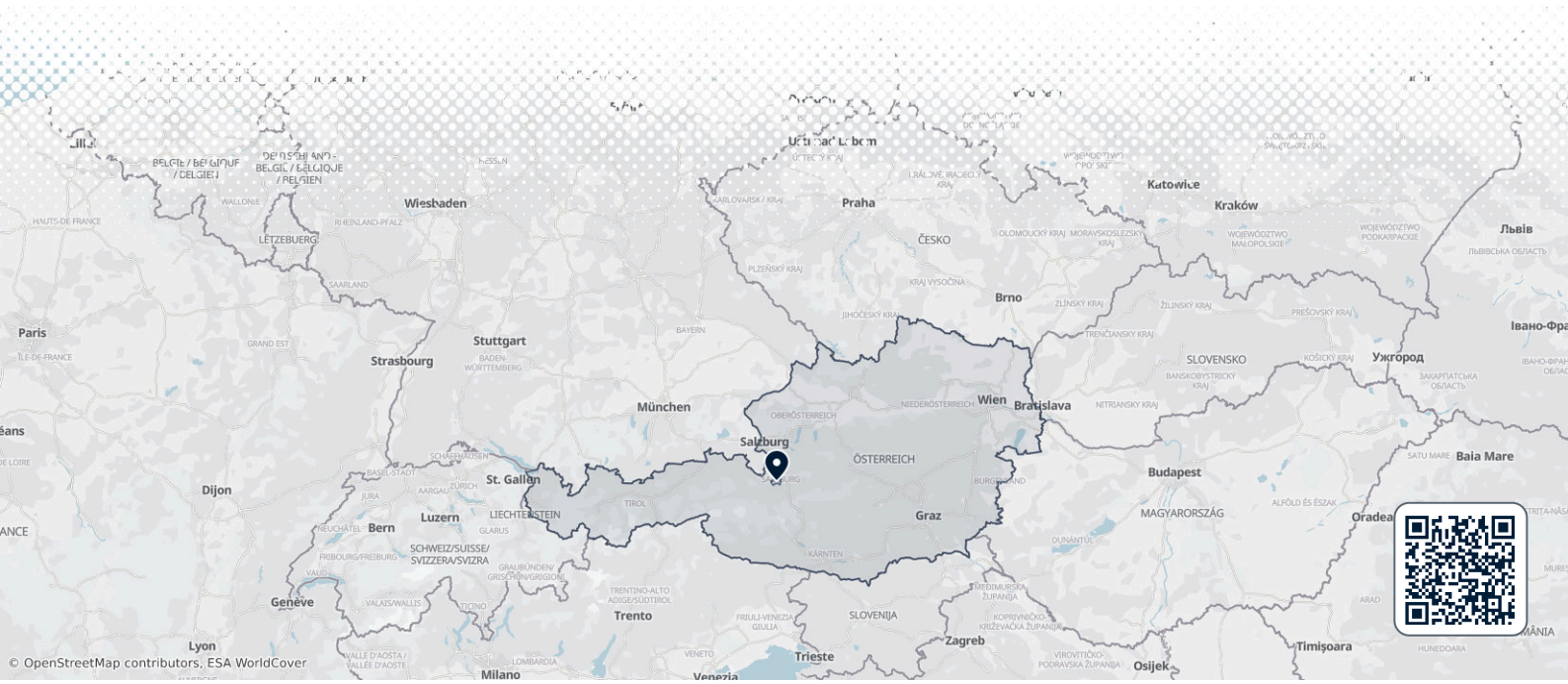


Bischofshofen

Salzburg · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bischofshofen is a small town in the Pongau region of Salzburg, in the Salzach valley south of Salzburg. It is best known for its ski jump, where the final event of the Four Hills Ski Jumping Tournament takes place every January.

The town is a rail and road junction and a practical base for the ski areas and spa towns around it. It is not a typical resort, but it has a friendly local feel and good mountain access.

