# THE ULTIMATE SKI GUIDE TO 8 GLACIER SKI RESORTS IN AUSTRIA

TOP 28 RUNS IN 8 SKI RESORTS ON AUSTRIAN GLACIERS





Title: The Ultimate SKI GUIDE to 8 Glacier Ski Resorts in Austria

Subheading: Top 28 Runs in 8 Ski Resorts on Austrian Glaciers: Sölden, Stubai, Kitzsteinhorn, Hintertux, Kaunertal, Pitztal, Mölltaler, Dachstein

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Ski run maps: based on maps provided by MapTiler & OpenStreetMap

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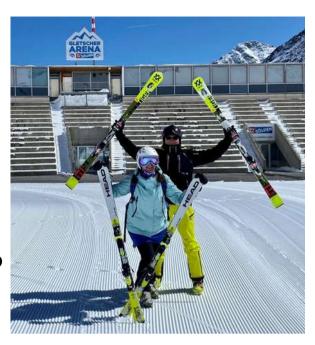
TOP 2 ski runs

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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to "The Ultimate Ski Guide to 8 Glacier Ski Resorts in Austria." In this eBook, we have compiled everything you need to know for an unforgettable skiing adventure on Austria's glaciers.



# Here, you'll find:

- Detailed descriptions and parameters of the resorts, complete with maps
- Specifications of the top ski runs
- Stunning photos and videos of the ski runs

These 8 glacier resorts - Sölden, Stubai, Kitzsteinhorn, Hintertux, Kaunertal, Pitztal, Mölltaler, and Dachstein - offer more than just skiing. They represent the pinnacle of alpine skiing in Europe! We highly recommend glacier skiing for all skiers due to the unique experiences it offers:

- Thrilling views that take your breath away as you descend!
- Skiing above the clouds in full sunshine!
- Natural snow, firn, glacier ice experience all types of snow in one day!
- Modern lift infrastructure and charming mountain restaurants! And all of this at altitudes of 3,000 meters above sea level.

Austria boasts over 800 glaciers of various sizes. Currently, skiing is possible on only 8 of these glaciers, with 5 located in Tyrol and one each in the regions of Salzburg, Styria, and Carinthia.

## THE WORLD OF ICE

The icy world of glaciers is a true natural wonder, enchanting every visitor. Many people know that snow eventually turns into ice, but few understand what the inside of a glacier looks like. Glaciers move at varying speeds depending on the terrain. These speed changes cause tension, which can create crevasses on the glacier's surface. The average depth of a crevasse is around 30 meters.

The journey of an ice particle from the firn region to the end of an alpine glacier can take between 100 and 1,000 years, depending on the glacier's size! The survival of glaciers in the long term depends on a delicate balance. In the accumulation zone, more snow remains on the ground than melts. After about 10 years, the compressed firn crystals turn into impermeable ice. Old snow has a density of about 900 kg/m³, while water has a density of 1,000 kg/m³.

Summer air temperatures are crucial for glacier melt, but not the only factor. Rocks larger than 15 cm protect the glacier from sunlight. Smaller stones heat up from the sun and sink into the ice's surface, forming cylindrical melt holes known as cryoconite holes. Therefore, it is essential for snow to fall frequently on the glacier during summer, keeping the glacier's surface white and naturally reflecting harmful sunlight.

# The Ranking of Austrian Glacier Resorts by Ski Run Length (according to skicrown.eu methodology):

- 1. Sölden 144 km
- 2. Stubai 65 km
- 3. Kitzsteinhorn 61 km
- 4. Hintertux 60 km
- 5. Kaunertal 55 km
- 6. Pitztal 39 km
- 7. Mölltaler 36 km
- 8. Dachstein 6 km

The total length of ski runs in a resort includes all interconnected runs measured in kilometers. Ski runs not directly on the glacier but connected by lifts to the glacier's ski runs are considered part of the total. Ski runs that require additional transport by car, bus, or train are not included in the resort's total. Only groomed ski runs marked as blue, red, and black have been included. Ski touring and freeride routes are not counted.

