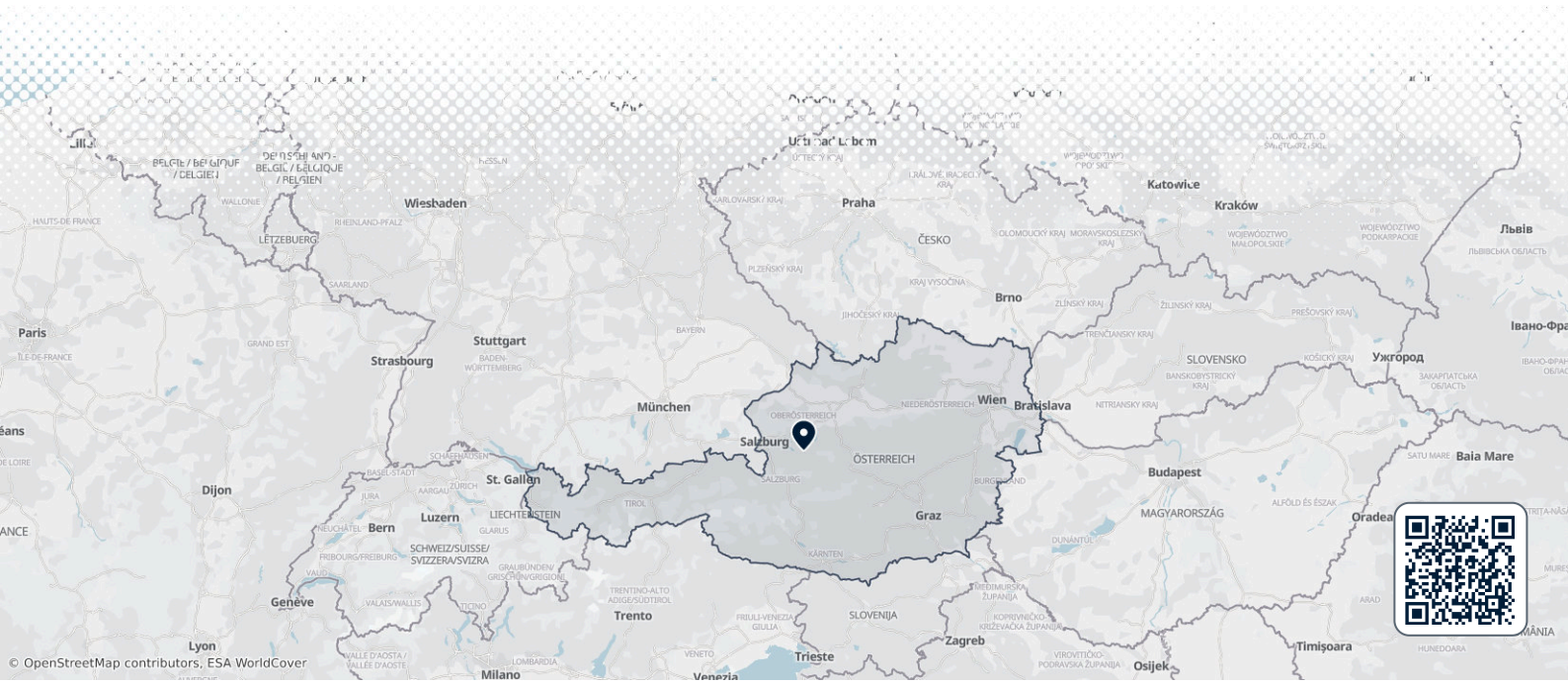


Bad Ischl

Salzkammergut · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bad Ischl is a spa town in the heart of the Salzkammergut, where the Traun and Ischl rivers meet. It was the summer residence of *Emperor Franz Joseph I* and the place where he signed the declaration that began World War I. The town was a European Capital of Culture in 2024.

It has a calm, elegant feel, with parks, cafes and a spa tradition. It is a good base for lakes and mountains nearby.

