



## Press Info

### **Kitzsteinhorn: Eco Activities and Research**

Sustainable thinking shapes business development

**Quality-, eco- and energy management have played an important role at the Kitzsteinhorn for many years. Through exemplary environmental and energy-management strategies, Kapruner Gletscherbahnen AG has pursued its course towards sustainable business and commercial practices. The company is three-time ISO-certified and was rewarded with an outstanding distinction for sustainable management: At the XI<sup>th</sup> Alpine Conference, the Kitzsteinhorn received the “pro natura – pro ski AWARD”. Kitzsteinhorn is a close partner of Hohe Tauern National Park as well as several scientific projects. For over 10 years, changes in the climate have been monitored intensively on the Kitzsteinhorn. Open-Air Lab Kitzsteinhorn supplies scientific data that influence future-thinking and decision-making.**

Since 2003, Kitzsteinhorn has been committed to the implementation and ongoing monitoring of quality and safety standards consistent with ISO 9001. Active environmental measures as well as the clear commitment to sustainability led, in 2007, to certification being extended to environmental management (ISO 14001) and, in 2015, to energy management (ISO 50001) practices. ISO certifications held by Kapruner Gletscherbahnen apply to all corporate divisions, including lifts, pistes and hospitality.

The overriding goal is to reconcile environmental issues and avoidance of adverse environmental impact with the sustainable commercial development of the company itself. “Precise analysis of environmental consequences and sustainable practices plays an important role in our decision-making. Parallel ecological planning and ecological construction oversight for all projects, together with extensive recultivation measures at our higher elevations, have already become our standard corporate practice. The renowned Salzburg Institute for Ecology has monitored our company since 2006 and has declared the implementation efforts of our experienced team “exemplary”. Through our approaches to energy management, we continuously optimize our utilization of energy and resources. A process which not only helps us commercially, but also guarantees responsible use of valuable resources”, states executive director Norbert Karlsböck.

#### **Pump- & Hydropower Station: snow in winter, power in summer**

Even in Salzburg’s highest ski area, because of glacial retreat and climate changes, efficient snowmaking is essential. To that end, Gletscherbahnen Kaprun makes use of water from the reservoirs operated by the major Kaprun hydropower stations. In 2011, the first expansion stage of the Grubbach combined pump- & hydropower station was completed. In winter, it becomes an integral part of the snowmaking infrastructure, whilst in summer, the water from the snowmelt is used to generate energy. In summer 2022, Gletscherbahnen Kaprun will further enhance power production by installing an additional pump turbine.

#### **Photovoltaics and Energy Recovery**

The small Grubbach hydropower station, multiple photovoltaic systems on operations buildings as well as energy recovery provided by drive engines makes it possible for the company to produce as much as 1.5 million kWh of renewable power annually. The amount of energy we generate equates to the energy consumption of approximately 500 households. The Kitzsteinhorn obtains 100 % CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral power supplied by Salzburg AG and generated from renewable energy sources.

#### **Reduction of private transportation in Kaprun**

One important goal of the Kaprun–Maiskogel–Kitzsteinhorn “3K K-connection” was to reduce the use of private vehicles in Kaprun Valley. The new lift link, from the town center of Kaprun all the way up to the ski areas, makes it possible for locals as well as guests to dispense with the use of private cars since they only need to walk a short distance or can take advantage of the optimized free ski-bus system instead. Calculations suggest this will reduce car travel in Kaprun by 1.5 million kilometers annually.

#### **First E-ski bus and eco-friendly vehicle fleet**

This winter, for the very first time, Postbus AG will be operating an electrically powered ski bus on the village bus line in Kaprun. “This bus is ideal for the circumstances in Kaprun. The ride is much quieter and the Co<sub>2</sub> emission is reduced significantly. Experiences gained this winter season will help drive further expansion of the E-bus network in Kaprun and the surrounding region”, points out executive director Norbert Karlsböck. The vehicle fleet operated by Gletscherbahnen Kaprun itself will likewise be converted step-by-step to E-mobility. This winter, the newly developed Pistenbully 600E+ will be used on the Kitzsteinhorn. The result: 20% lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 20% less fuel consumption and a 20% reduction in noise.



