**Innsbruck**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Non-skiers

Après ski

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

38

**Intermediate Runs**

28

**Advanced Runs**

30

**Total Runs**

96

**Lifts**

85

**Chairs**

35

**Drags**

35

**Gondola Cable Cars**

15

**Parks**

2

**Pipes**

2

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

4.5m (14.7ft).

**Overview**

Innsbruck, which is known not only as the capital city of the Tyrol but also the capital of the Alps, offers a fairly unique winter holiday proposition.

Firstly, it is unusual for most skiers to be based in a major city during a ski holiday. Innsbruck is a historic and vibrant university city with hundreds of shops, restaurants and numerous other year-round attractions. Additionally its proximity to Innsbruck Airport, a major international air hub, means you can be on the slopes within an hour of landing.

And then there’s the skiing itself; there are nine separate ski areas to explore within the Innsbruck ski resort area, all of which are included on a single, reasonably priced, lift pass that also covers bus travel between the city and slopes.

Innsbruck’s significance in world skiing cannot be understated. Twice host of the Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976, it also became the first city to host three Winter Olympics when it staged the world’s first Winter Youth Olympics in 2012.

Despite all of this, Innsbruck is busier in summer than winter – the reverse scenario to traditional ski resorts – meaning accommodation prices actually drop in the winter months, a welcomed sweetener for skiers.

**Location**

Innsbruck is located in the province of Tyrol in western Austria.

**Website**

http://www.innsbruck.info

**Piste Map**

http://www.innsbruck.info/en/experience/winter-holidays/olympia-skiworld.html

**Hit The Slopes**

Innsbruck’s advantage in having nine ski areas on the Olympia SkiWorld lift pass means skiers can opt to go where the snow is best. The downside of that is if snow cover is generally bad, everyone will cram into the one area – usually the snowsure Stubai Glacier, with lifts ascending to 3,200m (10,400ft). Kühtai is a second good snowsure choice though, with much of the terrain above 2,000m (6,500ft).

The other seven areas do also have relatively good snow records however; despite generally peaking 1,000m (3,250ft) lower than Stubai. The slopes here are all typically open from mid-December to early April each winter.

The choice also means there’s a wide selection of terrain, almost all of which is located between 15 and 45 minutes' drive from the city centre, and all accessible on one lift ticket. The remarkable variety adds up to around 300km (187 miles) of pistes in total, and includes the Olympic slopes of Patscherkofel at Igls and Axamer Lizum.

The Nordkettenbahn cable car goes directly from the city to the Seegrube slopes, where there are fabulous panoramic vistas. The bus-accessed slopes of Muttereralm, Rangger Köpfl or Schlick 2000 are all ideal for recreational skiers.

Freestylers meanwhile will enjoy trying the various terrain parks, including the Nitro Skylinepark, on the slopes above the town.

Despite the resort’s impressive area stats it is worth noting that each of Innsbruck’s nine areas only averages 35km (22 miles) of piste, something that could be an issue for those wanting to spend a week simply skiing from their doorstep.

**Innsbruck**

**Resort**

575

**Base**

575

**Top**

3200

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Given its scale, it’s no surprise that there are a multitude of things to do in Innsbruck besides skiing and boarding, so much so that the resort is one of the best choices for mixed-interest groups that include both skiers and non-skiers. Innsbruck’s Guest Card gives visitors free or reduced access to some attractions and services in the city, including a popular lantern-lit hike.

Among the activities and attractions in Innsbruck are sports centres, swimming pools, cinemas, a concert hall, theatre, galleries, a casino, no less than 24 museums, and an Alpine zoo. There are also excursions organised to Salzburg, Munich and famous Bavarian castles.

The city’s Olympic winter sports heritage is very much alive, with many other winter sports (besides skiing and boarding) staging world-class competitions throughout the season. In many cases it’s possible to have a go. Ski jumping, bobsleigh, ice skating and hockey are all popular, while the brave can ride down the bobsleigh run as a passenger.

**Family Fun**

The city has lots of activities and attractions for families – the competition between establishments and the low season effort to attract business results in visitors being given a higher standard of accommodation, dining and entertainment than the ski resort norm.

The downside, as for all beginner skiers, is that families with young children will face getting to the slopes by bus, which may not be the ideal start and end to a day on the slopes.

It therefore may be less stressful – efficient though the service is – to stay on the mountain at Igls itself (or another of the more family-friendly areas such as Mutters or Oberperfuss).

**Retail Therapy**

With 400 shops in Innsbruck, the resort is arguably the world’s best ski destination for those who like to shop as much as ski and board. As would be expected, there’s a vast choice, from quirky historic backstreet shops to boutiques and giant shopping centres such as Kaufhaus Tyrol (tel: +43 512 901 115).

