

Austria / Carinthia / Villach’s ski resorts/ Gerlitzen Alp:

**The best pistes in the heart of Carinthia**

**Breathtaking views of an incredible mountainscape and sun-kissed slopes - in every direction. 20 modern lifts and 52 kilometres of perfectly prepared pistes, on which skiers of every level of ability can enjoy 32 downhill runs. Added to that, a generous number of natural ski routes and freeride possibilities.**

**The Gerlitzen Alp has so much to offer in winter**

Situated in the heart of Carinthia, the Gerlitzen Alp stands for true happiness on two skis. But not just that: a large number of rustic huts and inviting mountain restaurants ensure contentment and comfort for everyone up on the mountain. Visitors to the Gerlitzen can enjoy a change from alpine skiing with guided winter and snowshoe hikes, tobogganing, ski touring or cross-country skiing.

And for anyone also interested in art, culture, wellness and other leisure activities, a Gerlitzen Alp holiday is just the ticket. Its unique location and harmonious blend of city, lakes and mountains ensure that visitors can enjoy a varied and stimulating winter holiday there: the cultural centre of Villach, with its shopping opportunities, the unique Carinthian lake district, its closeness to the neighbouring "Alpe-Adria" regions in Italy and Slovenia and the much-loved KärntenTherme swim/spa complex are just a few examples from the region's colourful palette of tourist attractions. Interested? The 2023/24 winter season kicks off on Friday, 1 December.

**A pioneer in sustainability, with snow assured from December to April**

Thanks to the state-of-the-art, economical snowmaking systems, the winter season will again start early this year: guests can count on snowy pistes from 1 December 2023 to April 2024. They are prepared in a particularly efficient and resource-conserving way through the deployment of cutting-edge technologies together with a latest-generation fleet of snowcats. The lifts and snowmakers are all operated using 100% green electricity. When it comes to sustainability too, the Gerlitzen Alp is a pioneer in its field.

**Learning success for young and old**

Both the pistes and the facilities offered for beginners have received the "Welcome Beginners" seal of quality. Thanks to its wide, superbly prepared and gently-sloping pistes, practice lifts, easy-access gondolas and chairlifts, and its four ski school locations (also offering ski hire and ski servicing) manned by talented professionals, this much-loved family resort is the only one in Carinthia to meet all the strict criteria. There are three "snow bear centres" for kids on the mountain: the Kanzelhöhe (middle station), Bergeralm and Klösterle. In these practice areas, which are away from the main runs and busy areas, qualified teachers at the Gerlitzen Ski & Snowboard School coach the little ones, beginners and returners of all ages so that they will be safe and confident on the pistes.

**Hospitality and great cuisine**

The Gerlitzen Alp is a byword for great Alpine cuisine and true enjoyment. There's less of a party atmosphere here - but more of a feeling of true pleasure and togetherness, enjoying the comfortable, sunny terraces and the cosy mountain huts. 15 ski huts and mountain restaurants, reachable via the pistes or winter hiking trails, invite you in for a warming drink and meal. Their owners set great store on providing real hospitality, comfort and regional fare. Carinthian delicacies can be savoured here, often made in-house or sourced from local farms. On the Gerlitzen Alp, mountain standards like warming pancake soup, sweet and fluffy Kaiserschmarrn or a hearty cold platter are guaranteed culinary delights.

**Investments our guests will approve of**

Guided by a desire to please and to pamper, the Gerlitzen Alp strives to provide a winter holiday setting offering every modern convenience and outstanding service quality; and makes scores of investments every year to this end. Investments for the 2023/24 winter season include a new parking deck providing 188 extra car parking places at the Kanzelbahn valley station in Annenheim, costing over € 5 m; replacing older snowmakers with state-of-the-art snow lances (90% energy savings over conventional means of producing snow); and further measures to increase convenience, including a brand-new webshop and, for the first time, the possibility of using smartphones as ski passes everywhere on the mountain.