When to visit

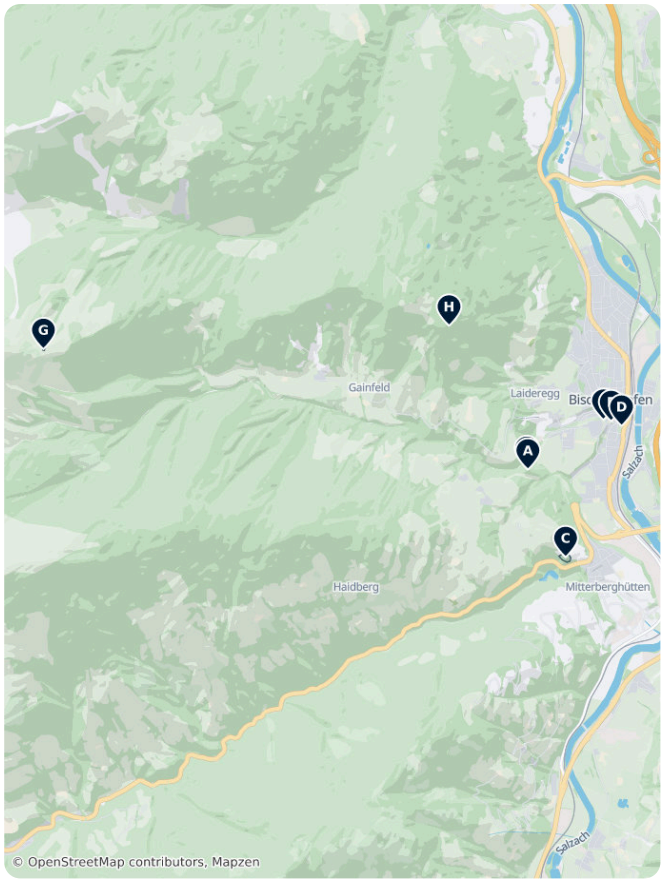
January is the time for the ski jumping event. December to March is ski season in the nearby resorts. June to September is best for hiking and cycling. Spring and autumn are quiet.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	4° / 10° Feels like 1°	-4° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like 2°	-3° / -13°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18°	1° / -8°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23°	4° / -2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	20° / 27°	9° / 4°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for cycling	24° / 31°	13° / 7°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Poor Poor for cycling	25° / 32°	15° / 10°	22 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for cycling	25° / 32°	15° / 10°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	21° / 28°	11° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 24°	7° / 0°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18°	2° / -6°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	5° / 11° Feels like 2°	-2° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- The Paul-Ausserleitner ski jump, known for the Four Hills Tournament, can be seen from the town, and its events draw large crowds.
- A Burgruine Bachsfall is a ruined castle above the town.
- B Gainfeldwasserfall is a waterfall reached on a short walk.
- C Götschenberg is a hill with prehistoric copper-mining remains.
- D Pfarrkirche St. Maximilian is the parish church.
- E Georgikirchlein and F Frauenkirche are smaller churches in the centre.
- G Mitterfeldalm is a mountain hut.
- H Wetterkreuz is a hilltop cross with views.



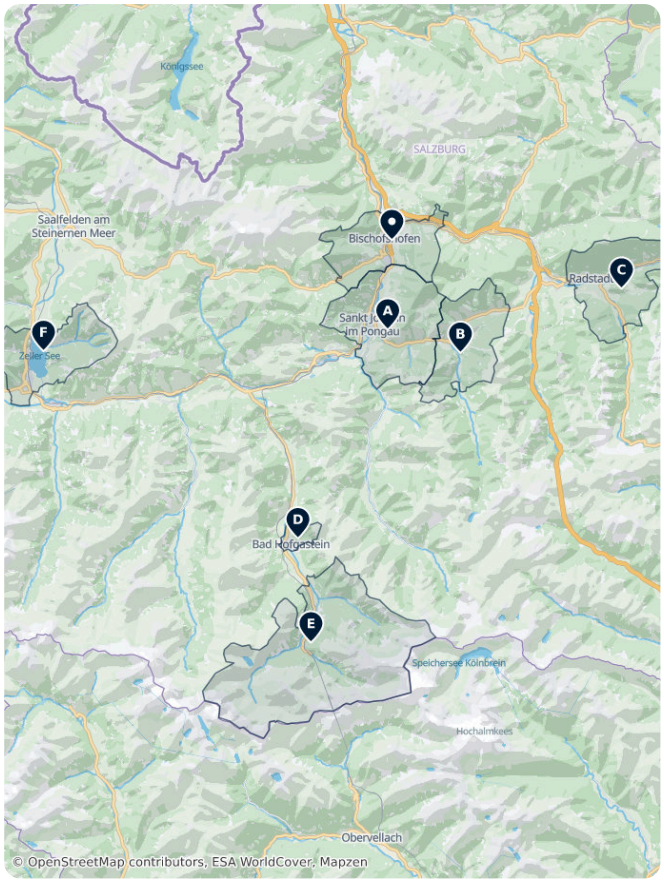
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What to experience

- Watch the Four Hills ski jumping in January.
- Walk to the waterfall.
- Cycle the Salzach path.
- Ski in a nearby resort.
- Visit Hohenwerfen Castle and the ice caves nearby.

