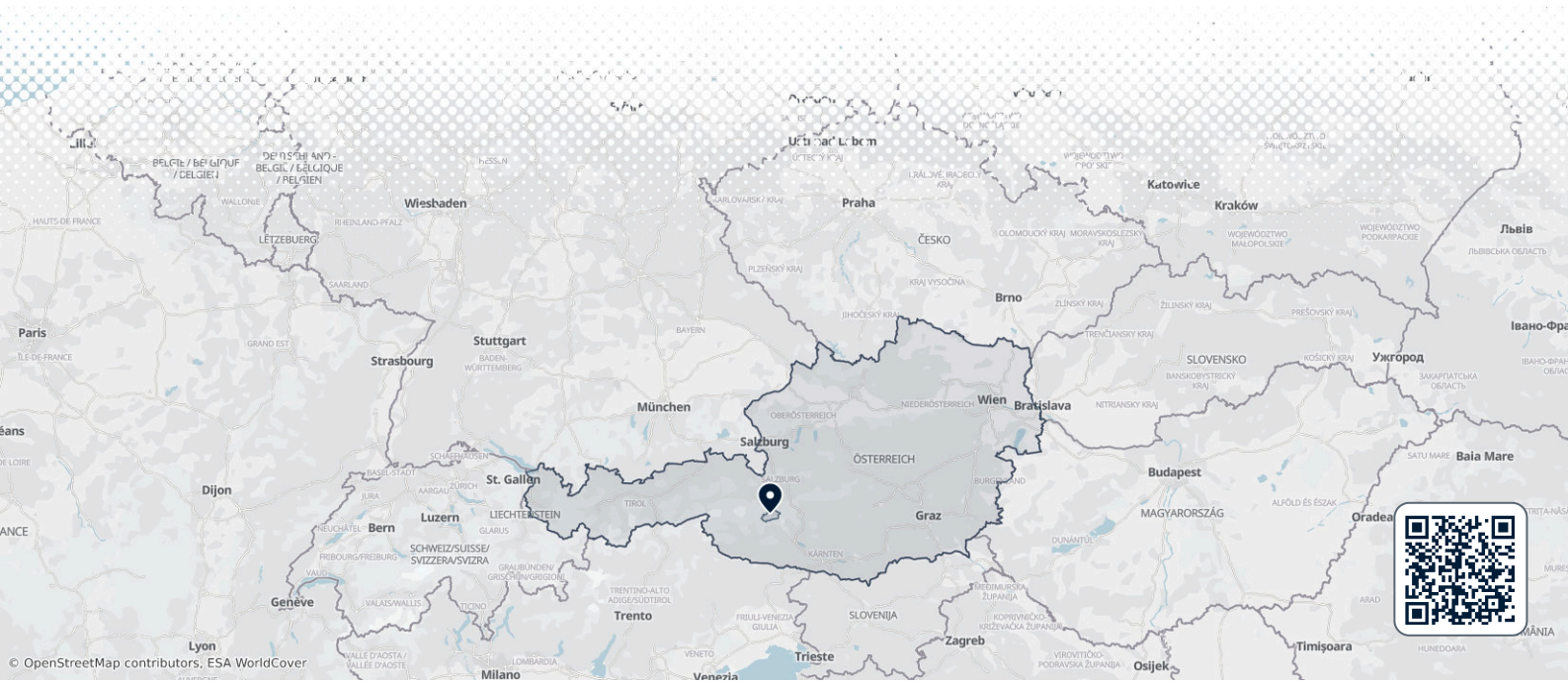


Bad Gastein

Salzburg · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bad Gastein is a spa and ski town in the Gastein valley in the Hohe Tauern. It is built on steep slopes around a waterfall that drops through the middle of town. Grand Belle Époque hotels line the hillside, and the town has a faded elegance that is now being revived.

The thermal waters have drawn visitors for centuries, including emperors and artists. Today it offers spa days, skiing and hiking in one place.

