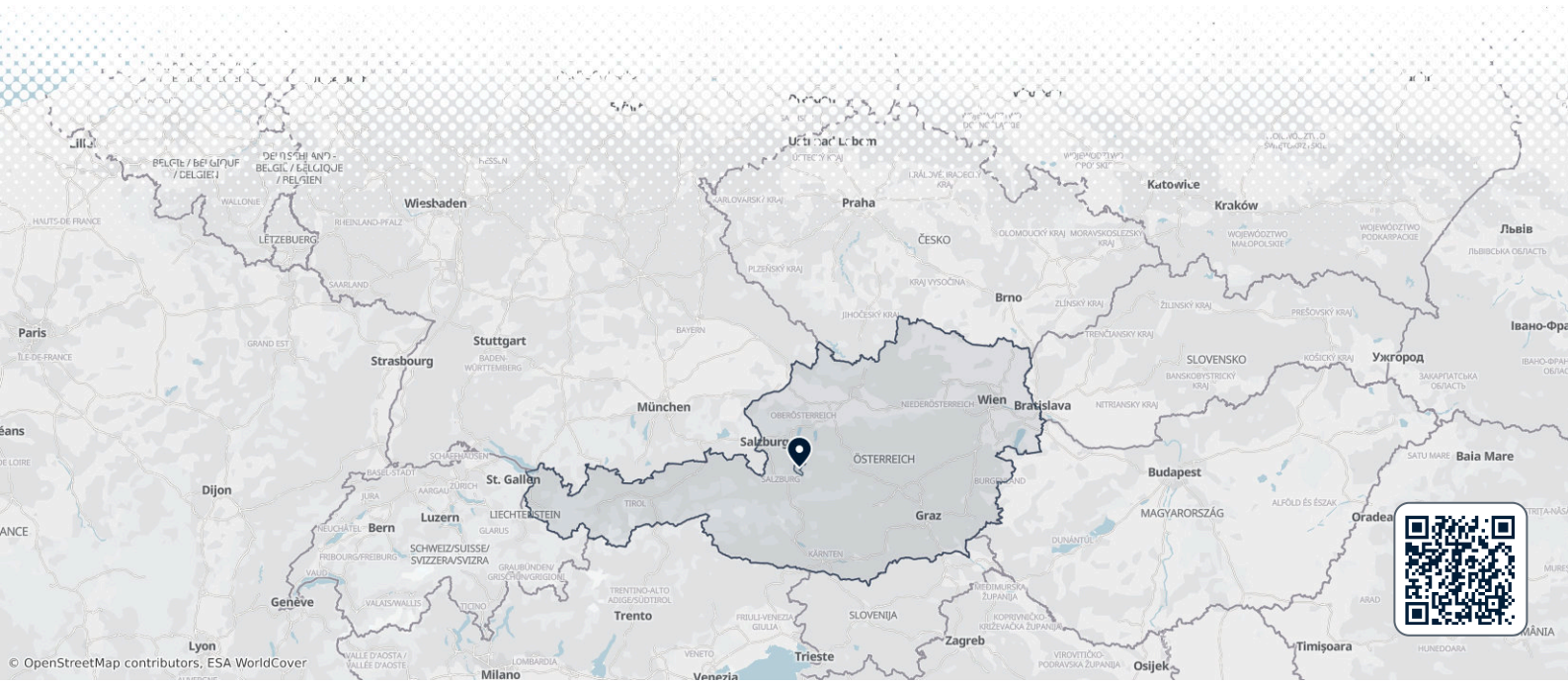


Gosau

Salzkammergut · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Gosau is a mountain village in a long valley at the western edge of the Dachstein massif. It is best known for the Gosausee, a lake with a famous view of the Dachstein glacier reflected in the water.

The village is quiet and traditional, with farms and small inns. It is a base for lake walks, mountain hikes and winter sports in the Dachstein West ski area.