Day trips

- A St Johann im Pongau is about 10 minutes away by car or train.
- B Wagrain is about 20 minutes away by car.
- C Radstadt is about 25 minutes away by car.
- D Bad Hofgastein is about 35 minutes away by car.
- E Bad Gastein is about 45 minutes away by car.
- F Zell am See is about 1 hour away by car.
- Hohenwerfen Castle and the Eisriesenwelt ice caves at Werfen are about 15 minutes away by car.



Where to explore

- St Johann im Pongau, Wagrain and Radstadt are the nearest preferred destinations.

Getting there

- By air: Salzburg Airport is about 50 minutes away by car.
- By train: Bischofshofen is a major junction on the Salzburg–Innsbruck and Tauern lines. Salzburg takes about 50 minutes. Check times on ÖBB.
- By car: The A10 Tauern motorway passes the town.

Getting around

The town is small, and a bus covers the surroundings. The ski jump is a short ride from the centre. Cycling is easy along the Salzach.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The centre is small, but sights and the ski jump are spread across the town.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The Salzach Cycle Path passes through the town.

Driving

The A10 motorway runs past the town, and a car helps for nearby resorts. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. Motorways in Austria need a vignette. The A10 tunnels have tolls.

Food & drink

Salzburg-region food includes *Kasnocken*, cheese dumplings, and *Kaiserschmarrn*. Local inns offer hearty meals and fresh dairy. Mountain huts serve warm soups and cakes.

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

Bischofshofen is very safe. Mountain routes need care in changing weather. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112. The mountain rescue number is 140.

History

Bischofshofen has been settled since the Bronze Age, when copper was mined nearby. A monastery was founded here in the 8th century by Saint Rupert, a bishop of Salzburg, which gave the town its name. The railway junction made it a modern hub, and its ski jump grew famous after the Four Hills Tournament began in 1953.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

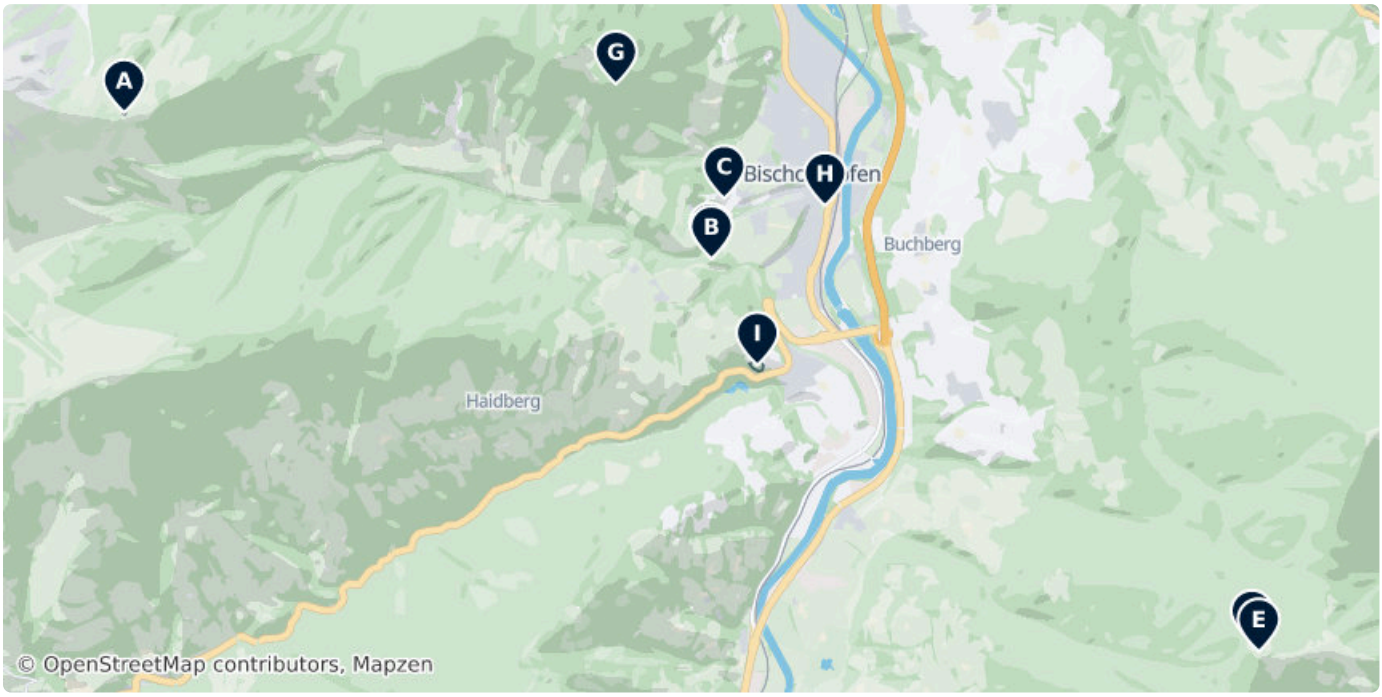
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Bischofshofen Essentials

