**Bad Gastein**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

11

**Intermediate Runs**

25

**Advanced Runs**

4

**Total Runs**

40

**Lifts**

25

**Chairs**

10

**Drags**

6

**Gondola Cable Cars**

9

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Bad Gastein is a sizeable resort town that has a long history dating back long before the arrival of snow sports in the area. Originally a spa resort, records of the healing powers of its 17 natural springs date back at least to the 13th century, and the resort remains a major year-round spa and wellness destination to this day. There is water everywhere; in many indoor spas and outside in streams, rivers and a spectacular local waterfall.

Thanks to its status as an all-year resort, Bad Gastein's infrastructure and range of shopping, restaurants and other activities is far better than many seasonal ski towns – it also makes Bad Gastein a good choice for those with non-skiers in their party.

Although not originally built for skiing, Bad Gastein has become one of Austria’s leading ski resorts, and has been so since the earliest days of winter sports. The country’s first cable car for skiers opened here more than 60 years ago, and the ski slopes have extended to join neighbouring resorts in the Gastein Valley with a world-class network boasting 210km (130 miles) of pistes.

**Location**

Bad Gastein is located in the Gastein Valley, within the westerly Austrian province of Salzburger Land. The local Hohe Tauern Mountains are a part of the Alps.

**Website**

http://www.skigastein.com

**Piste Map**

http://affiliate.skiamade.com/en/winter/skiresorts/slopespanorama?zoom=75

**Hit The Slopes**

While Bad Gastein’s ski area is not one of the highest in altitude in the Alps, it is actually much higher at its peak than many other famous Austrian ski areas. With north-facing slopes and the ability to cover around half of the key runs with machine-made snow from some 600 cannons, it has a good snow record.

The large ski area, one of the country’s – and indeed the world’s – biggest, extends over four sectors, incorporating the skiing above the nearby resorts of Bad Hofgastein and Dorfgastein as well as the local slopes, with the largest single sector on the Stubnerkogel mountain.

Bad Gastein also has a second ski area, on the Graukogel, that is smaller and not linked by pistes to the rest of the network. Here, the 2km-long (1.2-mile) Toni Sailer piste (named after the famous local ski racer) is regarded as the toughest in the whole region.

There are pistes for all standards, although the greatest proportion by far (more than 65%) is graded intermediate; so skiing holidaymakers of normal ability can be assured of large volumes of lovely cruising pistes. The longest intermediate run offers an enjoyable 10.4km-long (6.5-mile) descent.

The regional Ski Amadé pass incorporates the world’s largest area on a single lift pass, covering more than 800km (500 miles) of runs – including all those in the Gastein Valley and those of most nearby ski areas. The pass also entitles holders to the use of public transport between the areas during the daytime.

In addition to the vast selection of downhill skiing, there’s also an excellent terrain park and well-groomed cross-country tracks to explore.

**Bad Gastein**

**Resort**

1080

**Base**

1017

**Top**

2650

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There’s plenty to do beyond ski and board in Bad Gastein. The spa culture is, of course, a major feature, and visitors have a choice of 28 indoor swimming pools and wellness facilities fed by the town's numerous springs. In addition, there are indoor tennis courts, an indoor riding school, ice rink, several museums and a shooting range. Excursions to Salzburg, about 75 minutes away, are another possibility.

Outdoors, about 32km (20 miles) of hiking paths are kept clear of excess snow, while there are opportunities to take a sleigh ride, go tobogganing, or try paragliding above the slopes.

**Family Fun**

Many of the facilities in Bad Gastein are also good family attractions, particularly for those who enjoy swimming. A good kids-only option at the top station of the Stubnerkogel lift is a sprawling Fun Centre with everything from a ball pool and climbing wall to table football, games consoles and free internet access – all of which is free of charge to lift pass holders.

There’s no non-ski nursery facility in Bad Gastein, but children aged three and older are welcome in the ski school, where there’s a special ski kindergarten and a separate fun area for first lessons.

**Retail Therapy**

Bad Gastein has a good selection of shops with some very nice elegant boutiques and stylish jewellers alongside the usual purveyors of resort essentials. The majority of the shops are concentrated in the heart of the resort, making browsing easy.

**Splashing Out**

Relax those aching post-ski muscles by spending some time in one of the resorts many luxury spas. The Felsentherme (Bahnhofplatz 5; tel: (06434) 22230; [www.felsentherme.com](http://www.felsentherme.com)) is the main public spa facility in Bad Gastein and contains a rich world of aquatic enjoyment and health-oriented amenities that most visitors would consider worthy of a day off the slopes.

Other options include Sauna World, part of the nearby Alpentherme Gastein (Wilfingplatz 1; tel: (06432) 82930; [www.alpentherme.com](http://www.alpentherme.com)) in Bad Hofgastein, and the healing galleries of the Gasteiner Heilstollen (Heilstollen Strasse 19; tel: (06434) 37530; [www.gasteiner-heilstollen.com](http://www.gasteiner-heilstollen.com)) in Böckstein.

**Apres Ski**

Bad Gastein has a good selection of night-time activities, with bars, other après-ski venues, several nightclubs spread around the resort and a casino within the century-old Grand Hotel de l'Europe. For a lively night out, The Silver Bullet (Grillparzerstrasse 1; tel: (06434) 225 360; [www.silverbulletbar.com](http://www.silverbulletbar.com)), which operates under the ethos of “wildest and best”, is the place to go. It’s open until 0200 with live music five evenings a week and a DJ set daily.

**Eating Out**

Diners can choose from several dozen restaurants in Bad Gastein, which offers a better than average choice of cuisines. For traditional Austrian dining, visitors can’t do much better than The Kaiserhof Bistro (Kaiserhofstrasse 6; tel: (06434) 30020; [www.hapimag.com](http://www.hapimag.com)), which has a reputation for quality cuisine at reasonable prices and good service too.

There’s not just good Austrian fare here, however, as diners can also find Chinese and Italian dining options, among others. Among the best of these non-local offerings is Sanchos (Kaiser Franz Josef Strasse 1; tel: (06434) 21762), which serves Mexican specialities.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Salzburg Airport (SZG).

Distance to resort: 90km (60 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 15 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Bad Gastein.

Distance to resort: Within the resort.

**Getting Around**

Due to the relatively large size of Bad Gastein ski resort, a comprehensive ski bus service operates on 10 separate routes around the Gastein Valley. These typically run between 0700 and 1800 daily and are free to ski pass holders.

**Hotels**

Accommodation in Bad Gastein is largely comprised of 3- and 4-star hotels, including some grand old spa establishments; but there are also plenty of apartments and less highly acclaimed hotel options for those on a budget.

**Euro Youth Hotel & Krone**

A very affordable but basic option just 100m (330ft) from the nearest lift, Euro Youth Hotel & Krone offers hostel-style rooms.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Bahnhofplatz 8

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bad Gastein

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06434) 23300.

**Website**

http://www.euro-youth-hotel.at

**Hotel Münchnerhof**

A family-friendly 2-star hotel close to lifts and the village centre, Hotel Münchnerhof features thermal baths and a car park for use by guests.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Schareckstrasse 2A

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bad Gastein

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06434) 2351.

**Website**

XXX

**Hotel Elisabethpark**

One of the grand 4-star hotels of Bad Gastein, the elegant Hotel Elisabethpark operates a handy shuttle bus service to the ski slopes. Its high-class facilities include a gourmet restaurant, traditional coffee bar and wellness area.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Kaiser Franz Josef-Strasse 4

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Bad Gastein

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06434) 255 1118.

**Website**

http://www.elisabethpark.at