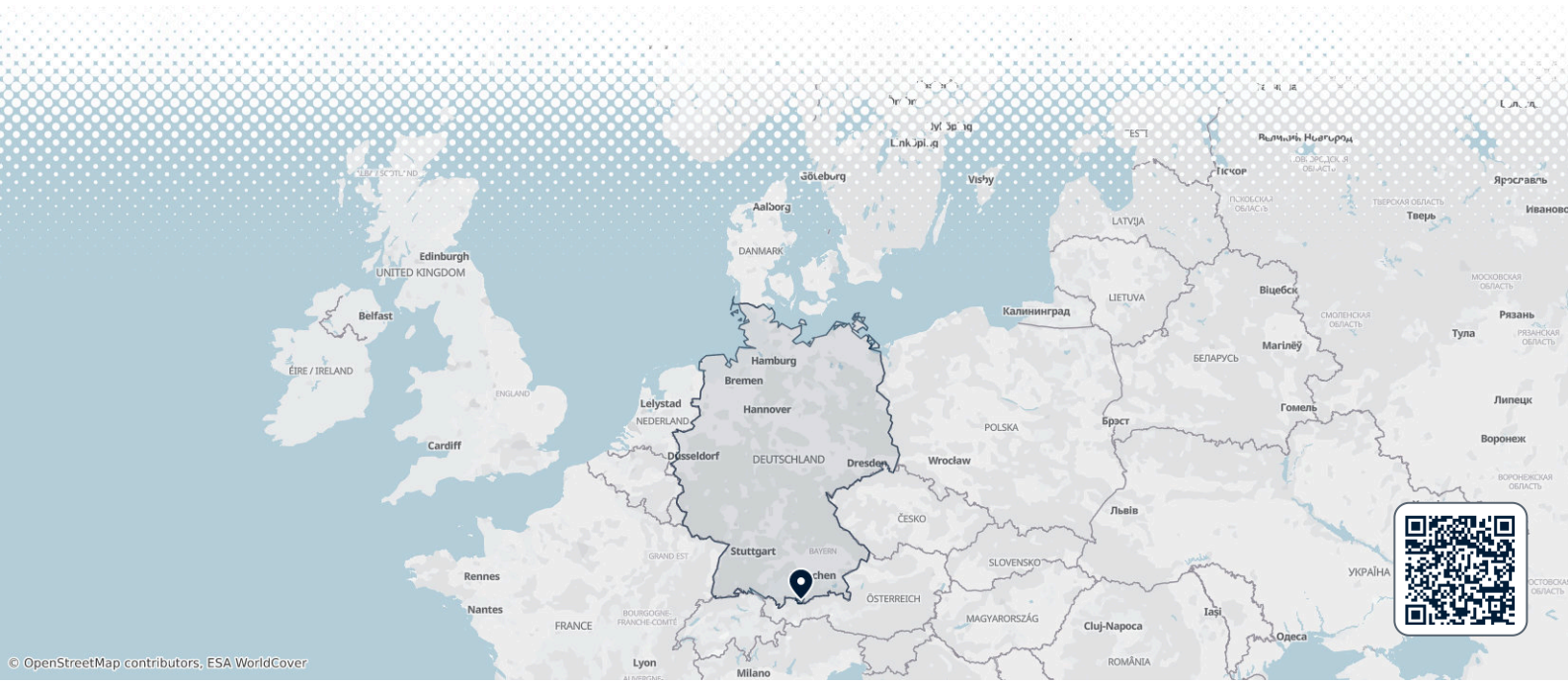


Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Bavaria · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Garmisch-Partenkirchen lies in a wide valley in the Bavarian Alps, below the Zugspitze, the highest mountain in Germany. It is the main base for hiking and skiing in this part of the Alps. The town is also easy to reach from Munich.

Two old villages make up the town. Garmisch has the main station. Partenkirchen has painted house fronts and a more traditional look. Two to three nights are enough for the main sights. The composer *Richard Strauss* lived here for many years.

