**Ellmau**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

76

**Intermediate Runs**

83

**Advanced Runs**

15

**Total Runs**

174

**Lifts**

91

**Chairs**

36

**Drags**

40

**Gondola Cable Cars**

15

**Parks**

3

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

7m (23ft).

**Overview**

Ellmau is a very attractive and traditional ski village set against the splendour of the Wilder Kaiser (Wild Emperor) mountains. The resort is among the larger of the SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser-Brixental, Austria's largest interconnected ski area with almost 280km (174 miles) of ski runs. The area is further connected to nearby Kitzbühel by the Ki-West gondola, creating one of the world's biggest ski areas.

Unfortunately, in these days of climate change concerns, it is also one of the lowest major ski areas in the Alps. However, it does boast Austria's largest snowmaking arsenal (covering around 90% of the slopes) in a bid to counter this, and it doesn't seem to have suffered too much since this equipment has been put in place.

The base of the ski area, served by Austria's longest funicular railway (which takes just four minutes to make the ascent), is on the edge of town, so a ski bus is usually needed to start your day – unless you opt to stay out of the resort centre in one of the slopeside hotels.

**Location**

Ellmau is located in Austria's northwestern Tyrol province, very close to the German border. It is part of the SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser-Brixental ski area and is 15km (9 miles) northwest of the large ski town of Kitzbühel.

**Website**

http://www.skiwelt.at

**Piste Map**

http://www.skiwelt.at/en/skiwelt-wilder-kaiser-brixental-1.html

**Hit The Slopes**

Ellmau ski resort is located at one end of the giant SkiWelt area, which stretches for nearly 16km (10 miles) towards Westendorf, taking in the ski areas of eight resorts – each of them increasingly well linked by high-speed lifts. The recently installed high-speed detachable six-person Tanzbodenbahn chairlift has improved the connection between Ellmau and Scheffau while at the same time treating users to the ultimate in comfort with its heated seats.

Ellmau's own skiing has a particularly strong reputation for beginners, with a separate nursery slope in the village centre (snow cover permitting), served by a state-of-the-art covered magic carpet conveyor lift. The resort's three ski schools are highly regarded and can provide expert tuition for everyone from complete novices to those looking to brush up on their technique.

Intermediates will enjoy the ski area the most, with all but 15 the trails rated easy or moderate. The day begins on the funicular up to the local Hartkaiser Mountain and skiers could end up as far away as Kitzbühel later in the day if they are prepared to take the bus back to Ellmau. Those who purchase the Kitzbüheler Alpen AllStarCard regional lift pass (and have their own transport) can also ski in the nearby Schneewinkel area and other neighbouring resorts, offering over 1,080km (671 miles) of pistes in total.

Experts have more limited terrain, but the extent of the ski area provides plenty of opportunities for challenging days on the slopes – the Eiberg lift serves Ellmau’s most testing terrain and the Silleralm run on the neighbouring Hohe Salve Mountain is also highly recommended

The ski season in Ellmau generally runs from mid-December to mid-April.

**Ellmau**

**Resort**

820

**Base**

650

**Top**

1956

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

The main off-slope facility is the KaiserBad leisure centre (tel: (05358) 3811; [www.kaiserbad.net](http://www.kaiserbad.net/)), which features indoor and outdoor pools and a wonderful 92m-long (302ft) slide. There is also a sauna, health centre and a traditional bowling alley in the resort, offering plentiful opportunities to unwind in the warmth.

Outdoor alternatives include sleigh rides, a tubing centre in the heart of the village, a toboggan run down from Astberg, and 55km (35 miles) of cleared winter footpaths.

Trips to nearby Kitzbühel (by ski or bus) or the city of Salzburg are easily arranged and are worthwhile for visitors with a spare day or two. The former is a bustling medieval ski town, while the latter offers numerous cultural attractions and a UNESCO World Heritage-listed city centre.

**Family Fun**

Ellmau is a good option for families in many respects; primarily it is attractive, relaxed, unintimidating, boasts excellent nursery slopes and has three highly rated ski schools that accept children from age three. Additionally, the funicular railway up the mountain and the great leisure pool provide additional excitement.

