a great spa, restaurant and cocktail bar.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Rosenweg 1

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Obertauern

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06456) 73540.

**Website**

http://www.rigele-royal.com

**Hotel Das Seekarhaus**

Hotel Das Seekarhaus provides private childcare, a great spa and an award-winning restaurant in a beautiful location on the slopes.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Seekarstrasse 27

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Obertauern

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06456) 20010.

**Website**

http://www.seekarhaus.at

**Haus Kärntnerland Garni**

This friendly bed and breakfast guesthouse is located slopeside. Facilities include a small sauna and steam room area.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Ringstrasse 3

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Obertauern

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06456) 7271.

**Website**

http://www.haus-kaerntnerland.at

**Pension Berghof**

A traditional bed and breakfast pension, guests can wake up slopeside due to Pension Berghof’s convenient mountain location. The guesthouse offers a sauna and car parking.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Tauernstrasse 4

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Obertauern

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06456) 7281.

**Website**

http://www.berghof-obertauern.at

**DAV-Haus Obertauern**

This 1-star guesthouse is run by the German Alpine Club and is located only 50m (54 years) from the Gamsleiten lift. Accommodation is available on a half board or bed and breakfast basis.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Gamsleitenstrasse 4

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Obertauern

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06456) 7307.

**Website**

http://www.dav-haus.de