



Hohe Tauern National Park

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Haidenhof (p289)
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Why Go?

If you thought Mother Nature pulled out all the stops in the Austrian Alps, Hohe Tauern National Park was her magnum opus. Welcome to Austria's outdoor wonderland and one of Europe's biggest nature reserves (1786 sq km), straddling Tyrol, Carinthia and Salzburgerland. Try as we might, no amount of hyperbole about towering snow-clad peaks, shimmering glaciers, impossibly turquoise lakes and raging waterfalls can quite do this place justice.

The poetry of such landscapes is set in motion on high-altitude roads twisting to elegant spa towns, Roman ruins and the 3798m hump of Grossglockner. But to really appreciate Hohe Tauern, you must strike out into its wilderness. Grab your boots or skis, slip into a bicycle saddle or launch yourself off a mountain to send your spirits soaring from peak to glorious peak, and commit every last inch of loveliness to memory.

When to Go

Each season has its own flavour in the Hohe Tauern National Park. Summer brings festivals and fireworks to the shores of Zell am See. This is also the best time to do high-altitude hikes and climbs, and adventure along the dizzying Grossglockner Road. A wintry dusting of snow brings skiing to Zell am See-Kaprun, the Kitzsteinhorn Glacier and spa town Bad Gastein. Everything starts to bud in late spring, while in autumn the slopes are beautifully cloaked in golden larch trees.



Hohe Tauern National Park Highlights

- 1 Buckle up for a rollercoaster ride of Alps and glaciers on the **Grossglockner Road** (p279), one of Austria's greatest drives
- 2 Hear the thunder of the **Krimmler Wasserfälle** (p281), Europe's highest waterfall
- 3 Feel 10 years younger bathing in the radon-laced

- waters of **Bad Gastein** (p283), hailed for healing properties
- 4 Be elevated by evocative alpine views while hiking the high-altitude **Pinzgauer Spaziergang** (p277)
 - 5 Discover your inner Inuit sleeping in an igloo at the **Volvo Ice Camp** (p278) at the Kitzsteinhorn Glacier

- 6 Take a walk on the wild side of Hohe Tauern with a guided **ranger tour** (p279)
- 7 Be moved by the sombre works of Albin Egger-Lienz at medieval castle **Schloss Bruck** (p286) in Lienz
- 8 Let llamas lead the way through the Dolomites from **Lienz** (p288)