**Ischgl**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

13

**Intermediate Runs**

43

**Advanced Runs**

9

**Total Runs**

65

**Lifts**

44

**Chairs**

25

**Drags**

14

**Gondola Cable Cars**

5

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

1

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Ischgl ski resort has grown over the past few decades to become one of the world’s leading snow sports centres, despite not being among the ‘classic’ resorts that claim a century or more of winter sports heritage – its development is more akin to the relatively modern resorts of Vail or Val Thorens, as there was little skiing here 50 years ago.

That can be hard to believe now as the ski area has expanded for hundreds of kilometres over the border into Switzerland, and has done so in style – there are now world-class quad, six and eight-seater chairlifts (some with heated seats) to whisk skiers and boarders around the slopes.

Despite the rapid expansion, development has been kept sympathetic to the Tyrolean architectural style, maintaining a traditional feel to the resort. Ischgl has also developed a reputation as being one of the liveliest resorts in the Alps, with busy night spots and international superstars performing at beginning and end of season concerts, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to the resort. Sir Elton John was the first big name to perform at Ischgl's now legendary Top of the Mountain open-air concerts in 1995, returning again in 2008. Other top acts to have featured include Lionel Richie, Kylie Minogue, Sting, Tina Turner and Rod Stewart.

**Location**

Ischgl is located in the Paznaun region of the Austrian Tyrol province. The resort is on the Western border of Austria and offers skiing into Switzerland. Paznaun is located in the Silvretta mountain chain.

**Website**

http://www.paznaun-ischgl.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.ischgl.com/de/active/skigebiet/pisten-anlagen/skiguide-interaktiv/pistenplan

**Hit The Slopes**

Ischgl has some of the longest and most snowsure slopes in the Alps, and is open from late November to early May each ski season. The ski area here is the largest in the eastern Alps and is well connected to the village by a selection of high-speed, high-capacity gondolas.

On the mountain, the heart of the ski area is Idalp with several large restaurants and the main nursery slopes, which are served by several easy-to-use lifts (including a conveyor-style carpet lift). Much of the terrain is up above the treeline and most of it consists of long, wide cruising trails up to 7km (4 miles) in length. However, lower runs cut down through the forest and high Alpine bowls that are ideal for powder lovers.

Snowboarding is very big in Ischgl too, and the terrain and uplift is ideally suited to boarding with a large terrain park containing 30 features, a major halfpipe and a boardercross course.

There are 200km (125 miles) of linked skiing between Ischgl and Samnaun in Switzerland, but the Silvretta ski pass also includes the neighbouring ski areas above the villages of Galtür, Kappl and See that are linked by a bus service. The total area encompasses 370km (232 miles) of trails. There are also some great cross-country routes in the area.

**Ischgl**

**Resort**

1377

**Base**

1377

**Top**

2872

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Although skiers and boarders might find it difficult to remain full of energy after skiing or boarding all day then partying all night (as is the norm for Ischgl), the resort does have extensive non-ski facilities to fill the hours in between runs.

Indoors, these include a swimming and fitness complex that offers discounted admission to holders of ski passes valid for three days or longer. There are also indoor tennis courts at Galtür, a nine-pin bowling alley, films shown in the Silvretta Centre, an art gallery and two museums.

Back outdoors, there’s an ice rink, sleigh rides, cleared winter paths and an excellent toboggan run.

**Family Fun**

Ischgl's Gästekindergarten ski school is located up on the mountain at the Silvretta cable car top station, so it’s convenient for all levels of skier with the beginner slopes nearby, and also non-skiers wanting to see their little ones make their first tumbles and turns on the slopes. It’s open from 1000 to 1600 daily and accepts children of any age.

Children aged three and over can opt to join Ischgl’s ski kindergarten (Eggerweg 4; tel: (05444) 5377), which has its own separate fun learning area. Full day cover with lunch is available on request. Off the slopes, Ischgl has good facilities for families, with a popular adventure swimming pool complex and plenty of family-friendly restaurants.