### Partner of Hohe Tauern National Park

June 2011 saw the completion and opening of “Gipfelwelt 3000 - TOP OF SALZBURG 3029 m”, a collaborative project between Kapruner Gletscherbahnen and Hohe Tauern National Park. In 2012, both partners signed a cooperation agreement. It comprises various points including the popular National Park Ranger Tours, the “National Park Gallery Tour” and the “Kitzsteinhorn Explorer Tour” as well as mutual knowledge transfer. “The National Park Gallery” at 3000 meters above sea level is the highest generally accessible point in the outer zone of Hohe Tauern National Park and affords unforgettable insights into the high-mountain landscape”, points out Norbert Karlsböck.

### Open-Air Lab Kitzsteinhorn

Since 2010, the effects of climate change on high-alpine surface and subsurface processes have been monitored in collaboration with research partners such as Georesearch and various universities. “Our over 70 years of experience on the Kitzsteinhorn are supplemented by scientific data collected about the climate, the glacier, permafrost and rock stability. Our decisions about future activities are based on research findings”, Norbert Karlsböck emphasizes.

### pro natura – pro ski AWARD

At the XI<sup>th</sup> Alpine Conference in 2011, the Kitzsteinhorn was honored with the “pro natura – pro ski AWARD”, which is given out by the Liechtenstein-based foundation “pro natura – pro ski” every two years. This award recognizes alpine ski areas for their ecologically oriented management, innovative power and sustainable business practices. With respect to the Kitzsteinhorn, the ISO certificates were viewed positively, as was the development of innovative and sustainable tourism offers such as Gipfelwelt 3000, completed in June 2011 in close cooperation with Hohe Tauern National Park and Haus der Natur Salzburg. These concepts with a long-term focus, the implemented measures, clearly defined responsibilities for the improvement of environmental sustainability and a high degree of public transparency managed to convince the “pro natura – pro ski” jury.

FACT BOX: Kitzsteinhorn Environmental Management	
■	Support in the planning and implementation of eco-friendly building measures provided by <b>Institute for Ecology Salzburg</b>
■	<b>Combined pump- and hydropower station:</b> “Snow in winter – Power in summer” Planned installation of a third pump turbine in summer 2022
■	Permanent <b>high-elevation recultivation and revegetation program</b>
■	Complete <b>water supply from spring water</b> sourced in the Kitzsteinhorn area
■	Sophisticated <b>logistics system</b> and a unique <b>waste management concept</b> also with the goal of greatest-possible trash avoidance
■	Operation of all lifts, gondolas and facilities with <b>CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral power from renewable energy sources</b>
■	<b>Energy recovery</b> from the high-performance engines of the big lifts as well as waste heat from kitchens used to heat building spaces at the Alpincenter, the Panoramabahn valley station, the Langwiedboden station and the mid-station of Gletscherjet 3+4.
■	Due to its innovative overall concept, the entire <b>Kaprun Center</b> is certified as a <b>Class A Low-Energy Building</b>
■	<b>Photovoltaic power generation on buildings:</b> Kaprun Center as well as valley and mountain lift stations. Scheduled expansion in summer 2022.
■	Participation in the project “ <b>Clean Energy 4 Tourism</b> ”
■	<b>E-Ski Bus Kaprun</b> – electrically powered ski bus in winter
■	<b>3K K-connection</b> – 1.5 million km saved through construction of the 3K K-connection Kaprun – Maiskogel-Kitzsteinhorn
■	<b>Fully organic sewage treatment system</b> at 3029 m, from the mid-station of Gletscherjet 3+4 elev. 2650 m piped all the way down to the regional treatment plant in Zell am See (18 km)
■	Partner of <b>Hohe Tauern National Park</b> since 2011: highest readily accessible point (year-round) inside the biggest nature sanctuary in the Alps, regular National Park Ranger Tours, mutual knowledge transfer
■	<b>Internal officers</b> assigned to environmental issues, energy, waste disposal, water and sewage management, fire prevention and work safety
■	2015 through December 2017: Support provided by Gletscherbahnen Kaprun to the project “ <b>Integral Deer Management</b> ”. The project examines means towards problem-free integration of deer into the cultural landscapes in coordination with tourism, agriculture, forestry and the hunting community. Project partners: Gutsverwaltung Fischhorn, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
■	Recipient of the “ <b>pro natura - pro ski AWARD 2011</b> ” for exemplary, sustainable, innovative and nature-friendly management practices
■	Entire company (gondolas, lifts & pistes as well as hospitality) certified according to <b>ISO 9001 (quality management) // ISO 14001 (environmental management) // ISO 50001 (energy management)</b>