**Luxurious places to stay and to dream in**

Enjoy the sunrise from the top of the mountain, be the first to carve a pattern on the pristine slopes, dream on in the outdoor infinity pool looking out across the peaks or watch the stars twinkling in the night sky. It's easy to enjoy all this on the Gerlitzen Alp: there are accommodation options to suit every taste and pocket. Alpinhotel Pacheiner, with its own observatory, for example; or the Mountain Resort Feuerberg, with its far-famed wellness complex. And they are now (re)joined by a new top-class hotel: the former Almresort on the Kanzelhöhe is under new management. Thanks to its unique position, with ski paths leading directly to the pistes, a relaxed holiday in the heart of the skiing area is guaranteed here as well. In addition to these three flagship hotels, there are also many options for renting an apartment or a ski hut up on the Gerlitzen Alp. Guests will be won over by their traditional, warm and romantic mountain atmosphere.

Completing the offering, there are many other types of accommodation down in the valley, in and around Annenheim and Klösterle/Arriach, in Villach and throughout the region. And a host of free transport options - including ski buses from all around the Ossiacher See, local trains to and from Villach and the Faaker See ski bus - offer guests stressless ways to get to the Gerlitzen Alp.

**Useful information**

Start of the season: 1 December 2023

Season end: 1 April 2024

Lifts start time: 08:10

The Gerlitzen Kanzelbahn cable car starts up at 07:55 during the school holiday periods.

Webcams and ticket price information:[www.gerlitzen.com](http://www.gerlitzen.com)

**New ticket variants: "Mobile Flow" and "Ski & Therme"**

For the first time, tickets can no longer just be purchased at the ticket offices and redeemed in advance with keycards through the Online Shop. As of this year, tickets can also be loaded onto smartphones. Find out more: [www.gerlitzen.com](http://www.gerlitzen.com)

**Ski & Therme**: The 2, 3 or 4-day "Ski & Therme" combi-ticket allows the ticket holder unrestricted entrance to the (FUN area of the) KärntenTherme swim/spa complex in Warmbad-Villach every day, in addition to skiing on the Gerlitzen.

**Enjoyment free of charge with the Winter Erlebnis CARD**

Holidaymakers who book with a participating establishment receive an Erlebnis CARD, and with it the opportunity to take part in a range of different leisure activities - completely free of charge. These include snowshoe hiking, cross-country skiing, a guided ski tour, yoga inside the mountain, use of all local S-Bahn trains throughout Carinthia and a whole lot more. More information: <https://card.visitvillach.at>

**Easy to get to (whether by individual or public transport)**

The Gerlitzen is 5 minutes by car from the Villach/Ossiacher See motorway exit. There are 3,300 parking spaces available on and around (Annenheim, Klösterle) the mountain. More than 1,000 spaces are available right at the foot of the slope at the Arriach-Klösterle valley station (enter: Innerteuchen 53, 9543 Arriach on satnavs). The Erlebnis CARD gives free use of ski buses and S-Bahn trains.

**ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways) combi-ticket offers**

Day passes purchased online and season tickets for the Gerlitzen, including the popular 20-hour card, will this year again double up as tickets for eco-friendly rail travel to and from the slopes on the Carinthian S-Bahn network. These trains will transport winter sports fans safely to the valley station at Annenheim, sparing them the need to search for a parking space. And holders of the KlimaTicket Österreich, Kärnten Ticket or ÖBB Vorteilscard get a reduction of €  7 on the full-price adult day ski pass if they travel with the S-Bahn.

**Attractive offers for families mid-season**

Offers to help family budgets! Families staying mid-season at holiday accommodation which participates in the Erlebnis CARD scheme will not only get the extra beds in their double room or apartment for their children under 6 completely free of charge, but also the Gerlitzen Bambini ski pass for their little ones too! There is also no charge for ski equipment when booking a ski course with the Gerlitzen Ski & Snowboard School or Aichholzer Sports School during these periods. Special offer dates: 1 December to 23 December 2023, 7 January to 26 January 2024, 17 March to 1 April 2024.

 *Subject to change!*

**Information and bookings:**

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