**Retail Therapy**

Compared to other ski resorts, there is an above average choice of shops in Ischgl, which cover all holiday requirements and provide a good range of fashion and gift shopping opportunities.

One unique opportunity is to ski over the border into Switzerland carrying a backpack and shop in the glittering duty-free shops of lift-linked Samnaun. The ski run down into the village is called the ‘Duty-Free Piste’ as it provides slopeside duty-free shopping for low-priced jewellery, fashion, electronics and, of course, alcohol and cigarettes. There are also half a dozen duty-free petrol stations in the village. However, there are limits to the amount shoppers can purchase and exceeding this could mean having to pay tax upon re-entry to the European Union when skiing back to Ischgl.

**Splashing Out**

The Silvretta area has 74 peaks in total and good skiers and boarders can try ski touring with an expert, such as mountain guide Stefan Jungmann (tel: 0664 179 6389). The ski touring season lasts from February until May and Silvretta is particularly good for ‘extreme’ skiing because there are few crevasses and, of course, Stefan knows where they all are.

**Apres Ski**

Ischgl has moved up the ranks over the years and is now among the world’s livelier ski resorts. Après-ski in Ischgl encompasses more than 40 bars, discos and nightclubs, from quiet traditional establishments to large and animated ventures crammed with partygoers – a case in point is the Romantic Champagner Alpine Lodge (Dorfstrasse 85; tel (05444) 5633; [www.romantica.at](http://www.romantica.at)) that is said to sell more champagne per year than any other bar in Austria.

**Eating Out**

There are about 40 restaurants in Ischgl, the majority of which are within the main hotels and serve Austrian and international cuisine; but there are also several pizzerias and independent restaurants.

A good option for casual dining is Salz und Pfeffer (Silvrettaplatz 4; tel: (05444) 5918; [www.adler-ischgl.at](http://www.adler-ischgl.at)), while the Hotel Gramaser’s Grill Alm restaurant (Dorfstrasse 97; tel: (05444) 5293; [www.ischgl.cc](http://www.ischgl.cc)) is a good all-rounder.

Among the top gourmet offerings are Paznaunerstube in the 5-star Hotel Trofana Royal (Dorfstrasse 95; tel: (05444) 600; [www.trofana-royal.at](http://www.trofana-royal.at)) and the Stuva restaurant in the Gasthof Yscla (tel: (05444) 5275; [www.yscla.at](http://www.yscla.at)); both come highly rated by the Gaut Millau guide.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Innsbruck Airport (INN).

Distance to resort: 100km (62 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 10 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Landeck

Distance to resort: 30km (18 miles).

Driving time: 30 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Most of central Ischgl is easy to walk around and has developed alongside the ski slopes; therefore skiers and boarders can get onto the mountains from various points and don’t need to travel to a central point. A ski bus service runs along the valley providing a regular link to the neighbouring ski areas included on the area pass.

**Hotels**

There are as many guesthouses, bed and breakfasts, apartments and hotels in Ischgl as there are days in the year. Together, they offer more than 11,000 guest beds – contributing to Ischgl being one of Austria’s biggest resorts.

**Trofana Royal**

This 5-star hotel in Ischgl offers a remarkable standard of luxury and gourmet standards, reflected in its three Gault-Millau ‘toques,’ one Michelin star, and two Relax-Guide ‘Lillies’ – a unique feat in Austria.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Dorfstrasse 95

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ischgl

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(05444) 600.

**Website**

http://www.trofana-royal.at

**Hotel Jagerhof**

This central family-owned 4-star hotel features excellent wellness facilities and has a homely atmosphere.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Eggerweg 11

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ischgl

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(05444) 5206.

**Website**

http://www.jaegerhof-ischgl.at

**Hotel Garni Pfeifer**

Even some of the more basic Ischgl hotels are rather nice, and Garni Pfeifer is a prime example. Among the facilities on offer here is a bijou sauna to ease any post-ski aches.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Bichlweg 2

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ischgl

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(05444) 5400.

**Website**

http://www.hotel-pfeifer.com