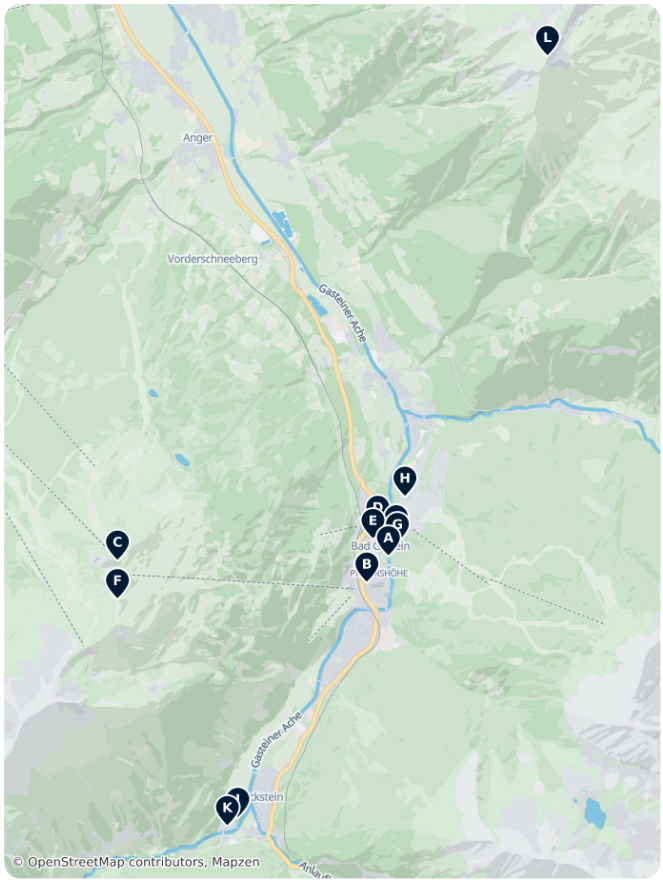
When to visit

December to April is ski season. June to September is best for hiking and for spa visits. April–May and October–November are quieter. Winters are cold and snowy. Summers are mild, with occasional thunderstorms.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	1° / 7° Feels like -3°	-7° / -15°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	2° / 9° Feels like -1°	-6° / -16°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for skiing	6° / 14° Feels like 3°	-2° / -11°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 20°	2° / -5°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for sightseeing	17° / 23°	7° / 1°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 5°	22 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	22° / 28°	12° / 7°	23 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	22° / 28°	13° / 7°	21 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 24°	9° / 3°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	14° / 21°	5° / -2°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for skiing	7° / 14°	0° / -9°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	3° / 8° Feels like -1°	-5° / -14°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Gasteiner Wasserfall is the waterfall in the heart of town, dropping about 340 m in several steps.
- B Felsentherme is the thermal spa with indoor and outdoor pools.
- C Stubnerkogel is the main ski and hiking mountain, reached by cable car, with a suspension bridge and views.
- D Flying Waters, Bad Gastein is a zip-line over the waterfall.
- E Gasteiner Museum covers the history of the spa and the valley.
- F Aussichtsplattform Glocknerblick is a viewpoint with a view toward the Grossglockner.
- G Quellenpark is a park in the town centre with spring water.
- H Nikolauskirche and I Preimskirche are two small churches in the upper town.
- J Jagdschloss Czernin is a hunting lodge in the Böckstein area.
- K Mining Museum Altböckstein tells the story of gold mining in the valley.
- L Gamskarkogel is a peak on a summer hike.