When to visit

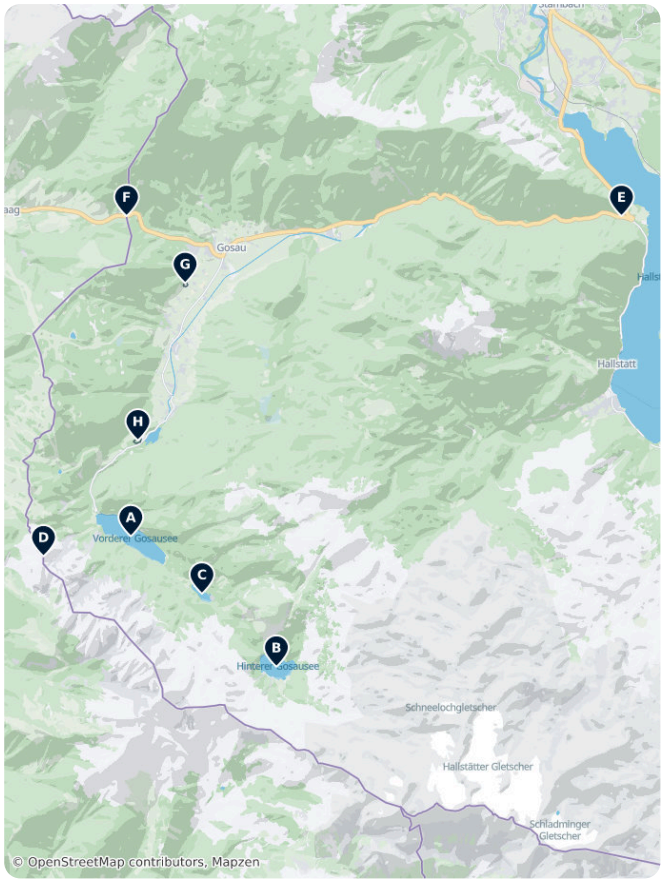
June to October is best for hiking, and the lake path is easiest from July. September and October bring autumn colour. Winter has snow and ski runs, and the lake freezes. Spring is wet, and many high paths stay closed.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	3° / 8° Feels like -1°	-5° / -14°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	4° / 12° Feels like 0°	-4° / -14°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for skiing	8° / 16° Feels like 5°	-1° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 22°	3° / -3°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	8° / 3°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 29°	12° / 6°	21 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	13° / 9°	22 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 29°	13° / 8°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 4°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	15° / 22°	6° / -1°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for skiing	8° / 16°	1° / -7°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	-3° / -13°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Vorderer Gosausee is the lake with the classic Dachstein view and an easy path around it.
- B Hinterer Gosausee is a smaller lake further up the valley, reached on foot.
- C Gosaulacke is a small bog pool near the lakes.
- D Großer Donnerkogel is a rocky peak for experienced hikers.
- E Gosauzwang is a historic stone bridge and gorge.
- F Pass Gschütt is a mountain pass toward Abtenau.
- G Damwild is a small deer park.
- H Urzeitwald is a family nature trail.