Bischofshofen is defined by its role as the final venue of the international Four Hills Ski Jumping Tournament at the Paul-Ausserleitner-Schanze. Beyond the stadium, the landscape features the Gainfeld Waterfall and the medieval ruins of Bachsfall. High-altitude destinations include the Hochgründeck peak, home to the Heinrich-Kiener-Haus and the St. Vinzenz Peace Church. The town's history spans from the prehistoric archaeological site at Götschenberg to the Romanesque and Gothic architecture of the St. Maximilian Parish Church.



A Mitterfeldalm

Alpine hut located at 1,669 meters at the foot of the Hochkönig massif. It serves as a base for hikers climbing the Mandlwände and offers traditional Salzburg mountain fare.

Reitsam 17A, 5450 Werfen, AT (47.42141, 13.14188)

mitterfeldalm.at, +436646438077



B Burgruine Bachsfall

Remains of a medieval fortification situated above the Gainfeld waterfall. The site historically guarded the access routes through the Gainfeld valley.

5500, Austria (47.41059, 13.20613)



C Paul-Ausserleitner-Schanze

Paul-Ausserleitner-Schanze was opened in 1947 as "Hochkönigsschanze", re-built in 2004, and is a ski jumping venue in Bischofshofen,...

Rosenthal, 5500, Austria (47.41506, 13.20751)

D Heinrich-Kiener-Haus

High-alpine mountain hut and restaurant located at 1,805 meters on the summit of the Hochgründeck. It provides regional Austrian cuisine and overnight accommodation.

(47.38216, 13.26523)

hochgruendeck.at

E St. Vinzenz Friedenskirche

A modern timber-clad chapel built in 2003 on the Hochgründeck. It serves as the private chapel for the Heinrich-Kiener-Haus and is dedicated as a place of peace.

5500, Austria (47.38153, 13.26599)

ms8.rivido.de/kirche.html

F Gainfeldwasserfall

A natural monument where the Gainfeld stream drops approximately 50 meters over rock faces. The waterfall is accessible via a maintained trail with several viewing platforms.

(47.41081, 13.20599)

G Wetterkreuz

A summit cross and panoramic viewpoint overlooking the Salzach Valley and the surrounding peaks of the Tennengebirge and Hochkönig massifs.

(47.42351, 13.19568)

H Pfarrkirche St. Maximillian

Roman Catholic parish church with Romanesque origins and Gothic additions. It features an 18th-century high altar and serves as a central historical landmark in Bischofshofen.