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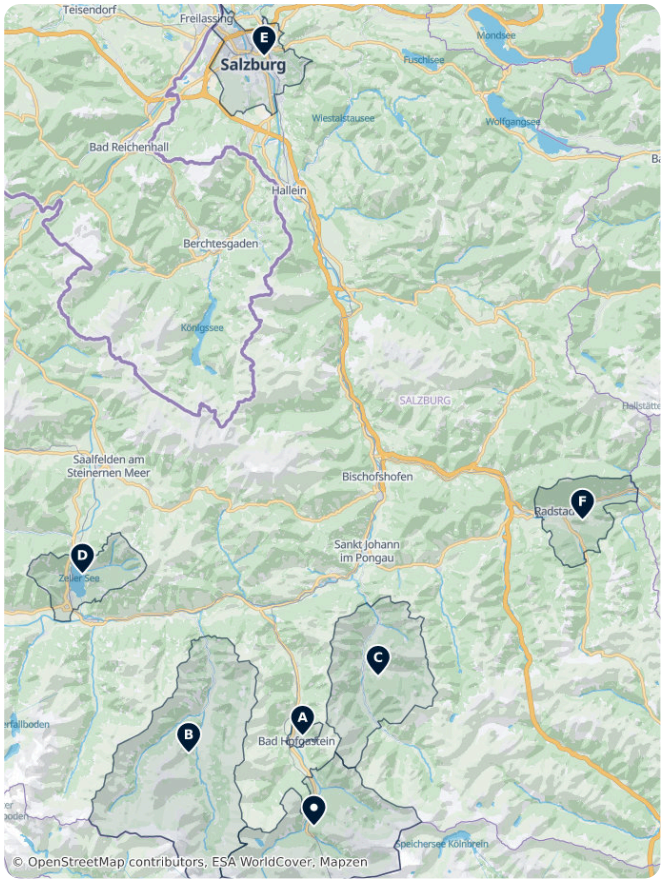
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What to experience

- Soak in the thermal pools.
- Ski the Gastein valley.
- Hike a trail from the Stubnerkogel.
- Walk past the Belle Époque hotels.
- Visit the healing tunnel in Böckstein.

Day trips

- A Bad Hofgastein is a spa and ski town further down the valley, about 10 minutes by train or bus.
- B Rauris is a quiet valley village, about 45 minutes by car.
- C Großarl is a valley of mountain huts, about 45 minutes by car.
- D Zell am See is about 1 hour 15 minutes by car.
- E Salzburg is about 1 hour 15 minutes by train.
- F Radstadt is a walled town, about 1 hour by car.



Where to explore

- Bad Hofgastein, Rauris and Großarl are the closest preferred places.

Getting there

- By air: Salzburg Airport is about 1 hour 30 minutes away by car. Innsbruck and Klagenfurt are alternatives.
- By train: Bad Gastein is on the Tauern railway. Salzburg takes about 1 hour 15 minutes, Villach about 1 hour 15 minutes. Check times on ÖBB.
- By car: Take the A10 Tauern motorway to the Bad Gastein exit.

Getting around

The town is built on steep slopes, with steps and short climbs. Local buses run through the valley. The station is in the centre of town. The Stubnerkogel cable car starts near the centre.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The town is built on steep slopes, so streets and paths involve climbs.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Valley paths are easy, but mountain routes are steep.

Driving

A car is helpful for the side valleys. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. The Tauern motorway has tolls. Parking in the town centre is limited.

Food & drink

Salzburg-region food includes *Kasnocken*, cheese dumplings, and *Kaiserschmarrn*. Mountain huts serve simple dishes. The town has a growing cafe and bar scene in the old hotels.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Wiener Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and pan-fried veal cutlet, traditionally served with potato salad or parsley potatoes and a wedge of lemon.

Tafelspitz
Boiled beef in broth, served with roast potatoes and a sauce of apples and horseradish — a favourite of Emperor Franz Joseph.

Viennese Goulash · Wiener Saftgulasch
A rich beef stew slow-cooked with onions and paprika, typically served with a bread dumpling or bread roll.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Käsekrainer
A grilled pork sausage studded with melty cheese, a classic order at Vienna's ubiquitous Würstelstand (sausage stands).

Sausage Stand Snack · Würstel vom Würstelstand
Grilled or boiled sausages (Bratwurst, Frankfurter, Bosna) served with mustard, bread and a pickle from street kiosks.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Apfelstrudel
Thin pastry rolled around spiced apples, raisins and breadcrumbs, usually served warm with vanilla sauce or cream.

Sachertorte
A dense chocolate cake with a thin layer of apricot jam under a dark chocolate glaze, famously served with unsweetened whipped cream.

Kaiserschmarrn
A fluffy shredded pancake caramelised with sugar and dusted with icing sugar, served with plum or apple compote.

Marillenknödel
Apricot dumplings wrapped in potato or quark dough, rolled in buttery breadcrumbs — a Wachau and Viennese summer specialty.

DRINKS

Viennese Melange · Wiener Melange
The signature Viennese coffee: espresso topped with steamed milk and milk foam, the centrepiece of coffeehouse culture.