When to visit

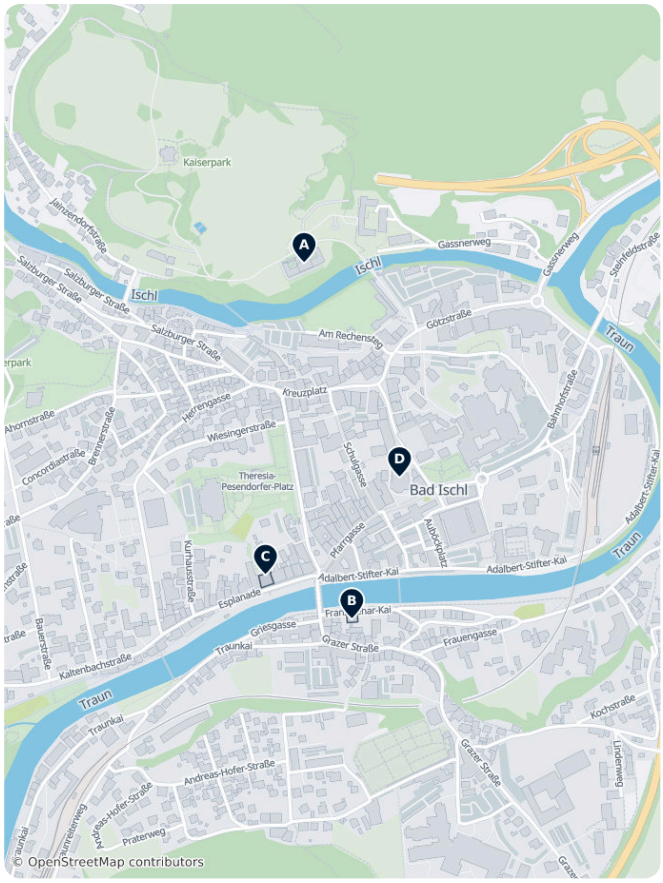
May to October is best for walking, lakes and mountain views. The summer months are warm. Winter is cold and quiet, and the Christmas market is a draw in Advent. Rain is common in summer and brings quick storms.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like 1°	-3° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 14° Feels like 2°	-2° / -12°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18°	1° / -7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23°	5° / -2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	9° / 4°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	14° / 8°	21 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	15° / 10°	22 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	15° / 10°	20 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 28°	11° / 6°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	16° / 24°	7° / 1°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18°	3° / -6°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 11° Feels like 2°	-2° / -12°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Kaiservilla was the imperial summer villa, with preserved rooms and a large park. It is the town's top sight.
- B Museum Lehárvilla was the home of the composer *Franz Lehár* and is now a museum.
- C Stadtmuseum covers local and imperial history.
- D St. Nikolaus is the parish church in the centre.
- Konditorei Zauner, a cafe known for its pastries, is on the main street and was a favourite of the emperor.



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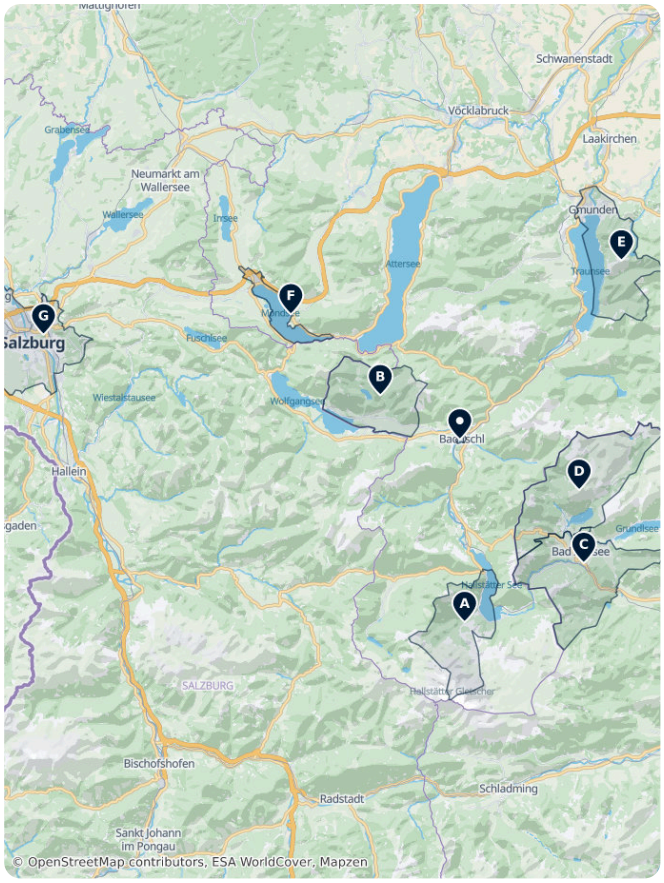
What to experience

- Tour the Kaiservilla and its park.
- Taste pastries at a historic cafe.
- Visit the thermal spa for a soak.
- Hike up the Katrin mountain by cable car.
- Take a lake boat from nearby villages.