When to visit

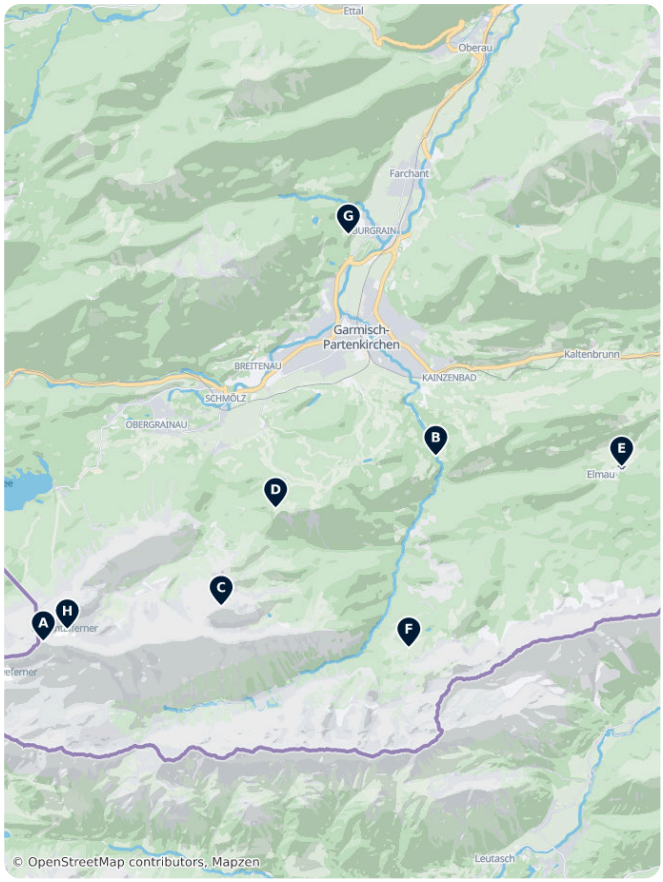
Summer is the warmest season and the main time for hiking. It is also the wettest, with frequent showers. September is a good month for walking in the mountains, with less rain. Winter brings snow and the ski season. Spring is a quiet time, and snow can stay on the high trails for a long time.

On 1 January, a ski jumping competition of the Four Hills Tournament takes place in town. It is worth timing a winter trip around it.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	4° / 9° Feels like 0°	-5° / -14°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like 1°	-4° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for skiing	9° / 18° Feels like 6°	0° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	14° / 22°	3° / -3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 26°	8° / 3°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 30°	12° / 7°	21 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	14° / 8°	21 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	14° / 9°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	10° / 4°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	16° / 23°	6° / 0°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for skiing	9° / 17°	1° / -8°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	4° / 11° Feels like 1°	-3° / -14°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights



- **A** Zugspitze is the highest mountain in Germany. A cog train and cable cars lead up to the summit area, with views across the Alps.
- **B** Partnach-Klamm is a narrow gorge cut by a mountain stream. A path leads through it between high rock walls.
- **C** Alpspitze has a pointed peak that is the symbol of the town. A cable car runs up towards the peak, and hiking trails start there.
- **D** Kreuzeck is a lower mountain with a cable car from the town. It is a popular choice for walks.
- **E** Schloss Elmau is a castle in a quiet valley between Garmisch and Mittenwald. It is now a hotel and hosted the G7 summits in 2015 and 2022.
- **F** Königshaus am Schachen is a small royal lodge built for King *Ludwig II*. It stands high on the Schachen plateau and is reached by a long hike.
- **G** Burgruine Werdenfels is a ruined castle on a hill above the Loisach valley, between Garmisch and Farchant. It gave its name to the Werdenfelser Land.
- **H** Höllentalferner is a glacier in the western Wetterstein Mountains. Reaching it takes a demanding hike.

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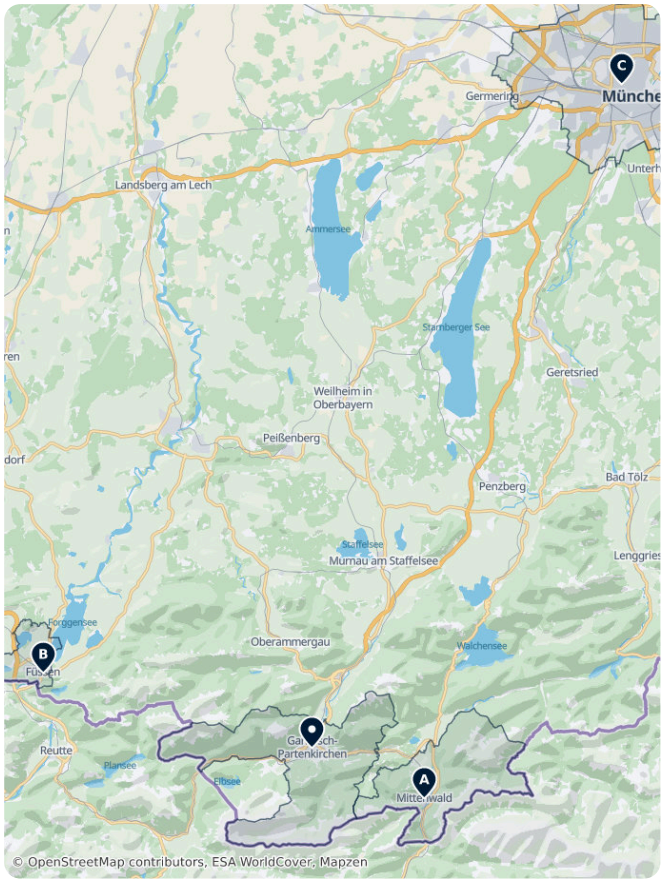
What to experience

Most experiences here follow the seasons and the mountains.

