

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

**Southern Holiday Happiness in the Region Villach – Lake Faak – Lake Ossiach!**

**The scent after a summer rain, of morning dew and suntan lotion, of a warm holiday evening and colourful alpine meadows, of powder snow and après ski, of fresh coffee and Carinthian smoked bacon: The Region Villach – Lake Faak – Lake Ossiach at the heart of Carinthia is as varied as its visitors. Here you will find your personal holiday happiness 365 days a year. You don’t have to prioritise: Seldom will you find a place where lakes and mountains, adventure and relaxation, shopping and culture are in such proximity. The region around the city of Villach near the Italian and Slovenian borders sparkles like a diamond with fresh holiday facets.**

**Longing for lakes**. Centre of attraction in spring, summer and autumn are the two largest lakes of the region with glass-clear water, located in a magical setting of gently rolling hills, green meadows, dense forests and high mountains. For almost 11 km, Lake Ossiach nestles alongside the Gerlitzen Alp, a perfect mountain for ski and snow fun during the winter and hiking adventures in the spring, summer and autumn. The modern ski lifts start almost directly at the lake and take you to the 1,911 m high summit. Not to be outdone, Lake Faak, with its turquoise colour reminiscent of the South Seas, is a small treasure situated further to the south. Experience the region in all its variety with family themed hiking trails promising adventures for young and old and the enjoyable cycle routes in the region – from one lake to another, along the River Drau or directly to Villach – and jump into the refreshing water at one of the free access points or swimming venues afterwards. Perfekt! By the way, there are nine swimming lakes in the region, including Lake Afritz, which is loved by families, anglers and aquatic sports enthusiasts equally, or the small Aichwaldsee, with its appealing sunbathing and swimming venue nestled between lake and woodlands.

At both lakes you will find equally excellent award-winning Komforthotels, holiday clubs with animation programs, friendly camp sites and small comfortable holiday apartments as well as bed & breakfast guesthouses. Can´t make up your mind? It doesn’t matter which place you choose, the only thing far from here is your usual daily routine.

**Two worlds on the mountain.** The region´s natural environs invite you to partake in adventures, freedom and experiences in sometimes untouched landscapes all year around. Whether on the Dobratsch, Villach’s own mountain, the Nockberge mountain range with the Gerlitzen Alp, the Carnic Alps with the Dreiländereck or the Mittagskogel mountain in the south – a variety of hiking and walking paths, trails and downhill tracks offer variety and choice for ambitious mountaineers as well as families and children.



Of course, you can explore the region by hiking the valleys as well as the mountains. The new Slow Trails in Wernberg, at Lake Ossiach, Lake Faak and Lake Afritz offer enjoyable hiking in a stunning natural setting. And in the winter? Two ski resorts and several ski trails complete the alpine adventure of Region Villach – Faaker See – Ossiacher See. Enjoy the mountains regardless of the season, summer or winter, autumn or spring.

**Family world of adventure**. One region, countless experiences:KärntenTherme spa, summer toboggan run, rock climbing, themed family trails tracking the dragon Woroun or the fox trail, circular ‘Lord of the Castle‘ hiking trail, water slides, underground mine tours, indoor climbing centre, Pumptrack, eagle show, monkey park, hills for sledging, ice skating and much much more. Absolutely! Region Villach – Faaker See – Ossiacher See is a paradise for families! Whether for little or big kids – here the priority is having fun, spending time together and experiencing nature.

**A city with flair.** A change from fun at the lake? You will find it in Villach, at the golden midpoint of the two lakes. During the summer months this little city turns itself into Carinthia’s largest living room. Lovingly created cafe and restaurant gardens with colourful lights provide the ultimate sense of well-being. The theme of Carinthia’s second largest city is definitely southern. The fusion of joy de vivre and relaxation creates a great atmosphere for strolling through the historic town centre with its many fine shops in alleys and on squares. For hustle and bustle visit a colourful market or lively event – in everyday life, locals like to take things a bit slower. A coffee on the sunny main square is a must, and a leisurely window shopping stroll is de rigueur. After that a walk along the River Drau (the water show ‘Draupuls‘ with music and light effects is a highlight!) a visit to one of the charming museums or a delicious meal to round off the day? Villach offers a lot! Let yourself be surprised. www.visitvillach.at

**Lots going on!** Listen out for the shout ‘lei lei‘ which accompanies the Carnival jesters when they hold the scepter during the carnival season. As Austria’s carnival capital, Villach knows how to celebrate this annual event. Not to be outdone, the folk festival Villacher Kirchtag is a superlative folklore event. A star event in the regional calendar is the food festival KÜCHEN*KULT*. Here you can dine on specialties created by chefs and food producers from the Alpe-Adria Region, and enjoy culinary inventions served in unusual locations.

Hike to the mountain huts around Villach and beyond the Carinthian borders whilst enjoying culinary delights with HÜTTEN*KULT.* Scenic routes, authentic publicans and tasty meals can convince even couch potatoes to put on their hiking boots*.* www.kuechenkult.at, www.huettenkult.at

**Switch off on arrival.** Travelling in comfort without a car? This is definitely possible in the Region Villach – Faaker See – Ossiacher See. With train, bus or cable car, you can go from the valleys to the mountain peaks and to the lakes. If there is no public transport, then cost effective train station shuttles, summer buses and cycle buses will transport visitors to their accommodation and excursion destinations, train station, airport and even into Villach for evening shopping.

http://connect.visitvillach.at/

**Information & Booking:**

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