Status, October 2021

**Kitzsteinhorn: THE GLACIER**

Photo: Kitzsteinhorn



**Grubbach combined pump- and hydropower station**

Photo: Kitzsteinhorn



**Drilling a hole for the extensometer**

Photo: Kitzsteinhorn



**Drilling holes for temperature sensors**

Photo: Kitzsteinhorn



**Geo-radar on the glacier plateau**

Photo: Kitzsteinhorn

## **FACTS & FIGURES**



### Kitzsteinhorn Glacier Ski Area, Maiskogel Family Mountain, Lechnerberg

- Elevation 768 – 3029 m
- Snow guarantee from autumn until early summer
- 23 lifts and gondolas
- 61 kilometers of pistes

### Highlights in Winter 2021/22

- **3K K-connection** – most modern cableway worldwide and heart of the Kaprun-Maiskogel-Kitzsteinhorn link, **ski-in ski-out** between the town center of Kaprun and the glacier
- Kitzsteinhorn **Explorer Tour**: nature tour with a National Park Ranger through 4 climate zones, from 768 m to the TOP OF SALZBURG at 3029 m
- Kitzsteinhorn **K-ONNECTION CUP** involving five exciting Skiline.cc disciplines
- **ALPIN CARD ticket alliance**: Ski ALPIN CARD, from one-day to season-long tickets for three premium regions, Skicircus Saalbach Hinterglemm Leogang Fieberbrunn, Schmitten in Zell am See and Kitzsteinhorn Kaprun – up to 408 kilometers of pistes and 121 lifts, including the glacier

### Wide Variety of Winter Sports

- **Freeride XXL**: 5 freeride routes, Freeride Infobase, freeride info points
- **Snowpark Kitzsteinhorn**: 4 parks and Austria's finest superpipe
- **Black Mamba**: an extraordinary challenge – black-rated piste up to 63% gradient
- **Ski-Touring Routes**: "Schneekönigin" and "Eisbrecher" on the Kitzsteinhorn and "Skitour Maiskogel"
- **Eagle Line** – fun-piste with banked turns, moguls and small jumps
- **Glacier Trail** for cross-country skiers at 2900 m
- **Skiline.cc**: vertical meters skied, speed checks, Skimovie hill
- **Freeride Monday** - freeride workshops for beginners and experienced riders
- Guided **ski tour** with mountain guides on the pristine Tristkogel, 2642 m
- **Guided snowshoe hike** to the ICE CAMP presented by Audi

### Away from the pistes

- **ICE CAMP presented by Audi** – stylish world of wonder made of snow and ice at 2600 m
- **Maisi Flitzer** – Alpine slide in the town center of Kaprun open year-round

### TOP OF SALZBURG/Gipfelwelt 3000

Our high-alpine nature experience right on the edge of Hohe Tauern National Park – open year-round

- **TOP OF SALZBURG 3029 m**: Salzburg's highest panorama platform
- **Cinema 3000**: Austria's highest cinema with a spectacular nature film "Kitzsteinhorn-THE Nature"
- **National Park Gallery**: 360-meter tunnel with 5 info stations and panorama platform
- **National Park Ranger Tours**: every Tuesday

### Mountain Restaurants and Bars – food & beverages on the Kitzsteinhorn between 768 – 3029 m

- **8 restaurant & bars** from the valley station at 768 m to Salzburg's highest restaurant at 3029 m

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