

Press-Info Kitzbühel Alps

Winter 2021/22

Long-distance hiking in snow: Four days on the new KAT Walk Winter across the Kitzbüheler Alpen.

The all-round carefree package including luggage transport is now available for booking. Relaxed stages, plenty of time to take breaks, enjoy and stop for a bite to eat.

Just get going. Take a deep breath everyday and enjoy new facets of the snow-covered mountain landscape. Don't worry about anything else. Anyone who would like to experience this fascinating Winter long-distance hike, can book the all-round carefree package in the Kitzbüheler Alpen for the first time this season. The KAT Walk Winter, which complements the established Summer variant, departs from Hopfgarten via Westendorf, Reith bei Kitzbühel and St. Johann in Tirol arriving in St. Ulrich am Pillersee. The 63-kilometre route, with its gentle 1,100 metre difference in altitude, is divided into four stages remaining within relatively close proximity to the valleys, so that there is enough time to take breaks for extended drop-ins in rustic inns and for discoveries along the way. Luggage is already at the accommodation on arrival each evening. www.kat-walk.at/winter

"Most people automatically think of Summer when they think of long-distance hiking," says Christina Jöchtl from Kitzbüheler Alpen Marketing. She is responsible for the Kitzbüheler Alpen Trails (KAT), which traverse the picturesque landscape in view of the Wilder Kaiser and Kitzbüheler Horn in different variations. These packages are always booked with top service, selected accommodation and luggage transport. "The KAT Walk Winter is not over-demanding," she says and emphasises: "We wanted to create an offer that is not too challenging from a sporting point of view. The aim is to make it possible to experience the fascination of Winter hiking."

The start is in Hopfgarten, in view of the Hohe Salve (1,828 m), which gave the holiday region its name. If you want to get an overview of the region first, take the cable car to the summit. The legendary panoramic mountain with its 360-degree bird's-eye view and the Salvenkirchlein as Austria's highest pilgrimage church is sure to make a good selfie. The historic town centre also offers wonderful motifs; audio guides provide the necessary information on the past and present if required. Don't worry, there is plenty of time: for stage 1, with its ten kilometres through the Winter landscape, you need no more than three and a half hours. The destination is Westendorf.

The next morning, the striking Kitzbüheler Horn is your silent companion on tour. The valley hiking trail runs via Brixen and Kirchberg to Reith bei Kitzbühel, through snow-covered meadows, along streams and through picturesque villages. If you want to stop for a bite to eat, you have a large selection of inns here. You will reach your accommodation after 16 kilometres or a five-hour hike - so there is plenty of time for detours here as well. Tip: Take the Fleckalmbahn cable car up to the panoramic Ehrenbachhöhe (1,800 m) and continue along the Winter hiking trail in the middle of the ski area for a good half hour to the legendary

Hahnenkamm (1,712 m) and the Streif: the notorious downhill run is considered the most difficult in the entire Ski World Cup.

The next day's stage begins in Reith bei Kitzbühel with a gentle climb to the farms on the Bichlach. First pass through a sophisticated residential area on the outskirts of Kitzbühel, then along the historic Römerweg and the idyllic farming hamlet of Wiesenschwang, the varied Winter hike leads to Oberndorf and on to the centre of St. Johann in Tirol. The Hüber Bräu Brewery is at home here in the largest town in the Kitzbühel district: in the Turmstüberl (the Tower Lounge) on the top floor, enjoy magnificent views with a tasty beer. What's your fancy: Stroll through the alleys, shop in the attractive shops? Or better still, take the mountain lift to Harschbichl (1,604 m)? For the adventurous, choose from paragliding and (at the middle station) or fly weightlessly through the air on the Flying Fox. With 13 kilometres and about four hours of walking time on the KAT Walk Winter, there is again enough time for extras.

For the last stage to St. Ulrich am Pillersee, an early start is recommended: The 23-kilometre route is estimated to take six and a half hours. Always on the sunny side, you reach St. Jakob in Haus through picture-book landscapes. It's impossible not to see the 30-metre-high Jakobskreuz (St. Jacob's Cross), the largest accessible summit cross in the world, dedicated to pilgrims and enthroned on the crest of the 1,456-metre-high Buchensteinwand. A short journey up with the mountain lift - and enjoy the magnificent view: The snow-covered Loferer and Leoganger Steinberge, the Kitzbüheler Horn and the Spielberg as Fieberbrunn's most prominent peak seem close enough to touch. If you like, you can take the bus for the last few kilometres but it might be a pity to miss the scenic highlight along the shores of the Pillersee Lake. The Gasthof St. Adolari right next to the small pilgrimage church is the perfect place to review the impressions of the past days.

All-round carefree package: The KAT Walk Winter package with five nights (two in exclusive four-star hotels, three in cosy inns) and four hiking days costs from € 799 per person in a double room. The price includes half board, luggage transport, maps, return journey to the starting point by public transport and extras. www.kat-walk.at/winter

Free travel with the guest card: All guest card holders of the four Kitzbühel Alps regions have free travel. This applies to all train connections (REX) and suburban trains on the route from Wörgl to Hochfilzen. www.kitzalps.com/autofrei

The Kitzbüheler Alpen: These are the four holiday regions Hohe Salve, Brixental, St. Johann in Tirol and PillerseeTal around Kitzbühel with 20 villages that have retained their Tyrolean charm. These include well-known names such as Kirchberg, Hopfgarten, St. Johann in Tirol and Fieberbrunn. An absolute strength of the destination lies in its extensive range of offers for families, hikers, outdoor and sports enthusiasts.

Further information on the region: Kitzbüheler Alpen Marketing GmbH, Dorfstraße 11, A-6365 Kirchberg in Tirol, Tel.: +43 57507, www.kitzalps.com, info@kitzalps.com