- Ski or snowboard on the slopes of the Kreuzeck and Alpspitze in winter. The Zugspitze has a separate glacier ski area.
- Walk around the Eibsee, a lake at the foot of the Zugspitze, on a clear day.
- Hike to an alpine hut for lunch. Huts stand on many trails and serve simple mountain food.
- Attend the Richard Strauss Festival, held in town in June.

Day trips

- A Mittenwald is a short train ride south. It is a town of painted houses with a long tradition of violin making.
- Ettal, Oberammergau and Linderhof lie to the north-east. They have a Benedictine abbey, a woodcarving town and a palace of King *Ludwig II*. A car or local buses are the easiest way to link them.
- B Füssen is home to the Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau castles. Allow a full day. Public transport needs changes, so a car is simpler.
- C Munich is reached by train. It has major museums and a large old town.
- Innsbruck in Austria is the closest large city across the border. Trains run there through Mittenwald.



Where to explore

Other places in the Bavarian Alps and the foothills:

- West: Allgäu is a region of green hills and small lakes.
- North: Lake Starnberg is a large lake south-west of Munich.
- East: Tegernsee is a lake and town in the Bavarian Alps.

Getting there

- **By air**: Munich Airport is the main gateway. From the airport, take a train to Munich and change for Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Innsbruck Airport in Austria is another option.
- **By train**: Regional trains run from Munich Central Station and take about 1.5 hours. The line continues south to Mittenwald and Innsbruck. Check connections at Deutsche Bahn.
- By car: The A95 motorway leads from Munich towards the town.

Getting around

- **On foot**: Each of the two town centres is compact and easy to walk. Local buses run in the town and to nearby villages.
- **Mountain lifts**: A cog train and cable cars serve the Zugspitze. Cable cars also go up the Alpspitze and the Kreuzeck.
- Cycling: Valley paths suit easy rides. Mountain bike routes climb into the hills.

See GaPa Tourismus for travel and mobility information.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Each town centre is compact and walkable. The two centres and the mountain stations are further apart.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Valley paths suit easy rides. Mountain routes are steep.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town and the main mountain sights, which work well by foot, train and lift. A car helps for Ettal, Linderhof and Füssen.
- Winter: Mountain roads can be snowy.

Food & drink

The food is Bavarian and Alpine. Look for roast pork, dumplings, cheese dishes, Obatzda and Kaiserschmarrn, a sweet torn pancake.

For eating out, go to Ludwigstraße in Partenkirchen and the area around Marienplatz in Garmisch. Both have cafés and inns. Carry some cash for mountain huts.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

- Mountain weather changes fast. Check the forecast before each hike and start early.
- Take warm and waterproof clothes, even in summer. The Zugspitze summit is much colder than the valley.
- Stay on marked trails. Snow can stay on high routes into early summer.
- In winter, ski only on marked pistes unless you have avalanche training.

History

Partenkirchen began as the Roman settlement of Partanum, on a trade route between Italy and Augsburg. Later the valley formed the county of Werdenfels, named after the castle at Burgruine Werdenfels. It stayed under the prince-bishops of Freising until 1803, when it passed to Bavaria.

Garmisch and Partenkirchen were two separate towns until 1 January 1935. They were joined before the 1936 Winter Olympics. The Olympic ski jump still stands in Partenkirchen. Alpine World Ski Championships were held here in 1978 and 2011.

King *Ludwig II* built Königshaus am Schachen in the mountains above the valley.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

