**St Wolfgang**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

9

**Intermediate Runs**

8

**Advanced Runs**

1

**Total Runs**

18

**Lifts**

7

**Chairs**

1

**Drags**

6

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

St Wolfgang is different to most ski resorts. Instead of trying to outdo its competitors with an ever bigger ski area and increasingly challenging runs and varied attractions, the ancient village has found its niche as a year-round holiday destination without skiing as its sole attraction.

The resort sits on the edge of the pretty Lake Wolfgangsee and has attracted poets and artists for centuries, one of whom described the area as “sensuality in a landscape”, and evidence of human habitation goes back to Neolithic times.

Even the ‘modern’ history of St Wolfgang reaches back into the early Middle Ages, when it grew from a small market town into one of the most important places of Christian pilgrimage. Evidence of this eventful past can be seen throughout the resort’s atmospheric centre and, in particular, in the Pilgrimage Church that houses priceless artworks.

Come winter, the resort’s small Postalm ski area – just a short bus ride from the village – is best suited to beginners and intermediates; while more challenging slopes are available at neighbouring resorts on a regional ski pass. The 12km-long (7 miles) Lake Wolfgangsee is also the centre for numerous year-round sporting and leisure activities.

**Location**

St Wolfgang lies on the northern shore of Lake Wolfgangsee in the Austrian Alps. The resort is close to Salzburg and is in the heart of the Salzkammergut region in northwestern Austria.

**Website**

http://www.wolfgangsee.at

**Piste Map**

http://www.postalm.at/winter/?PID=9

**Hit The Slopes**

St Wolfgang’s Postalm ski area has one of the lowest altitudes for a major Alpine destination, which means snow cover is only truly reliable between Christmas and late March – it is rarely a wise choice for Easter skiing. There is, however, limited snow-making in some key areas, which helps during mid-winter if natural snowfall falls short.

The Postalm area – a 20-minute bus ride from the town – has 17km (11 miles) of runs, a fraction of the amount of skiable terrain in most other big-name resorts in the Alps. However, this is more than adequate for beginner, early-intermediate and undemanding skiers who may prefer having the small, unintimidating ski area all to themselves. There are nine blues and eight reds, while the only black run - the Rudi Nierlich 1 piste – takes up the full vertical of the area.

More demanding skiers will find touring routes on the Postalm (if the conditions are good) or they can sign up for the Dachstein ski pass, which offers 160km (100 miles) or so of pistes at multiple centres throughout the region. These resorts include Gosau and Zwölferhorn – the latter is a good option for the more advanced skier; but bear in mind the closest of these is an hour away by bus.

Back at the Postalm, there’s a popular terrain park for freestyle skiers and boarders, and the area has three cross-country ski loops. These runs range in difficulty and length and can be tackled together in one 22km (14-mile) merged route – part of 40km (25 miles) of tracks in the wider ski area.

**St Wolfgang**

**Resort**

540

**Base**

1200

**Top**

1550

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There are many activities in St Wolfgang owing to the town’s year-round operations, with winter activities encompassing everything from sleigh rides, snowshoeing and snow tubing to the skilful sport of curling. Toboggans can be rented from the Strobler hut (near Parkarea 3), while other activities include tennis at the Vital Hotel Wolfgangsee (tel: (06138) 22770; [www.tennis-hotel.at](http://www.tennis-hotel.at)).

Those in search of pure relaxation and a spot of pampering will find a number of top-class spa and wellness facilities open to the public in the resort’s various 4-star hotels. These invariably include indoor swimming pools and a range of treatments available to day-pass holders.

The majority of other activities are centred on the lake, from boating and waterskiing on it to paragliding above it.

**Family Fun**

St Wolfgang is a pleasant place to spend a family holiday, but there are pros and cons to a family stay in this resort.

On the one hand, families will enjoy being together in an area of great natural beauty, with high-value, family-friendly facilities and a small and unintimidating ski area.

But on the other, expect to spend a chunk of the holiday walking around and on buses – which is not a problem for many of the resort’s modern purpose-built competitors with slopeside access.

There is also no non-ski nursery provision for young children, although kids four and older can be catered for and taught to ski at the ski kindergarten (tel: (06137) 6090) run by Gabriele Pilz at the Postalm ski area.

**Retail Therapy**

A long-standing regional shopping hub, and indeed a year-round tourist centre, St Wolfgang has a good selection of shops that can meet both holiday and retail therapy needs. There are a dozen or so gift shops to explore, as well as plenty of quirky and specialist stores run by local craftspeople and other artisans.