Day trips

- A Hallstatt is about 30 minutes away by car.
- B St. Wolfgang is about 20 minutes away by car, with its pilgrimage church and steam train.
- C Bad Aussee and D Altaussee are about 40 minutes away by car, with lake walks.
- E Gmunden is about 45 minutes away by car.
- F Mondsee is about 40 minutes away by car.
- G Salzburg is about 1 hour 15 minutes by car or bus.



Where to explore

- Hallstatt, St. Wolfgang and Bad Aussee are the closest preferred towns in the region.

Getting there

- By air: Salzburg Airport is about 1 hour 15 minutes away by car. Linz and Munich are alternatives.
- By train: Bad Ischl is on the Salzkammergut line. Trains from Attnang-Puchheim take about 1 hour, and Salzburg is reached with a change. Check times on ÖBB.
- By bus: Regional buses connect Salzburg and the lakes.
- By car: The town is reached via the B145 road.

Getting around

The town is small and best on foot. Local buses reach the lakes and nearby villages. The station is a short walk from the centre. Cycling is a good way to reach nearby lakes.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The centre is small and flat, with park paths along the Traun river.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycle paths lead along the rivers and lakes, with some hills on the way.

Driving

A car is helpful for exploring the lakes. The centre has limited parking, so use the car parks near the edge. Motorways in Austria need a vignette. Mountain roads can be narrow.

Food & drink

The town is known for the *Zaunerstollen*, a chocolate and hazelnut sweet from the famous cafe. Lake fish and *Kaiserschmarrn* are typical. Salzkammergut inns serve dumplings and roast meats.

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 Ischl is safe. Mountain weather changes fast. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112.

History

Bad Ischl grew as a salt town and became a spa in the 19th century. *Emperor Franz Joseph I* spent his summers at the Kaiservilla from 1854 onward. In 1914 he signed the war declaration here. The town became a European Capital of Culture in 2024.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

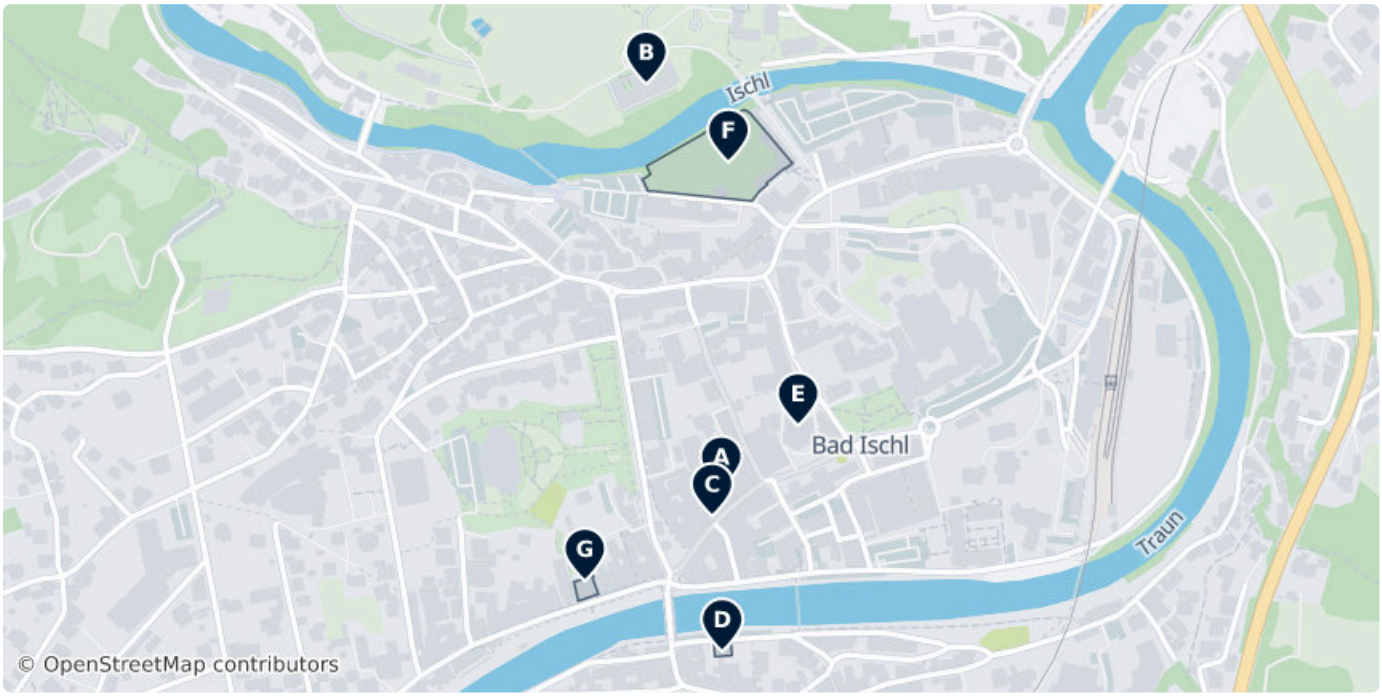
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Bad Ischl Unmissables

