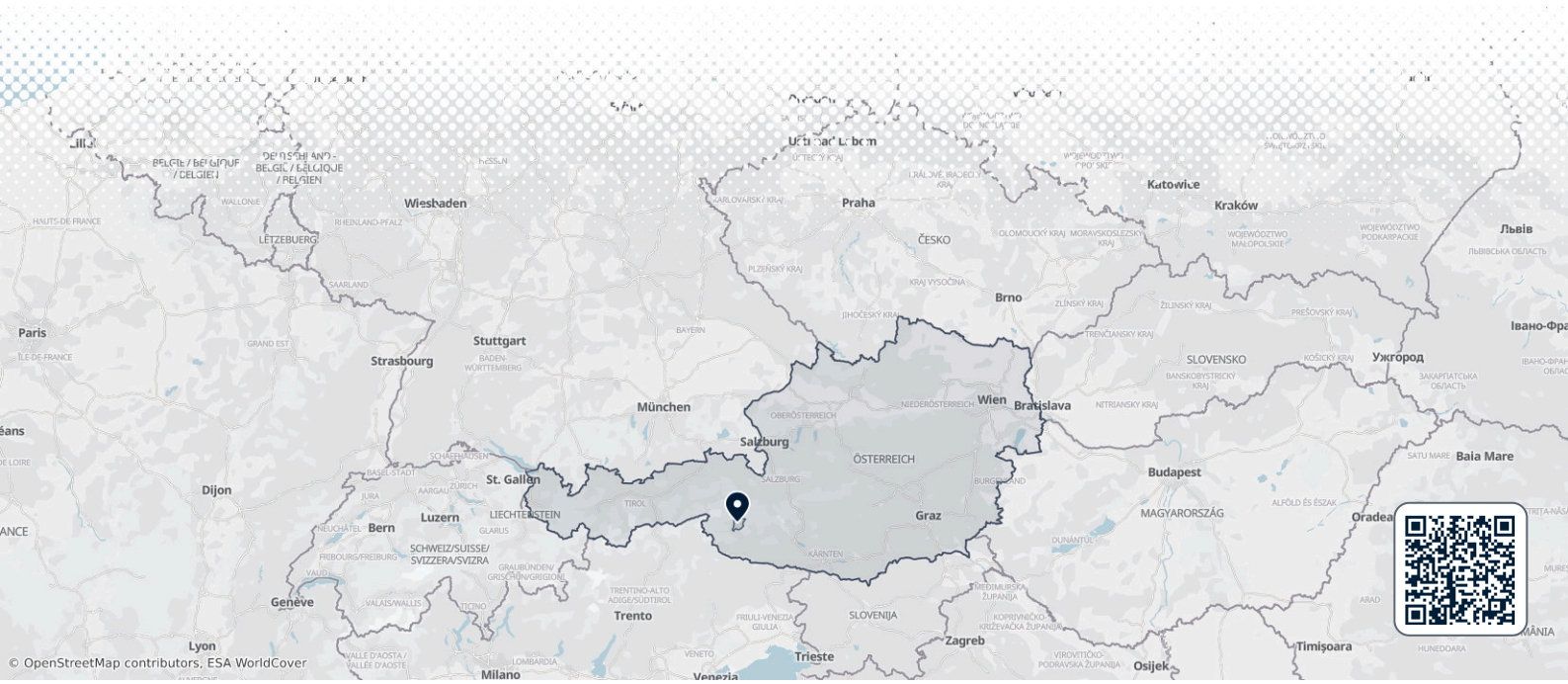


Kals am Großglockner

Lienz District · Austria

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Kals am Großglockner is a mountain village in East Tyrol, in the Hohe Tauern National Park, at about 1,300 m. The Grossglockner, Austria's highest peak, rises above the valley at its head, and the village is the Tyrolean base for climbing it.

Kals is a hikers' and climbers' village. It is quiet and traditional, with farmhouses, small chapels and a real mountain feel. It is a good choice for walkers who want to be near the big peaks without crowds.