Fine examples include the glass studio Glasschleiferei Wipplinger (Markt 72; tel: (06138) 28274) and the antiques shop Das Gwölb (also known as Zita’s) (Markt 2; tel: (0664) 112 4384).

**Splashing Out**

Eurotherme (tel: (06132) 2040; [www.eurothermen.at](http://www.eurothermen.at)) in nearby Bad Ischl is a traditional spa with modern facilities that incorporates a thermal spa, a large sauna area with eight ‘pleasure zones’ of various sizes and a hot-whirlpool. The complex is open daily and is a 30-minute bus ride from St Wolfgang. For some real luxury, opt for one of the Alhambra packages, which include a hammam and Turkish steam bath.

**Apres Ski**

Après-ski in St Wolfgang ranges from sophisticated hotel lounge bars to livelier venues.

Bar Grabovski (Markt 54; tel: (0664) 183 4530) is firmly in the latter category. Open until 0400, it’s good for everything from coffee, cocktails and cigars to live music. Also open until the early hours, Kap Horn (Markt 13; tel: (0676) 455 4183; [www.kap-horn.at](http://www.kap-horn.at)) is a lively venue with drinks and snacks, while the family-run pub Hannelore (Markt 92; tel: (06138) 3001) is a more relaxed choice.

Something not to be missed is a live music performance at Weissen Rössl (The White Horse Inn; tel: (06138) 2306; [www.weissesroessl.at](http://www.weissesroessl.at)). The famous 1920s operetta of the same name was written here and became a worldwide hit on stage and screen.

**Eating Out**

There is a large choice of restaurants in St Wolfgang; the majority are traditional Austrian establishments where meat and cheese dishes are particularly plentiful. One local dish not to be missed is the scrumptious *kaiserschmarrn* (‘fit for an Emperor’ desert).

The Hotel Försterhof (Ried 14; tel: (06138) 2535; [www.foersterhof.at](http://www.foersterhof.at)) is a good place to go for local dishes; there are also several good Italian choices, including Pizzeria Rudolfshöhe (Au 36; tel: (06138) 20135; [www.rudolfshoehe.at](http://www.rudolfshoehe.at)); while gourmets should head for the award-winning Kaiserterrasse at the Hotel Im Weissen Rössl (Markt 74; tel: (06138) 2306; [www.weissesroessl.at](http://www.weissesroessl.at)) by the lake.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Salzburg Airport (SZG).

Distance to resort: 55km (34 miles).

Driving time: 55 minutes.

**Getting Around**

A comfortable ski bus service operates from St Wolfgang to multiple ski areas, which are all accessible on one lift ticket. Beginner skiers and those happy with limited runs can go direct to the local Postalm area using the service, while the more advanced and demanding can continue on to Gosau around an hour away.

**Hotels**

Accommodation is primarily in the form of hotels in St Wolfgang, with a great choice ranging from 1- to 4-star properties. There are also smaller bed and breakfast pensions and around 300 beds available in apartment accommodation.

**Hotel Im Weissen Rössl**

This large, lakeside hotel covering 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) has a great choice of 4-star rooms and suites, a gourmet restaurant and a superb spa.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Markt 74

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Wolfgang

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06138) 2306.

**Website**

http://www.weissesroessl.at

**Pension Waldhorn**

Pension Waldhorn is a friendly 3-star family-run pension set in a traditional chalet at the foot of the Schafberg mountain. It has a handy location just five minutes’ walk from the village centre.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Sternallee 150

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Wolfgang

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06138) 22050.

**Website**

http://www.pension-waldhorn.at

**Hotel Garni Buchinger**

This popular 3-star guesthouse is located on the edge of the town, overlooking the lake. Wi-Fi internet access is available throughout the hotel.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Ried 44

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Ried

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06138) 2331.

**Website**

http://www.garni-buchinger.at

**Vital Spa Hotel Wolfgangsee**

A comfortable 4-star hotel with a spa on the edge of the village, Vital Spa Hotel Wolfgangsee has a strong tennis theme, with indoor and outdoor courts that has seen it be ranked among Europe’s top-ten tennis hotels by British magazine *ACE*.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Au 53

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Wolfgang

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06138) 22770.

**Website**

http://www.tennis-hotel.at

**Altroiterhof**

This large, family-friendly chalet offers pension-style accommodation on the slopes overlooking the town and lake. Rooms here offer wonderful views, while a friendly service is provided by the Strobl family.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Au 6

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

St Wolfgang

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

(06138) 2912.

**Website**

http://www.altroiterhof.at