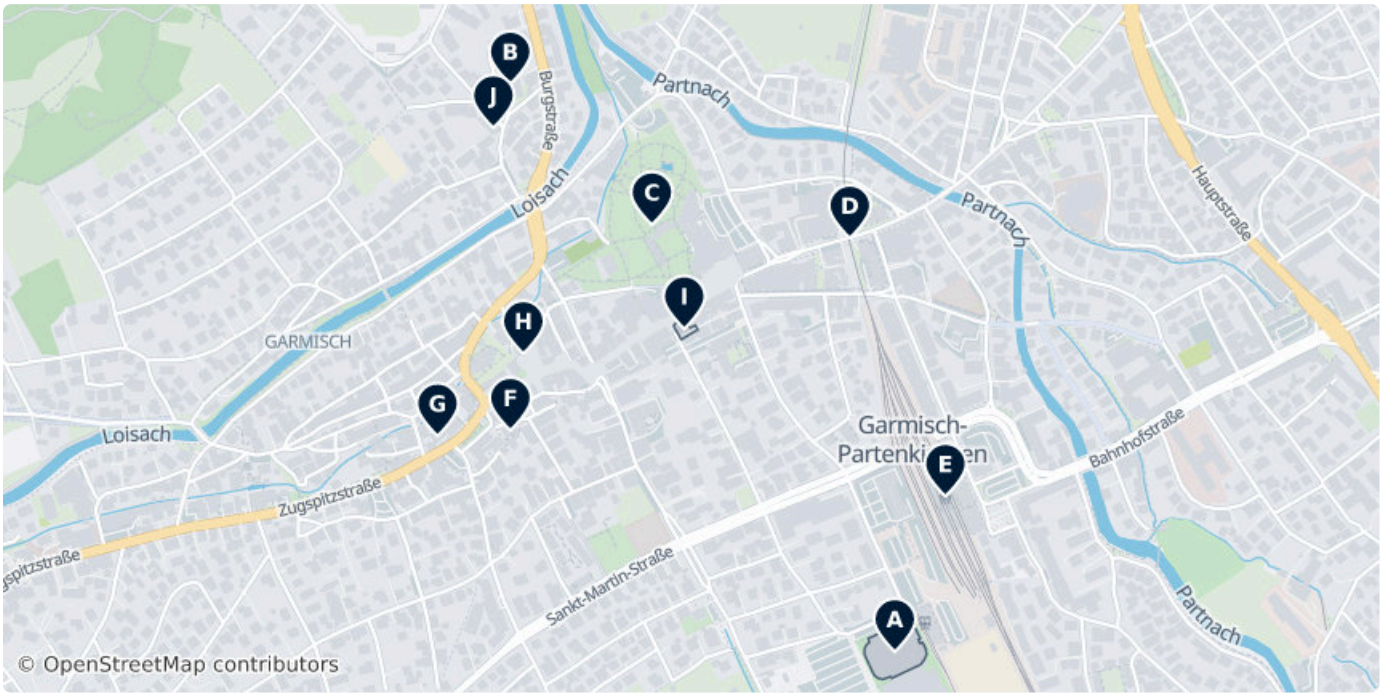
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Garmisch-Partenkirchen Essentials

Explore the architectural and athletic history of Garmisch-Partenkirchen through its most significant landmarks. This selection spans from the 13th-century Gothic frescoes of the Old Church of St. Martin to the Olympic Ice Stadium built for the 1936 Winter Games. Discover the town's literary connection at the Michael Ende Kurpark, view traditional Bavarian heritage at the Hiblerhaus, and access the alpine peaks via the historic Mittenwald Railway. Traditional culinary culture is represented by the historic Husar restaurant and the long-established Krönner café.





A Garmisch Olympia Stadium

Garmisch Olympia Stadium is an arena in Garmisch, Germany. It is primarily used for ice hockey, and is the home arena of the SC Riessersee...

(47.48922, 11.09590)



B Old Church St. Martin

A 13th-century Gothic church featuring well-preserved medieval wall paintings and frescoes. It served as the town's primary parish church until the 18th century.

Pfarrhausweg, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
(47.49771, 11.08738)



C Michael Ende Kurpark

Public park dedicated to the author of The Neverending Story. It features a silent garden, sculptures inspired by Ende's characters, and a pavilion for seasonal concerts.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen 82467, Germany (47.49560, 11.09052)

Sa–Su 10:00–22:00

D Mittenwald Railway

The Mittenwald Railway, popularly known as the Karwendelbahn, is a railway line in the Alps in Austria and Germany.

14 Von-Brug-Straße, Garmisch-Partenkirchen 82467, Germany (47.49540, 11.09490)



E Garmisch-Partenkirchen station

Garmisch-Partenkirchen station is a junction station in the German State of Bavaria. It is the biggest station in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

33 Bahnhofstraße, Garmisch-Partenkirchen 82467, Germany (47.49154, 11.09702)

F Isis Goldener Engel

A protected heritage building showcasing traditional Bavarian architecture and regional historical significance.

(47.49253, 11.08738)

G Hiblerhaus

Historic Bavarian farmhouse and heritage site reflecting the traditional rural architecture of the Garmisch region.

(47.49244, 11.08577)

H Mohrenplatz

A central pedestrian square in Garmisch featuring traditional Bavarian architecture and outdoor dining.

(47.49368, 11.08767)

mohrenplatz-garmisch.de

I Krönner

A long-established traditional café and pastry shop known for its selection of handmade chocolates and classic Bavarian confectionery.

(47.49405, 11.09123)

Mo–Su 09:30–18:30

kroenner.com

J Husar

Traditional Bavarian restaurant housed in a historic building, specializing in regional cuisine and local specialties.

(47.49705, 11.08701)

DATA SOURCES

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