Get precise, interactive ski maps by downloading our mobile app, skicrown.eu, available for free on both the App Store and Google Play.





With this guide, we aim to provide you with all the information and inspiration you need to make the most of your skiing experience on Austria's glaciers.





## **TOP 28 SKI RUNS** ON GLACIERS IN AUSTRIA **Altitude** Average Ski run Ski run difference Country length gradient Ski Resort Ski run name number (m) (m)(%) 1 Austria Sölden / Ötztal 38 3000 456 15 2 Sölden / Ötztal Austria 36 1250 256 20 3 Sölden / Ötztal 354 Austria 19 1650 21 4 Sölden / Ötztal 3800 751 20 Austria 11 5 Sölden / Ötztal Austria 1+1a 4200 864 21 2 6 Austria Sölden / Ötztal 2900 476 16 7 Austria Sölden / Ötztal The Longest Ski Run in Austria: 33+30+7a+7+9 15000 1884 13 8 Stubaier Gletscher Austria Fernauferner 10 3200 484 15 9 Stubaier Gletscher 9 17 Austria Daunenhang 2150 362 10 Austria Stubaier Gletscher 3 2000 336 Gamsgarten 17 11 Austria Stubaier Gletscher Zufahrt Fernau+Falwesuna 4+4a 4000 609 15 12 Austria Stubaier Gletscher Wilde Grub'n 7+14+27 1000 1463 15 13 Austria Kitzsteinhorn Black Mamba 14 1000 289 29 14 Kitzsteinhorn Gletscherpiste 1 1600 298 Austria 4a 19 15 Austria Kitzsteinhorn Gletscherpiste 3 1700 299 18 4c 16 Austria Kitzsteinhorn Kristallpiste 12 2300 413 18 17 Austria Hintertuxer Gletscher Olperer 2 9a 1400 178 13 18 Austria Hintertuxer Gletscher Kaserer 1 11 2200 491 22 Kaserer 2 19 Austria Hintertuxer Gletscher 14 2150 327 15 20 Hintertuxer Gletscher Gefrorene Wand+Tuxer Fernerhaus Austria 4+3 3600 650 18 21 Austria Kaunertaler Gletscher Weissee 1a 1800 363 20 22 Austria Kaunertaler Gletscher Karlesjoch 4 1700 358 21 Kaunertaler Gletscher 23 Austria Schmugglerpiste 14 3000 619 21 24 Pitztaler Gletscher Wildspitz 26+22 2800 600 21 Austria 25 3000 Austria Pitztaler Gletscher Mittelberg 585 20 36 26 Austria Mölltaler Gletscher Schareck 1 1 1800 405 22 27 Mölltaler Gletscher Familienabfahrt 9 2800 554 20 Austria 28 Austria Dachstein Gletscher Schladminger Gletscher 1100 135 14 6



# EXPLORE ALL 28 TOP SKI RUNS IN 8 SKI RESORTS ON AUSTRIAN GLACIERS!

# This SKI GUIDE is the #1 way to:

- PLAN THE PERFECT TRIP ON AUSTRIAN GLACIERS
  - Pick resorts and ski runs that match your skills and preferences.
- GET ACCESS TO DETAILED MAPS AND VIDEOS
  See what the ski runs look like before choosing a resort.
- SAVE TIME
  All the information on glacier ski resorts in one place, no need to search the internet.



Don't waste time searching for information online!

This guide provides detailed descriptions of resorts, run recommendations, ski maps, and videos of selected runs in the 8 best glacier ski resorts in Austria.

You might also be interested in a more extensive edition of this guide:

# THE ULTIMATE SKI GUIDE TO THE TOP 25 GLACIER SKI RESORTS IN EUROPE!

152 best ski runs in 25 glacier ski resorts across Europe!

More >>





The Sölden ski resort offers a total of 144 kilometers of ski runs, 2 glaciers, 32 modern mountain lifts, 3 peaks over 3,000 meters high, viewing platforms, and the unique 007 Elements James Bond Adventure World. With elevations between 1,350 and 3,340 meters above sea level, the resort ensures reliable snow coverage from autumn through spring.