When to visit

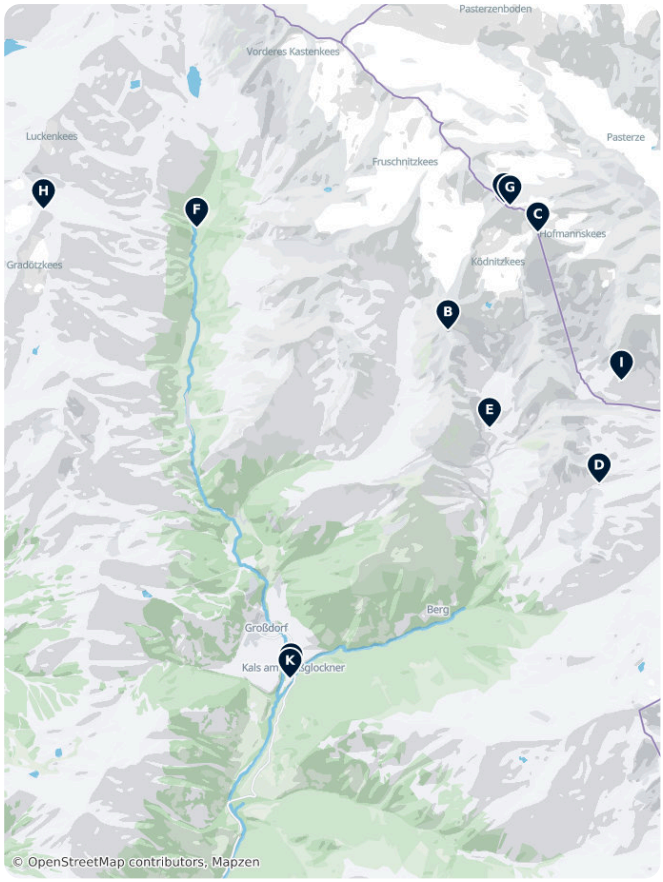
July to September is best for hiking, and mountain huts are open. Early autumn has the clearest air. Winter is for ski touring, snowshoeing and a small ski area. Spring is quiet, and many huts are closed.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	0° / 4° Feels like -4°	-9° / -17°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	0° / 6° Feels like -4°	-8° / -18°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	4° / 12° Feels like 1°	-5° / -14°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Poor Poor for skiing	10° / 18°	0° / -7°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 22°	5° / -1°	22 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	19° / 26°	9° / 3°	23 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for hiking	21° / 26°	10° / 5°	23 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	20° / 26°	11° / 5°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	16° / 23°	7° / 1°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 19°	3° / -4°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like 2°	-2° / -11°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	1° / 6° Feels like -3°	-7° / -16°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Großglockner is Austria's highest peak. Many climbers start from Kals.
- B Stüdlhütte and C Erzherzog-Johann-Hütte are high huts used by climbers.
- D Glorerhütte is a mountain hut on a hiking route above the village.
- E Lucknerhütte is a hut at the end of the valley road, where many routes begin.
- F Kalser Tauernhaus is a mountain inn in the Dorfertal valley.
- G Kleinglockner is the neighbouring peak of the Grossglockner.
- H Muntanitz is a high peak above the Dorfertal.
- I Salmhütte is a hut on a high route.
- J Heimatmuseum shows local rural life, and K Widum is the old parish house.



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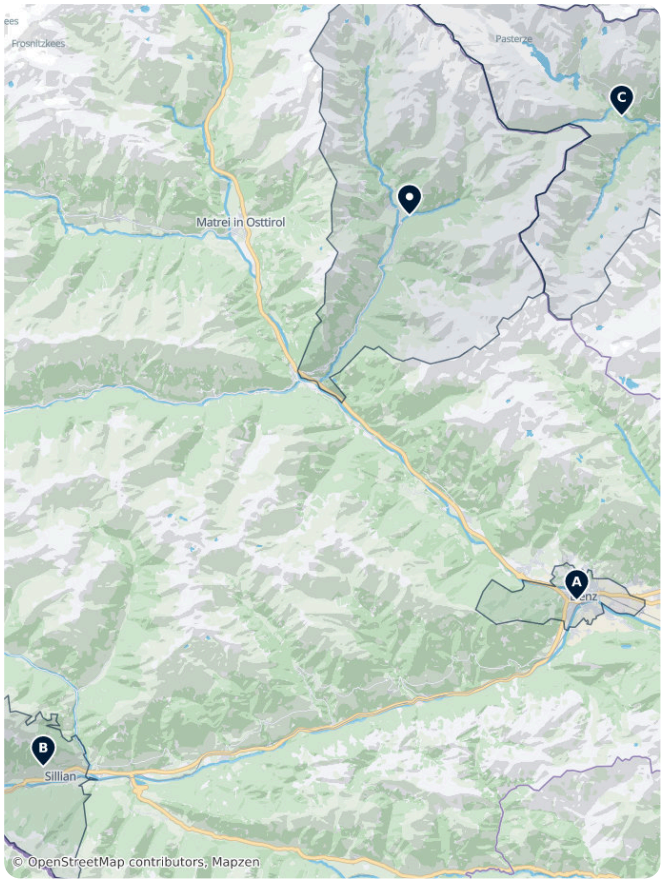
What to experience

- Hike to a mountain hut.
- See the Grossglockner from a high viewpoint.
- Walk in the Dorfertal valley.
- Try ski touring in winter.
- Visit local chapels and farmhouses.

