

# The Kitzsteinhorn promises unlimited freedom at 3000 meters

Experience 365 days of snow and nature in a world of eternal glacier ice

The unmistakable silhouette of the Kitzsteinhorn and its almost magical aura have made this "white mountain" an emblem of the entire Zell am See-Kaprun holiday region. The "Kitz", as the mountain is affectionately known, is one of the most legendary glacier ski areas in the Eastern Alps: alpine skiers and cross-country enthusiasts, snowboarders, ski tourers, winter hikers and snow fans enjoy total freedom at 3000 m above sea level. At TOP OF SALZBURG/Gipfelwelt 3000 next to the mountain terminal, visitors are treated to an incomparable experience that includes a cinema, restaurant as well as viewing platforms. The panoramas of neighboring Hohe Tauern National Park, the biggest nature sanctuary in Central Europe, are simply magnificent. The new K-ONNECTION cableway carries winter sportsmen and -women along with nature lovers directly from the center of Kaprun over the Maiskogel and up to the Kitzsteinhorn at 3029 m, making a ski-in-ski-out experience between town and glacier possible for the first time ever. The Maiskogel is a perfect year-round complement to the Kitzsteinhorn: This beloved, approximately 1500 m tall mountain provides ideal terrain for families and children, skiers, hikers and bikers.

# Legendary glacier ski area: Over 50 years of the Kitzsteinhorn.

The Kitzsteinhorn has been a ski destination since 1965: Austria's first glacier ski area is simultaneously the only one in Salzburger Land and, from the very outset, the Kitzsteinhorn has enjoyed a well-earned reputation as a pioneer of lift and ski technology. Anyone who skis here, does so in the tracks of illustrious personalities: In fact, the entire international ski-racing elite has trained on the Kitzsteinhorn over the past five decades. The Kitzsteinhorn is an ultramodern ski area, with an infrastructure that has been steadily expanded throughout the years and which openly embraces the spirit of innovation. The 3K Konnection, which opened on 30 November 2019, represents the realization of a generational project, a momentous step forward in the history of Kaprun as well as the Kitzsteinhorn: Each separate stage treats passengers to brand-new perspectives and views of this breathtaking high-alpine landscape.

#### K-ONNECTION rises from Kaprun town center over the Maiskogel up to the Kitzsteinhorn

The new, spectacular K-ONNECTION links the town center of Kaprun with the popular Maiskogel Family Ski Area and the legendary Kitzsteinhorn itself, forging all three into a fascinating single entity. For guests and winter sports fans, it promises shorter distances, ski-in-ski-out between Kaprun and the glacier, along with the ultimate in convenience thanks to the newly constructed Kaprun Center including the valley terminal building, ticket windows, ski depot and sports shop. From the town of Kaprun all the way up to TOP OF SALZBURG at 3029 m, a chain of six gondola lifts rises a total of 2261 vertical meters with a sense of effortless ease, traversing four different climate and vegetation zones in the process: for winter sports enthusiasts, day-trippers and nature lovers, a magically beautiful year-round alternative to the Gletscherjet at the Kaprun valley head. The heart of the K-ONNECTION is the 4.3 km long 3K K-onnection: Salzburg's first tri-cable gondola connects the mountain station of the MK Maiskogelbahn (elev. 1570 m) with Langwied (1975 m) on the Kitzsteinhorn. 32 designer cabins, of which two are special "Explorer Cabins", guarantee imposing 360° panoramic views also stretching out across the valley far below.

# Total freedom, unforgettable glacier moments and family happiness on the Maiskogel

Skiing on the glacier is a special experience: Until early summer, Salzburg's only glacier ski area continues to celebrate every facet of winter sport. The Kitzsteinhorn boasts snow conditions you can count





on, broad pistes, state-of-the-art lifts, inviting restaurants and enormous variety for all winter sports fans. The many highlights include three snowparks as well as Austria's most amazing super pipe, the blackrated "Black Mamba" piste with a maximum gradient of 63%. Skimovie and Speedcheck hills along with five clearly marked freeride routes including "Freeride Info Base" and info points. The Kitzsteinhorn also features two clearly posted ascent routes for ski tourers, along with a glacier trail at 2900 m for crosscountry skiers. Standing in exciting contrast to the mighty 3204 m high Kitzsteinhorn, with its rugged crags, high-alpine terrain and eternal glacier ice, is the Maiskogel, Kaprun's "gentle" local mountain providing ideal conditions for families and nature lovers. Hop on the MK Maiskogelbahn for a gondola ride from the town center of Kaprun up to the Maiskogel, from where the new 3K K-onnection extends your adventure all the way up to the Kitzsteinhorn. In winter, the new "Stanger" mid-station serves as the gateway for families, beginners, "Sunday skiers" and ski schools to broad, flat pistes. The "Maisi Park" is the ideal launch pad for young freestylers on skis or a snowboard to playfully experiment with new tricks. The K-ONNECTION has forged the Maiskogel and Kitzsteinhorn into a single new unbeatable unit. The Kitzsteinhorn and Maiskogel have clearly demonstrated their commitment to families for a number of years, not least through their special offer known as the "Power of 10": Every Saturday, children and teens 18 or younger pay only € 10 for an all-day pass.