4 Rathausplatz, Bischofshofen 5500, Austria (47.41452, 13.21855)

I Götschenberg

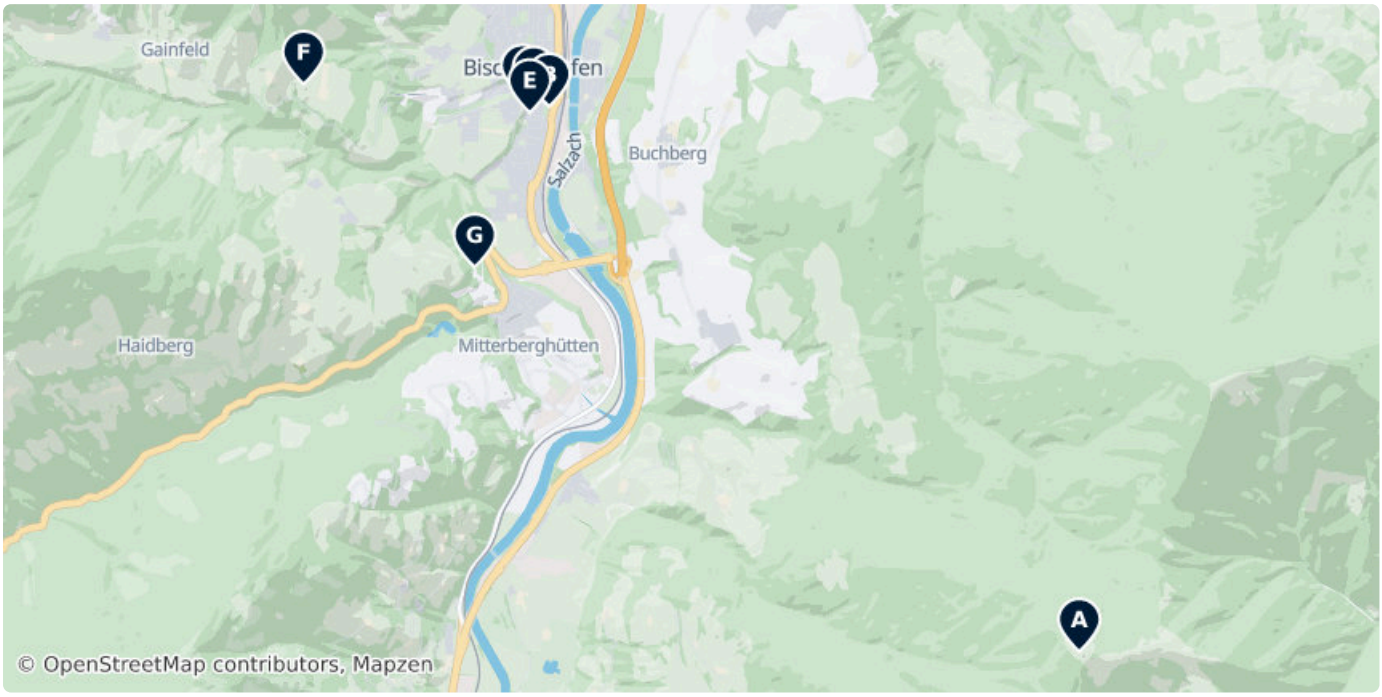
A prehistoric settlement site and archaeological landmark. Excavations here have revealed evidence of copper mining and human habitation dating back to the Bronze Age.

5500, Austria (47.40271, 13.21113)

salzburg.com/wiki/index.php/G%C3%B6tschenberg

Churches & Chapels

This collection highlights the ecclesiastical landmarks of Bischofshofen, centered around the historic trio of churches in the town core: the Romanesque Pfarrkirche St. Maximillian, the Gothic Frauenkirche, and the small Georgikirchlein. The list also features high-altitude sites like the wooden St. Vinzenz Friedenskirche on the Hochgründeck mountain, standing at 1,827 meters, alongside traditional alpine shrines and the town's Protestant Christuskirche, reflecting the region's diverse religious architecture.



A St. Vinzenz Friedenskirche

A modern wooden peace church situated at 1,827 meters on the Hochgründeck. Built in 2003 next to the Heinrich-Kiener-Haus, it serves as a high-altitude ecumenical site with panoramic views of the Tennen and Hagen Mountains.

5500, Austria (47.38153, 13.26599)

ms8.rivido.de/kirche.html

B Pfarrkirche St. Maximillian

The town's main parish church, featuring Romanesque foundations and Gothic structural elements. It is historically significant for housing the 8th-century Rupertus Cross, one of the most important medieval artifacts in Salzburg.

4 Rathausplatz, Bischofshofen 5500, Austria (47.41452, 13.21855)

C Frauenkirche

A Gothic church located in the central ecclesiastical complex of Bischofshofen. It stands adjacent to the parish church and is characterized by its slender architectural profile.

2 Friedhofgasse, Bischofshofen 5500, Austria (47.41493, 13.21718)

D Georgikirchlein

A small Romanesque chapel dating back to the 12th century. It is the smallest of the three central churches and contains preserved historical fresco fragments.

3 Gaisberggasse, Bischofshofen 5500, Austria (47.41505, 13.21615)

E Evang. Christuskirche

A Protestant church serving the local evangelical community, representing the town's 20th-century religious architecture.

(47.41416, 13.21682)

F Hubertuskapelle

A small chapel dedicated to Saint Hubertus, the patron saint of hunters, typical of the alpine devotional shrines found in the Salzburg region.

(47.41588, 13.19659)

G Götschenkapelle

A traditional hillside shrine and chapel located on the Götschenberg, overlooking the Salzach Valley.

(47.40481, 13.21189)

DATA SOURCES

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