All ski lifts and gondolas are open from 9 am to 4 pm, except for these:

- 10EUB Giggijoch opens at 8 am
- 8EUB Gaislachkogl I opens at 8 am
- 3S Gaislachkogl II opens at 8:15 am
- 4SK Silberbrünnl opens at 8:15 am

The shuttle bus operates from 8:30 am to 6 pm before winter, and from 8:30 am to 8 pm during winter.

A unique skiing experience awaits on the slopes of the Rettenbach and Tiefenbach glaciers. These two glaciers stretch from 2,675 to 3,250 meters above sea level, cover 35 kilometers of ski runs, and are connected by a special ski tunnel. The glacier trails are linked to the rest of the slopes in the Sölden resort.

Skiing in Sölden is world-class. Every year, Alpine Ski World Cup professionals start their season on the Rettenbach Glacier, and anyone can try this route. You can also test the latest ski equipment to find the perfect model for the winter season. After skiing, you can relax in the modern glacier restaurants. The Rettenbach Glacier Restaurant has 400 seats, and the Tiefenbach Glacier Restaurant has 600 seats.



Sölden is the only ski area in Austria with three peaks over 3,000 meters, accessible by mountain railroads, called the "BIG3." The viewing platforms offer stunning views of the Ötztal mountains:

- The BIG3 Tiefenbach panoramic footbridge is at 3,250 meters above sea level. This glass-covered footbridge hangs by steel cables and extends about 20 meters above the glacier. You can see many mountain peaks, including Wildspitze, Tyrol's highest peak.
- The natural platform BIG3 Schwarze Schneid is at 3,340 meters. Above the top station of the Schwarze Schneid cable car is a pyramid. It takes a 15-minute walk to reach it. The 360° view includes the Dolomites to the south and the Zugspitze to the north, 100 kilometers away.
- The BIG3 Gaislachkogl platform is at 3,048 meters. Next to the top station of the Gaislachkogl mountain cable car is the glassand-steel Gaislachkogl panoramic restaurant. It's worth taking off your skis and crossing the suspension bridge to the observation deck for breathtaking 360-degree views.

You can ski up and down these three 3,000-meter mountains in one day. Experienced skiers and snowboarders can complete this nearly 50-kilometer route, with an elevation change of 5,200 meters, in about four hours.

BIG3 route description: from the base station of the Giggijoch mountain cable car, head to the Giggijoch and then to the Rettenbach Glacier and the first BIG3 at Schwarze Schneid (3,340 m). Continue on the glacier route to the neighboring Tiefenbach Glacier and the second BIG3 viewpoint, Tiefenbachkogl (3,250 m). Then ski about 2,000 meters in altitude from the Rettenbach Glacier through Rettenbachtal to the valley station of the Gaislachkogl cable car. Go uphill again to the third BIG3 viewpoint, Gaislachkogl (3,058 m), take a photo, and ski down.



Sölden is home to Austria's longest ski run, with a length of 15 kilometers and an elevation change of 1,884 meters from start to finish. The route starts at the highest point of the ski area, the top station of the Schwarze Schneid II ski lift at 3,247 meters, and ends at the bottom station of the Gaislachkogl I ski lift at 1,363 meters. The 15 kilometers are varied and challenging for any skier.

# One ski pass gives you access to all ski resorts in the Ötztal

**Valley.** The Ötztal Super Skipass covers 363 kilometers of ski runs, 90 mountain lifts, and 6 ski areas, including Sölden and Gurgl, as well as the family-friendly regions of Hochoetz-Kühtai, Niederthai, Gries, and Vent. From November 16, 2023, to April 21, 2024, a 6-day ski pass includes admission to the 007 ELEMENTS James Bond Adventure World in Sölden and the Top Mountain Motorcycle Museum in Gurgl.



