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

**Villach and its lakes make camping a true pleasure!**

**The recipe for holiday happiness is simple. All you need is a pinch of individuality, a liberal helping of freedom, plenty of comfort and convenience - and some fabulous pitches next to the most beautiful lakes in the south of Austria: combine them well and there you have it - an exquisite camping holiday in the Region Villach – Lake Faak – Lake Ossiach!**

**My perfect holiday.** Whether you’re a family, a couple or travelling on your own: camping in the Region Villach – Lake Faak – Lake Ossiach is as popular as ever. In the heart of Carinthia, where the Mediterranean climate is as much in evidence as the love for life here, visitors will find everything they need to make their individual, outdoor holiday an unforgettable experience. An impressive total of 28 camping sites are available to provide every visitor with the perfect setting for their own preferred way to chill out. They range from lakeside campsites with their own sandy beach to camping on the farm. What they all have in common: thoroughly modern infrastructure and clean, convenient washing facilities, restaurants and supermarkets at the site itself or very close by, sports facilities, pools and an entertaining leisure programme.

**Summer, sun, swim.** With more than 200 bathing lakes, Carinthia today still offers that wonderful, care-free holiday feeling that many parents will remember from their own childhood. Most campsites in and around Villach have their own beach - and that means maximum freedom to enjoy the holiday to the full for every member of the family, including the little ones. Two of the region’s campsites are on the banks of the Lake

Afritz, six around the Lake Faak, 16 on or very close to the Ossiacher See, two on the outskirts of Villach and two in the Gailtal valley. The water in the lakes is so clean you could drink it; and it warms up in summer to the bathtub temperature of 27 degrees in some lakes. Ideal for swimming, but also for sailing, canoeing or water-skiing - or simply casting a fishing line in a quiet bay.

**The Big Two,** The Lake Ossiach is not just known for its swimming delights. It became known internationally as the location for the “Carinthian Summer” festival, and since 1969 has taken its place alongside Salzburg and Bregenz in the trio of major international summer festivals in Austria. And the lake, too, is a classic. With the Gerlitzen Alp on its northern bank and the Ossiacher Tauern on the southern bank, the lake nestles in the spacious valley bottom like a blue ribbon. A holiday here can be both effortlessly active and relaxing - and always accompanied by breathtaking views.

The southernmost bathing lake in the region is the Lake Faak, with its deep turquoise waters requiring no colour adjustments to provide postcard-like images that conjure up thoughts of the tropics. The lake and the nature reserve on its western banks are particularly fun to explore in a canoe or on a SUP board. For those who would rather be on terra firma, the lake and some extraordinarily beautiful views can be enjoyed on a circular walk. And if they are also camping at one of the many sites around the lake, the circular walk more or less starts in front of the tent flap.

The lakeside promenade is of course also ideal for a run, for Nordic walking or for a leisurely stroll.

**Mountains and cityscapes.** Anyone who would like to gain a little altitude does not have to move far from the nine lakes in the region. The surrounding mountains – the Gerlitzen Alpe, Verditz, Dreiländereck, Mittagskogel and the Dobratsch Nature Park – are picture book perfect for extended hikes offering breathtaking views across Carinthia and the Italian and Slovenian borders.

The region’s beating heart is in the city on the banks of the Drau, Villach, with its picturesque pedestrian zones and cafés. The Carinthians’ love of life is clearly in evidence here - and yes, they like to party, too. In the summer months, the inner city is turned into the Carinthia’s Biggest Living Room. People relaxing in the lovingly designed sitting-out areas with colourful lighting are guaranteed to experience the ultimate feel-good feeling. Which they can then follow up with a stroll along the Drau riverbank (taking in the “Draupuls” fountain display, set to wonderful lights and music, to mention just one of the highlights), a visit to one of the beautifully laid-out museums or a top-class meal ... life in Carinthia’s second city has a decidedly Mediterranean feel to it! The same goes for the famous annual Villacher Kirchtag folklore festival, which attracts visitors from around the world every August.

**Wonderfully bikeable.** The joy of cycling in whatever form it takes: gliding round lakes, scaling mountains, pedalling alongside rivers, flitting through lovely villages and towns. An excursion that’s good for the soul and for one’s health, too. On broad, slower-paced family cycle paths, dynamic “lake.bike” mountain bike trails, family parkour centres that are ideal for balance bikes, the exceptional race track with its perfect road network and on e-bike excursions enjoying the helpful added thrust.

**Top-class camping.** It’s official: a camping holiday in or around Villach has the desired factors for a feel-good holiday. 18 campsites are listed in the well-known and trusted ADAC Campsite Guide. The Strandcamping Berghof campsite on the banks of the Ossiacher See was even named an “ADAC 2022 Super Site”, the highest award possible according to ADAC assessment criteria! And a further eight sites have once again been singled out and awarded the “Tip for 2022” rating. That means, with an

ADAC four or four-and-a-half star classification, they offer a range of high-quality facilities to meet every camping requirement.

What’s more, nine campsites in the region bear the Carinthian Seal of Quality for the warmth of their welcome and the quality of their facilities: CampingBad Ossiacher See, Seecamping Berghof, Strandcamping Gruber, Strandcamping Anderwald, Wellness-Seecamping Parth, Seecamping Hoffmann, Ideal Camping Lampele, Terrassen Camping Ossiacher See and Seecamping Mentl.

**Rent instead of buy.** Camping holidays are in vogue – and you don’t have to have your own equipment to enjoy one. At many sites in the Region Villach – Lake Faak – Lake Ossiach it is now possible to rent a caravan. Another option that is particularly popular is to rent a comfortable mobile home, with plenty of space for the whole family. Furthermore, many campsites also offer holiday apartments and tent hire.

**Holiday fun whatever the weather.** And should the sun have a day off ... the KärntenTherme baths complex in Villach-Warmbad is open every day, offering both action and relaxation. In addition to the large spa and wellness area, there are multiple water slides and Crazy River tube rafting to ensure every water-mad youngster can work off some energy. Every bit as much of a hit with families: the Monkey Mountain and Eagle Arena, both located at Castle Landskron; the Terra Mystica tourist mine at Bad Bleiberg: the Citrus Garden at the Faaker See; the Mushroom Museum in Treffen; Villach’s museums, or one of the two car museums in the region - or a day trip across the border to nearby Ljubljana, Bled, Udine or one-of-a-kind Venice.

**Experiences to enjoy at no extra cost.** Anyone wanting to pack in even more experiences should have a look at what’s on offer free of charge with the Erlebnis CARD (valid 4 April - 2 November 2022). They include use of a “Radbus” to create a longer bike trip, themed guided tours and walks, a “climbing taster”, SUP yoga, fishing courses for kids - and this is just a small sample of what’s available in our varied programme! (Guests receive the CARD free of charge from all participating accommodation providers.) And if all that is not enough, then we would recommend buying a Kärnten Card, which gives free entry to more than 100 day trip destinations throughout Carinthia. A one, two or five week card is available to purchase for visits and activities during the period 1 April - 4 November 2022.

**Information & booking:**

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