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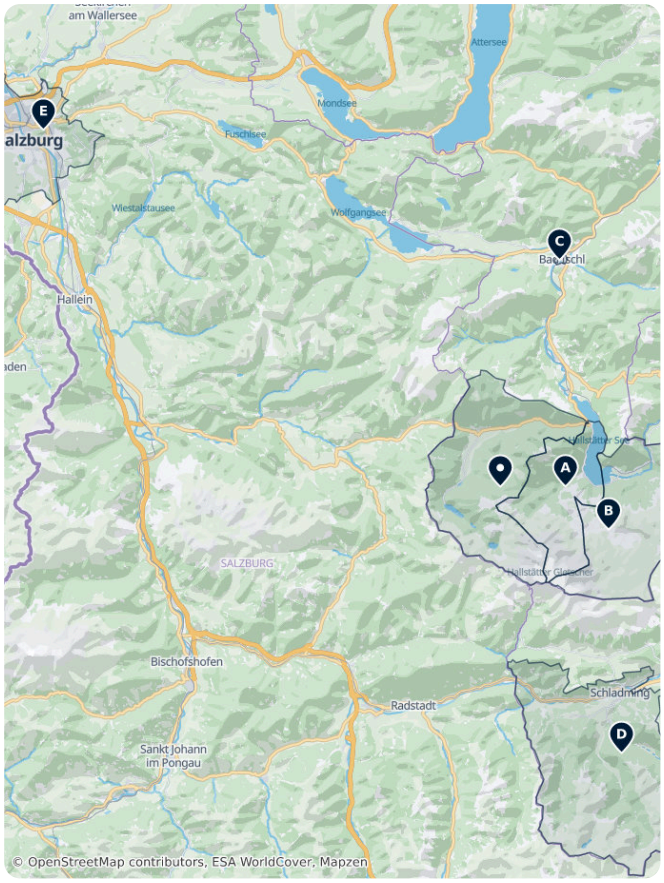
What to experience

- Walk around the Gosausee.
- Hike to a mountain hut.
- Ski the Dachstein West slopes.
- See the glacier view at sunrise.
- Visit Hallstatt on a day trip.

Day trips

- A Hallstatt is about 25 minutes away by car.
- B Obertraun is about 40 minutes away by car, with the Dachstein caves.
- C Bad Ischl is about 40 minutes away by car.
- D Schladming is about 1 hour away by car.
- E Salzburg is about 1 hour 15 minutes away by car.



Where to explore

- Hallstatt, Obertraun and Bad Ischl are the nearest preferred destinations.

Getting there

- By air: Salzburg Airport is about 1 hour 15 minutes away by car.
- By train: The nearest main station is Bad Ischl or Hallstatt. A bus runs to Gosau. Check times on ÖBB.
- By car: The road runs from Bad Ischl via Bad Goisern, or over the Pass Gschütt.

Getting around

A bus links the village and the lakes. The lake path is walkable. A car helps for other trailheads.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The village is spread along the valley, and the lakes are a short bus ride up the road.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Valley roads and forest tracks suit cyclists, with climbs toward the lakes.

Driving

A car is helpful. The road to the lake ends in car parks that fill early in summer. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. Motorways in Austria need a vignette.

Food & drink

Alpine huts serve dumplings, soups and *Kaiserschmarrn*. Local inns offer game and lake fish. Cheese from mountain pastures is common.

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

Gosau is very safe. High mountain routes in the Dachstein need good fitness and equipment. Weather changes quickly. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112. The mountain rescue number is 140.

History

Gosau was a farming valley, and its people turned to forestry and salt work. In the 19th century geologists studied its rocks, and the Gosau Group is a known geological layer. Tourism grew with the cable cars and the Dachstein West ski area.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