# You can buy ski passes at the box office or online in advance.

Online prices are available up to 5 days before the first day of skiing; after that, standard box office rates apply. The "Online from" price is the lowest available online. The earlier you buy, the lower the price. Tickets bought online usually cannot be canceled or refunded. It is recommended to purchase additional insurance when buying a multi-day ski pass. With the "Cancellation" insurance package, refunds for unused ski passes are available up to 5 days before the first day of validity.

The "007 ELEMENTS" film installation is a unique attraction in the Sölden ski resort. It is located at the top of Gaislachkogl at 3,050 meters above sea level but is hidden inside the mountain. Fans of 007 will love the location, architecture, and staging of the secret agent Bond. Opened in 2018, the "007 ELEMENTS" installation covers 1,300 square meters, mostly underground, where visitors can experience the world of James Bond. Videos, sound effects, and original Bond gadgets engage all the senses. The connection between James Bond and Sölden began during the filming of "Spectre." Some winter scenes were shot in the high Alpine mountains above Sölden. The ice restaurant Q was used for Hoffler's famous clinic, and a thrilling mountain chase was filmed on Glacier Road.



# After skiing, there are many great, modern restaurants in the Sölden ski resort:

- The restaurant at Rettenbach Glacier was completely renovated in 2017. Guests can choose between the selfservice area in the "Rettenbach Market Restaurant" or the "Glacier Restaurant" with table service.
- The self-service restaurant on the Tiefenbach Glacier focuses on quick service and quality food. At 2,800 meters above sea level, freshly prepared Tyrolean specialties are served. Typical Ötztal delicacies are best enjoyed on the sun terrace or in the rustic lounges.
- Bernhard Gstrein's Salomon Station and the cozy Salomon Lounge are popular spots on the Rettenbach Glacier, where you can meet real athletes and Olympic medalists. With a VIP view of the World Cup ski slope, you can enjoy a warming drink.

Modern stores and rental services are available. Amer Station and the two Riml sports stores on the Rettenbach and Tiefenbach glaciers offer the latest models of skis, clothing, and accessories. All three sports stores allow you to test skis. After a day of skiing, you can buy equipment at discounted prices. For those skiing in the region for several days, ski storage facilities are available at the sports store on Tiefenbach Glacier and Amer Station on Rettenbach Glacier.

The resort of Sölden is very popular, leading to increased traffic throughout the Ötztal Valley. To address this, active parking management has been introduced to reduce private transportation and promote public transport. With a free guest card, you can use public buses for free from autumn to spring, running every half hour throughout the valley. Paid parking areas of the Bergbahnen Sölden mountain lifts are available at the Giggijoch and Gaislachkogl access points. In the center of Sölden, short-term parking zones allow parking for up to two hours, with the first half hour free.



Driving by car or bus up to 2,830 meters above sea level in Sölden is possible. The highest panoramic road in the Eastern Alps leads from Sölden to the Rettenbach Glacier and through the Rosi-Mittermeier tunnel to the Tiefenbach Glacier. Follow the upper valley through Sölden, where the glacier road branches off to the right at the end of the village. An average gradient of 11% awaits drivers on the 13-kilometer route to the Rettenbach Glacier. To visit the Tiefenbach Glacier, drive through the highest road tunnel in Europe, passing the highest point of the glacier road (2,830 meters). There are plenty of parking spaces for cars and coaches on both glaciers. Winter tires and snow chains are mandatory for a safe trip.



