Austria / Carinthia / Region Villach – Lake Faak – Lake Ossiach:

**Because time with the family is so precious!**

**The sure-fire recipe for a perfect family holiday is incredibly simple. All you need is sunshine; warm swimming lakes with nice flat banks and super-fast slides; a large number of day trip destinations to suit absolutely every taste; a huge selection of family-friendly accommodation; and unforgettable childhood memories. Admittedly, chocolate ice cream should be on the list too - ideally, the home-made variety! That’s how wonderful a holiday together can be.**

The three-country region of Carinthia - Italy - Slovenia offers families adventure and relaxation in equal measure. Upon arrival, they find there are no more long distances to cover: everything can be reached on foot, by bike, with just a short car trip or with the region’s many transport options. A total of nine crystal-clear swimming lakes, nestled in a fantastically beautiful natural setting, are waiting to be discovered in the Region Villach – Lake Faak – Lake Ossiach. And they all offer safe access to the water with plenty of space for families to enjoy themselves.

**Adventures in nature.** It is the combination of lakes and mountains that offers a platform for boundless holiday adventures. Families can discover the Region Villach – Lake Faak– Lake Ossiach up on the mountain on wide hiking paths, for example in the Dobratsch Nature Park or on the Gerlitzen Alpe; or down in the valley on exciting adventure discovery paths. A walk along the three family adventure paths is almost a must, as they really are quite unique. On both the Fox Trail and the Dragon Forest Trail, a family walk through forests and across meadows becomes an adventure, with an exciting storyline and artfully designed adventure points along the way. A booklet, which can be picked up at the tourist information office, encourages children to help solve puzzles linked to the trails. The Lords & Ladies Castle Trail, high above the Lake Ossiach, is made for little princes and princesses. As families wander past an aqueduct, the “Maiden’s Leap” and through the forest, there is lots to interest young and old about the flora, fauna, myths and stories on this circular walk that starts and ends at a castle.

**Day trip destinations for every weather.** Families staying in Villach or on the Lake Faak or Lake Ossiach will never have to ask themselves, “What shall we do today?” - rather, “What shall we do *first* today?”. From summer sledging to biking, a boat trip on the lake to a hike up to some waterfalls, a car museum to a mushroom museum: it’s almost impossible to list all the leisure activities on offer in the region. But it is possible to visit them all, from spring through to autumn. The Erlebnis CARD is provided mostly

free of charge at many places to stay for the duration of the holiday and offers a colourful range of activities such as fishing courses or tours of the town for kids, walking with alpacas or pony riding. Want to see and do even more? The Kärnten Card, available for a fee, is valid for multiples of a week and gives free entry to nearly every day trip destination in the region.

All in the spirit of: “because I want to, not because I have to”. How about starting with a morning visit to the Monkey Mountain, where Japanese macaques are free to roam a large area of the forest, or the birds of prey show at the Eagle Arena, both located at Castle Landskron? Then cool off with a swim in nearby Lake Ossiach; and later, a voyage of discovery in the Terra Mystica & Terra Montana tourist mines? Adventurous kids can discover with their parents the Family Forest on the Lake Ossiach and enjoy a treetop trail and the new “Treenets adventure” attraction; practice their archery at Taborhöhe; earn their stripes at one of the high ropes courses on the Gerlitzen Alpe, at Tabor or at Ossiach; and experience the thrill of conquering a rock face, either indoors at the Climbing Centre or the new bouldering area in Villach, or outdoors at Kanzianiberg or Peterlewand in Bodensdorf. And if, for once, the weather doesn’t play ball? Then it’s off to the KärntenTherme baths complex, with dynamic water slides, a toddlers’ area and an exclusive sauna world for Mum and Dad. It’s raining, but the kids want to climb and slide and let off steam? There’s indoor fun to be had in the ATRIO centre: at Planet Lollipop, toddlers to ten-year-olds can work off some energy in the play area whilst Mum and Dad enjoy a leisurely coffee.

**Dynamically does it.** The “lake.bike” cycling project, a major sporting phenomenon in the region, is also a lot of holiday fun for kids, whether they’re on a balance bike, BMX or an MTB. Future biking stars can go through their paces on the wave track in the covered pump track at the Drobollach beach complex, and improve their balance and coordination whilst having fun. They can also acquire their first experiences of downhill biking on the easy Baumgartnertrail or in the Kids Bike Park on the Gerlitzen Alpe. And at the “areaone” Mountain Bike Skill Center at Kumitzberg, the focus is on developing the right techniques.

Afterwards? Off to one of the many wine taverns or terraces, where the children will make new friends playing in the warm summer breeze, and Mum and Dad can relax while they discover the “slow food” offerings of the region.

**Information & booking:**

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