Grüner Veltliner
Austria's flagship crisp, peppery white wine, widely poured in Vienna's Heuriger (wine taverns).

Sturm
A cloudy, lightly alcoholic partially-fermented grape must, available only for a few weeks in autumn.

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Safety & health

Bad Gastein is safe. Check avalanche bulletins before going off-piste. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112. The mountain rescue number is 140.

History

Bad Gastein grew as a spa from the Middle Ages, and gold and silver were mined in the valley. In the 19th century emperors and nobles came to take the waters, and grand hotels were built. The town declined after World War II and is now being revived.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

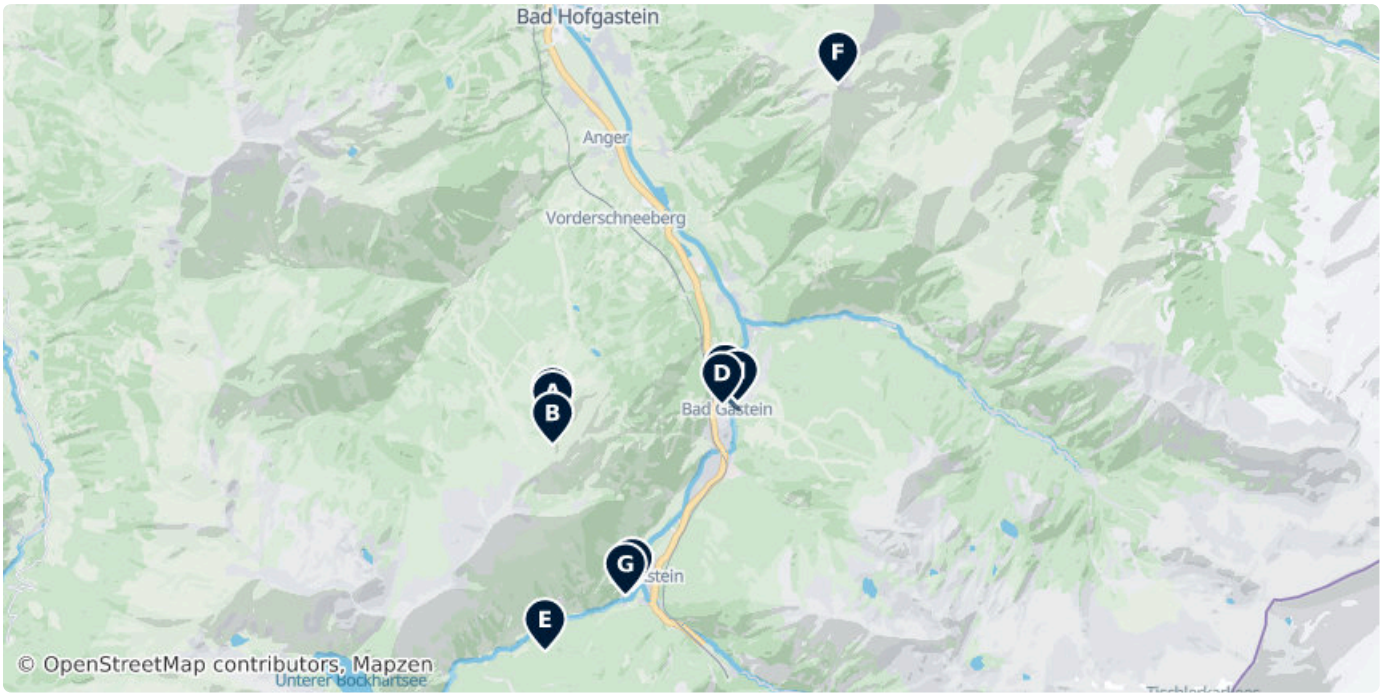
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LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Bad Gastein Essentials

Bad Gastein, the 'Monte Carlo of the Alps,' is defined by its dramatic verticality and Belle Époque architecture. This selection covers the town's diverse offerings, from the iconic central waterfall and the thermal healing tunnels of Gasteiner Heilstollen to the high-altitude thrills of the Stubnerkogel suspension bridge. Explore the region's gold mining heritage in Altböckstein, visit historic sites like the Preimskirche, and take in panoramic views of the Hohe Tauern range from the Glocknerblick platform.