Ski map: https://www.soelden.com/winter/ski-area... map

https://www.soelden.com/winter/ski-area/glacier.html

# **TOP 7 SKI RUNS IN SÖLDEN**

Ski Run 38

Ski run 36

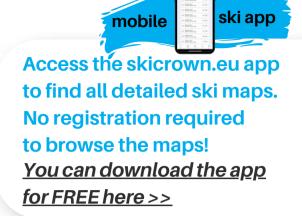
Ski run 19

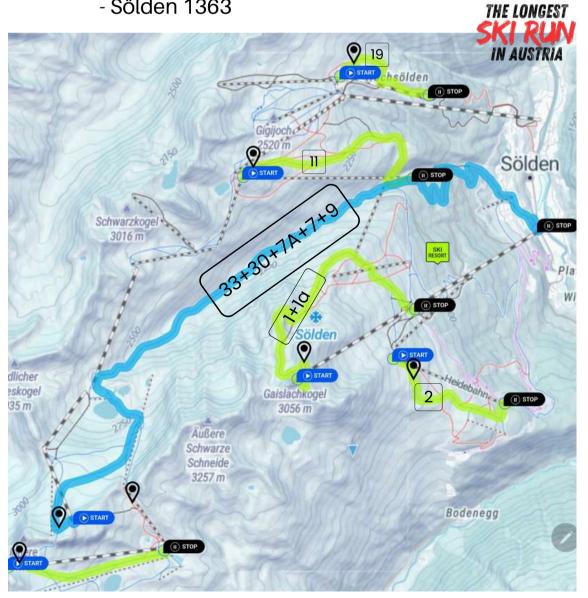
Ski run 11

Ski run 1+1a

Ski run 2

Ski run 33+30+7a+7+9: Schwarze Schneid 3247
- Sölden 1363





# You can watch our videos from the Sölden Glacier ski runs here >>



# SKI RUN 33+30+7A+7+9: SCHWARZE SCHNEID 3247 - SÖLDEN 1363



\* Length of the ski run: 15.000 m

\* Altitude difference: 1884 m

\* Average gradient: 13%

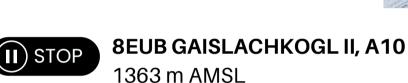
Level of difficulty:



## Ski run details:



Schwarze Schneid II E62 3247 m AMSL





Watch the video of the ski run from top to bottom >>





The starting point of the ski run





View from the ski run





End of the ski run

\* Length of the ski run: 3000 m

\* Altitude difference: 456 m

\* Average gradient: 15%

Level of difficulty:



## Ski run details:



**8EUB TIEFENBACHBAHN, E66** 3249 m AMSL



**8EUB TIEFENBACHBAHN, E66** 2793 m AMSL



Watch the video of the ski run from top to bottom >>





The starting point of the ski run



View from the ski run



End of the ski run

\* Length of the ski run: 1250 m

\* Altitude difference: 256 m

\* Average gradient: 20%

Level of difficulty:



# Ski run details:



**6SK SEITERKAR, E65** 3051 m AMSL



**6SK SEITERKAR, E65** 2795 m AMSL





Watch the video of the ski run from top to bottom >>





The starting point of the ski run



View from the ski run



End of the ski run

\* Length of the ski run: 1650 m

\* Altitude difference: 354 m

\* Average gradient: 21%

Level of difficulty:



## Ski run details:



**10EUB Hochsolden-Ratkogl, C38** 2291 m AMSL



**10EUB Hochsolden-Ratkogl, C38** 1937 m AMSL



Watch the video of the ski run from top to bottom >>





The starting point of the ski run



View from the ski run



End of the ski run

\* Length of the ski run: 3800 m

\* Altitude difference: 751 m

\* Average gradient: 20%

Level of difficulty:



# Ski run details:



**6SK Langegg, C31** 2663 m AMSL



**6SK Langegg, C31** 1912 m AMSL





Watch the video of the ski run from top to bottom >>





The starting point of the ski run



View from the ski run



End of the ski run

# **SKI RUN 1 + 1a**

\* Length of the ski run: 4200 m

\* Altitude difference: 864 m

\* Average gradient: 21%

Level of difficulty:



# Ski run details:



**3S Gaislachkogel II, A11** 3040 m AMSL



**3S Gaislachkogel II, A11** 2176 m AMSL



Watch the video of the ski run from top to bottom >>





The starting point of the ski run



View from the ski run



End of the ski run

\* Length of the ski run: 2900 m

\* Altitude difference: 476 m

\* Average gradient: 16%

Level of difficulty:



# Ski run details:



**4SK Heidebahn, A13** 2428 m AMSL



**4SK Heidebahn, A13** 1952 m AMSL



Watch the video of the ski run from top to bottom >>





The starting point of the ski run



View from the ski run



End of the ski run

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