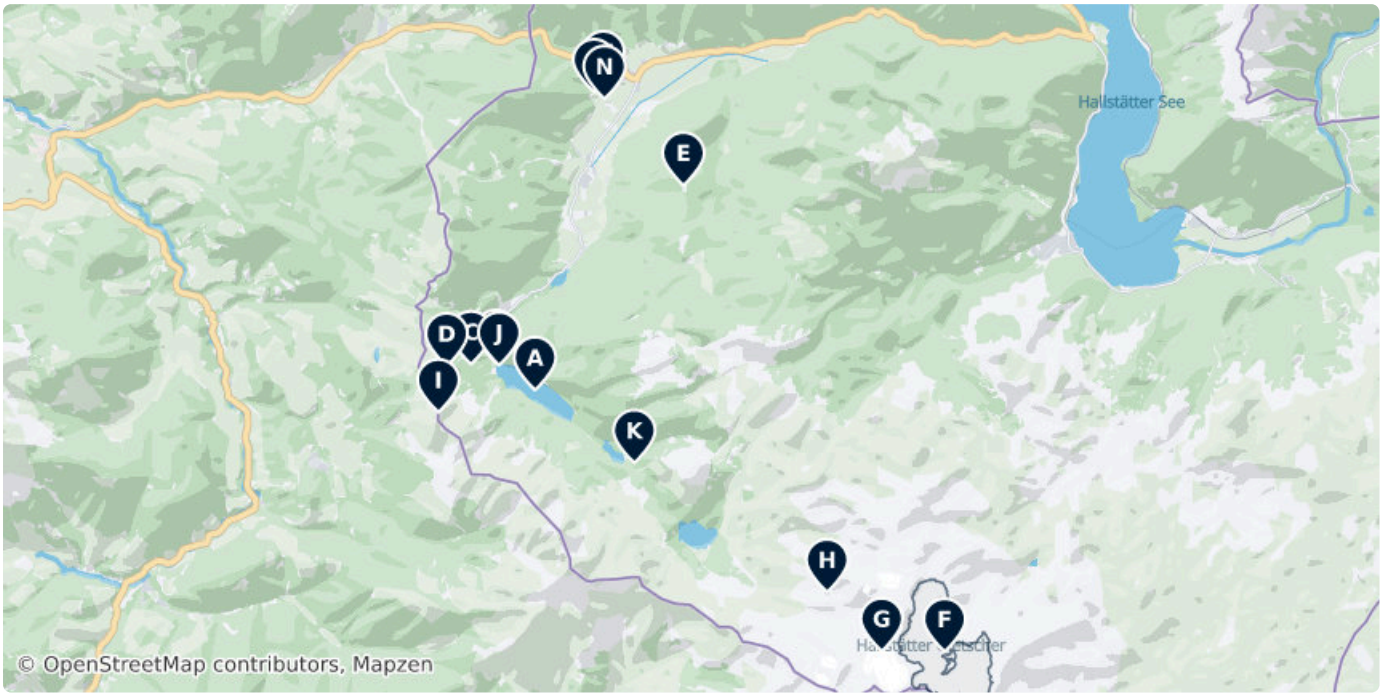
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Gosau's Essential Alpine Wonders

Gosau’s landscape is defined by the Dachstein massif and the three Gosauseen lakes. This selection highlights the region's high-altitude infrastructure, including the Gosaukammbahn cable car connecting to the Zwieselalm. It features the Hallstätter and Großer Gosau glaciers alongside historic religious sites like the Calvary hill and the 19th-century Protestant church. Natural landmarks such as the Löckermoos bog and the Launingfall waterfall illustrate the diverse Alpine terrain of the Salzkammergut.





A Gosauseen

Gosauseen are three lakes in the south-western, Alpine part of Upper Austria.

4825, Austria (47.52825, 13.50688)

B Talstation Gosaukammbahn

Lower terminal of the cable car located near the shore of Vorderer Gosausee.

Gosauseestraße, 4824 Gosau, Austria (47.53307, 13.49659)

Mo–Su 08:15–16:50

dachstein.at



C Gosaukammbahn

Aerial cableway transporting passengers from Vorderer Gosausee to the Zwieselalm at 1,475 meters, providing access to the Gosaukamm mountain range.

4825, Austria (47.53283, 13.49002)

Mo–Su 08:15–16:50

D Bergstation Gosaukammbahn

Upper terminal situated on the Zwieselalm, serving as a gateway to high-altitude hiking trails and views of the Dachstein Glacier.

Gosau, 4825, Austria (47.53250, 13.48360)

Mo–Su 08:15–16:50

E Kleines Löckermoos

High-altitude peat bog and protected wetland area featuring unique Alpine flora and small moorland lakes.

(47.56462, 13.54598)



F Hallstätter Glacier

The Hallstätter Glacier is the largest glacier in the Dachstein Mountains.