A Stubnerkogel Suspension Bridge

A 140-meter-long hanging bridge situated 2,300 meters above sea level. It is a year-round attraction offering views of the surrounding Hohe Tauern mountains and is designed to withstand winds of up to 200 km/h.

Felsenweg Stubnerkogel, 5645 Bad Gastein, Austria (47.11252, 13.09877)



B Aussichtsplattform Glocknerblick

A viewing platform set in the hills offers spectacular views of the area.

(Unnamed Road), 5640, Austria (47.10949, 13.09873)



C Flying Waters, Bad Gastein

A fun ride on a zip line with majestic mountains and a beautiful town surrounding you as you swoosh down the line.

Kaiser Franz Josef-Straße, 5640 Badberg, Austria (47.11643, 13.13490)

Mo–Su 14:30–18:30

flying-waters-bad-gastein.business.site, +436765441129



D Gasteiner Museum

Gasteiner Museum tells the story of the local town and its history as a thermal spring wonder.

Kaiser Franz Josef-Straße 14, 5640 Bad Gastein (47.11517, 13.13422)

We–Su 14:30–18:00

gasteinermuseum.com



E Gasteiner Heilstollen

A thermal healing gallery located inside the Radhausberg mountain. It combines high humidity, temperatures between 37 and 41.5°C, and natural radon content to treat chronic musculoskeletal and respiratory conditions.

Heilstollenstraße, 5645 Böckstein, Austria (47.08008, 13.09716)

gasteiner-heilstollen.com, + 43 6434 3753-0



F Gamskarkogel

At 2,467 meters, this is one of Europe's highest 'grass mountains.' The summit features the Badgasteiner Hut, built in 1828 by Archduke Johann, making it one of the earliest alpine refuges in the Eastern Alps.

5611, Austria (47.16087, 13.15847)



G Mining Museum Altböckstein

This mining museum showcases the history of gold mining in the area and the processing machines that were used for mining purposes.

Karl Imhof-Ring 10, 5645 Bad Gastein, AT
(47.08800, 13.11400)

Tu–Su 15:00–18:00

montanmuseum-boeckstein.at, +43 664 38 57 283



H Preimskirche

A Roman Catholic parish church rebuilt in the mid-19th century in a neo-Gothic style. It stands on a site with religious history dating back to the 9th century and is dedicated to Saints Primus and Felician.

(47.11554, 13.13747)



I Jagdschloss Czernin

A late 18th-century hunting lodge located in Böckstein. Built between 1764 and 1767 for the Archbishop of Salzburg, it historically served as an administrative center for the local gold mining industry.

(47.08878, 13.11545)