# The new Kitzsteinhorn Explorer Tour with our National Park Rangers

Since the opening of the K-ONNECTION up to the Kitzsteinhorn, visitors interested in nature can now embark on a new tour that leads them from the valley up to the glacier. This excursion is offered in winter and summer, with experienced National Park Rangers accompanying you by lift up to the world of eternal glacier ice. It treats children and adults to fascinating insights into the alpine flora and fauna of the high mountains: including where eagles nest, the vital function of barrier forests and how glacial ice is formed. Participants enjoy an eagle's eye view as they travel across four climate zones and 2261 vertical meters. Six gondola lifts strung one after another: with the ride on the two Explorer Cabins of the new 3K K-onnection as a breathtaking highlight. Once you have reached the summit, we suggest a visit to Cinema 3000 and the National Park Gallery along with a refreshment stop at the summit restaurant, the highest in Salzburg at 3029 meters above sea level.

#### The Kitzsteinhorn throughout the year: 365 days of nature and mountain experiences

The glacier takes a break from skiing in summer, with the popular ICE ARENA open in July and August instead. This winter playground at over 3000 m above sea level, consisting of a snow beach, sun loungers, sliding hills and snow bar, transports summertime visitors to a "cool" world of snow and eternal ice. During the summer months, hikers and mountain bikers are also drawn to the Kitzsteinhorn: Guided hikes led by National Park Rangers and the "My First 3000er" hike with a certified mountain guide promise a truly special nature experience. Three exceptionally natural mountain bike freeride trails are the very definition of "spectacular": the Geißstein Trail, the Wüstlau Trail and the Bachler Trail: As much as 12 km in length with vertical gains up to 1500 m, they are some of the most challenging freeride routes in all of Salzburger Land.

## TOP OF SALZBURG/Gipfelwelt 3000 and pure mountain enjoyment

At "Gipfelwelt 3000" on the Kitzsteinhorn, year-round visitors are able to experience the fascinating high-mountain and glacier world of Hohe Tauern National Park. As the starting point for your high-alpine adventure, we suggest "Cinema 3000" for a mesmerizing cinematographic experience: The film "Kitzsteinhorn – The Nature" is projected on an 8 m wide screen. The name of the TOP OF SALZBURG viewing platform at 3029 m above sea level says it all: In fact, it is the highest point in Salzburg accessi-





ble to the general public. The National Park Gallery is a 360 m long tunnel with info stations, taking you all the way through the mountain and culminating with yet another panorama platform, which, geographically speaking, is already inside Hohe Tauern National Park: At this extraordinary lookout point, you find yourself practically at eye level with the Grossglockner (3798 m). The Kitzsteinhorn entered into a contract with its neighbor, Hohe Tauern National Park, since when it has cooperated very closely with the biggest nature sanctuary in the Alps: Twice-daily in summer and every Tuesday in winter, free guided tours are offered with National Park Rangers.

### The Maiskogel in summer: Ideal for hikers and bikers

In summer, the MK Maiskogelbahn gives hikers, nature lovers and families a quick, convenient way to reach the starting point of magical walks and hiking trails. Hikers make their way across alpine meadows from one hut to the next, while bikers are able to use the new lift as a strength-saving shortcut. Throughout the year, traditional huts on the Maiskogel offer a delectable selection of traditional meals highlighted by local and regional products. Back in the valley, adventurers big and small discover exhilarating downhill enjoyment in the form of the Maisi Flitzer, Salzburg's first Alpine coaster: Sitting safely on green two-seaters sleds, you will glide down the rails at speeds up to 40 km/h. Waves, jumps and spectacular banked turns guarantee excitement and a true adrenaline rush for adults and kids alike. The family fun park at the Kaprun Center, with bouncy castles, slides and lots more, is yet another play paradise for families.

#### Ski ALPIN CARD: The new key to unlimited skiing enjoyment

The Kitzsteinhorn is part of the new ALPIN CARD ticket alliance. It brings together three premium ski regions: Skicircus Saalbach Hinterglemm Leogang Fieberbrunn, Schmittenhöhe in Zell am See as well as the glacier ski area of Kitzsteinhorn Kaprun itself, creating a unique world of unforgettable experiences. The Ski ALPIN CARD, which is available as a day, multi-day or season ticket, and even a year-round pass, includes 408 piste kilometers, 121 lifts and an amazing array of attractions – with glacier snow guaranteed – for an extraordinary skiing adventure. Especially for families and beginners, inexpensive day tickets for Maiskogel Family Mountain are also available.

# Downloadable photos: <a href="https://www.kitzsteinhorn.at/de/service/backstage/presse">https://www.kitzsteinhorn.at/de/service/backstage/presse</a> Contact for press inquiries and photographic materials:

Kitzsteinhorn – Gletscherbahnen Kaprun AG <u>www.kitzsteinhorn.at</u>

Maria Hofer, Marketing Manager

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Tel. +43 (0) 6547/8700-171
maria.hofer@kitzsteinhorn.at
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