The Christmas holiday season is particularly popular for shopping with its magical ambience, advent concerts and a giant Christmas tree at the heart of the Christmas market.

**Splashing Out**

Anyone aged 12 and over can take a trip down the Olympic bobsleigh run in Innsbruck (tel: +43 512 3383 8221; [www.olympiaworld.at](http://www.olympiaworld.at/)) – assuming there’s no competition or training taking place during the time of visit. Passengers will hit speeds of over 100km/h (62mph) on the 1,210m (3,600ft) track in Igls, taking in 14 turns in just one minute.

**Apres Ski**

Being a university town as well as a city and a major tourist destination, it’s no surprise that Innsbruck has a buzzing nightlife, with around 200 bars and pubs spread across the city.

With so many establishments trying to build a reputation, the variety of fun après-ski in Innsbruck is vast. For example, there’s Brazilian nightlife at Arcos (tel: +43 512 582 423) and an Irish theme in Arthur Bailey (tel: +43 512 251 541).

If you’re after a more local flavour however, Theresien Brau (tel: +43 512 587 580; [www.theresienbraeu.com](http://www.theresienbraeu.com)) serves locally produced ales to a friendly regular crowd.

**Eating Out**

With more than 300 different restaurants in Innsbruck and its surrounds, the enormous choice means that pretty much every taste, style and budget is catered for somewhere in the city.

One of the most popular in town, remarkably considering the Austrian love of meat dishes, is Chez Nico (tel: +43 650 451 0624;[www.chez-nico.at](http://www.chez-nico.at)), a small vegetarian establishment ran by Nicolas Curtil. The restaurant creates dishes using the finest ingredients and has a French theme, with Mr Curtil having mastered his trade at restaurants in London and Paris.

However the elegant Europastüberl restaurant in the 5-star Grand Hotel Europa (tel: +43 512 5931;[www.grandhoteleuropa.at](http://www.grandhoteleuropa.at/)) retains the prize for critics’ favourite gourmet option in the resort. The multi award-winning restaurant has been decorated in typical Tyrolean style.

Those on a budget should head down to the Breakfast Club (tel: +43 512 307 959) for the best breakfast in town, or the much-loved Strudel-Cafe Kroell (tel: +43 512 574 347), for delicious sweet and savoury offerings of the signature dish.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Innsbruck Airport (INN).

Distance to resort: 4km (2.4 miles).

Driving time: 15 minutes.

Nearest railway station: Innsbruck.

Distance to resort: Within the resort

**Getting Around**

Innsbruck is a city with a modern public transport system, including a bus and tram service – parts of which are included in the ski pass cost. Taxis are another option and charge a reasonable flat rate within the city limits.

**Hotels**

There is a wide choice of accommodation, from apartments and guesthouses to hotels in Innsbruck; and as a result, there is something to suit all budgets and tastes.

**Ramada Innsbruck Tivoli**

Architecturally stunning, the Ramada Innsbruck Tivoli is located close to the railway station and all central amenities. Facilities here include a spa and on-site restaurant, and there are splendid views of the city and surrounding mountainscape from the 11th floor terrace.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Olympiastraße 41

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Innsbruck

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A-6020

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 512 890 404

**Website**

www.ramada-innsbruck.at

**Hotel Goldener Adler**

This Best Western hotel is located in the pedestrianised city centre of Innsbruck. Facilities at the hotel include complimentary Wi-Fi access and an on-site restaurant.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Herzog - Friedrich - Strasse 6

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Innsbruck

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A-6020

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 800 393 130

**Website**

www.goldeneradler.com

**Alpinpark**

This popular 4-star hotel is 15 minutes from the station and has a ski bus stop directly outside. The hotel boasts various dining areas and a well-appointed health and beauty centre.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Pradlerstrasse 28

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Innsbruck

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A-6020

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 512 348 600

**Website**

www.innsbruck-hotels.at

**Adler’s Design Hotel**

A sparkling new hotel in the heart of the city, the design-conscious Adler’s Hotel features a 12th-floor restaurant, and bar with panoramic views of the resort.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Brunesckerstrasse 1

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Innsbruck

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A-6020

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 512 563 100

**Website**

www.deradler.com

**Grand Hotel Europa Tyrol**

A luxurious 5-star hotel near the station, Grand Hotel Europa Tyrol boasts one of the best restaurants in town, along with a stylish cocktail bar.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Südtiroler Platz 2

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Innsbruck

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A-6020

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 512 5931

**Website**

www.grandhoteleuropa.at

**Youth Hostel Innsbruck**

One of numerous budget accommodation options in the city centre, this youth hostel is a little on the basic side, but is clean, comfortable and welcoming.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Reichenauerstrasse 147

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Innsbruck

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

A-6020

**Country**

Austria

**Telephone**

+43 512 346 179

**Website**

www.youth-hostel-innsbruck.at