salzburg.gv.at/themen/ks/kultur/burgen/boeckstein.htm



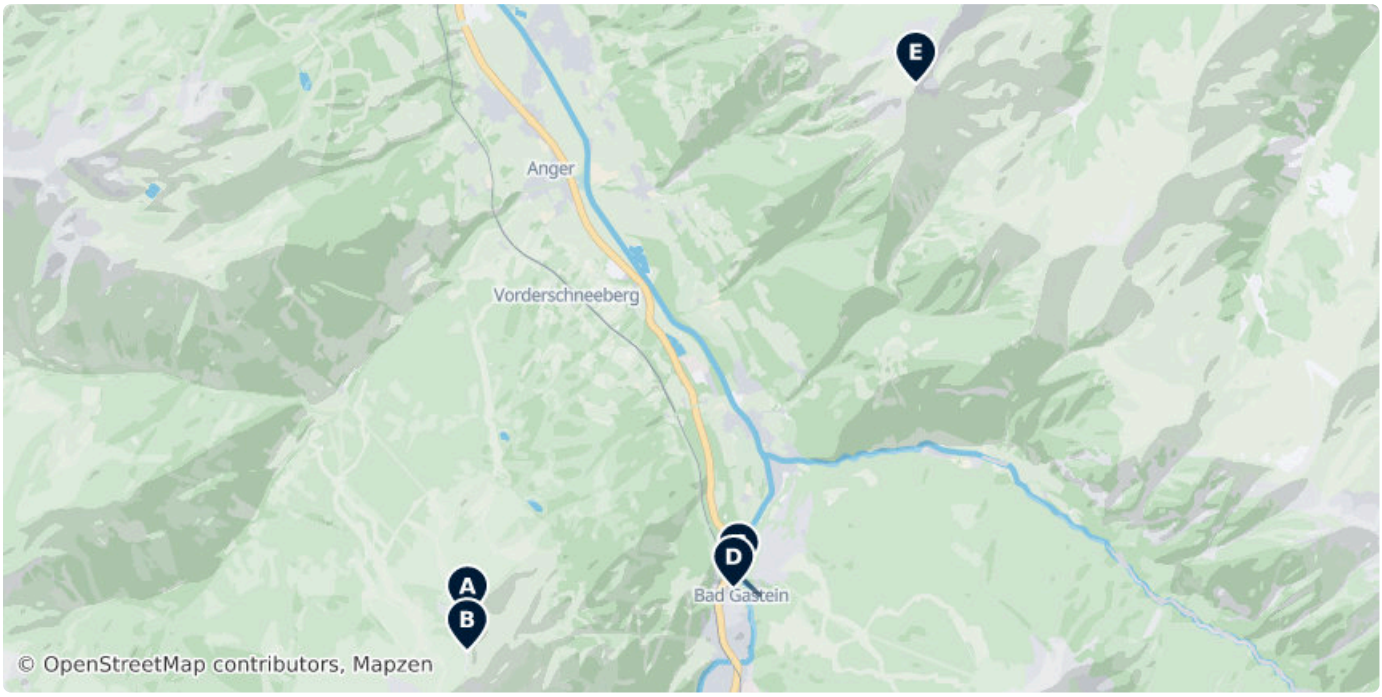
J Stubnerkogel

A 2,246-meter peak accessible by cable car from Bad Gastein. It serves as a major hub for skiing and hiking, featuring several specialized viewing platforms and a high-altitude suspension bridge.

(Unnamed Road), 5640, Austria (47.11313, 13.09873)

Editor's Choice: Bad Gastein

Bad Gastein's alpine landscape is defined by the 140-meter Stubnerkogel Suspension Bridge and the Glocknerblick viewing platform, which provides sightlines to Austria's highest peak. Thrill-seekers can traverse the Gastein valley via the Flying Waters zip line, while hikers can reach the 2,467-meter summit of Gamskarkogel, Europe's highest grass mountain. The Gasteiner Museum documents the town's evolution from a medieval mining hub to a world-renowned thermal spa destination.





A Stubnerkogel Suspension Bridge

A 140-meter-long bridge suspended at 2,300 meters above sea level. It features a see-through floor and connects the mountain station to the transmitter system, offering clear views of the Hohe Tauern range.

Felsenweg Stubnerkogel, 5645 Bad Gastein, Austria (47.11252, 13.09877)



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A viewing platform set in the hills offers spectacular views of the area.

(Unnamed Road), 5640, Austria (47.10949, 13.09873)



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flying-waters-bad-gastein.business.site, +436765441129