Bad Ischl served as the summer residence for Emperor Franz Joseph I and Empress Elisabeth, shaping its imperial architecture and cultural heritage. The town features the neoclassical Kaiservilla, the former home of operetta composer Franz Lehár, and the historic Konditorei Zauner, famous for its pastries since 1832. Situated at the confluence of the Traun and Ischl rivers, this spa destination offers a mix of 19th-century grandeur, thermal baths, and alpine recreation in the heart of the Salzkammergut region.





A Bad Ischl

Picturesque ancient spa town and the very first tourist resort in the area. A good starting point for exploring Salzkammergut.

Wirerstraße 12a, 4820 Bad Ischl, Austria (47.71112, 13.62196)

Mo–Tu	07:30–16:00
We	07:30–13:00
Th	07:30–16:00
Fr	07:30–13:00

badischl.com/en, +43 6132 301-0



B Imperial Villa

Summer residence of Habsburgs. A dream-like place: awe-inspiring natural setting and lavishly decorated palace.

Jainzen 1, 4820 Jainzen, Austria (47.71498, 13.62090)

Jan-Mar We	10:00–16:00
Apr Mo–Su	10:00–16:00
May-Sep Mo–Su	09:30–17:00

kaiservilla.at, +43 6132 23 241



C Zauner

Established in 1832, this former Purveyor to the Imperial and Royal Court is famous for its traditional Austrian pastries, particularly the original Zaunerstollen.

Pfarrgasse, 4820 Bad Ischl, Austria (47.71086, 13.62183)

Mo–Su 08:30–18:00

zauner.at



D Lehár Villa

Lehár Villa is a building in Bad Ischl in Upper Austria, on the bank of the River Traun.

Franz-Lehar-Kai 8, 4820 Bad Ischl, AT (47.70958, 13.62198)

Nov-Mar Th–Fr 10:00–17:00
Apr-Oct Tu–Su 10:00–17:00

stadtmuseum.at/leharvilla/



E St. Nikolaus

A Roman Catholic parish church featuring a neoclassical interior and an organ once played by composer Anton Bruckner during imperial ceremonies.

3 Kirchengasse, Bad Ischl 4820, Austria (47.71173, 13.62305)

F Parkbad Bad Ischl

Outdoor recreational complex featuring heated swimming pools, water slides, and sports facilities located near the town center.

3 Am Rechensteg, Bad Ischl 4820, Austria (47.71424, 13.62206)

parkbad-badischl.at, +43 6132 26991

G Stadtmuseum (ehem. Hotel Austria)

Housed in the former Hotel Austria, where Emperor Franz Joseph I and Sisi were betrothed in 1853. The museum exhibits local history, folk art, and salt mining heritage.

Esplanade 10, 4820 Bad Ischl, AT (47.71025, 13.62003)

Jan-Mar We–Su	10:00–17:00
Apr-Oct Tu–Su	10:00–17:00

stadtmuseum.at, +43 6132 25476

DATA SOURCES

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