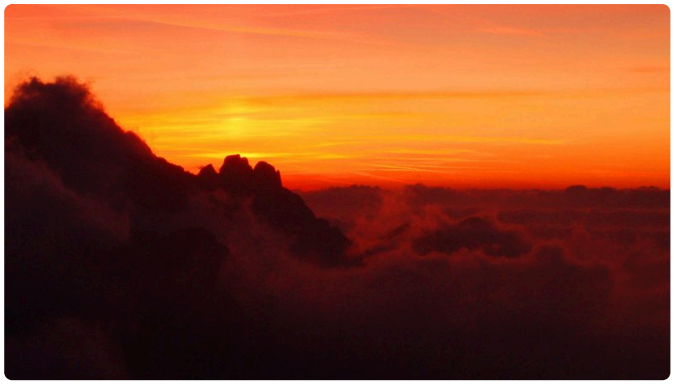
4830, Austria (47.48172, 13.61478)



G Großer Gosaugletscher

One of the primary glaciers on the Dachstein massif, located below the summit of the Hoher Dachstein.

4825, Austria (47.48180, 13.59819)



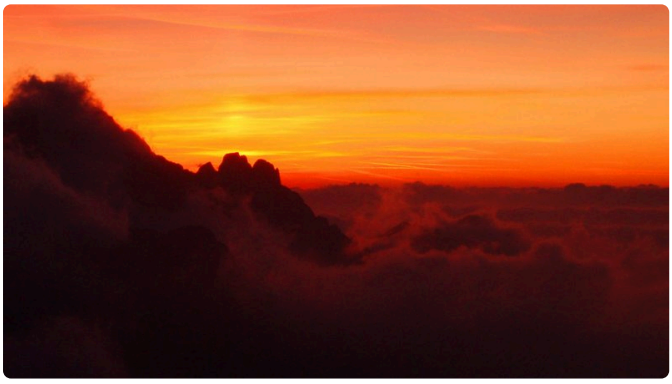
H Adamekhütte

Alpine club hut situated at 2,196 meters, serving as a base for glacier tours and ascents of the Hoher Dachstein.

306, 4825 Gosau, AT (47.49229, 13.58382)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

adamek.at, +43 664 5473481



I Großer Donnerkogel

A 2,054-meter peak in the Gosaukamm range, known for its via ferrata and views over the Gosau valley.

4825, Austria (47.52428, 13.48138)

J Blick zum Dachstein

Panoramic observation point offering direct views of the Dachstein Glacier and the Gosausee.

(47.53268, 13.49742)

K Launingfall

Waterfall located in the Gosaubachtal, accessible via local forest trails.

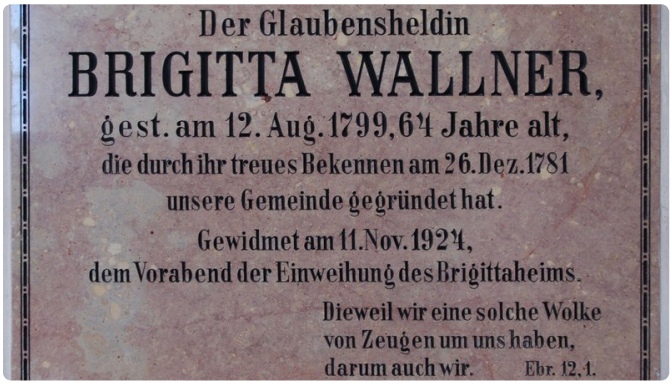
(47.51529, 13.53302)



L Kalvarienkapelle

Part of a Calvary complex featuring four chapels and a church built on a hill overlooking the village.

(47.58117, 13.52238)



M Evang. Kirche

Neo-Gothic Protestant parish church built in the 1860s, reflecting the region's significant Lutheran history.