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gasteinermuseum.com



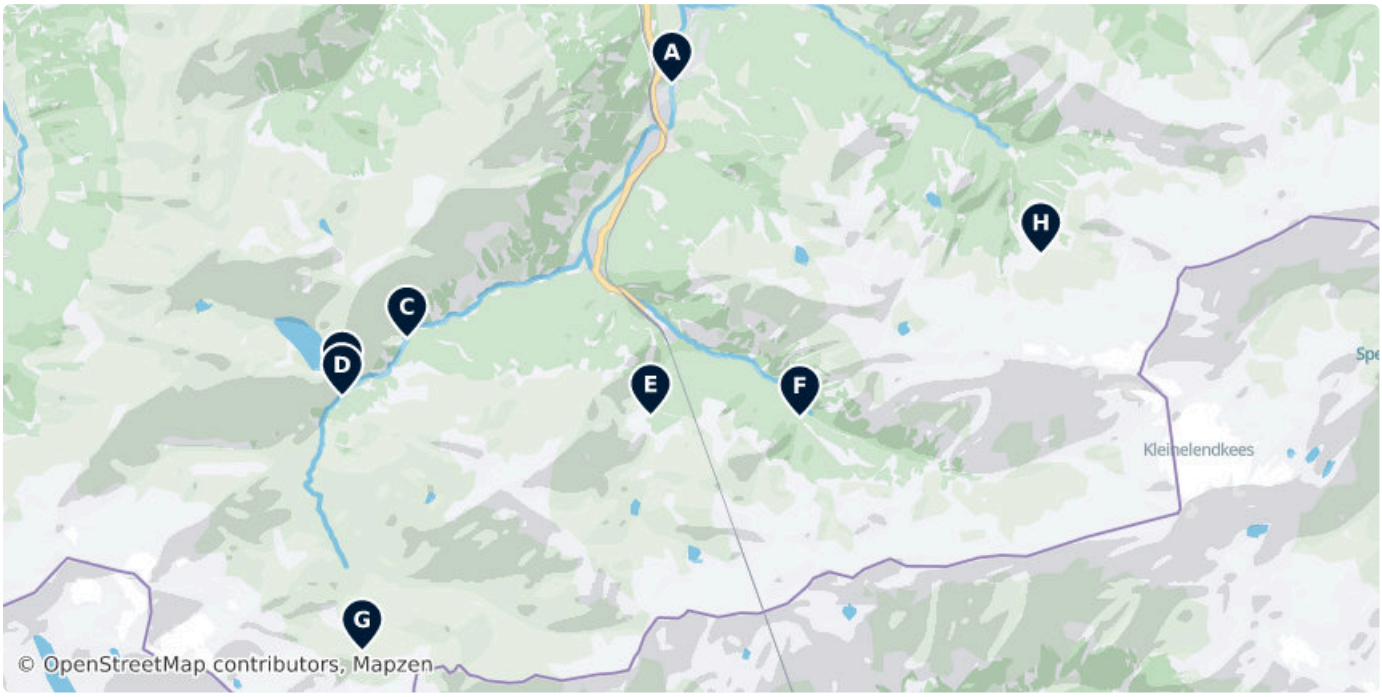
E Gamskarkogel

Rising to 2,467 meters, this is the highest grass mountain in Europe. The summit is home to the Bad Gasteiner Hütte, one of the oldest alpine club huts in the Eastern Alps, established in 1828.

5611, Austria (47.16087, 13.15847)

Waterfalls of Bad Gastein

Bad Gastein's landscape is defined by dramatic elevation changes, most famously showcased by the 341-meter central cascade that drops in three stages through the heart of the village. Beyond the town center, the surrounding Hohe Tauern National Park contains numerous alpine falls, including the veil-like Schleierfall in Sportgastein and the glacially-fed Tischlerkarfälle. These sites illustrate the geological power of the Gasteiner Ache and its tributaries, which have shaped the region's history as a thermal spa destination.



A Wasserfall Bad Gastein

A 341-meter waterfall dropping in three stages through the town center. The ionized air created by the falling water has historically been utilized as part of the local spa's climate therapy.

(47.11499, 13.13649)

B Schleierfall

Located in the high-altitude Nassfeld (Sportgastein) area, this waterfall is characterized by a wide, delicate spray that descends over a steep rock face.

(47.07007, 13.06375)

C Kesselfall

A waterfall along the Ache river featuring a natural rock basin, or 'kettle,' carved out by long-term water erosion.

(47.07679, 13.07804)

D Bärenfall

Situated in the Nassfeld valley, this alpine waterfall descends from the steep mountain slopes surrounding the Sportgastein plateau.

(47.06806, 13.06372)

E Hörkarfall

An alpine waterfall located in the Anlauftal valley, primarily fed by seasonal snowmelt and glacial runoff from the surrounding peaks.

(47.06514, 13.13176)

F Tauernbachfall

A stream-fed waterfall located along the Tauernbach near the southern end of the Gastein valley.

(47.06492, 13.16472)

G Höllkarbach-Wasserfall

A remote waterfall in the Höllkar area of the Hohe Tauern National Park, accessible via mountain hiking trails.

(47.02981, 13.06813)

H Tischlerkarfälle

A series of high-altitude glacial falls located in the Tischlerkar cirque, visible from the hiking paths leading toward the Tischlerkarscharte.

(47.08940, 13.21788)

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