The only minor negatives are the dispersed nature of the village and the busy roads near most ski slopes. There is also limited nursery care for the youngest children, but Krabbelstube Max & Moritz in the village school can provide cover from Monday to Friday. Several of the larger British tour operators organise their own kids' clubs in resort hotels, taking children from age three.

**Retail Therapy**

Ellmau has a larger selection of shops than most of the other SkiWelt resorts, with around 35 outlets from which to choose. These include a good selection of ski shops and traditional local food producers, including several butchers, bakers and grocers. There's also a range of convenience stores, including a supermarket, chemist, hairdressers, post office and tobacconists. Visitors in search of gifts from the region have plenty of souvenir shops to explore, while Kitzbühel has further opportunities.

**Splashing Out**

Take a day off the slopes and immerse yourself in luxury at the Hotel der Bär's (tel: (05358) 2395; [www.hotelbaer.com](http://www.hotelbaer.com/)) beauty and wellness centre. Trained beauticians can provide a tailor-made spa package to suit most needs, from one-off treatments to week-long programmes.

**Apres Ski**

Après-ski in Ellmau is not as lively as the neighbouring resorts of Söll, Westendorf and Kitzbühel, but it does have several popular local bars. These include Ötzi (Dorf 43; tel: (5358) 44554), which has frequent karaoke evenings, and Café Pub Memory (Dorf 39; tel: (05358) 2243), which is busy as soon as the lifts close. Tenne nightclub (Dorf 50) and Heldenbar (Dorf 7) are the places for partying into the early hours, and the latter sometimes has live music.

**Eating Out**

There are more than 30 restaurants in Ellmau, most of them are part of the various hotels in the village and on the slopes, and most serve traditional Austrian Tyrolean cuisine such as fondue and strudel. The slopeside Ellmauer Alm (Alte Strasse 4A; tel: (05358) 3755 509; [www.ellmauer-alm.at](http://www.ellmauer-alm.at/)) is a first-rate example of this homely style of cooking served in a cosy dining area.

If you’re looking for something other than local favourites, Cantina Bar Mexican (Dorf 43; tel: (05358) 3019; [www.mexican.at](http://www.mexican.at)) serves Mexican cuisine, whilst Pizzeria Sterndl (Dorf 21; tel: (05358) 43002) is the best Italian choice.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Salzburg Airport (SZG); Innsbruck Airport (INN); Munich Airport (MUC).

Distances to resort: 75km (47 miles); 87km (54 miles); 150km (93 miles).

Driving times: 1 hour; 1 hour 10 minutes; 1 hour 30 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Kufstein.

Distance to resort: 25km (16 miles).

Driving time: 30 minutes.

**Getting Around**

A generally reliable free bus service (to those with a hotel guest card) connects the base of the main ski area to the resort and some accommodation, as the resort is relatively spread out. It is also possible to reach the base of the main ski area by drag lift if snow conditions are good, provided you are confident enough to use the lift.

Travel to neighbouring resorts is possible on the Postbus. This service is not included in lift passes, so an additional fee is required.

**Hotels**

The quiet village is made up of mostly of traditional chalet-style buildings and hotels to suit all budgets, but a few apartments are also available. Among the options are a number of slopeside alternatives to central village lodgings.

**Kaiserblick**

This slopeside family-run 4-star hotel has a restaurant that serves a nightly six-course dinner complemented by wine from its own cellar, and a heated outdoor pool that’s open all year long.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Kirchbichl 5

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ellmau

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(05358) 2230.

**Website**

http://www.kaiserblick.at

**Hotel der Bär**

A high-calibre hotel located above the resort, Hotel der Bär has a reputation for excellent service standards and boasts a fantastic wellness centre.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Kirchbichl 9

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ellmau

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(05358) 2395.

**Website**

http://www.hotelbaer.com

**Pension Maria Theresia**

A friendly guest house with clean rooms and a good breakfast, Pension Maria Theresia is in a convenient position close to the village centre. Facilities here include a sauna, fitness room and solarium.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Kirchbichl 54

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ellmau

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(05358) 2691.

**Website**

http://maria-theresia.members.1012.at