(47.58260, 13.52489)



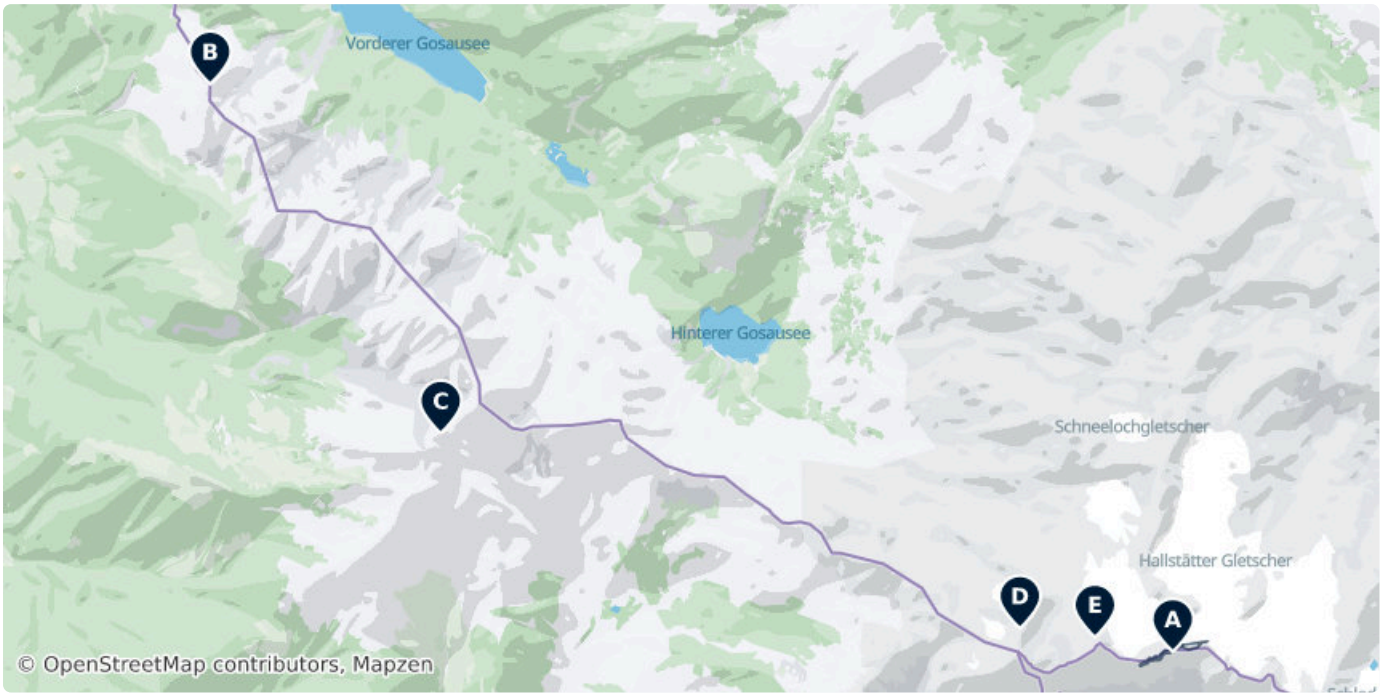
N Katholische Kirche

Late Gothic Roman Catholic parish church dedicated to Saint Sebastian, located in the center of Gosau.

(47.57998, 13.52516)

Mountain Peaks & Viewpoints

This selection highlights the prominent limestone summits of the Dachstein massif and the Gosaukamm range surrounding Gosau. It features the Hoher Dachstein, the second-highest peak in the Northern Limestone Alps at 2,995 meters, alongside the distinctive twin-peaked Große Bischofsmütze. These mountains are defined by their rugged karstic terrain, steep vertical faces, and high-altitude ridges. The area serves as a significant site for technical climbing and alpine hiking, providing viewpoints over the Hallstätter Glacier and the Salzkammergut region.