Day trips

- A Lienz is about 40 minutes away by car.
- B Sillian is about 1 hour away by car.
- C Heiligenblut is about 1 hour 15 minutes away by car, over the Iselsberg pass.
- Matrei in East Tyrol and the Virgental valley are 20 to 30 minutes away.



Where to explore

- Lienz and Sillian are the nearest preferred destinations.

Getting there

- By air: Innsbruck Airport is about 2 hours 15 minutes away. Salzburg is about 2 hours 30 minutes.
- By train: The nearest main station is Lienz. A bus then runs to Kals. Check train times on ÖBB.
- By car: The Felbertauern road from Salzburg and Zell am See leads to Matrei, then the road to Kals.

Getting around

The village is small. A local bus links Kals with Lienz and trailheads, and a hiker's shuttle runs in summer to higher points. A car helps but is not essential.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The village is small, and trailheads lie on the valley road.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Valley roads are quiet, and mountain bike routes climb into the side valleys.

Driving

A car helps for trailheads. The road to Lucknerhaus is narrow in places and may charge a toll. The Felbertauern tunnel is a toll tunnel. Winter tyres or chains are required in snow. Motorways in Austria need a vignette.

Food & drink

East Tyrol food is hearty. Try *Schlipfkrapfen*, filled dumplings, and *Tiroler Gröstl*, a pan of potatoes and meat. Mountain huts serve soups, dumplings 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

Kals is very safe, but the high mountains are serious. Climbing the Grossglockner needs experience, equipment or a guide. Weather changes fast, and avalanche risk applies in winter. Tap water is clean and safe to drink. The emergency number is 112. The mountain rescue number is 140.

History

Kals is an old farming and herding village, with scattered farms and small chapels. The first recorded ascent of the Grossglockner in 1800 helped shape the village as a base for climbers. Today it stays small and works hard to protect its mountain landscape.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Austria at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

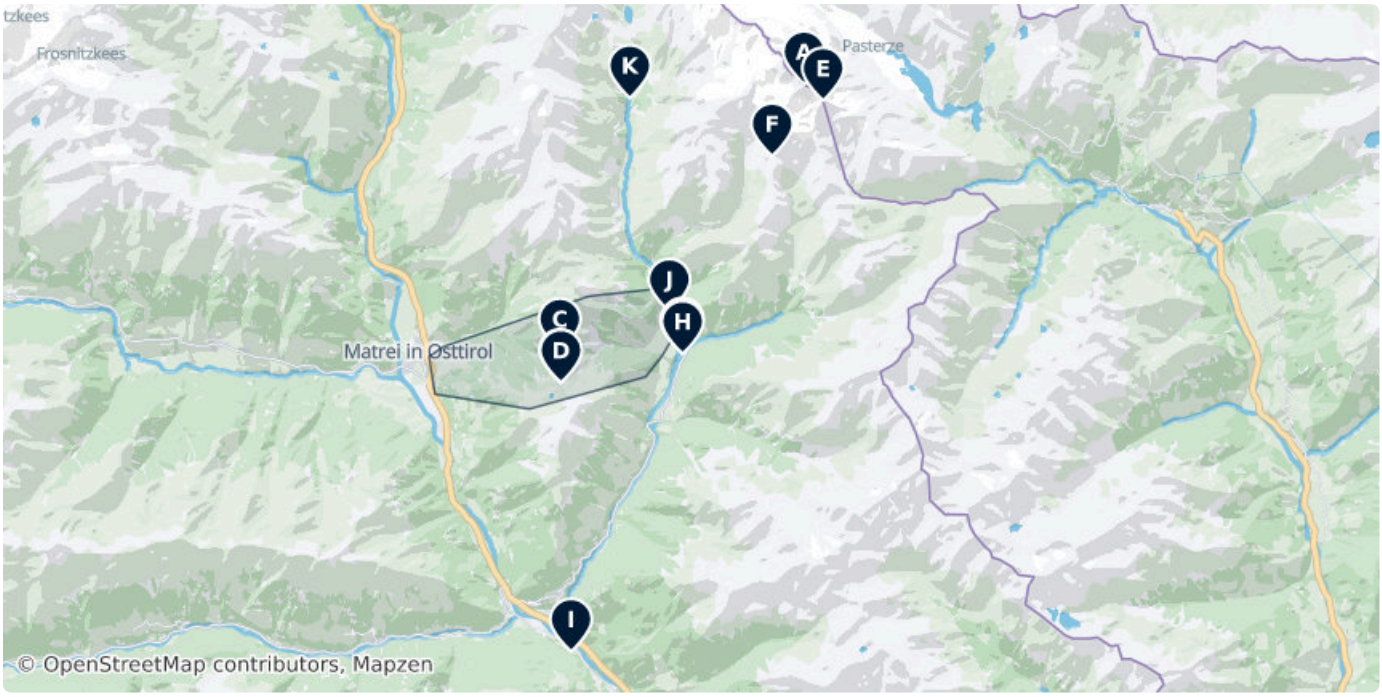
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Kals am Großglockner Essentials

Kals am Großglockner serves as the primary base for exploring Austria's highest peak. This selection features the historic Erzherzog-Johann-Hütte, the country's highest mountain hut at 3,454 meters, alongside the modern architecture of the Stüdlhütte and Adlerlounge. The list highlights the expansive Kals-Matrei ski area, the medieval ruins of Burg Kienburg, and cultural landmarks like the St. Rupert parish church and traditional Stockmühle watermills, reflecting the region's deep mountaineering and agricultural heritage.





A Grossglockner

The Grossglockner, or just Glockner, is, at 3,798 metres above the Adriatic, the highest mountain in Austria and the highest mountain in...

9981, Austria (47.07455, 12.69388)

grossglockner.at

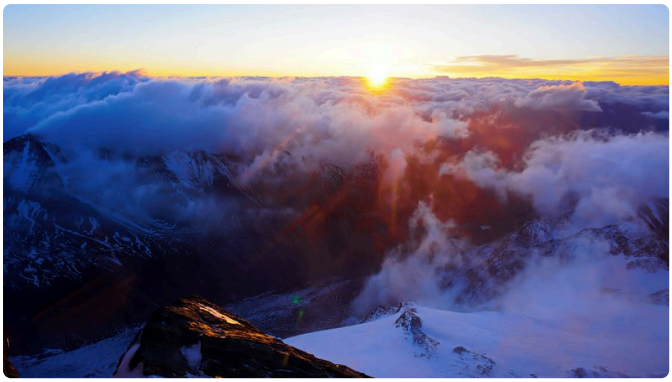


B Kals

Ski under the the highest mountain of Austria. Untouched nature and well-kept slopes: an ideal resort to spend your holiday.

20 Ködnitz, Kals am Großglockner 9981, Austria (47.00154, 12.64510)

kals.at/tourismus/, +43 50212 540



C Grossglockner Ski Resort

Large ski area connecting Kals and Matrei, featuring over 40 kilometers of groomed slopes with panoramic views of sixty surrounding peaks exceeding 3,000 meters.

9971, Austria (47.00135, 12.59574)

gg-resort.at



D Adlerlounge

Modern mountain restaurant and lounge situated at 2,421 meters, known for its contemporary architecture and direct views of the Großglockner.

(46.99277, 12.59619)

adlerlounge.at



E Erzherzog-Johann-Hütte

Austria's highest mountain hut, situated at 3,454 meters on the Adlersruhe. Established in 1880, it serves as the final base for summiting the Großglockner.

36, 9844 Heiligenblut am Großglockner, AT (47.07001, 12.70157)

erzherzog-johann-huette.at, +43 4876 8500



F Stüdlhütte

Alpine hut at 2,802 meters, recognized for its distinctive modern, fan-shaped wooden architecture. It serves as the starting point for the Stüdlgrat climbing route.

(47.05483, 12.68109)



G Pfarrkirche

Late Gothic parish church dedicated to St. Rupert, featuring a Baroque interior and a cemetery with memorials to fallen mountain guides.

6 Ködnitz, Kals am Großglockner 9981, Austria (47.00102, 12.64451)



H Widum

A heritage-protected parish house and rectory representing traditional East Tyrolean architecture.

(47.00065, 12.64512)

I Burg Kienburg

Ruins of a medieval hilltop castle located on a rocky spur above the Iseltal valley, dating back to at least the 12th century.

7 Kienburg, 9971, Austria (46.91901, 12.60027)

J Stockmühle

Traditional wooden watermill used for grinding grain, preserved as a monument to the region's historic agricultural practices.

(47.01221, 12.63974)



K Kalser Tauernhaus

Alpine club hut located at 1,755 meters in the Dorfertal valley, serving as a base for hiking the Granatspitz Group.

17, 9981 Kals am Großglockner, AT (47.07074, 12.62387)

kalser-tauernhaus.de

L FIXME: Name (view to Grossglockner & Grossvenediger)

High-altitude vantage point offering clear views of Austria's two highest mountains, the Großglockner and the Großvenediger.

(46.99292, 12.59587)

DATA SOURCES

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