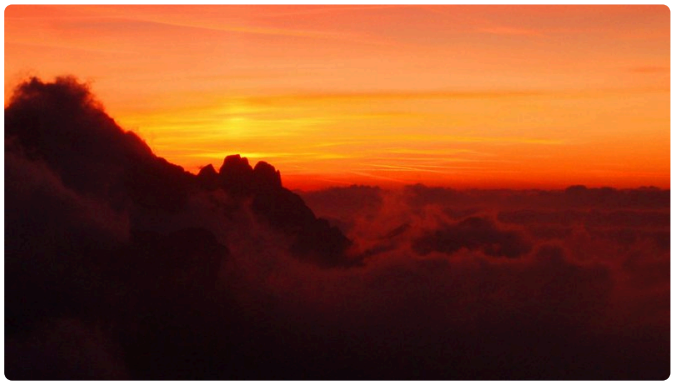




A Hoher Dachstein

Hoher Dachstein is a strongly karstic mountain in central Austria and the second-highest mountain in the Northern Limestone Alps.

4830, Austria (47.47485, 13.60557)



B Großer Donnerkogel

A 2,054-meter summit at the northwestern end of the Gosaukamm range. It is a notable destination for climbers, featuring a 40-meter-long aerial ladder on its established via ferrata route.

4825, Austria (47.52428, 13.48138)

C Große Bischofsmütze

The Große Bischofsmütze is the highest peak in the Gosaukamm range of the Dachstein Mountains, Austria.

5524, Austria (47.49387, 13.51113)

D Torstein

Reaching an elevation of 2,948 meters, this is the second-highest peak in the Dachstein Mountains and the westernmost summit of the main Dachstein ridge.

4825, Austria (47.47688, 13.58585)

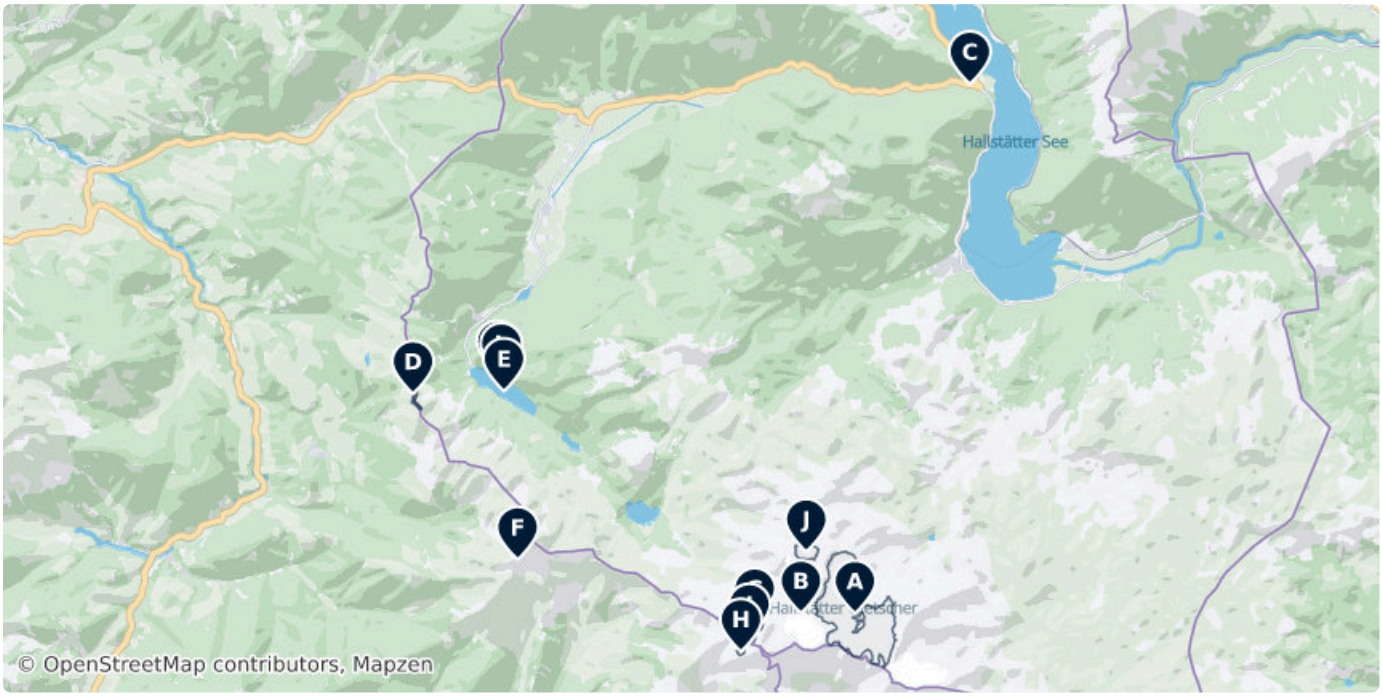
E Mitterspitz

An alpine peak in the Dachstein massif located between the Hoher Dachstein and Torstein, completing the range's central triple-summit formation.

4825, Austria (47.47610, 13.59553)

Glaciers & Outdoor Adventures

Gosau serves as a gateway to the Dachstein massif, home to significant alpine glaciers like the Hallstätter and Großer Gosaugletscher. The region features diverse high-altitude terrain, including the Intersport Klettersteig via ferrata and technical climbing routes on the Bischofsmütze peak. At Lake Gosau, clear waters provide specialized sites for scuba diving and swimming. The area also preserves industrial history at the Gosauzwang, where the world's oldest active brine pipeline crosses the valley via a historic stone bridge.





A Hallstätter Glacier

The Hallstätter Glacier is the largest glacier in the Dachstein Mountains.

4830, Austria (47.48172, 13.61478)



B Großer Gosaugletscher

A significant glacier in the Dachstein Mountains, historically used for glaciological studies of post-glacial development.

4825, Austria (47.48180, 13.59819)



C Gosauzwang

A historic bridge and viaduct where the brine pipeline from Hallstatt to Ebensee crosses the Gosaubach and the Pass-Gschütt road.

Paß Gschütt-Bundesstraße, 4823, Austria (47.59138, 13.65009)



D Intersport Klettersteig

A multi-stage via ferrata route on the Donnerkogel, featuring a 40-meter aerial ladder and views of the surrounding glaciers.

4825, Austria (47.52727, 13.47906)

bergsteigen.com/touren/klettersteig/intersport-kletterst...

E Vorderer Gosausee - Bootshütte bis Bärnkogel

A designated scuba diving zone in the Vorderer Gosausee, characterized by clear alpine waters and underwater rock structures.

4825, Austria (47.52783, 13.50703)

dive-links.com/tauchplatz.php

F Bischofsmütze Normalweg (III)

A Grade III alpine climbing route leading to the summit of the Große Bischofsmütze, the highest peak in the Gosau Ridge.

(47.49287, 13.51120)

G Kleiner Gosaugletscher

A small glacier located on the northern slopes of the Dachstein massif.

4825, Austria (47.48020, 13.58398)

H Südlicher Torsteingletscher

An alpine glacier situated beneath the southern face of the Torstein peak.

5532, Austria (47.47383, 13.57977)

I Nördlicher Torsteingletscher

A northern glacier on the Torstein mountain within the Dachstein range.

4825, Austria (47.47694, 13.58237)

J Schneelochgletscher

A high-altitude glacier located in a cirque on the Dachstein plateau.

4825, Austria (47.49453, 13.59980)

K Baernkogl

A designated entry point for scuba diving located on the shore of Lake Gosau.

(47.53143, 13.50498)

L Badeplatz

A public swimming area and sunbathing lawn situated on the banks of the Vorderer Gosausee.

(47.53097, 13.50623)

DATA SOURCES

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